

UN Security Council Exercise and De-Briefing Paper

This class exercise starts with a one-page typed briefing outline/paper and ends with a 6-paged, double-spaced paper that synthesizes material we have read and discussed this week with earlier concepts we have addressed such as power, realism, decision-making, and cooperation. The final product should help you draw connections between the political theories we study in class and the practical applications of political power as it unfolds on the international stage. The exercise itself focuses on specific content regarding the United Nations Security Council and a handful of countries students have been assigned as noted below. More specifically, the requirements are:

1. Be sure to you have read the selections on reserve regarding reforming the UN Security Council. An understanding of this reading is critical to your group participation for the next class. See also:

Richard Butler (Sept./Oct. 1999). "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered: Repairing the Security Council," *Foreign Affairs*.
Global Policy Forum. "Security Council Reform," available at:
<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/security-council-reform.html>

2. In addition to this reading, you should familiarize yourself with the basic characteristics of your assigned country. The CIA World Factbook, found at: <http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>, is a good place to start. Another useful site is the homepage of the United Nations at: <http://www.un.org>. Using these sources, you will submit a one-page, typed memorandum outlining your proposal for reforming the Security Council, including the strengths and weaknesses of your political power status relative to the rest of the world.
3. The country delegations you will face next period include:

1) Germany	5) Brazil	9) United States
2) Egypt	6) India	10) Japan
3) Nigeria	7) France	11) China
4) Russia	8) United Kingdom	12) South Africa
4. At the beginning of our next class, you will meet in your respective country delegations to discuss the positive and negative aspects of your specific state's political power status.
5. After exchanging ideas and hammering out your combined state position, each country delegation will then pitch their proposal to the class at large.
6. As time permits, students then will re-assemble their country delegations to make any adjustments in their proposals. Delegations are also free at this time to engage other country delegations in discussion, to propose counter-alternatives, and hammer out compromise deals.

Grades on your de-briefing paper will be based upon the ability to integrate the core concepts mentioned above, critical analysis of these concepts, creativity, and general writing mechanics. The A de-briefing paper meets all four criteria below, the B only three, etc. These criteria are:

1. Well-organized, stylistically effective, and mechanically sound (see *The Elements of Style*).
2. Outlines the main issues in reforming the UN Security Council within the context of your state.
3. Strong critical analysis of core concepts, i.e. explaining why (or why not) your state had political leverage in this exercise.
4. Shows imagination and creativity in individual insights.