

Globalization Handout

International organisations :

UNO : an international organisation of countries set up in 1945, in succession to the League of Nations, to promote international peace, security, and cooperation. The UN's headquarters are in New York City.

Its members, originally the countries that fought against the Axis powers in World War II, now number more than 190 and include most sovereign states of the world. Administration is by a secretariat headed by a secretary-general. The chief deliberative body is the *General Assembly*, in which each member state has one vote; recommendations are passed generally have had little effect on world politics.

The Security Council bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security and may call on members to take action, chiefly peacekeeping action, to enforce its decisions.

The permanent members of the security council are: China, Russia, France, Great Britain, and the USA (founding members). They have a *right of veto*, which sometimes make it difficult to take effective action whenever any of these members are involved in a crisis (cf Iraq war, the troubles in Georgia).

The UNO has several organisations dedicated to building a safer and better world:

→ *UNESCO*: international science, culture and education organisation.

→ *UNICEF*: The United Nations Children's Fund provides money and resources for education worldwide.

→ *World Bank*: loans money to developing countries.

→ *World Health Organisation*: (OMS in French) the international organisation for worldwide health issues. It tries to help fight epidemics and provides emergency medical care.

Another important organisation affiliated with the UN is the International Monetary Fund :

→ *IMF*: established in 1945, it aims to promote international trade. Member countries contribute in gold and in their own currencies to provide a reserve. The IMF usually gives money if the country accepts measures for economic correction – usually cuts in public expenditure; it often triggers an increased cost of living. The IMF role and measures have frequently caused controversy. It has its headquarters in Washington, DC. Since 2007, its president has been a Frenchman, Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

The European union: born from the E.E.C. (European Economic Community), it aims to bring European nations together economically and culturally, and to prevent conflict.

The EU contains 27 countries so far, with about 500 million citizens, whose rights are protected by a *Charter of human rights*.

Since 2002, 15 of the EU members have replaced their currencies by the Euro (not Great Britain).

→ One of the main issues for Europe is that of supra-nationality, i.e. countries fear to lose their independence and customs to higher authorities, as the EU grows bigger (cf Nice and Lisbon Treaties were rejected).

NAFTA: North American Free Trade Agreement.

An agreement that came into effect in January 1994 between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to remove barriers to trade between the three countries over a ten-year period. Although the agreement meant to benefit all three countries, Mexico has since experienced numerous economic issues.

OPEC: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEP in French)

An association of eleven major oil-producing countries, founded in 1960 to coordinate policies and prices, with headquarters in Vienna. Members are Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization (OTAN in French)

An association of European and North American countries, formed in 1949 for the defence of Europe and the North Atlantic against the perceived threat of Soviet aggression. By 2005, the alliance consisted of 26 countries, including several eastern European nations. NATO's purpose is to safeguard member countries by political and military means.

→ France opted out in 1966 because of a disagreement on army forces integration.

OAU : Organization of African Unity (OUA in French)

An association of African states founded in 1963 for mutual cooperation and the elimination of colonialism in Africa. It is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

WTO: World Trade Organisation

An international body founded in 1995 to promote international trade and economic development by reducing tariffs and other restrictions.

Non Governmental Organisations:

Amnesty International: an independent international organisation in support of human rights, esp. for prisoners of conscience. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. It has 1 million active members in 150 countries.

Other important NGOs are Greenpeace, Oxfam, Médecins sans Frontières (doctors without borders), the Red Cross ...

Globalization vocabulary:

Geopolitics: politics, esp. international relations, as influenced by geographical factors.

a network / web: un réseau

intelligence: les "renseignements" (services secrets). England: MI5 (internal) and MI6 (overseas) // USA: FBI / CIA and NSA (National Security Agency)

a buffer zone: une zone tampon

means of transports: moyens de transport (*cargo plane:* avion cargo; *High-speed train:* TGV; *super tanker:* idem)

the Triad: |'traɪəd| la Triade

a crisis -> crises

a seaway: une voie maritime

a strait: un détroit

a flow: un flux

The G8 summit: meeting of the eight leading industrial nations (U.S., Japan, Germany, France, UK, Italy, Canada, and Russia).

Trade:

A company / firm : une entreprise

A holding company: une holding -> company created to buy and possess the shares of other companies (= *subsidiaries:* filiales).

A factory/plant - workshop: une usine - un atelier (a power/nuclear plant: centrale électrique/ nucléaire)

A factory outlet: un magasin d'usine

The sales: les soldes ; *a discount:* un rabais; a retail store:

A sweatshop: a factory or workshop, especially in the clothing industry, where manual workers are employed at very low wages for long hours and under poor conditions.

A maquiladora: a factory in Mexico run by a foreign company and exporting its products to the country of that company.

To relocate: délocaliser

Free Trade: le libre échange -> international trade left to its natural course without tariffs, quotas, or other restrictions.

Business: les affaires

The Labour Market: le marché du travail

The Stock Exchange: la Bourse

A share: une action (*a shareholder*)

Minimum wage: salaire minimum

Fair trade: le commerce équitable

Movement for Ethical globalization: Mouvement altermondialiste

Microcredit: microcrédit (the lending of small amounts of money at low interest to new businesses in the developing world).

Hazards: les risques

To emit toxins: émettre, dégager, répandre des toxines

Toxic / nuclear waste: déchets toxiques

chemicals: |'kɛmɪkəlz| produits chimiques

Global warming: Réchauffement planétaire

Greenhouse gases: gaz à effet de serre

Lax health conditions: *measures sanitaires insuffisantes / inadéquates.*

Media:

to broadcast: diffuser

a cell / mobile phone: un tel portable

a satellite dish / aerial: une antenne (satellitaire), une parabole

analog / digital TV: TV analogique / numérique

Miscellaneous:

Safety / health / working / living conditions: mesures de sécurité / de santé / conditions de travail / niveau de vie

Abuse: (n) maltraitance, abus sexuels (jur) // (v) injurier / abuser de

To commission a report: demander un rapport (engager qq'n pour ...)

To oversee sth: superviser

To span + COD: s'étendre sur ...

Of Indian descent = of Indian origin

To monitor: observe and check the progress or quality of something.