

## **National Interest, Values of the United Nations and World Mangement of Covid-19: *Confronting another Holocaust.***

**Abstract:** The beastly consequences of man's inhumanity to man in the manner in which world powers prosecuted the Second World War, brought International Community to the reality of the fact that if the world must avoid a repeat of such senseless destruction, a *United Nations* with better ideology than the League of Nations was needed to enthrone oneness, to secure human rights and unity of Nations. Using doctrinal approach, this paper assessed and found that International Community has been driven far from the lofty philosophy of the Organization as endorsed in its Charter, through enthronement of individual national interest above collective interest of Nations. The significance of this paper is emphasized by the risk of devolving into another war, under a more technologically advanced dispensation as exist today, which apprehension has been heightened by poor management of Covid-19 plague by International Community; including failure to launch a timeous inquest into the DNA of the virus and possibility that its outbreak could have been humanly orchestrated. The paper recommended need to redouble effort to investigate this virus to re-enact confidence of International Community in whatever the United Nations represent. The paper equally recommended that the Organization should do more, to prevail on Member States to re-orientate their citizenry on the centrality of *humanity* and *humaneness* as indispensable characters of an enduring United Nations for collective peace, progress and security of all human race.

**Key Words:** National Interest, Values, United Nations, Covid-19, and Holocaust.

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### **Introduction:**

Having regards to the beastly manner in which the world powers prosecuted the Second World War and the inhuman consequences on human race, the International Community came to terms with the fact that if the world must avoid a repeat of such ugly scene any other time in the future, the world must come together under an umbrella Organization with better philosophy or ideology than the League of Nations that could not withstand the odds that precipitated the Second World War.<sup>1</sup> As endorsed in the preamble to the United Nations Charter, the world decried man's inhumanity to man arising from the war, and emphasized that unity of Nations and concerted effort to live as mankind without any form of discrimination, in a world where the dignity and worth of the human person was ensured and where the spirit of tolerance and togetherness in peace with one another as good neighbours were enthroned, was the only antidote to another world war.<sup>2</sup>

However, by the workings of the United Nations and commitment of individual Nations to their respective National interests over and above the ideals or philosophy of United Nations in contemporary times, including the trend exhibited by various Nations in the management of Covid-19, it is obvious that the world is once again threading the path of the League of Nations that culminated in the Second World War.<sup>3</sup> Using various Nations, particularly the Developed Economies, summed up as the United Nations Security Council as benchmark, the paper by doctrinal approach, chronicles developments that threaten the ideals upon which the United Nations was built, warning that unless this ugly trend is checked by the International Community, history could readily repeat itself in a more catastrophic war, especially with more developed technology of this dispensation.

### **Conceptual Clarification**

For the avoidance of doubt, it is imperative to clarify the perspective from which some of the concepts in this paper have been employed but to avoid verbosity, only ideals of the United Nations are clarified at this stage while the issue of *National interest*, management of Covid-19 and holocaust are left for discussion in the main body of the paper.

### **Ideals of United Nations**

As earlier mentioned, the ugly consequence of man's inhumanity to man arising from the way the Second World War was prosecuted definitely played into the long standing philosophical principle of human

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, 'History of the United Nations' <<https://www.un.org/section/history-u...>> accessed 21-08-2020.

<sup>2</sup> Preamble of the United Nations Charter (hereinafter referred to as 'UN Charter')

<sup>3</sup> The issue of unanimity of votes and misuse of veto power at the UN Security Council level is a case in point.

rights as a nature-endowed, imprescriptible and indivisible right.<sup>4</sup> The atrocities of Nazi Germany and the beastly horror of the regime during the war directed attention to the nexus between outrageous behavior of a government towards its own citizens and aggression against other nations of the world.<sup>5</sup> It brought to the fore the need for effective protection of human rights as an essential condition for international peace and progress, stressing that as long as human rights are respected, democracy is secured and danger of dictatorship and war is remote.<sup>6</sup> It was in pursuit of this that the UN Charter imposed obligations on member States to universally guarantee and encourage the protection of human rights, in fulfillment of the ideals for which the Allied Powers went to war.<sup>7</sup> That was why the UN Charter took a stride in reaffirming faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person; in the equality of rights of men and women and the nations, large or small, as part of the measure for promoting human rights for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.<sup>8</sup>

In further pursuit of human rights universalization, the Charter also mandated the UN General Assembly to “initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of ... assisting in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms”.<sup>9</sup> This philosophy informed the preamble of the United Nations Charter stating that:

**We the Peoples of the United Nations Determined**

*To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish condition under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treatise and other sources of International Law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom*

**And For These Ends**

*To practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure by the acceptance of principles and institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.*

In pursuit of this philosophy, Article 1 of the Charter provides that:

*The purpose of the United Nations are:*

- 1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and which might lead to breach of the peace;*
- 2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;*
- 3. To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in prompting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and*
- 4. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.*

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<sup>4</sup> O.N. Ogbu, *Human Rights Law and Practice in Nigeria: An Introduction* (CIDJAP, 1999)36.

<sup>5</sup> L. Oppenheim, *International Law: A Treaties* (Longman Group, 1970) 737; Ogbu, *op.cit* at 35

<sup>6</sup> See Preamble to the Charter. See also Ogbu, *op.cit* at 36

<sup>7</sup> Article 1(3) of the United Nations Charter (hereinafter referred to as, UN charter)

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>9</sup> Art.13(b) and 55(c), UN Charter

From the foregoing, it is obvious that United Nations is primarily about ensuring “the dignity and worth of the human person”, promotion of “social progress and better standard of life”; promotion of the spirit of tolerance and “togetherness in peace with one another as good neighbours”; “promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples”; unity and friendly relation towards maintenance of International peace and harmony. Therefore, what the founding fathers of the United Nations meant, in the view of this paper, was that in the spirit of International solidarity, no member nation should engage in acts derogatory to the purposes and philosophy of the United Nations as endorsed in the Charter. In this regard, article 2(6) of the Charter provides that the Organization shall ensure that even non-member states, act in accordance with principles of the union towards international peace and security. Incidentally, the five permanent members of the Security Council, constituting the most powerful organ of the United Nations which constituted the founding fathers of the union, overseeing the crafting of the Charter<sup>10</sup> have also remained effective members of the club of the developed world whose National interest have always been placed above ideals of the United Nations; an issue that is central to the interrogations in this paper.

### **National Interest and UN Ideals**

It would be re-called that the United Nations was created as antidote to State high-handedness and all forms of abuse of human rights and injustice associated with the principles of absolute sovereignty.<sup>11</sup> Its mandate to engender global cooperation on human rights and humanitarian goals was conceived by the global community at a time when greater disaster than the grim reality of the Second World War stared the world in the face. It was therefore meant to move the world from unilateral State action, towards basic recognition of mutual obligation and common vision, as a common effort to promote peace, stability, dignity and equality for all races of the world, regardless of who or where they are.<sup>12</sup> But these values do not seem to be the basic pursuit of the Organization today, thus justifying President Donald Trump, former President of the United States of America’s description of the body as “wasteful and counter-productive”.<sup>13</sup>

Indeed, what plays out at the United Nations level is that the big five powers with veto mandate on the Security Council create themselves into such power blocs that redefine what actually constitutes philosophy of the United Nations when their national interests and those of their cronies are involved. The effect of this is that the surrogate nations take refuge in the big five nations so that even where they trample upon human rights of their citizens and exert impunity against foreign nationals or their neighbouring States, the Security Council looks away as if nothing happens. But when national interests of these powers are not involved, they pretend to seek enforcement of the so-called ideals of the United Nations. This is the scenario that has played out in Syria,<sup>14</sup> Turkey,<sup>15</sup> Iraq,<sup>16</sup> Iran,<sup>17</sup> Yemen,<sup>18</sup> Libya<sup>19</sup> and recently, in Saudi Arabia<sup>20</sup> and Myanmar.<sup>21</sup>

In the bid to protect their national interest, the five Nations on the permanent seat of the Security Council and their cronies have trampled underfoot and desecrated whatever ideals of United Nations represent in the contemporary world. A few instances of attitude of each of these powers, either as principal actors or accessories in this regard would suffice here.

- a. When Iraq, under Saddam Hussein attacked and annexed Kuwait, in 1999, the unanimity of the Security Council was not farfetched in condemning that act of aggression as a breach of international

<sup>10</sup> They include, Britain, America, China, Russia and France.

<sup>11</sup> Ogbu, *op.cit.*; The Preamble of the UN Charter

<sup>12</sup> The preamble, *op.cit.*

<sup>13</sup> R. Many; ‘Here are All the Times Donald Trump Bashad the UN Before Speaking There’ <<http://time.com/4946276/donald-trump-united-nations-general-assembly/>> accessed on 18-12-2019.

<sup>14</sup> H. Sinan; *Russia and Iran: Economic Influence in Syria* (Chatham House, 2019) Sourced at Contract at Chatham House.org. <[www.chathamhouse.org](http://www.chathamhouse.org)> accessed on 12-01-2020.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations Meeting Coverage; ‘Concerns raised on Rights Violation in Syria, Myanmar, Crimea’, <<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13344.doc.htm>> accessed on 18-11-2019.

<sup>16</sup> United Nations Security Council and the Iraq War. <<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/unite>> accessed on 11-1-2020.

<sup>17</sup> C. Coughlin; ‘Lesson from Death of Soleimani’ <[www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)> accessed on 11-01-2020.

<sup>18</sup> S. Boholiss; ‘Nowhere is safe to hide on war-torn Yemen, says UN-appointed Rights Experts’ <[news.un.org](http://news.un.org)> accessed on 14-01-2020.

<sup>19</sup> A. Rami; ‘Libya’s War: Who is Supporting Who?’ <[www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)> accessed on 14-01-2020.

<sup>20</sup> S. Jon, ‘Trump Discusses UN Request for FBI To Investigate Jamal Khashoggi’s Murder’ <[www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)> accessed on 11-01-2020.

<sup>21</sup> S. Tisdal, ‘World’s Awkward Silence over Rohingya Genocide Warnings’ <[www.theguardianwarnings](http://www.theguardianwarnings)> also at <[www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)> accessed on 11-01-2020.

- law and human rights of Kuwaitis<sup>22</sup> but when Russia attacked and annexed Crimea in 2014, killing several citizens of Ukraine and sponsoring civil war in that country, the veto power of Russia readily absolved this world power from any blame.<sup>23</sup>
- b. For about ten years now, there has been Civil war that tore Syria into fragments, creating the largest volume of treachery, amounting to crime against humanity. Civilians, innocent civilians, including women and children have been killed by the national army of Bashar Al-Assad with full backing of Russia.<sup>24</sup> The war has not only created the largest Internally Displaced People but created Refugees to Europe, America and all over Middle East. Having boxed the rebels to Idlib province as their last stronghold, Russia defied international outcry to halt bombardment of the province to save the vulnerable population stashed up in the province. Women and children were maimed and killed by Russian bombardment; the weak and the feeble were exterminated in their numbers without a voice because efforts to condemn impunity of Al-Assad and his Russian ally have been severally rebuffed by the Russian Veto power in the chambers of the Security Council.<sup>25</sup> As it turned out, only the scourge of Covid-19 that engulfed the world in the last quarter of 2019 into most part of 2020 and part of 2021 has been the only reprieve for the Syrian people thus far.
  - c. When the Saudi State sponsored killer- squad killed, dismembered and dematerialized the body of Khashoggi, a Saudi dissident, the then world's condemnation of that nation didn't make any difference because as Trump, the President of the United States put it, American business interest could not be sacrificed on the altar of any outright confrontation with the Saudi Prince and his government.<sup>26</sup> Even when the United Nations fact-finding team, chaired by Irene indicted the Saudi Prince for his complexity in such heinous breach of human rights, yet the Security Council could not make an emphatic condemnation of the act.<sup>27</sup>
  - d. In 2017, when Myanmar persecuted the Rohingya Muslims out of their only known home-land in a manner that suggested ethnic cleansing, the Council adopted a docile posture because of Myanmar's proxy relationship with Russia and China through India. Apart from setting houses of the Rohingyas ablaze, the act created close to one million refugees that have remained in some uninhabitable Island in Bangladesh till date; and yet, without the international community flexing muscle because of National interest of members of the Security Council.<sup>28</sup>
  - e. In the Libyan civil war, the Big Five have shown more clearly that where their national interests are involved, not even their endorsement of any Security Council resolution would make the difference. In the last four months of the year 2019, the Libyan war took an altogether different turn when General Haliffa attacked the Security Council- backed national government with the backing of France, Russia and Britain, three permanent members of the Security Council in conjunction with several other European Union Nations.<sup>29</sup> This explains why all the truce declared, including the August 2020 version and subsequently, hardly survived beyond days or weeks. In the war, Haliffa was reported to deliberately target civilian residences and yet, the Council was grounded by acts of its own members, in pursuit of their national interest.<sup>30</sup> Looking at statistics of those killed in the Liberian and Congolese wars for which their war lords were tried and convicted for breach of all forms of human rights, including rape and crime against humanity, it is obvious that the number of death in those countries is

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<sup>22</sup> United Nations Security Council and the Iraq war <<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/unite>> accessed on 12-08-2020.

<sup>23</sup> V. Kurt; 'Where's NATO's Strong Response to Russia's Invasion of Crimea?' <<https://foreignpolicy.com>> accessed on 14-06-2020.

<sup>24</sup> H. Sinan,; *op.cit.*

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> BBC; 'Jamal Khashoggi: All you need to know about Saudi Journalist Death' <[www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)> accessed on 12-01-2020.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> A. France-Press; 'Myanmar still using same tactics of oppression: UN Envoy' <<https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/07/21/17/myanmar-still-using-same-tactics-of-persecution-un-envoy>> accessed on 09-01-2020; France-Press, *op.cit.*; M. Aama,; 'A Brief History of the Word 'Rohingya' at the Heart of a Humanitarian Crisis' <<https://qz.com>> accessed on 14-04-2019.

<sup>29</sup> R. Allahoum; 'Libya's War: who is supporting who?' <[www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)> accessed on 09-01-2020.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

infinitesimally incomparable to the death in the Syrian and Yemeni wars for which no finger has been lifted because, members of Security Council are involved.<sup>31</sup>

- f. When, in a State sponsored terrorism, the North Korean leader's death-squad traced his dissident brother, Kim Jong-Nam to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and murdered him, the voice of international community was inaudible because the Russia- China bloc on the Security Council would block any such resolution.<sup>32</sup>
- g. The high-handedness of Iran against her protesting citizens in December 2019 in which several Iranians were killed with a solo voice of condemnation from US alone, expectedly because of her strained relationship with Iran gives cause for concern about whatever remains of the values upon which the United Nations was floated<sup>33</sup>
- h. Or is it about Turkey's impunity in pursuing Kurds into the Syrian territory for indiscriminate killing of innocent citizens in the name of creating free zone for the Syrian Refugees in Turkey; cast aspersion on the import of International Customary law; and all that, by the tacit under-cover nod of Russia as long as it afforded Russia opportunity to win the Syrian war, afterall.<sup>34</sup> And for America, it did not matter how Turkey trampled upon Kurdish human rights as long as her tenure in the oil-rich North East-Syria was secured.<sup>35</sup>

Indeed, as a matter of practice, the UNSC habitually looks away when events leading to break down of law and order are brewing in a particular country, and when it happens, the Council begins to seek scape goat for the occurrence by talking of breach of human rights and International Law. But when there is any attack on countries that surrogate themselves to the "big five", they threaten fire and brimstone. That was the trend observable in the events leading to the crisis in Central African Republic; in Guinea and more recently, through Nigerian government's open doors to the Fulani stocks from all over Africa whose flocking has always resulted in civil war and ethnic cleansing in several African countries.<sup>36</sup> But to the developed economies, and *the big five* in particular, such development calls for celebration because it does not only open economies of such countries to them but it affords them opportunity to boost their countries' massive arm-sales. But the other side of the ball-game is that this attitude of the Security Council and their cronies tends aggrieved parties toward violent reaction as in the American assassination of Qasem Soleimani, the Iranian General in January 2020.<sup>37</sup> While world powers were not in doubt that this invincible Iranian General had been engaged in State sponsored maiming and killing of several Americans and other Nationals but they condemned a resort to assassination, instead of dialogue. This, they said as if they forgot how Russia and China used their veto powers to insulate Iran against any form of blame in all its dastardly recalcitrance, in the past.

Beyond these is the harm the developed economies do to other nations as if the issue of "the dignity and worth of the human person", the promotion of "social progress and better standard of life"; issue of "togetherness in peace with one another as good neighbours"; the "promotion of the economic and social advancement of all people" or the issue of unity and friendly relation towards maintenance of International peace and harmony as endorsed in the United Nations Charter mean nothing to them. It is disturbing that some of the nations encourage wars as long as such acrimony would promote the economy of their own nations.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Omar-Sanadiki; "560, 000 Killed in Syria's War According to updated Death Toll" as at Dec.10, 2018 <[www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com)> accessed on 03-01-2020. Compare with the Liberian estimated figure of between 20-30,000 or more death in World Peace Foundation on 'Mass Antrocity Endings' sizes.tufts.edu posted on 07-08-2015 accessed on 07-01-2020.

<sup>32</sup> Y. Leslie; and Eileen E; 'Kim Jong Un's half Brother was killed by Nerve poison, Malaysian Court Told' <[Global News and the Asocial Press at globalnews.ca](http://globalnews.ca)> accessed on 09-01-2020

<sup>33</sup> New York Times, 'With Brutal Crackdown, Iran is Convulsed by Worst Unrest in 40 years' <<https://www.nytimes.com/middleeast>> accessed on 14-06-2020.

<sup>34</sup> Umat-Uras; 'Turkey, Russia reach deal for YPG move out of Syria Boarder Area' <[www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)> accessed on 5/1/2020.

<sup>35</sup> S. Lara; J. Seligman; 'US Plan to Guard Syrian oil Field Sows Confusion' <[foreignpolicy.com](http://foreignpolicy.com)> accessed on 02-01-2020.

<sup>36</sup> International Crisis Group; 'Central African Republic: The Roots of Violence' <[www.crisisgroup.org](http://www.crisisgroup.org)> accessed on 04-001-2020; S. Siphew; 'Nigeria Eases Visa Rules for African Passport Holders' posted on 12-12-2019' <[www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)> accessed on 07-01-2020.

<sup>37</sup> Aljazeera; 'What is behind the Qassem Soleimani's Assassination?' <[www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)> accessed on 09-01-2020.

<sup>38</sup> H. Sinan; *Russia and Iran: Economic Influence in Syria* (Chatham House, 2019) Sourced at Contract at Chatham House.org. <[www.chathamhouse.org](http://www.chathamhouse.org)> accessed on 12-01-2020.

Some nations, by conduct also promote corruption in member States of the United Nations by granting death-pill-like loans to corrupt governments they know will misappropriate such funds, as long as the proceeds are plowed back to the economy of the loaning nation.<sup>39</sup> Another dimension also lies in nations that receive corrupt funds in property and finance-developments in their country even when, from the antecedents of such country, they have reason to know that the poor, the needy, women and children of the debtor nation will be the worst for it.<sup>40</sup>

The question is, where would this quest of individual interest outside the framework of the philosophy of United Nations take the world? As it is, the list of attitudinal redefinition of the ideals of United Nations may be endless but one inevitable reality is that if the world's acquiescence of such show of impunity against the vulnerable States continue, in defiance of the philosophy of the Organization then, we should all take responsibility for a Third World War in no distant future. As participants at a debate hosted by representatives of a fifteen member committee of the United Nations emphasized recently, "the Security Council as the gate-keeper and upholder of International Law for the United Nations 193 member States.....must quickly rectify failures in discharging its mandated duties of prohibiting the use of force and maintaining global peace and security" or risk catastrophic consequence.<sup>41</sup> But such debates only make caricature of the real facts on ground that show members of the Council as master-minding wars, violence and breach of global peace, directly or indirectly, through proxy wars, in pursuit of their respective national interest.

For instance, it is no longer a secret that Russia's inhumane impunity in the Syrian war is informed by her interest to access the Syrian economy with particular interest in obtaining reconstruction contracts for her major conglomerates.<sup>42</sup> In addition to lines of credit and supply of vital strategic products, Russia and Iran are pursuing a larger role in the Syrian war as opportunity-based approach to the Syrian market. That is why even in the face of the fiercest of war in the last ten years, these two countries have established their respective countries' Business Council to boost relationship with Syria, towards their quest to access oil and gas, electricity, agriculture, tourism and real estate, even if at the cost of the blood of innocent Syrians.<sup>43</sup> This is because, contracting Russian private companies comes at a lower political cost to Russia than allowing Iran and any other country to further expand in key sectors of the Syrian economy.<sup>44</sup> With such dynamics, it is obvious that whatever the United Nations stands for must play secondary role to Russia that has done everything possible to frustrate any useful resolution against Assad's government, in the last ten years.

With the Syrian conflict raging on some ten years on, annexation of Crimea and wide spread violence against the vulnerable minorities all over the world, without any remarkable intervention by the International Community, and with the tactical annexation of sovereign nations through unguarded but implicating loans, it is obvious that the credibility of the United Nations and her philosophy are being called to question, at all levels. For this cause, there is reason for a paradigm-shift by which the Organization and the Security Council in particular should be proactive in arresting impunity that flows from State protectionism, rather than the risk of becoming stymied in debates that yield no visible result. This is the only way the Organization can re-enact relevance for itself in the quagmire that is not only making a mockery of whatever its ideals import but is taking the world hostage by events, similar to those that midwife the first and second world wars.

### **International Management of Covid-19**

While the world grapples with how to contain the devastation of Covid-19, this enemy of humanity, the world seems to look away from a greater horror of so many unanswered questions of this so-called virus. When Ebola Virus struck some African Countries, beginning with Guinea in 2014, it was regarded as an African scourge for which the developed world did so little to help; with some lame-duck World Health Organization's

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<sup>39</sup> UN Council on Foreign Relation 'The World Bank and Corruption'  
<<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/mo...>> accessed on 21-08-2020.

<sup>40</sup> Global Witness, 'British Banks Complicit in Nigerian Corruption, Court Documents Reveal'  
<<https://globalwitness.org/en/archive/british-baks...>> accessed on 21-08-2020.

<sup>41</sup> United Nations Meeting Coverage; 'Security Must Rectify Failure to prohibit use of Force, Maintain International Peace, Speakers Stress at Day-Long Debate'  
<<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13344.doc.htm>> accessed on 09-01-2020.

<sup>42</sup> H. Sinan; 'Russia and Iran: Economic Influence in Syria' in Chatham House (ed) The Royal Institute of International Affairs <[chathamhouse.org](http://chathamhouse.org) <[www.chathamhouse.org](http://www.chathamhouse.org)> accessed on 02-01-2020.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid*.

resolution on the scourge and how to contain it.<sup>45</sup> It was easy for the developed world to explain its source and how it propagated itself from its surrogates to humans but almost three years into the devastating scourge of Covid-19, arising from Wuhan, China, the world continues to busy itself with search for a so-called dependable vaccine without anyone, not even the World Health Organization raising serious issues on the biological and chemical components of this latest enemy of humanity; and the possibility that its could have been humanely orchestrated, because a world power is involved.

The world needs to go beyond the notion that these attackers of humanity, especially those in the potentially fatal class like Corona Virus are nature-induced, to query their orchestration from a biological, atomic or chemical warfare property, background. The world must seek to decode its chemical constitution; its exact Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) property, its chemical combination; its biological and biochemical insignia.

In a world where all forms of unprovoked attacks arise from the quest of world powers and world economies to dominate one another; in a world where competition of world powers to dominate each other in the space and in a world where all forms of fanaticisms and fundamentalisms are rife, the world must stop at nothing to exclude possibility of human orchestration of what the world assumes as one of those *innocent*, normal virus attack. As it is, the world may not need any bomb to rick havoc on humanity today but could conjure the stars and atmospheric cooperation to launch the world into a virus-based disaster that even the launchers may have no control over. With such scenario, man's inhumanity to man may not be calculable in the same magnitude with the Second World War in any single war in this century but could aggregate and sum up to the human catastrophe of the First and Second World Wars put together, thereby. Only in December 2020, the United Kingdom claimed to identify a mutated strain of Covid-19 which was described as more infectious, although not more fatal; and by January 2021, South Africa, the US and thirty other countries have reported similar experience.<sup>46</sup> Nothing emphasizes the emergency of getting to the root of this virus than such ability to replicate itself in different strain because, such development could rubbish claim of the world to some vaccines.

Before now, it was about arms race that drove world powers to every accessible space in every planet<sup>47</sup> but now that it is becoming clear that some so-called natural existence could delve greater catastrophe on humanity than all arms put together, the world must sit up, either to block such exploitation by mischief makers or to find antidote to their deployment, as and when they are explored against humanity. With all kinds of meaningless insurgencies and religious fundamentalism pervading and threatening almost every nation of the world today, some without any well defined ideology, the world must sit-up and take a position ahead of mindless self-seekers.

### **Lessons from the League of Nations**

From the way Nations flout the ideals upon which the United Nations was built, for national interest, it is obvious that the world is treading the same path that demobilized the League of Nations,<sup>48</sup> culminating in the outbreak of the Second World War. It would be recalled that the League of Nations was supposedly the only unifying body to the then known world after the first world war but it failed to unify the world, amongst other reasons, because nations were engrossed in the pursuit of their respective national interests, in preference for the peace of all.<sup>49</sup>

Indeed, failure of the League in the 1930s was not only because the aggressor nations undermined its authority but because Britain and France, the two most influential members ignored the League in their efforts to appease Hitler, an action that arguably led to the outbreak of the Second World War.<sup>50</sup> As part of aggressive posture of Nations against each other in the 1930s, resulting in the control of Germany, Italy and Japan by Fascist dictatorships whose intent for empire building would not succeed if the League was allowed to survive,

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<sup>45</sup> PFY McApreko; "The Status of Universal Human Rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: an Approval".  
<<https://doi.org/106035/ForumRecerca.2014.19.3>. > accessed on 14-04-2020.

<sup>46</sup> CDC, "About Variants of the Virus" <<https://www.CDC.gov>> accessed on 13-02-2021; G. Steinhauser "South Africa Covid-19 Strain: What we Know About the New Variant"... <[www.wsj.com/world/Africa](http://www.wsj.com/world/Africa)> accessed on 13-02-2021.

<sup>47</sup> Financial Times, 'Vulnerable Satellites: The Emerging Arms Race in Space' <<https://www.ft.com/content>> accessed on 11-02-2021.

<sup>48</sup> The Pre-Second World War Forum of World Powers in the 1930s.

<sup>49</sup> Attitude of Britain and France, the two most exposed world powers in the 1930s spoke volumes, in this direction.

<sup>50</sup> BBC, 'Paris Peace Treaties and the League of Nations, 1933' <https://www.....> accessed on 20-08-2020.

these powers stopped at nothing to cause division. Thus, when Japan conquered Manchuria in 1932 and the League supported China in objection, Japan left the League.<sup>51</sup> While the League condemned Italy's invasion of Abyssinia in 1935, France and Britain were into secret deal to hand Abyssinia to Italy after Hitler announced Germany's exit from the League in 1932. This was the scenario that demobilized the League so that at the time of Sudeten crisis in 1938, Britain and France were already singing discordant tune.<sup>52</sup>

Looking at this narrative from the perspective of contemporary happenings, it is apparent from the way nations place their national interest above the collective ideals of the United Nations as endorsed in the United Nations Charter that the world is once again treading the same path that led the world to the Second World War, with all its ugly consequences. In the face of such odious threat, it is the view of this paper that at no time has the need to revisit the philosophy of the United Nations been more urgent than it is today. In such a revisit, it is suggested that the need to emphasize *humanity* and *humanness* as the most prominent concepts in the ideology of United Nations, to appeal more to the conscience of the entire human race than the tradition where member States are only enjoined to guarantee rights of individuals within their respective jurisdiction, should be more seriously stressed.

Beyond this is the quest of Islamic world to spread Islamic fundamentalism across all Continents of the world, in a manner that suggest a spiritual driving force that puts their sponsors under compulsion to Islamize the whole world now, or never.<sup>53</sup> And in the face of such necessity is a new awakening on the side of the industrialized world to boost their economies by mass-production and selling of sophisticated arms to every demon that crosses their path, as long as such transaction would improve economy of their nations; without caring to know the heinous and dastardly destruction to which such arms would be adapted, afterall.<sup>54</sup>

In his speech to the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, Obama, the then President of the United States of America had insisted that the lasting universality of the United Nations principles of freedom, prosperity and equality for all, in an integrated world in which we all have a stake in each other's success, remains the only international order that can ensure unparalleled advances in human liberty and prosperity, which he said accounted for why the bigger countries are restrained from imposing their will on smaller ones, so that the world could advance democracy, development and individual liberty on every Continent.<sup>55</sup> But events in the last decade have cast so much aspersion upon such assertion that it is now difficult to fathom the values upon which the United Nations is run by the developed world today.

In a world where religious worship is thinning out by all forms of State policies in the name of fighting terrorism; in a world where isolationism is fast becoming the order of the day even when such measures could trample upon minority rights, and in a world where genuine political opposition is perceived as enemy of the State which must be destroyed, it is difficult to decipher how confidence of the International Community would remain in an Organization that was meant to act as a bastion for ensuring that the era of might being perceived as right that culminated in the first and second world wars never returned, which scene is now fast re-appearing with tacit endorsement of the big five nations on the Security Council. No wonder, Donald Trump, former American President said the United Nations is "not a friend of democracy... doing nothing to end the big conflicts in the world", describing it as "a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time" and causing problems rather than solving them<sup>56</sup>.

As the Queen of England said in her speech to the General Assembly in 1957, the future of this organization will be determined, not only by the degree to which members strictly observe the provisions of the Charter and cooperate in its practical activities, but also by the strength of its peoples' devotion to the pursuit of these great ideals.<sup>57</sup> Until the United Nations is reformed to re-orientate it towards these original ideals, the

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<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>53</sup> A.C.S. Peacock; *Islamization: Comparative Perspectives from History* (Jstor Edinburg University Press, 2017)1 <[www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)>

<sup>54</sup> Shemstor, 'Global arms sales captured in 4 charts: World Economic Forum'. <[www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org)> posted in 2017, accessed on 09-01-2020.

<sup>55</sup> President Barrack Obama's Full Speech at 70<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly Conference <[m.youtube.com](http://m.youtube.com)> accessed on 07-01-2020; F. Loey; 'UN ideals point the way to solving the world's crises, US President tells annual Assembly debate' <<https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/09/510102-un-ideals-point-way-solving-worlds-crisis-us-president-tells-annual-assembly>>. accessed on 10-01-2020.

<sup>56</sup> F. Claudia; 'The United Nations Needs Reform, Not Criticism of its Purpose' <<http://fortune.com/2017/09/25/donald-trump-united-nations-speech/>> accessed on 10-01-2020.

<sup>57</sup> A Speech by the Queen to the UN General Assembly, 1957 published on 21-10-1957. <<https://www.royal.uk/queens-speech-un-general-assembly>> accessed on 28-06-2019.



devolution of the world to another catastrophic end is inevitably a matter of time. For now, it is obvious that attitude of the “big nations” along with their allies does not only belie the principle of equality of nations as endorsed in the preamble of United Nations Charter but redefine philosophy of the Organization by the bloc to which each nation belongs. This way, the future of human rights and even the United Nations is nothing but bleak.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

This paper examined ideals of the United Nations against the back-drop of national interest of various Member States of the Union. The paper found and bemoaned the situation where strategic nations in the Organization promote their national interest in defiance of the philosophy informing the birth of United Nations and warned that unless this trend is checked, the Organization may fall apart like its immediate predecessor, the League of Nations, with the ugly consequence of another world war.

The paper particularly recommends as follows:

- a. The relevant agencies of the United Nations must re-double effort to investigate the Deoxyribonucleic Acid of Corona Virus and its mutations with search light on China.
- b. That International community should revisit the tenets of the United Nations to plug-up the loopholes exploited by some nations in stalling efforts to call their excesses to order.
- c. That such measure should include an exemption of veto power by any member of the Security Council whose interest is subject of interrogation in each case.
- d. That each Nation State be saddled with the need to re-orientate her citizens on the fact that in today’s globalized world, where what affects one affects all, the primacy of humanity and humanness has become such an inevitable virtue that must be imbibed by all, if ideals of the United Nations must survive contemporary threat.

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