

the UN and regional organizations has ranged from generally positive (with the OAS in Central America and Haiti) to tense and possibly counter-productive (with NATO in Bosnia in 1993-94). Cooperation with at least one regional organization proved politically sensitive: while members of the CIS, notably the Russian Federation, cast their forces in Abkhazia as a peace-keeping operation, it was seen as anything but impartial by some UN member states, leading to tensions in New York over the creation of UNOMIG in 1993 and its expansion in 1994. Practical problems loom large for regional organizations: only NATO, not formally a Regional Organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, can call on resources significantly greater than those available to the UN. Consequently, fashionable emphasis on the primary role of regional organizations may represent both attachment to an ideal, a flight from reality or both. However, partnership between the UN and regional organizations can be highly beneficial.

- The Security Council has been experimenting with **new legal mechanisms** to address massive violations of human rights and war crimes in an effort to help overcome the trauma of civil war. Two main approaches have been identified to date: a 'Truth Commission' as in El Salvador;¹³ and International Criminal Tribunals as for the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda.¹⁴
- Within the Council the **new cooperation among the P-5** has left them with the initiative and has placed the Non-Aligned members, who used to be able to play the super-power rivals off against each other, on the defensive. Whereas in earlier decades, most major issues before the Council were brought there by the NAM or its members (e.g. apartheid; the Arab-Israel dispute), many new ideas and most drafting now originate within the P-5. While the NAM often has the numbers to block P-5 initiatives, if it so wished, the movement has become splintered on many substantive issues and the NAM, as a group,

¹³ The Truth Commission for El Salvador was established by the UN Secretary-General, further to the 1991 Mexico Agreement, once fighting in the country had died down and the UN's human rights monitors had been able to deploy throughout the country. It involved three eminent jurists who inquired in depth into all aspects of human rights violations during the civil war. Bravely, their report named names, including many at the top of the government and the FMLN. While implementation of its far-reaching recommendations, issued March 15, 1993, has been incomplete, publication of the Commission's report helped focus attention on the critical importance of respect for human rights during the era of reconstruction. A Truth Commission, rather than an international judicial body, was probably as much as the political traffic could have borne in this fragile post-conflict society.

¹⁴ The creation of these two *ad hoc* tribunals has intensified calls for a statutory International Criminal Court, possibly dealing not only with crimes against humanity and war crimes but also with more mundane but equally lethal trans-border phenomena such as drug trafficking and terrorism.