

## San Francisco Conference of 1945

In April 1945 the dust from World War II had begun to settle, revealing a deeply fractured world. Indeed, the sheer destruction and chaos from the second war to end all wars left profound scars of mistrust and fear across Europe, the U.S., and the globe. However, these wounds also birthed sentiments of determination, determination to never let such interstate conflict befall the world ever again. It was these sentiments that lay the foundation for an international platform for states to air their grievances and foster global cooperation. The dream for such an organization dates back to Woodrow Wilson's 14 points and the League of Nations but it was not until 1945 that this objective would come to fruition with *The Charter of the United Nations*.

Originally signed by fifty nations, the Charter of the United Nations sets forth "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,...to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights,...to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom." Additionally, the UN charter characterized the maintenance of international peace through means of economic and social development for member states. This vision for the international body, originally proposed at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference of 1944, however, left several holes in the functionality of the organization including the nature and extent of the security council's veto, accession to requirements of membership to the UN, and the responsibilities the body could impose upon states. And, most importantly, the ultimate question of the measures necessary to get smaller nations on board with the structures for the UN that the four powers had presented.

Indeed the United Nations has not been without its faults, many of which can be traced back to the ordinances of the charter from which the UN is derived from. But, perhaps if the questions laid out above had been addressed differently than they were at the San Francisco Conference of 1945, some of these On March 9th and 10th, 2019, the clock will be turned back seventy-four years to take a new look at and revise *The Charter of the United Nations* through the following topics;

- 1). The Organs of the United Nations
- 2). Relative Powers and Rights of Individual Member States
- 3). Rebuilding of Post-War Europe

For your preparations for the SFC of 1945 it is important to remember that this is a historic committee and that the knowledge of delegations during committee will be limited to the knowledge a delegation would have had in 1945. Your research may extend into the 'future' but, only for the purpose of personal context. To prepare, please consider your state's motivations for participation in the San Francisco Conference, it's relations with other participating nations, the state of your nation in 1945, and what its political, economic, and social goals are for an international organization. Consider this as your country's second chance to define itself in the international arena and have its goals aligned with those of the UN and the world.

Please refer to the following resources to begin your research for the SFC of 1945;

<https://www.britannica.com/event/San-Francisco-Conference>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations#ref368910>

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/article/San-Francisco-the-birthplace-of-the-United-6336655.php>