POL 231

III. International Security
C. International Organizations

United Nations

- Purpose
  - Providing a global institutional structure
  - Settling conflicts (with the least possible use of force)
  - Collective security
- Nation-states as members
- Principles
  - States are equal, sovereign, independent, etc.
  - States have obligations

UN: structure

- General Assembly
  - Speeches, resolutions, etc.
- The Economic and Social Concil (ECOSOC)
  - Autonomous agencies, e.g., IAEA, WHO, ILO, …
- Security Council
- Secretariat--Secretary General of the UN
  (Kofi Annan)

Security Council

- Maintaining peace and security
- Binding decisions
- Five permanent members
  - The U.S., Britain, France, Russia, and China
- 10 non-permanent members
  - Germany, Spain, Romania, Algeria, etc.
- Resolutions
  - 9 out of 15 votes
  - Veto power held by the permanent members
- Limits
  - State sovereignty and support from great powers
Peacekeeping Forces

- Assembled by the secretary-general
- Authorized by the Security Council
- Containing regional conflicts
- Peak in the 1990s
  - Cambodia after the civil war => elections
  - East Timor, etc.
- NATO and other forces

UN a world government?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>UN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislature</td>
<td>Law-making</td>
<td>G.A.: Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Binding</td>
<td>S.C.:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>Chief executive</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law enforcement</td>
<td>Police</td>
<td>Peace-Keeping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict resolution</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
<td>Mediation and stabilization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International Organizations’ Limits

- High politics -- security
  - State sovereignty
  - Great power politics
- “Low” politics
  - Arena for expert discussion
  - Rule-making