The United Nations-an idyll of peace

Essay

created for the

International Forum for Peace, Security & Prosperity

High School Student Writing Competition

Author:

David Ionut Dumitru

Age: 17 years old

E-mail: dumitrudavid918@gmail.com

Student of "Dimitrie Cantemir" National Military High School

Romania

Postal Address:

75 Republic Blvd., Breaza, Prahova, 105402, Romania

Breaza, March 2022

Abstract

The main purpose of the essay is to show the importance of positive peace based on the principles of justice and human rights, using as example the collaboration between worldwide governments within the United Nations Organization. Thus, I have decided to present how almost 200 state officials literally strengthen their peaceful relationships, by gathering for numerous times to discuss about global issues such as: worldwide poverty, climate changes and global warming or children's rights. These being said, after reading the following pages you will definitely possess enough information in order to understand how the United Nations and the worldwide peace work.

Keywords:

1. Table of Contents

2. Introduction

Peace and freedom are probably the most important values, wanted by almost everyone in this world so I would like to call them a lifestyle, a mindset. However, this harmonious way of living has at some point to be infringed because usually someone feels threatened or he has huge ambitions and plans for his country. It is very useful for us to live in worldwide peace, because this is the cheapest, nicest and easiest way for our race to develop. For example, by living and believing in harmony, we can travel everywhere in this world, we can communicate with each other, we can satisfy many needs or exchange vital information between people and most importantly, we can make a better world for the future generations.

But the concept of peace has evolved, at the same pace with the rest of our society. Peace should no longer mean weapons, military strategy and collateral civilian victims. Peace should be a state of wellbeing for every aspect related to our daily existence, be it primary needs (shelter and food), health care or entertainment industry. Hence, a new concept appeared so as to give the world a new sense of direction: positive peace, which fundamentally means *"finding peaceful solutions to the world's increasingly complex problems [...] a huge task which must also be based upon knowledge, experience and research"*.[1]

According to the "Institute of Economic and Peace Positive Peace Report", *"positive peace shines a light in the direction that a system needs to evolve towards. Positive peace provides a framework to understand, and then address the multiple and complex challenges the world faces."*[2]

3. The involvement of civilian organizations in establishing positive peace.

3.1 The civilian society, the most valuable ally of positive peace

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[1] The quote was said by Dalai Lama on February 2020 on a meeting with the Institute of Economics and Peace representatives
[2] Quote from the „Institute of Economics and Peace positive peace report"(2022)

- Homepage Positivepeace, „The term Positive Peace is a relatively modern term, steeped in a long and fascinating history", URL:https://positivepeace.org/ [01.03.22]

Peaceful societies have been subject to scientific research, and the conclusions are very well illustrated in the following image.

Figure 1: The 8 points of the positive peace.[3]

A primary conclusion is that peace is closely connected to the economic situation of each country, a stable financial environment inducing a state of equilibrium, a sane and healthy environment for human interaction.

Unfortunately, this is a utopian society. We live in a world dominated by financial interests, pressure on human rights and freedom, in which the young generation has the responsibility to become aware of the importance of moral values and duties towards their kin.

In spite of all these, the pursuit of positive peace has become associated with many peace keeping associations such as the UN, which has adopted the principle of non-violence, leading to the elimination of any form of violence.[4] Thus, the countries involved in any kind of conflict which would threaten global peace and security should try to settle it through cooperation, communication, mediation, in justice, with the help of any regional organizations and other peaceful means.

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[3] Picture from the „Institute of Economics and Peace positive peace report"(2022), cap.4, p. 83
[4] Valentin Băluţoiu, Lucia Copoeru, Aurel Constantin Soare, Ecaterina Stănescu, Constantin Vitanos(2006). "Istoria secolului al XX-lea si educatia pentru cetatenie democratica". cap. 4, p. 168

3.2 A "short detailed" history of UN

Figure 2: The United Nations logo.[5]

The United Nations is one of the most famous civilian organizations, known as a worldwide peacekeeper, with the headquarters in New York. The first ever idea to found the UN came on the 1st of January 1942, from Franklin Roosevelt, a former US president. By that time (as nowadays) the purpose of society was to focus on maintaining or establishing peace, controlling climate change and encouraging development. However, the organization was officially created on the 24th of October 1945, after the Allies won the First World War. Since then, this date has been considered the "United Nations Day".[6]

It is widely admitted that the UN might be the greatest organization that has ever existed, consisting of almost 200 member countries and six official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.[7]

After the resonant and at some point unexpected victory of the Allies in the World War 1, a colossal idea, which changed the entire fate of the world, came across

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[5] The logo was created by a team of designers with Oliver Lincoln Lundquist
[6] Homepage wikipedia, „United Nations Conference on International Organization", URL : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Conference_on_International_Organization [01.03.22]
[7] Homepage borgenproject, „10 cool facts about the United Nations", URL: https://borgenproject.org/tag/10-cool-facts-about-the-united-nations/ [01.03.22]

Woodrow Wilson's (a former American president) mind: the modelling of a peacemaker society. So, without losing any time, the first organization in the permanent pursuit of harmony was created in the early twenties in Paris, and it was called the League of Nations. Nowadays, it seems the rightful thing for such an organization to exist, but back in those dark times, it was truly a great challenge to create a peacekeeping society. As I said before, the first time when this name was mentioned, was in 1942, when the officials of 26 states met to sign the "Declaration of United Nations". However, the decisive meeting was on 26th of June 1945 in San Francisco, where 50 state representatives signed the treaty. Nowadays, the UN includes 193 countries and 36 specialized agencies, programs and partnerships.[8]

Figure 3: The San Francisco Conference.[9]

3.3. The United Nations and the governments worldwide, the best partnership that has ever existed!

It is definitely not a confidential matter that during the past 75 years the organization has gathered many times in an effort to achieve their goals. As everybody

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[8] Homepage unsecretariat, „History of the United Nations", URL: https://unsecretariat.net/about-un/index.html [01.03.22]

[9] The source of the photo is: https://www.democracywithoutborders.org/5510/united-nations-charter-reform-and-the-unfulfilled-promise-of-san-francisco/

knows, the UN main purpose is to maintain peace, so a good idea for keeping the worldwide harmony might be to avoid poverty and to strengthen children's rights. According to the latest estimations, in 2015, 10 percent of the world's population, more than half a billion, lived with less than 1.90 dollars a day. By the end of 2030, one of the main goals of the organization is to conclude global poverty, maintaining this percentage somewhere below than 3.[10] According to the UN officials, they would succeed to do it only by finding a decent job to literally everyone, integrating every citizen of this world socially and declining inequality. This is undoubtedly one of the greatest challenges that the organization has ever faced, but through the understanding that the United Nations and the state rulers have shown, this peacekeeping action might become easier to be achieved.

3.4. The UN against the natural global issues

It is already a known fact that climate change, especially global warming, has become a massive problem for our planet in the past decade. For this reason, the United Nations managed to congregate again all the representatives to cooperate and create a better environment for the future generations. Hence, on 22nd of April 2016 (the Mother Earth Day), the officials of over 150 countries signed the Agreement of Paris. The treaty was made mainly to keep the temperature rise below 2 or even 1.5 degrees. The conclusion was that various emissions should be reduced, in order to reach a net-zero global warming by the middle of this century[11]. The UN succeeded one more time to cooperate with all their member countries, promoting peace and harmony, in order to solve one of the greatest issues nowadays.

Figure 4: The logo of The Paris Agreement.[12]

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[10] Homepage UN," End poverty in all its forms everywhere", URL:
https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/ [01.03.22]
[11] Homepage UN, „The Paris Agreement", URL: https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/paris-agreement [01.03.22]
[12] Picture from the official UN website, and it was made by their designers for this special events

4. Conclusion

During the past 75 years the UN has made the world be a safer place, taking care of many violent events and global issues. Hence, I consider the United Nations as an organization meant to exist, because it is the world's main peacekeeper, also handling important natural and social global issues. Furthermore, the UN is an organization that managed to gather almost two hundred state representatives to cooperate in harmony and reach worldwide positive peace. This being said, we can all agree that the United Nations is a society that advocates for human rights, creating solid relationships among the world's governments.

5. Annexes

5.1 List of literature

Literature

1. Valentin Băluțoiu, Lucia Copoeru, Aurel Constantin Soare, Ecaterina Stănescu, Constantin Vitanos(2006). "Istoria secolului al XX-lea si educatia pentru cetatenie democratica". cap. 4, p. 168

2. The Institute of Economics and Peace positive peace report (2022)

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1. Homepage "Positive Peace", „The term Positive Peace is a relatively modern term, steeped in a long and fascinating history", URL:https://positivepeace.org/ [01.03.22]

2. Homepage wikipedia, „United Nations Conference on International Organization",URL: :

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Conference_on_International_Organization [01.03.22]

3. Homepage borgenproject, „10 cool facts about the United Nations", URL: https://borgenproject.org/tag/10-cool-facts-about-the-united-nations/ [01.03.22]

4. Homepage unsecretariat, „History of the United Nations", URL: https://unsecretariat.net/about-un/index.html [01.03.22]

5. Homepage UN," End poverty in all its forms everywhere", URL: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/ [01.03.22]

6. Homepage UN, „The Paris Agreement", URL: https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/paris-agreement [01.03.22]

6. Affidavit

I declare that I have written the present essay independently and on my own. I have clearly marked any ideas borrowed from other sources as not my own and documented their sources. The essay does not contain any work that I have handed in or have had graded as a previous scientific paper earlier on. I am aware that any failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as if they were my own – even if I summarise, paraphrase, condense, cut, rearrange, or otherwise alter them. I am aware of the consequences and sanctions plagiarism entails. Among others, consequences may include nullification of the essay and exclusion from participation in the PSP Forum High School Student Writing Competition. These consequences also apply retrospectively, i.e. if plagiarism is discovered after the essay has been accepted and graded. I am fully aware of the scope of these consequences.

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(David Ionut Dumitru)

Breaza, Romania in March 2022

Principal/ Commander of "Dimitrie Cantemir" Military High School

Colonel

Aurel-Constantin NEAGU, PhD