INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION: A THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

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ABSTRACT
One of the major development of the 20th century in interstate relations was the proliferation of international organization owing to the series of highly devastating conflicts, wars, nearly on a global scale that characterized that century. In international politics, it is a known fact that conflict management and resolution is only possible in connection with conflict analysis. This analysis may be an explicit, conscious, project; if not, it will be undertaken unconsciously and on the basis of unexamined assumption. While conflict may be viewed from various perspectives, international conflict is distinct and different from other conflicts such as intra-national conflict, because it has some peculiarities of its own conditioned by the nature of the environment within which it takes place. International conflict is governed by the threat system-threat of punishment, threat of conquest and the threat of annihilation. And that international conflict in which the super powers are directly and competitively involved threatens humanity with extinction. The role of the U.N as an international organization in ensuring conflict resolution globally would require a deliberate political judgment that can only be made by members of the Security Council acting collectively.
and will depend on some continuing commonality of interests among the five permanent members of the Security Council. The effectiveness of the U.N in conflict resolution, conflict management, dealing with international security problems, disarmament and arms control will always remain sensitive to the relations between the U.S and Russia.

**Key Words:** INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, CONFLICT ANALYSIS, NATURE OF CONFLICTS, ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MANAGEMENT.

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**INTRODUCTION**

One of the major developments of the 20\textsuperscript{th} century in interstate relations was the proliferation of international organization and this was as a result of a series of highly devastating conflicts, wars, nearly on a global scale, that characterized that century. Although there were pockets of intra-European wars and conflicts as well as various peace alliances before the 20\textsuperscript{th} century.

The 20\textsuperscript{th} century witnessed the rise of great idealists who idealized on the significance of co-operations among state actors for maintenance of peace and order in the international system. In a multi-state system which lacks any central controlling organ, the preservation of the independence and maintenance of relative international peace and order can be enhanced if there is power equilibrium among states, since it is presumed that a situation in which relative powers of state is that of equilibrium would engender international peace and stability, as no one state, or group of states would then be strong enough to pose any credible threat to other states.

Moreover, it is believed that if one or a group of states would obtain enough power to constitute a threat to others, those threatened would team-up, out of self interest to restore the balance and maintain the status quo. This gave rise to various alliances between states to form international organization for the resolution of conflicts among states and maintenance of peace.

This paper therefore attempts to discuss International Organizations and Conflict Resolution: A Theoretical Framework. For the purpose of analytical convenience, this paper is divided into three parts. Part one deals with the definition of international organization, the history of international organizations. Part two deals with what is conflict and conflict management as a theoretical framework. Part three deals with the United Nations as case study for conflict resolution, critical evaluation. This is followed by the conclusion and the bibliography.

**WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION?**

International Organization has had varied and diverse definitions. Clive Archer, in his book ‘International Organizations’ defined international organization as “ a formal continuous structure established between members(Governmental or Non-Government) from two or more sovereign states with the aim of pursuing the common interest of the membership”.\textsuperscript{1} It can also mean any co-operative arrangement instituted among sovereigns states usually by a basic agreement to perform some mutually advantageous functions implemented through periodic meetings and staff activities.\textsuperscript{2} It could also be defined as an organization with a global mandate, generally funded from national governments\textsuperscript{3}.

It is pertinent to note that Archer has been able to review most of the definitions that abound of international organization and posits that every international organization must have what he called ‘irreducible characteristics’. These are broadly three in number:

a. It must have membership which should consist of two or more sovereign states.
b. Every international organization should pursue the common interest of its members. Besides, its aims and objectives must be clearly spelt out in its constitution or character.

c. An international organization should have its own formal structure of a continuous nature established by an agreement such as treaty or a constitutional document.

International Organization therefore, could either be universal or regional or sub-regional. An example of a universal international organization is the United Nations, whose membership cuts across geographical boundaries. A regional international organization is such whose membership is limited to a particular region or continent, like the EU, AU, OAS, etc. And a sub-regional international organization is the one which has membership only within the sub-region of a particular continent e.g. ECOWAS, SADCC, NAFTA, etc, however, they are aimed at maintaining peaceful and harmonious coexistence between member states.

HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The 18th and 19th century European system and the early 20th international system were a Hobbesian system. A system characterized by the ‘state of nature, which Thomas Hobbes in his book ‘The Leviathan’ describes as ‘nasty, brutish and short’ because of the myriads of conflicts between men in the Hobbesian descriptive state of nature. The system particularly the European State System, witnessed series of gruesome wars unprecedented. The famous 100years war is an example.

However, using Thomas Hobbes ‘state formation in ‘The Leviathan’ as an illustration, it must be pointed out that because nation states would not want a complete annihilation of one another necessitated the reason why individual nation states relinquished part of its sovereignty for the sake of peace and stability in the European State System by being signatory to a treaty or an agreement that was meant to consolidate peace and order. This commenced with the European Concert System.

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THE CONCERT OF EUROPE

Contemporary international organizations have their antecedents in the 19th century Europe when a system of meeting was arranged by the European powers to tackle problems within their evolving international system. The process was known as the Concert of Vienna in 1815 that was called to rearrange the map of Europe after the Napoleonic wars. A number of meetings were subsequently held.

One common feature of all these meetings was that they were essentially called to discuss problems that were of common interest to all European states. Through such regular congresses, it was hoped that the European powers would be able to make peaceful adjustments to their system to avoid war and maintain some measures of equilibrium in the European international system.

The concert system was the manifestation of a rudimentary but growing sense of interdependence among the states of Europe. The system “gave Europe, for the first time since the rise of Nation-States, something imperfectly resembling an international parliament, which undertook to deal by collective action with current problems ranging from the regulation of international traffic on the great rivers of the continent to the adjustment of relations between belligerent and neural states”\(^5\).

Nonetheless, the Concert System clearly had a number of setbacks that set it apart from contemporary international organization such as the UN. The European countries which constituted the Concert System lacked a permanent structure which could serve as the central forum for the discussion of problems within the European system; one of the basic features of any good international organization, as we have seen. There was nothing resembling the UN Secretariat or indeed, the General Assembly or the Security Council, as we know them today.

Furthermore, the congresses as would be expected were intermitted and far from one another. Again, unlike the UN system, meetings could not be convened at short notice to tackle serious threats to the breach of peace and security since the congress system lacked an assembly. As Archer points out, the Concert system was in the end only a “loser format with great powers consulting together on problems that arose rather than trying to pre-empt them at regular meetings. The Concert remained a group of powerful countries discussing questions of mutual interest at a gathering of ambassadors or members of government on traditional bilateral diplomacy”\(^6\).


Nonetheless, the Concert system set a precedent which was later followed by other European statesmen, under the name of the Hague System 1899. An important implication of The Hague was that for the first time, small and powerless states were accepted into the comity of nations as equal participants with the great powers. In terms of institution building, the Hague System also made some significant improvement on the Concert System.

It devised such apparatuses as Chairman, Committees and roll calls during its meetings. And as Claude points out, “most significantly of all, the 1907 assembly anticipated the future by proposing that a preparatory committee should be established to collect and study suggested items of business and prepare an agenda for the next meeting, and to put forward a system of organization and procedure for adoption of the Third Hague Conference”\(^7\).

Although in the end, the conference could not hold because of the outbreak of the First World War. It is important to note that all the above-mentioned practices and procedures have now been incorporated into the UN system and in regional organizations such as then OAU now AU. In brief, the Hague System ‘represented the climax of a century of developments’ in which attention shifted more and more to the possibilities of international institutions as instruments of world peace and resolution of conflicts\(^8\).

**THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS**

The establishment of the League of Nations owes so much to the idealist’s conception of collective security and the place of law in the management of international conflict. Central to the theory of idealism is the belief that international co-operative institutions would help prevent wars and resolve conflicts since each participating state would respect the dictates of international law.


\(^8\)Ibid., p. 28.
Consequently, the idealists argued that the League of Nations in particular would serve as a forum to which nation states would bring their disputes and in extreme cases, all nations of the League would act against an aggressor nation to ensure peace.\textsuperscript{9}

It is pertinent to observe that the massive and incredible level of destruction in the Great War of 1914-1918 led many to respect the balance of power system as the basis of international security. In its place, states began the process of institutionalizing collective security through the establishment of the League of Nations in 1917 as an umbrella international organization to maintain world peace.

It was indeed the hope of Woodrow Wilson and other founders of the League that it would provide international cooperation and collective security that would supplant the balance of power, nurturing in its place a true community of power. In the fourteen point agenda, Wilson expressed his firm conviction in the League as the ‘almighty’ institution that would usher in the much desired world peace. However, from its outset the reality was but a faint shadow of hope.\textsuperscript{10}

The League concept implied universality; yet it did not have the support of the major powers. While the US never fully became a member, because of the failure of the US Congress to ratify the covenant, the participation of Germany, Russia, Japan, and Italy was not on a continuous basis. Only Britain and France remained constant members. The consequence however, was the combined power of these two European states was not sufficient to guarantee international peace and security.


As expected, the League functioned haltingly, even in minor political disputes, and proved to be impotent in the face of flagrant acts of aggression by powerful member states. With the coming of the world depression, the rise of Adolf Hitler to power in Germany, Mussolini in Italy, and the succession of open challenges by totalitarian aggressors, beginning with Japan’s invasion of Manchuria in 1931, the League’s impotence and inadequacies became powerfully evident.

Although it has been able to throw a cloak of internationalism and collective security over the world of nation-states, it never actually supplanted the balance of power except in theory. It had become involved in a peculiarly unstable balance of power and again collective security failed to find the path out of the maze of the balance of power. Indeed, many careful observers came to believe with Oppenheim that “the existence of the League of Nations makes a balance of power not less, but all the more necessary, because an omnipotent state could disregard the League of Nations”\(^\text{11}\). This situation sustained the challenge before the world leaders on how to provide a workable mechanism that could authoritatively allocate reward and punishment by dealing effectively with aggression while at the same time ensuring international peace and security.

THE UNITED NATIONS

The sources of the UN could not be divorced completely from those of the League or indeed the 19th century international organization. Like the League, the UN was an attempt by statesmen to take fake ‘the state’. It was above all, an attempt to reorganize the international political system after the devastation of the World War II. In that regard, there is a direct link between

\(^{11}\)Ibid., p. 229.
the Concert of Europe, the League and the UN; they were all devices set up after the aftermath of very destructive wars in the international system. This is not to argue however, that there are no fundamental differences between the UN and the League for that matter the Concert system.

The immediate origins of the UN could be traced to the cooperation that developed between the Allied Powers during the Second World War. In fact, the name United Nations, was used for the coalition of Britain, China, the USSR, USA and France which eventually defeated the axis powers; Italy, Germany and Japan. During the war, it became clear to the allied powers that there was an urgent need for a post war international organization, which would try to re-arrange the international system.

Like the League, the aims and objectives of the UN are set out in stating the organization’s objectives. According to the preamble, the UN was set up to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Under Chapter 1, purposes and principles, the UN set for itself among other goals, the maintenance of international peace and security and undertook to set in motion “effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and aggression or other breaches of peace”\(^\text{12}\).

The theme of peace is again re-echoed in chapter 1 under the membership. Here it is stated categorically that membership of the new organization “is open to all other peace-loving states which accepts the obligations contained in the present charter” (Art. 4.1). Besides that, all members are enjoined to settle their disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice are not endangered” (Art.2.3).

Finally, all members are to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state or any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the UN (Art

2.4). In short, the major objective of the UN was the avoidance of war in the international system and the promotion of peace and security. More than the League of Nations, the UN leaned heavily on the belief that “it makes sense to try to eliminate conflict and war by improving the mechanism and procedures of international relations and promoting higher standards of national behavior”\textsuperscript{13}.

**WHAT IS CONFLICT**

**THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**

In international politics, it is a known fact that conflict is a recurring character in state relations. Conflict management and resolution is only possible in connection with conflict analysis. This analysis may be an explicit, conscious, project; if not, it will be undertaken unconsciously and on the basis of unexamined assumption\textsuperscript{14}.

Indeed, it could be reasonably argued that the actions and inactions of states within the international society are owing to the influence of conflict. Therefore, conflict management tends to regulate tensions that evolve out human relations in order to make sure that they do not get out of hand.\textsuperscript{15}

Scholars of international politics have variously expressed what they perceive to be conflict. For instance, a scholar like Ross Stagner views conflict as a situation in which two or more human beings desire goals which they perceive as being achievable by one or the other, but not by both\textsuperscript{16}. The argument here

\textsuperscript{13}Ibidem.


\textsuperscript{15}The dynamic atmosphere is a product of human relations which has two factors co-operation and conflict. Co-operation is not problematic while conflict is hence the mechanism for managing or regulating conflict is evolved so as to regulate the intensity of conflict.

is that it is a common phenomenon that actors within the international system do sometimes aim to achieve certain personalized goals which are entirely different from their various national goals and that in achieving this, they all apply the state apparatus as a means to achieving an end.

This is usually propelled by the psychological disposition of the actors. Indeed, while state values and national interest may not necessarily be conflictual, the personal values and goals of actors might be the source of international conflict.

Another scholar in the person of Joseph Frankel is of the opinion that conflicts do occur when two or more people or group of people including states, carry out acts which are mutually incompatible.17

Kenneth Boulding also opinionated that conflict can be described as a situation of competition in which the parties are aware of the incompatibility of potential future positions and in which each party wishes to occupy a position that is incompatible with the wishes of the other18. From the above points of view, one could argue that the incompatibility of national interests of nation-states within the international system can lead to the occurrence of conflict.

It must however, be noted that international conflict is distinct and different from other conflicts such as intranational conflict. International conflict is a little more than a special case study of conflict because it has some peculiarities of its own conditioned by the nature of the environment within which it takes place.

Akindele for instance maintains that Kenneth Boulding identified three of such peculiarities. First, that in international life, there is an alternation between two forms of conflicts; Covert and Overt Conflicts. Covert conflicts reigns


during peace; and overt conflict reigns during war. Secondly, that international covert conflict is governed by ‘the threat system-threat of punishment, the threat of conquest and the threat of annihilation’. Thirdly, that international conflict in which the superpowers are directly and competitively involved threatens humanity with extinction. These three peculiarities according to Akindele are the results of the nature of the international system as pointed out by Kenneth Boulding.

Though, international conflict is often taken to be largely destructive, it is however an erroneous opinion because the dialectic of conflict and cooperation is at work in all societies and that conflicts perform certain functions for the maintenance, change and integration of the society. In other words, in as much as conflicts can be said to be dysfunctional, it can equally be said to be constructive because conflict sometimes is that umpire that acts as a check against state dominance, international dictatorship and power hegemony in the international system.

The changing nature of the world is largely due to conflict which has been instrumental to the changing power structure in the international system. Conflict then is a necessary condition for change and dynamism. Hence the absence of conflict might imply two things: (1) The non-interaction among human beings (which according to Thomas Aquinas negates human nature). (2) A complete consensus about conditions of human actions as they as they occur.

19Ibid., p. 7.

20Ibid., p.7.


Conflict management then can be said to be a collection of various methods of reducing tensions and managing conflicts among states in the international system.

Akindele proceeded to formulate some imperative conditions under which an effective regulation of conflict is possible. For him, such conditions will include the following:

I. The recognition by parties to a conflict of the necessity and reality of conflict, since the attempt to obliterate the lines of conflict by ready ideologies of harmony and unity in effect serves to increase rather than decrease the violence of conflict manifestation

II. The mutual recognition of the parties in a conflict situation. The conflict groups must be visibly organized, and

III. The existence of rules and norms recognized by parties in a conflict situation. In this sense though international law to a large extent has no legal binding character, it performs symbolic functions for the regulation of conflicts.

Though, it is of utmost importance to note that conflict cannot totally be eradicated from the international system, it must however, be known that actual conflicts among states often resemble mixtures of fights, games and debates, with this or that element predominating in the combination of different times and places.

While the international system continues to witness a rise in conflict all over the world, the end of cold war opened up a Pandora’s box from which have progressively and tumultuously emerged religious wars, ethnic conflicts, disintegration of states and birth of new state entities often in conflict with each other, phenomena all strongly at odds with free trade and globalization needs. The negative effects of globalization have continued to create a large

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disenfranchised population primarily centered in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.\textsuperscript{24}

It must be pointed out that the art of diplomats, governments and respectable citizens then consists in managing these international conflicts so as to keep them within tolerable bounds; to safeguard as far as possible the current national interests while these interests themselves continue to evolve and change; to gain time and strength and to ensure national survival\textsuperscript{25}.

**THE UN AS A CASE STUDY FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

The need to highlight the values of international organizations stems from the progress that is being made in conflict management in which more disputes than ever are being settled by negotiation and not on the battlefield and that international organization are playing increasing role in settling these disputes.

It must be however, be pointed out that the complexity of contemporary conflicts and conflict management is posing great challenges for the structures, resources and roles of most international organizations\textsuperscript{26}.

It is pertinent to observe that for over the past years, globalization has made its impact on the law by enhancing the international nature of domestic laws and by heightening the relevance of international organizations\textsuperscript{27}.


\textsuperscript{26} Peter Dahl Thruelsen, International Organisations: Their Role in Conflict Management, (Ed) (Denmark: Royal Danish Defence College, 2009), p.30.

The need for the maintenance of international peace and security is one of the major reasons why the UN was set up. The UN has treaties and legal foundation which clearly depicts its aims and objectives.

The UN Charter provides the foundation for the entire organizations work. The overall purpose of the UN is laid down in Article 1 is to maintain international peace and security by preventing or suppressing acts of aggression and promoting respect for international law and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. In Article 2, some of the more central elements are listed together with a statement that all members shall act in accordance with seven principles which are clearly stated in the UN Charter.

The UN is organized with six main or principal organs that are formally equal to each other: The General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Secretariat and the International Court of Justice.

The UN has enhanced its security cooperation with regional organizations and coalitions of the willing significantly since the end of the Cold War. At the operational level it has:

- Increased the number of chapter viii enforcement of operations delegated to regional organization and coalition of the willing;
- Included civilian elements within delegated operations;
- Attached liaison officers to delegated operations;
- Co deployed UN observers and other personnel in delegated operations;
- Conducted jointed operations with other regional operators; and
- Deployed follow-on forces taking over from delegated operations as soon as the conditions for a consent-based Chapter VI operation have been created\textsuperscript{28}.

The UN has a Toolbox which covers most of the Conflict cycles. While the UN does not have the capacity to use force against spoiler opposing

\textsuperscript{28}Peter Dahl Thruelsen, Op. Cit, p.41.
forces with military means beyond the tactical. It has tools for preventing the outbreak of armed conflict, managing armed conflict and rebuilding, and if need be running Countries recovering from war in a transitional period.

It is pertinent to note that while among students of conflict resolution, conceptualization differ considerably regarding the nature of conflict, most however, do agree that conflicts change over time and are not usually isolated phenomenon but instead are interlocked with other issues in conflict with salience shifting according to internal and external environment.29

The UN is involved in Peace making, Peace Keeping, Peace enforcement and Peace-building. Benjamin Gidron and Stanley Kutz, posit that peace making strategies are reformatory in nature as they usually seek resolutions or the de-escalation of conflicts. Peace keeping strategies tend to be more palliative for they generally are mechanisms to decrease the level of violence and maintain cease-fire but do little to address the underlying causes of conflict. Peace-building on the other hand, are simultaneously transformative in nature and also construct positive structural and cultural mechanisms towards positive peace.30

In 2005, the UN set up the Peace-Building Commission (PBC) to help mobilize resources, facilitate dialogue, enhance coordination and propose integrated peace building strategies for war-torn countries referred to it. The PBC consists of a 31-Member Organizational Committee, as well as country-specific configurations to address specific country cases on its agenda.

It is composed of seven member states from UNSC, seven from ECOSOC, seven from the General Assembly, and a five each from a list of Ten

30 Ibidem.
largest Troop Contributors and financial donors. The International Financial Institutions (IFIS) and UNSC are invited to all PBC meetings, and all relevant actors, including regional organizations, neighbouring Countries, donors, personnel-contributing countries and NGOs are invited on an ad hoc basis to meetings dealing with countries on the PBC agenda.

A Peace-Building Support Office (PBSO) was created simultaneously with the PBC to assist its activities and to advise the UNSC and conduct analysis of peace-building best practices. A peace-building Fund was established to finance peace-building projects in the countries of PBC agenda, projects in countries designated by the UNSC, and emergency projects.\(^{31}\)

Regrettably however, the UN, like the League, is based on the sovereignty of the members of the nation-state system, and does not operate in a vacuum. It is profoundly affected by its milieu, by the contemporary international society, and especially by the nature of great power relations. Since these relations are still based in large measure on balance of power considerations, and since many aspects of the foreign policies of the great powers seem to operate out of the UN, it is clear that the UN is likewise involved in a balance of power situation.\(^{32}\)

A meaningful analysis of the performance of the UN under its Charter obligations and the principles especially with respect to conflict prevention and resolution shows without doubt that since its establishment, the Organization has not only promoted and encouraged international cooperation, it has evolved the concept of peacekeeping to ensure peace among nations and communities at war. Furthermore, as an International Organization, the UN has stood as the promoter and protector of Human Rights. It has also tried to create an enabling environment to accelerate socio-economic development in the most disadvantaged states of the world. Since the end of the cold war, the UN has provided more impetus to the drive by member states to democratize. It has succeeded in creating sanctions and punishing

member states whose actions are inconsistent to their charter obligations.

The increasing tides of intra-state conflicts and wars have virtually rendered ineffective the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of member states where domestic crises constitute a threat to international peace and security. In this respect, the UN has encouraged regional political or economic organizations to respond to the need to maintain regional peace and security under the approving authority of the UN Security Council. Regional Organizations in Africa e.g. ECOWAS and Latin America have been taking local initiatives with the approval of the Security Council to ensure adequate resolution of conflicts by these regional organizations, ensuring peace and stability 33.

The role of the UN as an International Organization in ensuring conflict resolution globally would require a deliberate political judgment that can only be made by members of the Security Council acting collectively and will depend on some continuing commonality of interests among the five permanent members of the Security Council—the United States and Russia in particular. The effectiveness of the UN in conflict resolution, conflict management, dealing with international security problems, disarmament and arms control will always remain sensitive to the relations between these two states 34.

It must be pointed out that a healthy relationship between members of the Security Council especially the U.S. and Russia will not only enhance the UN’s ability to resolve conflicts globally, it will also enhance the UN’s ability to restore the status quo as it existed prior to a breach of peace, but also to change the parameters of global order to something more favourable than existed under previous status quo 35.

CRITICAL EVALUATION

It has often been posited by most social scientists that conflict is a recurring decimal in states relation and that most often conflict is viewed from a negative perspective.

However, we wish to argue that conflict is not necessarily negative and destructive because it has the potency of bringing about a positive change in society. It could also enhance change and integration of the society. What therefore is of importance is that conflict must not be allowed to escalate out of control.

While concurring that the end product of all human interaction are two factors: cooperation and conflict, we did argue that while cooperation is not problematic because it does not require rules to govern it, conflict is problematic and as such rules are evolved to manage the intensity of conflict so that they not escalate and get out of hand.

The world is constantly in a state of flux owing to conflict which has continued to be instrumental to the changing power structure of the international system. As argued earlier, the absence of conflict might imply two things: the non-interaction among human beings which clearly negates the human nature because the human being is a social being. Secondly, conflict might be absent if there is a complete consensus about conditions of human actions as they occur.

While we might agree with the position that conflict has to be managed so that they not escalate out of control, the establishment of international organization as a panacea for the resolution of conflicts and maintenance of international peace and security is a welcome development.

However, we wish to argue that the politics that often take place within these international organizations as states attempt to achieve their various national interests and to foist their interests on other states within such international organizations continues to be the bane which has greatly hampered the effectiveness of most of these international organizations.

While states remain the building blocks of the international system, the justiciability and non-justiciability of international cases and conflicts comes to mind.

A non-justiciable case cannot be resolves within the legal ambit of the law but are resolved at the political arena. For instance, the United States of America declared war on Iraq over the claims that Iraq had amassed weapons of mass destruction and which the UN weapons inspectors investigated and up till date did not find any weapon in Iraq and yet the US ignored the UN’s opposition to war. That particular action clearly undermined the power of collective security which the UN stands for.

While international organizations might have the capability to resolve conflicts and maintain security, the actions and inactions of states who are actors within these organizations goes a long way to either enhance or deter the effectiveness of these international organizations in conflict resolution and maintenance of international peace and security.

CONCLUSION

This essay has attempted to discuss International Organizations and Conflict Resolution: A Theoretical Framework. This essay looked at what are international organizations, the history of international organizations, the Concert of Europe, The League and the United Nations.

Attempts were made to look at the various definitions of conflicts while noting that conflict is not necessarily negative and destructive but that they are instrumental to the changing power structure of the international system.
We also did argue that while international organizations are a viable platforms which can be used in resolving various conflicts plaguing our world, the actions and inactions of states within these international organizations goes a long way in either enhancing or deterring the effectiveness of international organizations in managing and in resolving conflicts within the international system.

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