

The UN security council is a peer support group for warmongers

The UN Charter provides for the UN Security Council with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security; hence, it investigates disputes, recommends settlements, imposes sanctions, authorises military force, and deploys peacekeeping operations.

This Council consists of 15 members: five permanent members, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China. There are other 10 non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two-year rotating terms.

It's only the five permanent members that hold veto power. Holding veto power means that any resolution on peace and security, sanctions, military action, or the admission of new UN members, a single "no" vote from any permanent member on the Security Council kills such a resolution, regardless of how many other members supported it.

This is because the framers of this charter never intended to create a system of equal nations under equal law. The veto was the price for the participation of 'great powers' into joining the United Nations, as the Soviet Union would not have signed on to it and the United States might have repeated its 1919 Senate rejection of the League of Nations. Also, their presence was deemed essential for the UN to be seen as an institution that can bite.

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Conflict



This design does not only undermine international law but also creates a peer support group for warmongers. Hear me out. First, all the permanent members are legally immune from UNSC accountability, meaning no resolution can be passed against a permanent member because that member can veto it, and also, the Council can't authorise the use of force against any permanent member, ever! Second, a permanent member can extend this immunity to allies. This can be through vetoing resolutions targeting their partners.

For example, Israel's protection under the US veto. So it's a shield that covers not just them but also states they choose to protect. Third, the presence of non-permanent members on the council is just cere-

monial because, however much they can move resolutions, speak, negotiate, or vote, they can never overcome a veto.

So, it's okay for a non-permanent member to mobilise and solicit support, put up all the legal arguments, or even have support for the other 14 members just to lose to one permanent member's "no." Isn't that cynical?

In essence, the UN Security Council was established to ensure that a 'major power' could act rogue but rather in a seemingly legal way since the Council can't sanction nor authorise the use of force against it. That's why the US, with no regard to international law, can enforce its domestic criminal law extra-territorially on a sitting, elected president of a sovereign state or veto multiple ceasefire resolutions at the Security Council against Israel.

Literally, if you are allied with a permanent member, you are functionally above international law; if you are not, you are fully subject to it.

Over and above, the UNSC was created by great powers to serve their vital interests hence Russia can invade Ukraine, China will certainly invade Taiwan, US wants a regime change in Iran etcetera. Is there any other support group for warmongers than this?

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