

Topic 9.8: Institutions Developing in a Globalized World

Standards Table

| Theme | Learning Objective | Key Concept(s) |
|------------------|---|----------------|
| Governance (GOV) | Explain how and why globalization changed international interactions among states | KC-6.3.II.A |

Learning Objectives

- Explain how globalization reshaped international cooperation
- Analyze the role of international institutions in global governance
- Evaluate continuities and changes in state interactions over time
- Use evidence to construct a CCOT argument

Lesson Overview

After 1900, globalization significantly reshaped how states interacted with one another. Increasing economic interdependence, global conflicts, and technological advances created the need for international cooperation. Institutions such as the United Nations were established to promote peace, stability, and collective problem-solving. However, despite these changes, states continued to act in their own interests, and power imbalances remained a defining feature of global interactions. This lesson examines both the changes and continuities in international relations in the modern era.

Background Reading

The 20th century marked a turning point in international relations as globalization intensified connections between states. Two world wars demonstrated the destructive potential of global conflict, leading to efforts to create institutions that could prevent future wars. The League of Nations represented an early attempt at collective security, but its failure to prevent World War II highlighted the limitations of international cooperation in the face of competing national interests.

After World War II, the United Nations was established with the goal of maintaining international peace and security. Unlike earlier institutions, it included mechanisms such as the Security Council, which reflected the realities of global power by granting veto authority to major powers. This demonstrated both a shift toward cooperation and a continuation of power imbalances in global governance.

Globalization also expanded the scope of international institutions beyond peacekeeping. Organizations such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund played key roles in shaping economic policy, particularly in developing regions. These institutions facilitated economic integration but also raised concerns about inequality and the influence of powerful nations over global systems.

Primary Sources

Document 1: United Nations Charter (1945, excerpt)

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>

We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war... reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of nations large and small.

To achieve these ends, we commit to practicing tolerance and living together in peace with one another as good neighbors, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security.

We establish an international organization to promote cooperation in solving economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems and to encourage respect for human rights.

Guided Questions (Document 1)

1. Identify ONE goal of the United Nations stated in the document.
2. Explain ONE way this document reflects a change in international relations after 1900.
3. Analyze the purpose of the document.
4. Explain ONE limitation of this vision based on historical developments.

Document 2: World Bank Development Statement (1960s–1970s, excerpt)

Economic development is essential to achieving stability and prosperity in a globalized world. Through financial assistance and policy guidance, international institutions can help nations modernize their economies and improve living standards.

However, development strategies must balance growth with social equity, as rapid economic changes can produce inequality and instability.

The increasing interdependence of global economies requires cooperation between nations and institutions to ensure sustainable progress.

Guided Questions (Document 2)

1. Identify ONE claim about globalization made in the document.
2. Explain ONE way international institutions influence economic policy.

3. Analyze the perspective of the document.
4. Explain ONE continuity in global economic systems despite these changes.

Document 3: Critique of International Institutions (Late 20th century, excerpt)

While international organizations claim to represent global cooperation, they often reflect the interests of the most powerful nations. Decision-making processes can prioritize the goals of developed countries over the needs of developing regions.

This imbalance raises questions about fairness and representation in global governance. Smaller states may participate in institutions, but their influence is often limited.

As globalization continues, debates persist over whether international institutions promote equality or reinforce existing power structures.

Guided Questions (Document 3)

1. Identify ONE criticism of international institutions.
2. Explain ONE reason for unequal influence within these institutions.
3. Analyze the author's point of view.
4. Compare this document with Document 1.

Historical Evidence for Essays

Students should be able to use:

- League of Nations
- United Nations (Security Council, peacekeeping)
- IMF / World Bank
- WTO (World Trade Organization)
- Cold War alliances (NATO, Warsaw Pact)
- Global financial crises (e.g., 2008)
- Decolonization and new states entering global systems

Change Over Time

- Creation of international institutions (UN, IMF, World Bank)
- Increased global cooperation
- Expansion of global governance beyond war → economy, development

Continuity Over Time

- Power imbalances between nations
- State self-interest remains dominant
- Unequal influence in decision-making

Comparison

- Pre-1900: bilateral diplomacy, imperial competition
- Post-1900: multilateral institutions + continued competition

LEQ Assignment

Prompt

Evaluate the extent to which international interactions among states changed from 1900 to the present.

Student Instructions

- Develop a clear thesis
- Provide contextualization
- Use specific historical evidence
- Explain BOTH change and continuity
- Demonstrate complex understanding