

to become more extended international problems. Though far from perfect, it has become an essential part of the machinery for the conduct of bilateral as well as multilateral relations among states.

Since 1945, the various organs and Specialized Agencies of the United Nations have dealt with a great variety of matters. Efforts to promote peacemaking, through the creation of an effective mechanism for the peaceful settlement of international disputes, and efforts to promote disarmament have been only partially successful; but, through the peace-keeping techniques that have been developed, many conflicts have been localized and otherwise limited or even ended. Thanks very largely to action that has been co-ordinated in the United Nations, hundreds of millions of people have been able to exercise the right of self-determination. The organization has provided the forums in which international economic action has been organized both through permanent institutions and special conferences. In the United Nations, international standards for the recognition and respect of human rights have been negotiated, and substantial progress has been made in developing international law. New problems, such as those relating to the seabed and outer space, have been identified and some steps have been taken towards solving them. In all its activities, the United Nations is an accurate reflection of an imperfect world; rarely have its failures or its successes been absolute.

Consultation or confrontation?

Although, in subscribing to the Charter, member states agreed on the purposes defined in Article 1, they differ among themselves in points of view, in interpretation, in emphasis; and so they have widely-varying ideas as to how the United Nations should be employed as a centre for harmonizing their actions. From the outset, the differences have been reflected in the organization, more or less formally, of blocs or groups based on geography or culture or ideology or common interests.