

CLASS NOTES FOR B.A. PART- III (HONS.) - GEOGRAPHY

PAPER - VII POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

SECTION - "D" UNIT - IV

TOPIC - INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS - "UNO" (PART-01)

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THE UNITED NATIONS

The struggle for peace is an enduring one.

History:

More than a century ago in 1899, the first International Peace conference was held in the League to elaborate multi lateral instruments for settling cases peacefully, preventing wars and codifying rules of the warfare. It adopted the convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes and established the permanent Court of arbitration, which began its work in 1902.

Subsequently, in 1919, the League of Nations conceived during the first world war, was established under the Treaty of Versailles, "to provide international cooperation and to achieve peace and security" while the League of Nations ceased activities after failing to prevent the second world war, the need for peaceful resolutions of the conflicts through international collaboration and dialogue continued to grow.

The term United Nations was coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the second world war. It first appeared in the declaration by United Nations of 1 January 1942, which put forth a pledge by 26 nations to fight together against the Axis powers, following deliberations in 1944 by representatives from China

The Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States in Washington D.C.; delegates from 50 countries met the next year in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organizations. There with a firm commitment to end "the scourge of war", they drew up the Charter of United Nations signed on 26 June 1945. (Poland, which was not represented at the conference, signed the Charter later and so became one of the original 51 member states.

H.Q. in New York", the United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945 with the ratification of the Charter by China, France, the Soviet, the UK, the US and majority of other signatories.

In commemoration of this historic pledge for world peace, United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October each year. Despite the sharp divisions from which it arose in the second world war and those of the ensuing cold war that marked many of its deliberations, the 'UNO' continues to go on in remaining true to its pledge. One all the more relevant in the face of the tremendous global transformations that at the beginning of 21st century are confronting the world and its people.

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