

ABSTRACT

PEACE-KEEPING BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE POST-COLD WAR ERA: A NEW VISION OF PEACE?

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Peace-Keeping was introduced by the United Nations to help contain the spread of violence world-wide. As times changed, it, too, had to develop to meet the increasing, yet diverse needs of all states.

While the end of the Cold War opened the way for increased cooperation among states, inter-state conflicts continued to be a problem for the United Nations but not on the same scale as intra-state conflicts. The organization's attention was increasingly drawn to the conflicts within the borders of states that had almost multiplied overnight with the end of the Cold War and that showed also the consequences that stem from man's inhumanity to his fellow people.

Consequently, peace-keepers with their limited resources were being called upon to help societies re-build themselves on all levels after the devastation of warfare. However, in order to effectively respond to the various requests, additional tasks were added to the conventional peace-keeping portfolio.

While peace-keepers did achieve success in some ventures, the United Nations also faced harsh criticism when other peace-keeping operations failed to realize global expectations. Therefore, cognizant of the fact that not all operations require the same measure of peace-keeping, the onus is on the United Nations to implement the appropriate steps so that the organization can continue to successfully pursue the maintenance of international peace and security.

This requires that some measures of reform be undertaken. A priority now is for the United Nations to create its own permanent army. Having its own standing force would certainly alleviate some of the problems associated with the current practice by the organization of relying on its more powerful members to help it maintain international peace and security.

However, creating its own army is not the only solution. The United Nations currently faces a serious financial crisis. Funding the organization's peace-keeping operations has been a long-standing problem for the United Nations. Member-States must therefore make a serious commitment towards meeting their payments in full and on time if the United Nations is to have any future at all and consequently for it to realize its Charter's objectives.

Keywords: Marlene Indrani Surujnath; United Nations; Peace-Keeping; Agenda for Peace; Post-Cold War Era.