MERIT BADGE SERIES

CITIZENSHIP IN THE WORLD

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

How to Use This Pamphlet

The secret to successfully earning a merit badge is for you to use both the pamphlet and the suggestions of your counselor.

Your counselor can be as important to you as a coach is to an athlete. Use all of the resources your counselor can make available to you. This may be the best chance you will have to learn about this particular subject. Make it count.

If you or your counselor feels that any information in this pamphlet is incorrect, please let us know. Please state your source of information.

Merit badge pamphlets are reprinted annually and requirements updated regularly. Your suggestions for improvement are welcome.

Send comments along with a brief statement about yourself to Youth Development, S209 • Boy Scouts of America • 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane • P.O. Box 152079 • Irving, TX 75015-2079.

Who Pays for This Pamphlet?

This merit badge pamphlet is one in a series of more than 100 covering all kinds of hobby and career subjects. It is made available for you to buy as a service of the national and local councils, Boy Scouts of America. The costs of the development, writing, and editing of the merit badge pamphlets are paid for by the Boy Scouts of America in order to bring you the best book at a reasonable price.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MERIT BADGE SERIES

CITIZENSHIP IN THE WORLD

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Requirements

1. Explain what citizenship in the world means to you and what you think it takes to be a good world citizen.

2. Explain how one becomes a citizen in the United States, and explain the rights, duties, and obligations of U.S. citizenship. Discuss the similarities and differences between the rights, duties, and obligations of U.S. citizens and the citizens of two other countries.

3. Do the following:

   a. Pick a current world event. In relation to this current event, discuss with your counselor how a country's national interest, history, and its relationship with other countries might affect areas such as its security, its economy, its values, and the health of its citizens.

   b. Select a foreign country and discuss with your counselor how its geography, natural resources, and climate influence its economy and its global partnerships with other countries.

4. Do TWO of the following:

   a. Explain international law and how it differs from national law. Explain the role of international law and how international law can be used as a tool for conflict resolution.

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   b. Using resources such as major daily newspapers, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and news magazines, observe a current issue that involves international trade, foreign exchange, balance of payments, tariffs, and free trade. Explain what you have learned. Include in your discussion an explanation of why countries must cooperate in order for world trade and global competition to thrive.

   c. Select TWO of the following organizations and describe their role in the world.

      (1) The United Nations

      (2) The World Court

      (3) World Organization of the Scout Movement

      (4) The World Health Organization

      (5) Amnesty International

      (6) The International Committee of the Red Cross

      (7) CARE

5. Do the following:
   a. Discuss the differences between constitutional and nonconstitutional governments.
   b. Name at least five different types of governments currently in power in the world.
   c. Show on a world map countries that use each of these five different forms of government.
6. Do the following:
   a. Explain how a government is represented abroad and how the United States government is accredited to international organizations.
   b. Describe the roles of the following in the conduct of foreign relations.
      (1) Ambassador
      (2) Consul
      (3) Bureau of International Information Programs
      (4) Agency for International Development
      (5) United States and Foreign Commercial Service
   c. Explain the purpose of a passport and visa for international travel.
7. Do TWO of the following (with your parent's permission) and share with your counselor what you have learned:
   a. Visit the website of the U.S. State Department. Learn more about an issue you find interesting that is discussed on this website.
   b. Visit the website of an international news organization or foreign government, OR examine a foreign newspaper available at your local library, bookstore, or newsstand. Find a news story about a human right realized in the United States that is not recognized in another country.
   c. Visit with a student or Scout from another country and discuss the typical values, holidays, ethnic foods, and traditions practiced or enjoyed there.
   d. Attend a world Scout jamboree.
   e. Participate in or attend an international event in your area, such as an ethnic festival, concert, or play.

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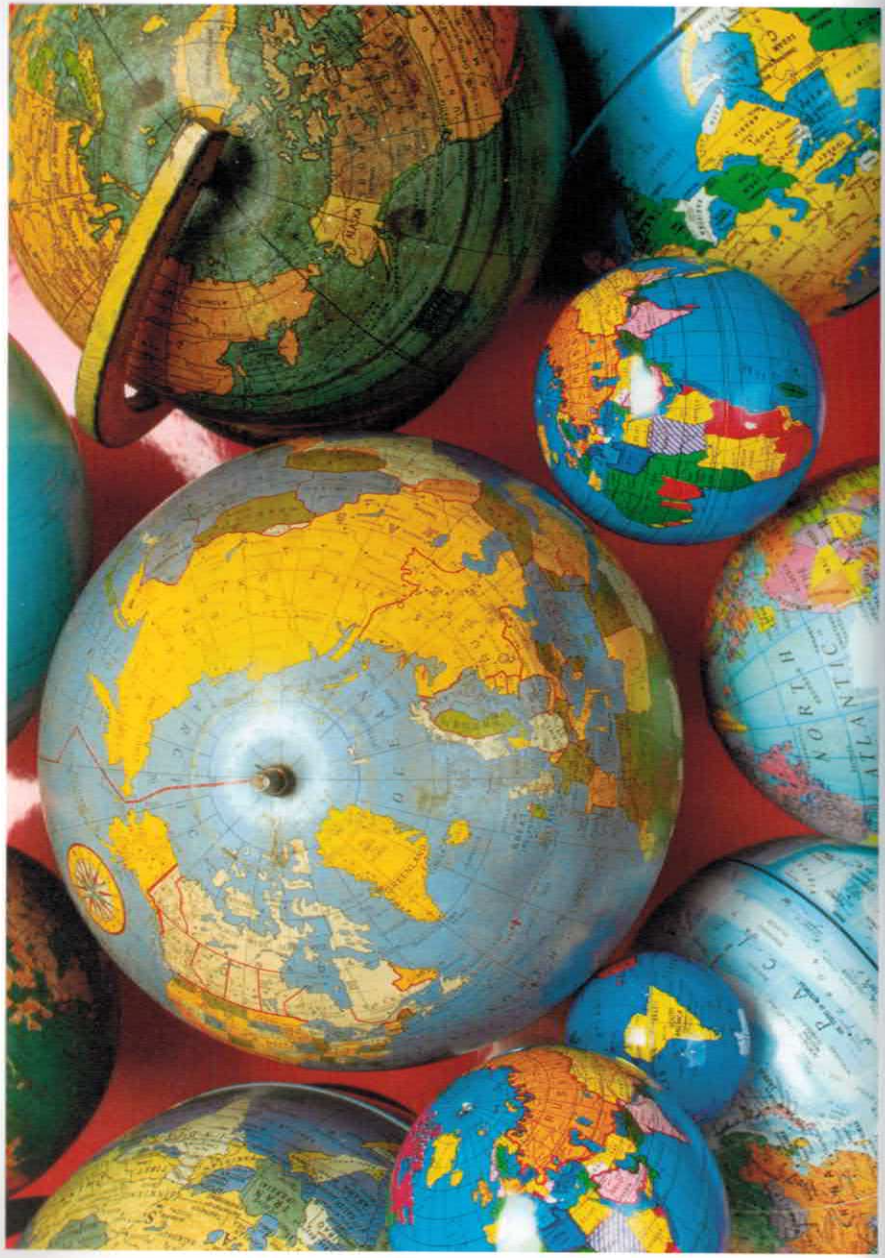


Introduction

We don't live in our *own* world. We share the planet with more than 6 billion people. These people stare at the same sky, but they see it from different positions: coral islands, desert dunes, terraced mountains, rain forests, grasslands, and landlocked megacities. And yet most of these people want the same things we want: good health, personal security, and the freedoms to worship as we please, speak what we think, choose our lifestyles, and elect our leaders.

We are more alike than we are different. The Declaration of Independence defines the basic rights of people in the United States—and everywhere else: ". . . that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

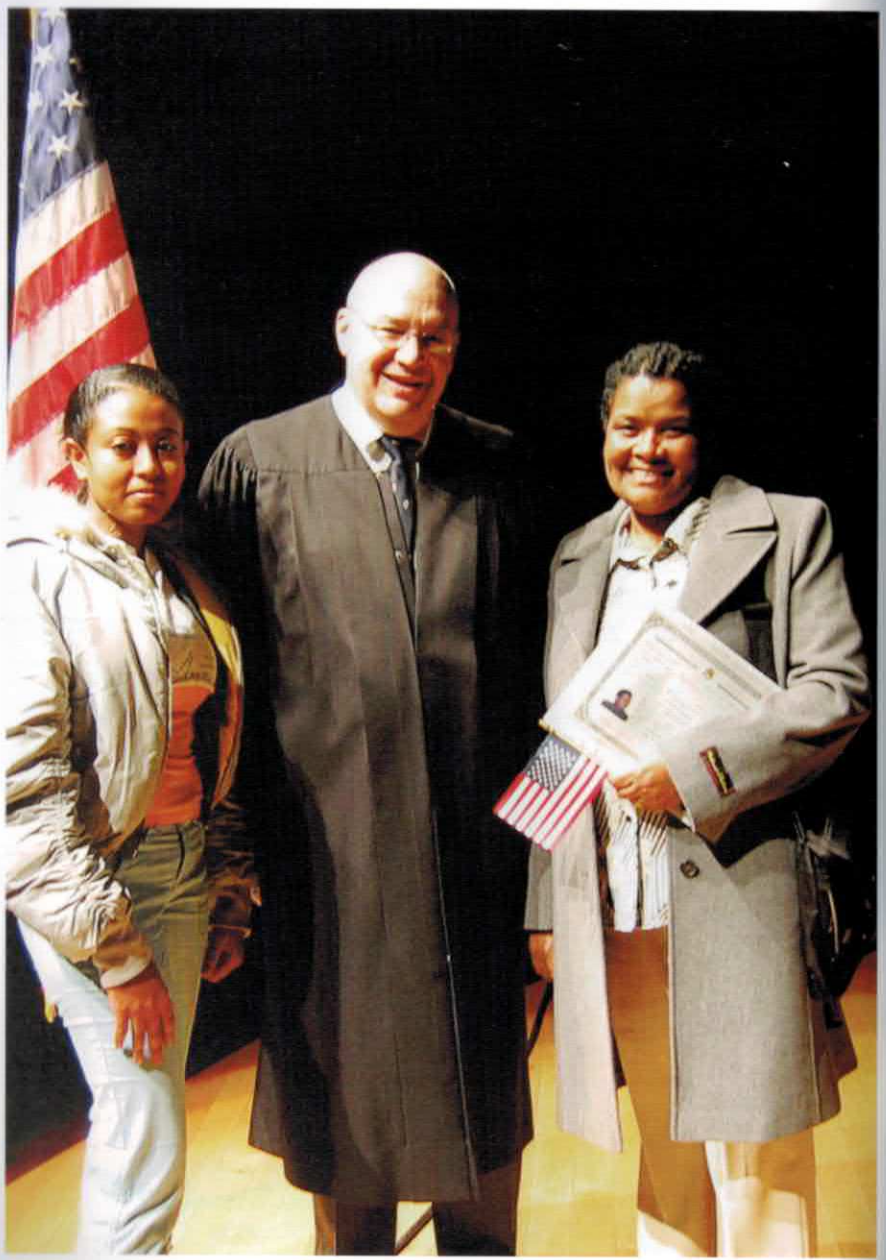
We might share the same planet with the more than 6 billion people worldwide, but we don't share the same rights, freedoms, or opportunities.

The difference is that many people outside the United States are not allowed to exercise their natural rights. Today the world is connected through communications networks on the ocean floor, on the ground, in outer space, and in cyberspace. The Internet and television allow people all over the globe to get information previously inaccessible. We can now see wars fought in real time. We talk online in chat rooms full of people who share specific interests, yet live in different countries. We watch breaking news and live performances on TV.

Before you surf the Internet to learn more about the world, be sure you have your parent's permission.

People tend to interpret the impact of international events from their own cultural or national perspective. But as global trade increases, as nations form regional economic and military alliances, and as activists point out human rights abuses and environmental damage, citizens and governments worldwide must recognize that we are living interdependently. The easy access to instant information makes the world a smaller place and challenges our views about other nations. What we do and don't do affects the world, and the world affects us.

As you earn the Citizenship in the World merit badge, you will discover that you are already a citizen of the world. How good a citizen you are depends on your willingness to understand and appreciate the values, traditions, and concerns of people in other countries—in *our* world.



What Is Citizenship?

Citizenship is membership in a governed community. This membership comes with a set of privileges, freedoms, and duties, which varies according to the nation's form of government.

A person may acquire citizenship in different ways:

- "By blood" if born to parents who are already citizens of a nation
- "By soil" if born within the legal borders of a nation
- Through naturalization
- Through naturalization of parents

A citizen is a native or naturalized person who owes allegiance to a specific nation and is entitled to its government's protection. A **subject** is a citizen ruled by a sovereign authority, such as a monarch, and is required to show loyalty to both the ruling authority and the nation.

Ultimately, the quality of citizenship depends on the balance between what a government does for the people and what it expects of them in return.

Naturalization is the legal process by which an **alien,** or foreign-born person, becomes a citizen.

United States Citizenship

Under most forms of government, citizens are obligated to obey the law, pay taxes, and serve in the armed forces; the government is obligated to provide physical safety, public services, and protection of property. In the United States, the government must protect other rights and freedoms as well:

- Right to vote
- Right to a fair trial
- Right to bear arms
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of the press

The Declaration of Independence is a unique contract between citizens and government: ". . . Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the *consent of the governed. . . .*"

In a sense, a citizen's duties are built into these rights and freedoms. The right to a free trial, for example, obligates U.S. citizens to serve on juries. The right to vote obligates them to be informed about important issues and the candidates' positions. Because the government rules with the consent of the citizens, Americans must understand and exercise their constitutional rights—or risk losing them.

In the United States, serving on a jury when called is a civic duty; it is also one way that the right to a free trial is protected.

Permanent Residence

U.S. citizens live in an open society where it is safe to think out loud. We freely express our opinions, exchange ideas, and even disagree in public. But in some nations, people are not allowed to do so.

Modern communications such as electronic mail and global broadcasting have advanced the spread of American popular culture. Through advertising, music, and movies shown worldwide, as well as humanitarian outreach efforts and international trade, people in most countries no longer have to depend on

Many people who immigrate to the United States do so for political and religious freedom.

their government for information about the world beyond their own borders. Now they can find out for themselves about what it is like to live in the United States.

People **emigrate,** or leave their own countries to settle elsewhere, for various reasons including fear of persecution, the desire to be reunited with family, and the opportunity to better themselves economically. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, under the direction of the Department of Homeland Security, issues **immigrant visas** to qualified **foreign nationals,** or aliens, who wish to become lawful permanent residents (LPRs) of the United States.

As an LPR, an immigrant enjoys certain rights, including the right to

- Stay in the United States indefinitely.
- Have a job.
- Sponsor certain family members for immigration.

An LPR must pay taxes but may not vote. Only citizens have that right. Many people who choose to become U.S. citizens want to fully participate in American society, elect government leaders, and have a voice in domestic and foreign policies.

An **immigrant visa** is an identification card that allows a nonnative person to stay in the United States permanently.

OMB No. 1615-0023; Expires 09/30/08

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status

START HERE - Please type or print in black ink.

For USCIS Use Only

Returned | Receipt

Resubmitted

Reloc Sent

Reloc Rec'd

Applicant Interviewed

Part 1. Information about you.

Family Name | Given Name | Middle Name

Address- C/O

Street Number and Name | Apt. #

City

State | Zip Code

Date of Birth *(mm/dd/yyyy)* | Country of Birth:

Country of Citizenship/Nationality:

U.S. Social Security # | A # *(if any)*

Date of Last Arrival *(mm/dd/yyyy)* | I-94 #

Current USCIS Status | Expires on *(mm/dd/yyyy)*

Part 2. Application type. *(Check one.)*

I am applying for an adjustment to permanent resident status because:

a. ☐ an immigrant petition giving me an immediately available immigrant visa number has been approved. (Attach a copy of the approval notice, or a relative, special immigrant juvenile or special immigrant military visa petition filed with this application that will give you an immediately available visa number, if approved.)

b. ☐ my spouse or parent applied for adjustment of status or was granted lawful permanent residence in an immigrant visa category that allows derivative status for spouses and children.

c. ☐ I entered as a K-1 fiancé(e) of a United States citizen whom I married within 90 days of entry, or I am the K-2 child of such a fiancé(e). (Attach a copy of the fiancé(e) petition approval notice and the marriage certificate).

d. ☐ I was granted asylum or derivative asylum status as the spouse or child of a person granted asylum and am eligible for adjustment.

e. ☐ I am a native or citizen of Cuba admitted or paroled into the United States after January 1, 1959, and thereafter have been physically present in the United States for at least one year.

f. ☐ I am the husband, wife or minor unmarried child of a Cuban described above in **(e)** and I am residing with that person, and was admitted or paroled into the United States after January 1, 1959, and thereafter have been physically present in the United States for at least one year.

g. ☐ I have continuously resided in the United States since before January 1, 1972.

h. ☐ Other basis of eligibility. Explain (for example, I was admitted as a refugee, my status has not been terminated, and I have been physically present in the U.S. for one year after admission). If additional space is needed, use a separate piece of paper.

I am already a permanent resident and am applying to have the date I was granted permanent residence adjusted to the date I originally arrived in the United States as a nonimmigrant or parolee, or as of May 2, 1964, whichever date is later, and: *(Check one.)*

i. ☐ I am a native or citizen of Cuba and meet the description in **(e)** above.

j. ☐ I am the husband, wife or minor unmarried child of a Cuban, and meet the description in **(f)** above.

Section of Law

☐ Sec. 209(b), INA
☐ Sec. 13, Act of 9/11/57
☐ Sec. 245, INA
☐ Sec. 249, INA
☐ Sec. 1 Act of 11/2/66
☐ Sec. 2 Act of 11/2/66
☐ Other

Country Chargeable

Eligibility Under Sec. 245

☐ Approved Visa Petition
☐ Dependent of Principal Alien
☐ Special Immigrant
☐ Other

Preference

Action Block

To be Completed by Attorney or Representative, if any

☐ Fill in box if G-28 is attached to represent the applicant.

VOLAG #

ATTY State License #

Form I-485 (Rev. 07/30/07) Y

To apply for U.S. residency, an immigrant must complete the I–485 form, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, and submit many required supporting documents.

Naturalization

An applicant for citizenship must have a valid immigrant visa, must have fulfilled residency requirements, must be prepared to demonstrate an understanding of the English language, and must know the basics of the United States's history and how its government works.

After satisfying the examiner at the naturalization interview and passing the English and civics tests, an immigrant must take the oath of allegiance. The applicant swears to

- Support the Constitution and obey the laws of the United States.
- Renounce, or give up, any foreign allegiance.
- Bear arms for the armed forces of the United States or perform services for the United States government when required.

After taking the oath, the immigrant receives a certificate of naturalization, which is proof of U.S. citizenship. Then he or she may apply for a U.S. passport.

Becoming an official U.S. citizen is a long and difficult process requiring life-changing decisions and actions. Immigrants who do this know *why* they want to live in the United States and take nothing for granted. They may know more about U.S. government and history than people whose families have been citizens for generations.

World Citizenship

Nations are like stand-alone colored tiles, each with its own design. Each one has a beauty all its own, resulting from combinations of elements including ethnic customs, social values, language, religion, and legal systems. Together, nations form a complex pattern—a world mosaic.

Each person is not only a citizen of his or her nation, but also a citizen of the world. As such, we all have a responsibility to respect cultural diversity and the rights of other governments. For the sake of international security, we must understand

a nation's relationship to other nations, as well as its citizens' relationship to one another. Then we must cooperate for the good of all.

The United Nations and other international organizations track information about how countries care for their citizens. In a rich nation where the wealth is not concentrated in the hands of a few, citizens can expect to live a long and healthy life, get educated, exercise equal rights under the law, and access resources needed for a decent standard of living.

In poor countries, citizens tend to die younger due to malnutrition, preventable diseases, and civil war. The people have little access to good health care, safe drinking water, education, paved roads, electricity, and communication with the world beyond their villages.

Gross domestic product, or GDP, is the monetary value of all final goods (such as cars, clothing, and houses) and services (such as dog grooming, concert tickets, and doctor visits) produced within a country in a specific period of time. A large GDP per person generally indicates a high standard of living and better quality of life. Although GDP is considered the best measure of a nation's economic health, it doesn't accurately reflect the distribution of income among the country's population.

When we judge how other nations respect or violate values such as freedom, equality, justice, privacy, and human dignity, we must judge our own national character as well. How well do we deal with racism, sexism, and cultural bias inside and outside our borders? Being a good world citizen requires speaking out and taking action against violations of human rights.

Most democratic governments consider **suffrage** (the right to vote) a right of citizenship. Many think that participation in elections is a civic responsibility. Some think it is a duty and make voting **compulsory,** or required. Nonvoters may be penalized or fined. Do you think forcing citizens to vote will yield election results that reflect the will of the people?

Comparison of Nations in Terms of Economic Well-Being and Quality of Life

Country	Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per Person	Suffrage	Adult Literacy Rate	Internet Users	Life Expectancy From Birth	Infant Mortality Rate
United States	$41,890	Universal (men and women), 18 years of age	99 percent	630 of every 1,000 people	78 years	6 deaths out of 1,000 live births
Kuwait	$26,321	Adult males who have been naturalized for 30+ years—or have resided in Kuwait since before 1920—and their male descendants at age 21	93 percent	276/1,000	77 years	9/1,000
Thailand	$8,677	Universal and compulsory, 18 years of age	93 percent	110/1,000	70 years	18/1,000
Guatemala	$4,568	Universal, 18 years of age (active-duty members of the armed forces may not vote and are restricted to barracks on election day)	69 percent	79/1,000	70 years	32/1,000
Nigeria	$1,128	Universal, 18 years of age	69 percent	38/1,000	47 years	100/1,000

Source: Human Development Report 2007, United Nations. Based on data from 2005.

Comparative Political Systems

As nations become more interdependent, people struggle to make sense of the changes and movements taking place throughout the world. Widespread access to information has raised awareness about the effects of the global economy, terrorism, religious extremism, famines, widespread diseases, and the collapse of governments. Education leads to understanding, tolerance, and peace.

Power to Rule

A government comes to rule through inheritance, revolution, or election. What form a government takes depends on who has **sovereignty,** or the supreme authority and power to make, implement, and enforce laws, and settle disputes about those laws.

The basic forms of government are:

- **Autocracy.** Unlimited power to govern is in the hands of one ruler: a monarch, dictator, or military or religious leader.
- **Oligarchy.** Unlimited power to govern is in the hands of a few persons or a minority: a single political party, **junta,** or self-appointed elite (as a group of **emirs**).
- **Democracy.** Unlimited power to govern is in the hands of the majority of a country's citizens.
- **Republic.** Limited power to govern is in the hands of elected representatives.

A **theocracy** is a government ruled by one or more religious leaders who believe they have divine authority. A **junta** (pronounced HOON-ta) is a group of persons—often a military leader backed by the nation's armed forces—who control a government after seizing power. An **emir** is the ruler of an Islamic nation.

Often, people interchange certain terms such as *democracy* and *republic* to describe a specific form of government, even though the words have different meanings. Democracy means "power of the people," or "government of, by, and for the people." Generally, it refers to the fact that the citizens—not the rulers or leaders—hold the sovereign power. Democracy depends on majority rule.

A **direct democracy** is rule by the majority of citizens, which only works on a small scale. For example, eligible citizens vote on local issues in mass meetings and the people's will becomes public policy. At the national level, however, a direct democracy is impractical because every eligible voter would have the right (and responsibility) to vote on every issue, from widening a highway to changing the structure of a national health care system. In a **representative democracy,** the people's will is expressed indirectly through elected representatives, with the will of the majority controlling public policy.

The framers of the U.S. Constitution wanted to make sure that the will of the majority would never oppress the rights of the individual citizen or minority. To restrain the excesses of democracy, the founding fathers structured a republic—a form of representative government that guarantees the protection of the individual's God-given "unalienable rights" and freedoms by limiting the power of majority rule. As a citizen and a Scout, you "pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the *republic* for which it stands. . . ."

Usually, power is limited by a written constitution, which is the fundamental law of a nation. It describes the purposes of the government, defines the rights of the people, explains how leaders are elected and how long they can hold office, and defines and limits the powers of the leaders. In countries with constitutions, both the people and the government act in accordance with a uniform set of legal provisions.

Some nations, such as the United Kingdom, depend on **uncodified** constitutions, which are based on written sources (like the Magna Carta) as well as laws, precedents, and customs. Unlike a written constitution, which summarizes the basic law in a single document, the uncodified constitution is an understanding of how the government should work based on certain legal documents, traditions, and laws upheld over time.

United Kingdom

Constitutional Governments

Most constitutional governments in the world today are representative democracies, such as the Taiwanese and Ethiopian governments. Taiwan has an elected president, a unicameral (one-house) legislature, and four main political parties. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has been an independent nation for at least 2,000 years. Its government consists of an elected president, a bicameral (two-house) parliament, and several political parties. Some governments that were once nonconstitutional and ruled by absolute monarchs are now constitutional monarchies. In the United Kingdom, for example, the queen is primarily a figurehead, and the real political power lies with the bicameral parliament and the prime minister.

Taiwan

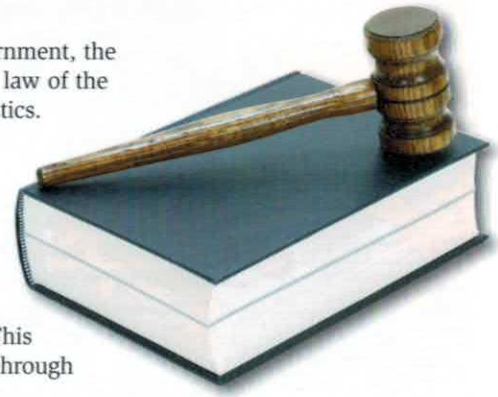
Ethiopia

Constitutional Governments

Many nations with constitutions are not necessarily **constitutional** governments. Even when a government is established and defined by a constitution, the leader or leaders may act as if they are not bound by it. For example, a leader may use secret police or a personal army to profit himself, his family, and his friends. In order to be considered constitutional, a government must meet three requirements. It must be limited in its power, follow a higher law, and have constitutional stability.

Limited Power. The concept of limited government, also called the **rule of law,** holds that the government and its officers may not exceed the limits of their power. They are subject to—and never above—the law. If they violate the law, the constitution specifies ways to remove them from office. For example, the Constitution of the United States declares that presidents who do not obey its laws can be impeached and removed from office.

Higher Law. In a constitutional government, the constitution is considered the highest law of the land. It has two important characteristics.



1. Individual rights are protected from infringement by the government and other people. For example, citizens are protected against illegal search and seizure.
2. It provides limitations on power. This is achieved by separating powers through checks and balances.

Constitutional Stability. The constitution cannot be changed without the consent of citizens and without using well-known established amendment procedures.

Nonconstitutional Governments

Even though a nation may call itself a "democratic republic," this does not mean that the actual government in practice is constitutional. This is the case with the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, where Kim Jong Il rules as a Communist dictator. Former president Fidel Castro had a similar role for more than 30 years in Communist Cuba, where the only political party is the *Partido Comunista de Cuba* (Cuban Communist Party). Nonconstitutional governments also exist in nations such as Saudi Arabia, which is run by an absolute monarchy.

North Korea

Cuba

Nonconstitutional Governments

An **authoritarian** government—in which the authority to rule is concentrated in the hands of an autocratic leader or an oligarchy—acts arbitrarily. Neither constitutionally bound nor responsible to the people, the government rules without restraint or limitations. It remains in control as long as it pleases, or until it is overthrown.

Authoritarian governments are not always heavy-handed. In certain cases, a leader may rule as a benevolent dictator, acting for the good of the people. However, an extreme form of authoritarianism is totalitarian government. This oppressive form of ruling power controls every aspect of life.

Big Brother is watching you. In his book *1984,* George Orwell writes about a fictional dictatorship that kept its people under constant surveillance. The term *Big Brother* now refers to any ruler or government that invades the privacy of its citizens.

Distribution of Power

In a **unitary government,** often called a central government, all the powers of the government are held by a single central source, such as a dictator, single political party or ruling group (the Communist Party or junta, for example), or parliament. Local governments have only those powers given to them by the central government. Those powers may be taken away at any time.

A unitary government is not always a dictatorship. In a unitary government such as the one in the United Kingdom, all the powers held by the government are concentrated in the parliament, yet those powers are limited.

A **federal government** is based on the division of powers between a national government and several local governments. An authority superior to both the national and local governments (usually a written constitution) describes the powers designated to each level. Both levels of government act directly on the people according to their own laws, officials, and agencies. Neither level of government acting on its own may change the division of powers.

You can learn more about the U.S. government by reading the *Citizenship in the Community* and *Citizenship in the Nation* merit badge pamphlets.

Relationship Between Executive and Legislative Branches

A **presidential government** is based on the separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches. The branches are independent of each other and coequal. The chief executive (president) is elected apart from the legislature for a definite term of office and has broad powers *not* subject to the direct control of the legislature. The United States invented this form of government.

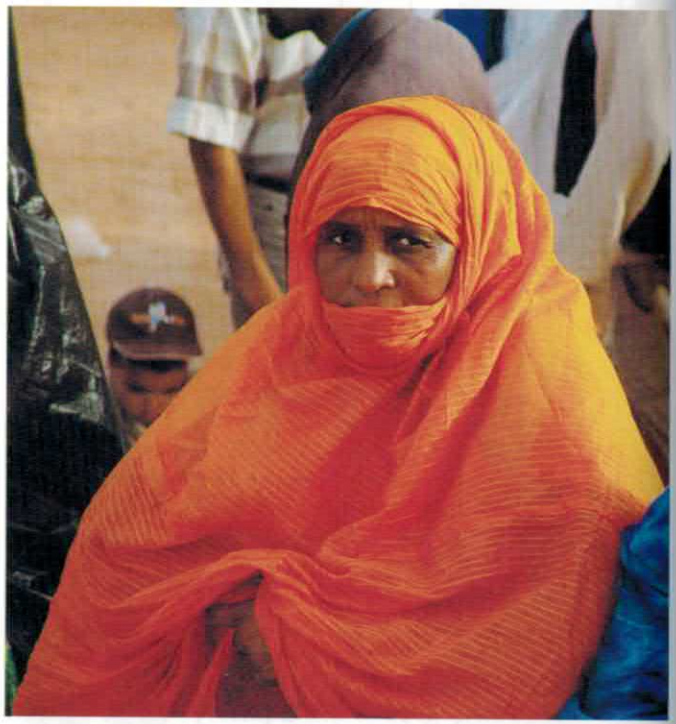
In a **parliamentary government,** the executive chief and cabinet (the executive branch) are themselves members of the legislative branch (parliament). The leader of the majority party in parliament is chosen by the legislative members to be the prime minister (also called chancellor or premier). Under this system, the executive branch is subject to the direct control of the legislative branch.

Variations of these relationships are called **mixed presidential/parliamentary** governments.

Some governments have similar forms but act differently. India and the United States are both called federal republics. However, India's president, the head of state, is chosen by elected members of parliament and state legislative assemblies. The prime minister holds the real power and is accountable to parliament. The U.S. president is elected by the people (through an electoral college) and is not directly responsible to the legislative branch. Both Saudi Arabia and Japan have monarchies, but the Saudi Arabian ruler has absolute power and is ultimately responsible to no one. Japan has an emperor *and* a constitution. The monarch is a ceremonial head of state with no political power.

Forms of Government

Country	Distribution of Power		Relationship Between Legislative and Executive Branches		Level of Citizen Participation		Form of Government
	Unitary	Federal	Parliament	Presidential	Democracy	Dictatorship	
France	X			X	X		Republic
India		X	X		X		Federal republic
Japan	X		X		X		Constitutional monarchy
Myanmar (Burma)	X					X	Junta
People's Republic of China	X		X			X	One-party republic
Saudi Arabia	X					X	Absolute monarchy
United States		X		X	X		Federal republic
Vatican City	X		X			X	Theocracy

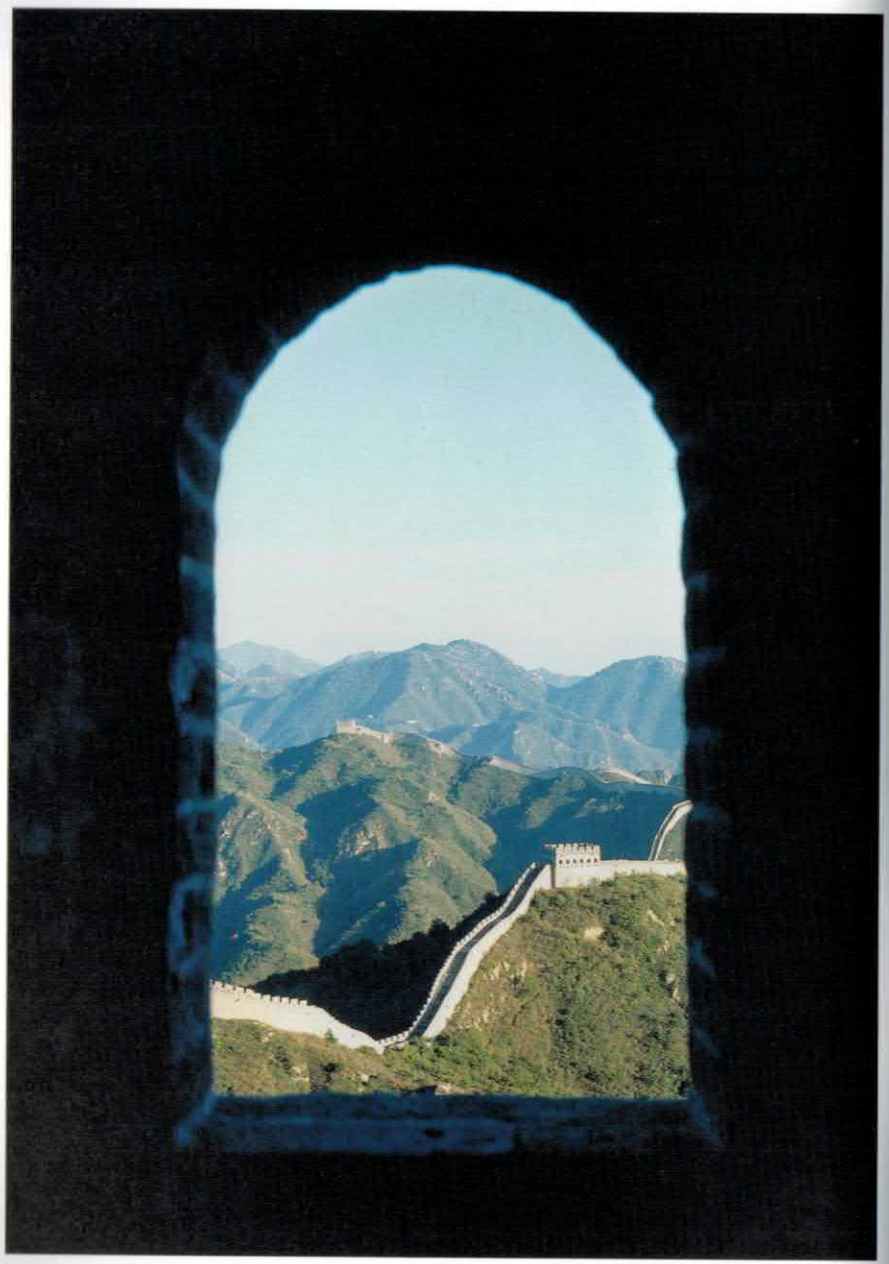


Other governments have a particular form on paper but act differently. They may claim to be a democracy because certain democratic processes such as elections are in place. Yet, these elections are not always free and fair. The People's Republic of China calls itself a republic, but only members of the Chinese Communist Party are allowed to run for office. In fact, the Party *is* the government, controlling all media and monitoring citizens' use of the Internet.

Many governments around the world are in a state of transition. Certain nations formerly ruled by absolute monarchs or dictators have made efforts to become democracies or republics. Some have a **caretaker,** or temporary, government while the nation is in the process of creating a constitution and electing new leaders. Others are collapsing as rival factions wage civil wars.

Your efforts (along with those of other Scouts and citizens of the world) to understand the political and economic systems of the world's nations will lead to greater global tolerance and well-being.

As you learn about different political systems, you also will learn how people value their governments and how governments value their citizens.



National Interest

A government classifies areas of interest in two ways: public and national. Public (domestic) interests are internal concerns—such as education, health care, and taxation—to be addressed within the country's borders according to public policy. National (foreign) interests refer to those issues that affect relations beyond a country's borders. These goals—such as military actions, expansion of international trade, and humanitarian efforts—are shaped through foreign policy.

Every nation in the world acts according to its own principal interests. The concept of national interest is based on the idea that the government will protect its citizens, property, and boundaries against infringement, or trespass, by any other nation. The key areas of national interest are national security and survival, economic welfare, and national values.

National security is considered an area of **vital interest.** Defense of the homeland, preservation of territorial borders, and the health and safety of the citizens are so critical that other areas of national interest are subordinate to these objectives. A nation's level of concern about its own security depends on how it regards other nations' motives. South Korea maintains a large, well-equipped military force because it believes its neighbor, North Korea, might attack it.

A nation's **economic welfare** is based on the health of its economy, which varies according to the nation's resources and how they are produced, distributed, and consumed. The interests of one nation are affected by events and conditions in other nations or regions. For example, Cuba's centralized economy has long been dependent on foreign aid from the Soviet **bloc.** After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990, Cuba experienced an economic crisis. The Cuban government redirected its foreign policies to seek new trading partners and allow foreign investments in Cuba.

An issue of **vital interest** is so important to a nation's well-being that it cannot be compromised.

A **bloc** is a group of nations that act together for military, economic, or political purposes.

ICRC/Thierry Gassmann

Foreign aid is the transfer of money, goods, or services from one nation to another for the benefit of both nations. **Humanitarian assistance** includes acts of help—providing temporary shelter, food, medical supplies—in response to natural disasters, civil war, and the outbreak of a disease restricted to a specific region, such as this food distribution effort in Burundi.

A **rogue nation** is a specific government that acts unpredictably in pursuit of its own goals—to the point of endangering citizens in other countries.

National values are based on a nation's traditional beliefs, culture, religion, and historical experiences. Every nation has an interest in protecting and promoting its way of life. America spreads its national values—a blend of diverse immigrant values and democratic principles—through **foreign aid** and **humanitarian assistance.**

International Relations

The United States, like most other democratic countries, has an open society. People, money, ideas, and products move easily across borders with little interference. That encourages international trade and tourism, cultural exchanges, and educational opportunities.

International terrorists, however, have exploited the strengths of an open society—freedoms, mobility, and trust—to further their causes. Physical borders are becoming meaningless—just lines on a map. In fact, borders are disappearing as computer hackers attack governments and multinational companies in cyberspace, **rogue nations** threaten to launch long-range nuclear missiles, and radicals wage biological warfare through the mail.

Today, neither advantageous geographical position nor great military strength can ensure national security. Events and conditions within and across borders affect other countries and regions, threatening the stability and favorable balance of nations. These transnational problems cannot be resolved by any one nation, but require international cooperation.

- Drug trafficking
- Famine
- Foreign investments
- Human rights violations
- Migration of civil war refugees
- Natural disasters
- Pandemics
- Population explosion
- Proliferation (spread) of weapons of mass destruction
- Terrorism
- Use of outer space

Nations that recognize their dependent and interdependent relationships with other nations form groups called **alliances** and pledge to support one another in times of conflict. Some form alliances around economic, environmental, or humanitarian concerns. One nation may belong to many alliances.

As governments alter foreign policy in response to international crises or opportunities, they often break away from political friends or strike deals with former foes. Allies are not necessarily friends for life; they are friends of convenience.

A **pandemic** is a disease—such as bubonic plague or HIV/AIDS—prevalent throughout a large region, country, continent, or the whole world.

Foreign Policy

Foreign policy includes all the positions and actions a nation takes in its relationships with the rest of the world. It exists to protect and promote the national interest. The continuity of foreign policies from year to year reassures a nation's allies and wins domestic support. Yet a nation must be creative in response to threats or opportunities. For example, after the September 11, 2001, bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City, the U.S. government created the Department of Homeland Security, a new executive cabinet position.

Before a nation can conduct foreign policy, the rest of the world must formally recognize it. If one nation recognizes another, it acknowledges the legal existence of that nation and government. Sometimes, because of war or revolution, a government collapses or is taken over by one or more factions. Only the government that the world recognizes has the legitimate right to conduct foreign policy.

The World Order of Nations

You know there is a huge difference between needing something and wanting it. It's the difference between poking in the dirt for a carrot to eat and ordering a hot fudge sundae with a cherry on top. It's the difference between just enough (or not enough) and plenty, between survival and prosperity. That's the kind of difference between most people living in Bangladesh and those in the United States.

A nation's economic world view has everything to do with its position in the world order, or hierarchy of world economies. These economies are classified according to specific factors: standards of living, economic productivity and growth, and use of modern information technology.

The citizens of first world nations have many more rights and privileges than do those of less developed countries.

A **first world** nation, also called an advanced industrial country (AIC), is a modern country with top-rate industrial and technological capabilities. It plays a major role in international politics or finance. Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States, and the United Kingdom are some of the first world nations.

Residents of rural China, one of the world's developing, or second world, nations.

A **second world** nation, also called a major developing country, is an industrial country that is not as advanced or as prosperous as a first world nation. This classification is not used often as some nations are on the verge of becoming first world nations, and others are more like third world countries. Examples of second world nations include countries that were part of the former Soviet bloc, China, Mexico, and Algeria.

A **third world** nation, also called a less-developed country, is a poor country where high birth rates, poor health care, and lack of education contribute to a low standard of living. The economy is generally based on a combination of agricultural and low-level industrial activities. Third world nations include Nicaragua, Kenya, Ethiopia, India, and Indonesia. These countries depend on foreign aid from first world nations to fund programs that help develop and improve upon education and technology.

In third world countries, the poor health standards contribute to the low standard of living.

In fourth world countries, famine and homelessness are just two of the serious day-to-day concerns many people face.

A **fourth world** nation is on the bottom of the economic hierarchy. People live in extreme poverty. The agrarian (agricultural) economy is based on **subsistence farming,** which means that the crops and dairy products provide the minimum amount of food necessary to support the farm family—with no surplus left to trade. The fourth world nations are Bangladesh in Asia and countries in the famine belt across the middle of Africa. Third world nations that have been ravaged by war (like Afghanistan and Mozambique) can slip into this category.

People all around the world have the same basic needs in terms of food, shelter, safety, and health. Once these needs are met, the lifestyles of people around the world start to look alike. In the fourth world and in some third world countries, people use bicycles and motorbikes to get around. There are few paved roads. As income per person rises, the consumer demand for automobiles rises. That necessitates the construction of modern highways, which ultimately leads to the development of rail transportation systems and an **infrastructure** to support the growth of major urban areas.

At the point that consumer demand is more about wanting than needing products, a nation has achieved a level of prosperity. Movement up the ladder of development depends on the government's ability to put the right policies, institutions, and infrastructure in place at the right time. If the government keeps a tight control on currency, banking, and communications, it creates a barrier to growth and its economy will stagnate. However, if the government is open to participation in the global economy, the nation can prosper.

Infrastructure is the system of public works that support the people living in an area, such as a town, region, or country. It includes public transportation systems, water and sanitation, electric power, communications networks, and finance.

Economic Activities Around the World

A nation's place in the world order relates to the kinds of activities that are the foundation of its economy. These economic activities are classified into three sectors.

Primary Sector. This first level of economic activities is based on extracting raw materials from Earth's surface. Primary sector industries include agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining. The majority of people working in third world countries are involved in these labor-intensive activities.

Secondary Sector. Activities in this sector involve industries that transform raw materials into finished goods—manufacturing and construction.

Tertiary Sector. Industries in this sector produce **intangibles**, also known as services. These include consumer-oriented services such as retail trade, banking and investment services, health care, communications, transportation, and nonprofit organizations. Most of the economic activities in first world countries occur in the tertiary sector.

Intangibles are products that cannot be seen or touched.

If you follow the lifecycle of a product, you will see that it moves through the sectors in sequence. For example, workers in the primary sector cut down trees. In the second sector, the timber is turned into lumber at a mill, and then used to build houses. In the tertiary sector, various services spin off from the home construction industry: real estate practices, mortgage companies, insurance agencies, furniture and home improvement stores, as well as landscape and carpet cleaning businesses.

A nation's economy is like a product. Over time it moves through the sequence of economic activities. Depending on its foreign policy and other factors, the nation may develop from a source of raw materials and manpower to a provider of services, from a third world country into a first world nation. Today most countries' economies depend on a combination of two or more sectors.

History can play a key role in how countries interact with each other. For example, one country might have a dominant religion that conflicts with another country's dominant religion. Such is the case between Israel and Saudi Arabia. Other historic factors that could influence the relationship between two countries are their cultural beliefs and class system.

Geography, Natural Resources, and Climate

If you asked several real estate agents to name the top three factors to consider when buying a house, they probably would all say, "Location. Location. Location." They mean that *place* matters.

That's true for countries, too. *Where* a country is located makes a huge difference in whether it will prosper or struggle.

Where People Settle

As people gave up the nomadic lifestyle of hunting and gathering, many settled down to farm along fertile strips of land in coastal areas and on flood plains near rivers. The yields of their crops depended on a favorable climate. Farmers in temperate climates (moderate temperatures and rainfall) had a better chance of producing abundant crops than farmers in other climate regions. That is true today, too.

Latitude, elevation, ocean currents, bodies of water, mountains, and winds all impact the climate of different regions. Natural hazards and seasonal weather patterns affect populations and economies worldwide. Earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, tornadoes, torrential rains, and droughts cause deaths, environmental damage, food shortages, and even civil unrest. As the real estate agents will tell you, location matters.

Natural Resources

What is above and what's under the surface of a country make a difference in how well the people there live. Nations depend on energy and materials extracted from the environment. These natural resources are the basic elements of economies. If a country has abundant and available resources, then it can use them to meet the population's essential needs and take the surplus to market for cash. Natural resources are categorized as:

- **Inexhaustible** sources of energy—sun, tides, water, wind. These are continuously generated. Their production cannot be reduced or exhausted by mismanagement.
- **Renewable** resources—crops, fisheries, forests, soils. These resources are renewed, or regenerated, by either environmental processes or biological reproduction. Climate and terrain (the physical features of the land) affect their abundance or scarcity. Although these resources can be replaced, they also can be **depleted**—used up—or destroyed by mismanagement.
- **Nonrenewable** resources—fossil fuels (coal, petroleum, natural gas), industrial minerals (sand, limestone, salt, sulfur, phosphate), land, metals (ores). These are minerals and cannot be replenished.

It is possible to recycle metal resources, such as iron and copper. However, coal, oil, and natural gas—which supply 80 percent of the world's energy—are completely consumed when used. Because of the importance of these resources, nations form strategic alliances to use and protect them.

The quality and quantity of natural resources are unevenly distributed around the world. Those countries with abundant resources and the means to use them, like the United States and Canada, have thrived. Most poor countries have scarce natural resources and lack the means to use what they do have.

Place to Place

If a country intends to trade or sell its surplus resources, it must be able to get them to market. Many developing nations are located in the tropical regions of the world. Foods such as rice, fruits, and vegetables can be grown there, but the dense forest growth and heavy rainfall make it hard to build and maintain roads needed to move the products to market. So people in these countries rely on water transport and live near the banks of navigable rivers.

Those nations that are most successful trading with other countries have long coastlines with deepwater ports and protected harbors. Yet Russia—despite its long coastline—has no ice-free ports in winter, so it has problems with shipping freight.

Some of the poorest countries in the world are landlocked. (Switzerland and Austria, however, have managed to become first world nations despite being landlocked.) Africa has 15 landlocked nations. Without direct access to oceans, these countries lack fishing and shipping opportunities and are at a serious disadvantage compared to coastline countries. They depend on being allowed to ship their products on roads or rivers that cross national borders. In Africa, civil wars and famines occur often and rebels illegally seize shipments. In order for these third world nations to develop economically, they must find ways to cooperate.

Take advantage of any opportunity you have to speak with Scouts from faraway places. This is the most fascinating way to learn more about the world.

Yemen, on the south coast of the Arabian Peninsula, has large deposits of natural gas, which it wants to sell worldwide. However, the costs of getting the gas to market are high because the gas is locked in an inland desert, with two mountain ranges separating it from the Red Sea coast.

On the other hand, Yemen's competitor—tiny Qatar on the Persian Gulf—has 62 times as much natural gas beneath the sea. The gas can be pumped out, chilled into liquefied natural gas, and then poured into the hulls of refrigerated supertankers.

Populations and Problems

Population growth is not a local problem unique to a particular country, but a global issue that has to be tackled by all nations. It cannot be addressed on its own, but must be considered in terms of global poverty, health and education, economic development, and environmental damage. That requires coordinated efforts in the global community.

Almost three-quarters of the world's population lives in third world nations. More than 80 percent of the population increase is taking place in less-developed countries. Population growth (from births and migration of refugees) puts pressure on land resources, resulting in food shortage crises.

There is a limit to Earth's **carrying capacity,** or ability to support the world's population. Yet many people think that because resources like air and water are owned in common, they do not have to make special efforts to protect and conserve those resources. More than 200 of the world's river basins are shared by two or more countries. So one country's toxic waste dumping may contaminate the water used by other countries downstream. Air pollution caused by chemical spills and nuclear disasters, such as those in Bhopal, India, and Chernobyl, Ukraine, affected human lives, trade, agriculture, and industry throughout the world.

Sustainable development is economic growth that balances the needs of humanity and the benefits of industrialization with environmental care. Managing natural resources and discouraging the waste of nonrenewable resources helps ensure the health of the planet for future generations.

The main way to achieve **sustainable development** is through resource management. This approach involves decisions about which natural resources should—and should not—be developed, how much and in what way to develop them, and for whom. These decisions are influenced by economic, political, and cultural concerns.

Striking an Ecological Balance

Pharmaceutical companies have realized that rain forests may hold the cure for certain diseases. In order to gain access to the microbes, insects, and plants, some companies are agreeing in trade negotiations to finance the efforts of conservation groups that protect the biodiversity of the tropical ecosystems.

The growth of the world's population and the health of the world's environment affect us all. No nation can afford to ignore problems beyond its borders. The depletion or tight control of natural resources calls for cooperative efforts to manage these resources responsibly and find new sources of energy. Global pollution requires collective environmental protection measures. Ask yourself how you can contribute to the welfare of the planet and its people. The world will feel like a much smaller place.

International Trade and Commerce

Regardless of how a nation might choose to isolate itself from world events, it is not entirely self-sufficient. No nation's economy can produce all the goods and services that its citizens demand, so it must exchange resources and products with other countries. This exchange among nations is called by various terms: **international trade, global trade, foreign trade,** and **international commerce.**

The concept of **trade** refers to the business of buying and selling products or bartering (exchanging one item for another). People trade face-to-face at garage sales, roadside vegetable stands, in tourist spots, and many other places. **Commerce** is organized trade on a large scale and usually involves transporting products from place to place.

All nations can benefit from trading with one another, but many factors affect how the gains will be distributed in the international marketplace. A country's openness to international trade depends on its political and economic systems.

Economic Systems and Ideologies

Every nation must make decisions about what goods to produce, in what quantity, how to make the products, what to charge, and where to distribute them. Production may be for subsistence or for exchange. It may be organized for welfare or for profits. Different economic systems address these issues in different ways—according to government's involvement.

Capitalism

Capitalism is a market-based economic system, which means that the decisions mentioned above are made in the marketplace through the **law of supply and demand.** This system, also called a **free enterprise, private enterprise,** or **free-market economy,** has the following characteristics:

- Private or corporate ownership
- Investments determined by private decision instead of by state control
- Individual initiative
- Profit
- Competition

The **law of supply and demand** states that the price of any product (or service) adjusts to bring the supply and demand for that product into balance. When the supply of a particular good or service is plentiful, the seller tends to drop the price in order to compete. When the supply becomes scarcer and demand is high (many buyers want the product or service), the seller tends to raise the price. If demand drops (fewer buyers want the product), the seller lowers the price.

In a free enterprise system, the **entrepreneur** drives the economy. Any individual has the right to start and run his or her own business, as well as the right to close it. Because the entrepreneur is the one who organizes, manages, invests, and takes the financial risks of the business, that person also is entitled to benefit from any profits.

Competition is a key feature of the free enterprise system. When a number of companies offer the same product or service, they have to compete for customers. The consumer wants to buy the product with the best quality and lowest price. If companies want more sales, they have to keep quality high and prices low. In order to do both, companies have to find the most efficient way to produce the products or services so that they can still realize profits.

Capitalism lets consumers, entrepreneurs, and workers make free choices. Buyers choose what products they want to buy and which services they want to use. Entrepreneurs choose what type of business they wish to own, and workers choose to stay, switch, or quit jobs.

The basis of the U.S. econ-omy is the free market, but the government does regulate certain economic activities in order to protect the public. Pure food and drug laws, antipollution standards, and **subsidies** (government payments) to farmers to grow particular crops are examples of such regulations. The government also promotes private enterprise by building an infrastructure to support businesses, granting money for scientific research, and developing foreign markets. This economic system, in which the **private sector** (individuals and companies) produces goods and services and the **public sector** (government) regulates and promotes business, is called a **mixed economy.**

In the United States, the government actually owns and operates some of the services that could be provided by the private sector. For example, Amtrak (the passenger train service) and Medicare (the federal health care insurance program), are run by the government.

The U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service

The U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, in the Department of Commerce, focuses on promoting the export of goods and services from the United States, particularly by small- and medium-sized businesses, and on the protection of U.S. business interests abroad. The Commercial Service assists American businesses by negotiating favorable trading terms and developing new markets abroad. These businesses and multinational corporations spread capitalism throughout the world.

Socialism

Socialism is an economic and political system based on the idea that all citizens should be economically and politically equal. Unlike the United States, where citizens are all equal under the law but unequal in terms of personal wealth, socialist nations try to distribute wealth equally and fairly among all citizens. They accomplish this through collective (public) ownership of the principal means of producing and distributing goods and services and centralized planning.

Under strict socialism, the government owns and operates all businesses and controls all aspects of social welfare and planning. In many socialist countries, the government controls the large industries that affect all citizens, such as transportation, utilities, and communications. In other socialist societies, the government may allow individuals to own certain businesses, yet it maintains tight control.

Nationalization is the government's acquisition of—or assumption of control over—privately owned businesses. As economies based on socialism or communism try to make the transition to a free-market economy, they go through **privatization,** or the return of nationalized businesses to private ownership.

Socialism attempts to guarantee the public welfare by providing social services for all citizens at little or no cost to the users. These services can include employment, housing, and health care. Countries that provide these extensive services are often called **welfare states.** However, these services have to be funded through taxes, which may amount to as much as 50 or 60 percent of a person's total income.

Government bureaucrats make all the decisions about how a socialist economy will develop over time. They determine production goals and direct investments into specific industries. This type of economy—in which the government controls the factors of production and distribution—is called a **centrally planned** or **command economy.**

Many countries—such as Sweden and Great Britain—are democratic socialist nations. They combine a free market economy with socialism. These, like most modern economies, are mixed economies.

The systems of capitalism and socialism have pros and cons. Capitalism encourages the individual to assume risks, take advantage of new technologies, and decide how to use personal income. However, many people still lack the means

to access services like good health care. Under socialism, most citizens have their basic needs met and also have some influence where they work. Yet, with the high taxes on their earnings, they have little **discretionary income** and can make few decisions about how to spend their money. Critics of socialism argue that with so many public services provided, the individual has little incentive to work hard.

Discretionary income is the money available after basic needs have been met.

Communism

In the mid-1800s, Karl Marx developed a social, political, and economic theory in reaction to capitalism. He believed that throughout history social classes have struggled for control of labor and production. He thought that business owners oppressed the workers and predicted that the laborers (masses) would revolt and overthrow the capitalists. After a transitional phase under authoritarian control, a free classless society would emerge and the "people in common" would own all the property. Marx and Friedrich Engels defined the concepts of this multifaceted theory in *The Communist Manifesto.*

Karl Marx is called the father of modern communism. Many of his followers believed that socialism (collective ownership), an early stage of communism, could be achieved peacefully through democratic processes, but Marx called for a "violent and bloody revolution," if necessary. Those who agreed with Marx became known as **communists.**

The word **communism** comes from the Latin *communis,* which means "common, belonging to all."

In 1917, a communist revolution in Russia led to the creation of the Soviet Union and then to the spread of communism in Eastern Europe and China after World War II. In the late 1980s, communism collapsed in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union as people rallied for greater freedom of thought and economic opportunity.

Today, Cuba and North Korea are two of the few remaining communist nations. Although the Communist Party is the only political party in Vietnam and the People's Republic of China, these centrally planned economies are introducing elements of the free market.

Developing countries with no experience in building large industries and infrastructure tend to rely on centrally planned economies.

Transparency is the quality of being able to see through public and foreign policies and governmental actions to detect corruption. A transparent society is an open society, which allows access to information.

Exports are goods produced domestically and sold to foreign markets. **Imports** are goods produced abroad and sold domestically.

However, governments focused on investing in a few industries or producing specific goods may neglect the production of food or certain consumer goods. At that point, the citizens may become resentful and unruly. Political instability invites authoritarian control.

In order to attract foreign investment, countries must create a predictable environment that reassures entrepreneurs and foreign governments. A good investment climate offers access to markets, stable government, and **transparency.** Developing nations under authoritarian control are not transparent, so investors are reluctant to sink capital into projects that could be nationalized.

Scarcity and Surplus

No matter what type of economic system a nation has, it depends on certain resources to produce goods and services. Here are the basic resources, called **factors of production:**

- Natural resources (renewable and nonrenewable resources produced by nature)
- Human capital (knowledge and skills that workers acquire through education, training, and experience)
- Physical capital (stock of equipment and structures used to produce goods and services, including money)
- Technical knowledge (society's understanding of the best way to produce goods and services)

Different countries have different amounts of these resources, so they use them differently. Singapore has few natural resources but much human capital, so it specializes in manufacturing goods (such as computer and office equipment) that require a large labor force.

What to Import or Export?

To determine which goods and services to specialize in, most nations concentrate on producing what they can most easily and cheaply transport to other markets. If the United States produces more wheat than it can use (a surplus) and Japan produces more electronic components than it can use, then the United States can **export** its surplus wheat to Japan and **import** Japan's surplus components. Through specialization and trade, the two countries can get more of both products.

One factor a nation considers when deciding whether to export or import a product in the free market is the **domestic price** compared to the **world price** for the same product. For example, if the domestic price for broccoli is $1.25 per pound and the world price is $1.79, then the nation could gain 54 cents per pound by exporting broccoli. If, on the other hand, the domestic price for broccoli is $1.79 per pound and the world price is $1.25, then the nation would import broccoli.

When a country allows free trade and exports a product, the domestic *producers* of that product are better off because they receive the higher world price. However, the *consumers* of the good are worse off because they now have to pay the higher world price. When a country imports a good, domestic consumers of that good are better off because they now pay the lower world price, but domestic producers of the good are worse off because they have to drop the domestic price of their good to compete with the world price. Even though trade doesn't make everyone better off at the same time, it does raise a nation's standard of living.

The **domestic price** of a product or service not traded in the international market is the price consumers pay at home. The **world price** is the price nations are paying in the world market for that same product.

Free Trade, Barriers, and Economic Alliances

At times, however, when domestic producers are feeling the negative effects of importing goods, they will often pressure the government to protect them. If the domestic broccoli producers described earlier wanted to continue growing broccoli instead of switching to another crop, they might ask the government to **levy a tariff** on broccoli imports. The tax raises the price of imported broccoli above the world price by the amount of the tariff. Now domestic producers can sell broccoli at a price equal to the world price plus the tariff and compete with foreign producers. This tariff reduces the quantity of imports and generates revenue (income from the tax) for the government.

Some U.S. industries complain that America is flooded with low-cost goods from foreign markets. Domestic automobile and clothing manufacturers, for example, say the cost of labor is so cheap in third world countries that they cannot compete.

When a government **levies a tariff,** it imposes a tax (or duty) on goods produced abroad and sold domestically.

Many industries try to cut costs by **outsourcing,** or subcontracting jobs to foreign companies. Workers in the United States and other first world nations worry about losing their jobs to workers in foreign countries where labor costs are cheaper.

Pros and Cons of Free Trade

	FREE TRADE ADVOCATE	PROTECTIONIST
Jobs	Workers can find jobs in the industries where we have a comparative advantage. Besides, trade with other countries gives them money to buy other goods from the United States.	Trade with other countries eliminates domestic jobs.
National Security	Some industries would claim they are vital to national security in order to take advantage of the consumer.	Industries that are vital to national security should be protected.
Infant Industry	If entrepreneurs think the industry will be profitable in the long run, they should take the risk and the losses in the short run.	New industries need protection to get started.
Unfair Competition	The domestic consumer of subsidized imports would benefit.	Some nations subsidize certain industries through big tax breaks or have lax environmental standards.
Bargaining Chip	The threat of restricting trade could backfire.	The threat of imposing a tariff or quota could result in the lifting of other trade restrictions.
Other Benefits to Free Trade	Trade offers consumers more variety of goods and lowers the cost of producing a good through economies of scale. Free trade increases competition because the forces of supply and demand determine the fair price for a good.	Free trade encourages countries to exploit one another.

These industries lobby (try to influence) the government to protect their businesses by imposing **quotas,** which are limits on the amount of specific items that can be imported.

Tariffs and quotas are called **trade barriers** because they block free trade. Many people disagree about whether the economy benefits from efforts to protect industries and jobs by restricting trade.

International Trade Agreements and Economic Alliances

International trade agreements are treaties to develop and promote trade among nations. Nations often agree to buy specific products from each other. These treaties provide the participating countries with special treatment such as easing or eliminating trade barriers.

One of the most important international trade agreements is the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which is the only multilateral treaty that establishes agreed-upon rules for world trade. According to a provision called the **most favored nation** clause, two parties that have signed a GATT agreement will offer each other the same advantages that they have offered to (or plan to offer) third parties. These advantages usually apply to tariffs. Today the World Trade Organization oversees compliance with those rules. More than 144 nations belong to the WTO. Its purpose is to liberalize international trade by reducing tariffs and subsidies and abolishing quotas on certain products.

Often nations try to strengthen their own economies by forming a regional alliance with other economies. They integrate their markets by:

- Reducing barriers to free trade among certain countries
- Creating common trade barriers to outside nations
- Coordinating policies about taxes and specific business activities

These regional trade blocs take the forms of free trade areas and economic unions.

The **North American Free Trade Act** is a trade agreement among Mexico, Canada, and the United States. NAFTA removed trade barriers in order to promote the free movement of goods and services across borders. In 2004, Canada and Mexico were the United States' top two trading partners for combined exports and imports.

Economies of scale means that over time the average cost of producing a good decreases as the quantity of the good produced increases.

The United States extends **most favored nation** status to almost every one of its trading partners. Because the status is not the exception but the norm, the term was changed to **normal trade relations** status.

The **European Union** is an economic and monetary union of 25 member nations that share a common currency called the **euro.** The EU is becoming an increasingly powerful player in the world market.

Protectionists argue that nations have to give up some measure of sovereignty to participate in free trade areas and economic unions like the European Union.

Balance of Payments and Foreign Exchange

Nations are like big families with budgets. They shop, work, buy, and sell. At the end of the day, the money they spend should equal the money they earn. The **balance of trade** is the difference—over a period of time—between the value of a country's imports and exports. If the value of what a country exports is greater than what it imports, the country has a **trade surplus.** If the value of its imports is greater than the value of its exports, the country has a **trade deficit.**

A nation must add several other items to its trade balance to know if it really has a balanced budget: government purchases abroad, investments across international borders, and changes in the value of government holdings of gold and foreign currencies.

Once a nation calculates all of its international transactions over a period of time—including foreign aid and income from tourists—it determines its **balance of payments.** How a nation balances its accounts depends on foreign policies, economic opportunities or risks, and the value of its currency.

No Relief In Sight

Certain third world countries have such crushing debts to other nations that they are forced to take drastic actions. During a severe famine, Sudan exported food to pay on its debts. In Ghana, where 50 percent of the children are malnourished, half of the farming land is used to grow cocoa for export.

The International Monetary Fund is an international organization that encourages international trade and foreign exchange rate stability, and offers balance-of-payments assistance to debtor nations. The IMF works with the World Bank to address the problems of the most heavily indebted developing countries.

If you traded your friend five pairs of new basketball shoes for five new CDs, would you call it even? Probably not. You might calculate the value of the items traded and figure out how much money your friend still owed you. Nations handle their balance of payments in a similar way. However, because countries use different currency systems, they need ways to adjust how they pay their debts to each other.

The **foreign exchange rate** is the price of one currency in terms of another. Exchange rates are important because they affect the relative price of domestic and foreign goods. If a country's currency **appreciates,** or rises in value, compared to other currencies, then the country's goods abroad (exports) become more expensive and foreign goods in that country (imports) become cheaper. When a country's currency **depreciates,** or loses value, compared to other currencies, then its exports become cheaper and imports become more expensive.

Tourists traveling abroad hope their currency is strong compared with the currency in the foreign country because meals, hotels, and souvenirs will not cost as much. For example, if an American went to the Philippines, this tourist would find that one U.S. dollar equals almost 49 Philippines pesos. So a hotel room in Manila that costs 1,200 Philippines pesos per night would cost about 25 U.S. dollars.

However, an American tourist in Europe might be surprised to find that the U.S. dollar is weak compared to the euro. A hotel in Brussels that costs 63 euros per night would cost about 90 U.S. dollars.

Each nation's currency is unique and not interchangeable. U.S. dollars are not the same as Indian rupees or Japanese yen. Nor are currencies called by the same name. The pesos of Argentina are different from the pesos used in Mexico. The dinars of Jordan, Kuwait, and Bahrain are not interchangeable, either.

The exchange rate depends on the supply and demand for the currency in the **foreign exchange market,** so the rate changes every day. The exchange rate on a particular day is called the **spot rate.** The rate of exchange between two currencies for a particular transaction is called the **cross rate.**

The **foreign exchange market** is not a place, but an organized group of several hundred dealers (mostly central banks like the Federal Reserve Bank in the United States) that conduct electronic transactions to buy and sell bank deposits denominated in different currencies.

Foreign currencies can be bought or sold now and delivered in the future. These transactions are done by purchasing a buy or sell contract for a specific currency in the foreign exchange market. The exchange rate used is called the **forward rate.**

You can find foreign exchange rates in the business section of many city newspapers. Financial publications such as the *Wall Street Journal* publish daily listings of the spot rates and forward rates of major world currencies.

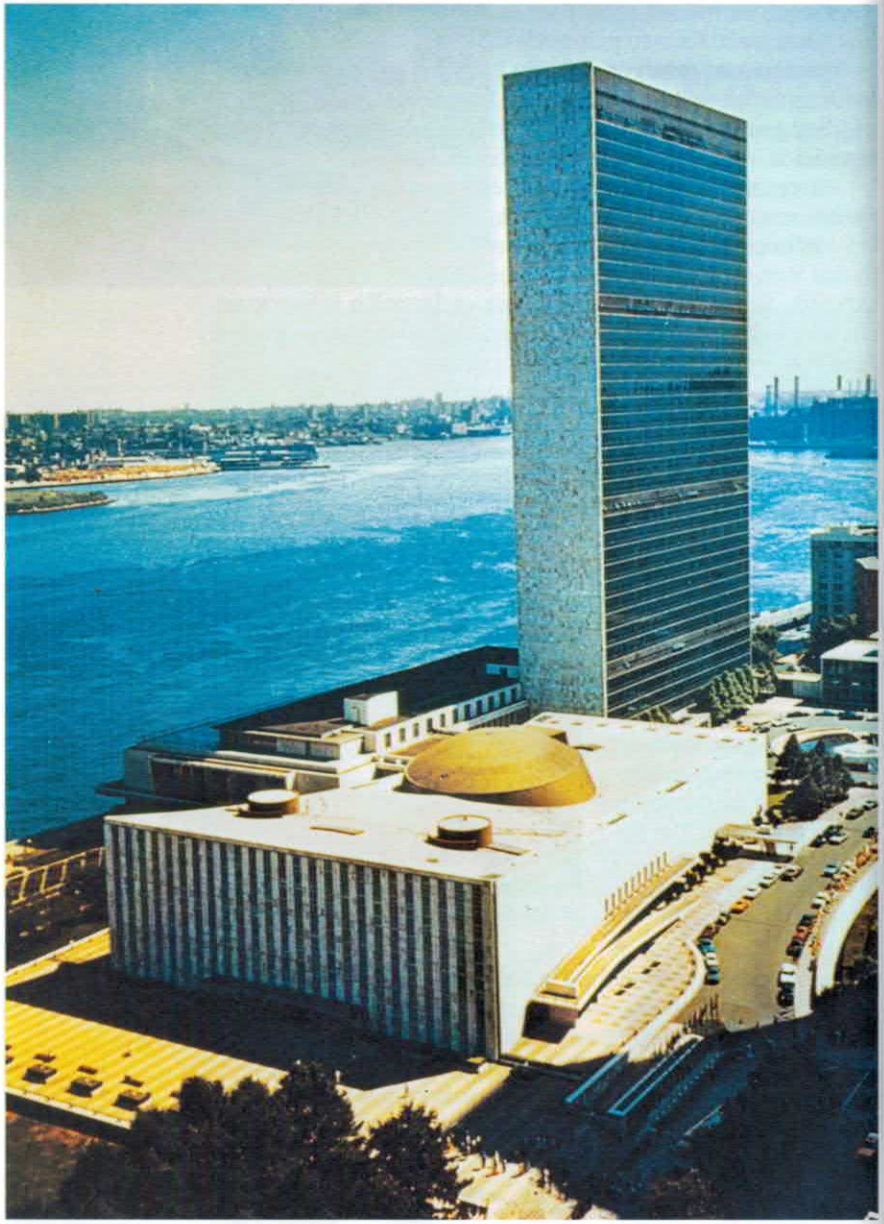
Countries will not allow their exchange rates to drop too low. They maintain a special stock of foreign currencies known as **international reserves.** When a currency decreases too much, a nation will intervene in the foreign exchange market and buy some of its own currency with its international reserves in order to stabilize the exchange rate.

Since the United States is the world's leading trading nation, most countries maintain their international reserves in U.S. dollars. Many nations also accept U.S. dollars as payment. In this way, the dollar often functions as an international monetary unit. So the foreign exchange rate of the dollar is important not only to the United States, but also to those countries that fund their international reserves with dollars.

The global economy and international trade link all nations. What happens in one country has a ripple effect throughout the world. Political problems or a natural disaster in one country could delay shipments of raw materials to other countries—causing production slowdowns, which lead to layoffs or firing of employees. Now these countries are exporting less (creating a trade deficit), and unemployed workers are spending less in their own economies, causing the demand for domestic products to drop. The ripple effect continues.

A floating market in the developing country of Thailand

It is important to understand the basic concepts about the global economy and international trade because it leads to questions about the people behind the products. Why is labor so cheap in third world countries? How can millions of people each live on less than $2 a day? Are children working in adult jobs? As your knowledge increases, so does your compassion for people around the world and your appreciation of your own way of life.



United Nations headquarters, New York City

United Nations System

The United Nations is a multinational organization established after World War II to ensure that nations would work together to avoid war in the future. It is neither a government nor a nation, so it has no sovereign power of its own. Although it cannot determine the legitimacy of a nation, it can accept credentials for membership.

As of October 2007, U.N. membership included 192 independent nations. Each member nation is a member of the General Assembly and has one vote. **Dependencies** are represented indirectly by their ruling countries. They, like **areas of special sovereignty,** are invited to be observers at sessions of the General Assembly and to maintain permanent offices at U.N. headquarters in New York City.

A **dependency** is a subject territory that is not an essential part of the ruling country. For example, the Falkland Islands off the coast of Argentina is one of the United Kingdom's dependent territories. An **area of special sovereignty** is a geographical/political area whose status of sovereignty is unresolved. The West Bank and Gaza Strip in the Middle East, for example, are areas of special sovereignty—pending final status negotiations with Israel.

Goals of the United Nations

The United States was the first nation in 1945 to ratify the U.N. charter, which is—in effect—the written constitution of the United Nations. According to the charter, the goals of the United Nations are to maintain international peace and the collective security and promote cooperation in solving international political, economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems.

In order to achieve its goals, the United Nations developed key objectives for the 21st century:

- Promoting the creation of independent and democratic societies
- Protecting human rights
- Saving children from starvation and disease
- Providing relief assistance to refugees and disaster victims
- Countering global crime, drugs, and disease
- Assisting countries devastated by war and the long-term threat of land mines

Structure of the United Nations

The U.N. charter organizes the United Nations into six principal organs: General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice, and Secretariat.

Except for the International Court of Justice (also known as the World Court), which is located in The Hague in the Netherlands, the other organs operate out of U.N. headquarters. These main bodies work with and through subsidiary U.N. organizations and specialized agencies.

The United Nations System

The United Nations is constantly changing; this chart may not be all-inclusive.

Trusteeship Council
- Supervises territories that do not govern themselves

Security Council
- Fifteen council members—ten two-year members and five permanent members
- Main UN peacekeeping organization
- Can order cease-fires, negotiate, impose sanctions, intervene with force
- Permanent members can veto decisions
- Nominates secretary-general
- Votes for International Court judges
- Maintains UN forces

Secretariat
- Secretary-general elected by General Assembly
- Chief administrative office of the UN
- Runs administrative functions of the UN

General Assembly
- All UN member nations belong
- Debates any issue
- Studies international political, social, and economic issues and makes recommendations
- Passes resolutions with votes of two-thirds majority
- Elects secretary-general and International Court judges
- Helps supervise and select members of other UN bodies

International Court of Justice
- Based at The Hague, Netherlands
- Fifteen elected judges
- Serves all member nations
- Rules on international disputes

Economic and Social Council
- Members are elected by General Assembly
- Studies social and economic issues
- Supervises the many specialized agencies and commissions
- Works through various commissions and groups of experts

Subsidiary UN Organizations
- UNRWA: Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- UNCTAD: Conference on Trade and Development
- UNICEF: Children's Fund
- UNHCR: Office of High Commissioner for Refugees
- WFP: World Food Program
- UNITAR: Institute for Training and Research
- UNDP: Development Program
- UNEP: Environment Program
- UNU: United Nations University
- UN-HABITAT: Center for Human Settlements
- UNFPA: Fund for Population Activities

World Food Program
- ITC: International Trade Center
- UNCDF: Capital Development Fund
- UNV: United Nations Volunteers
- UNODC: Office on Drugs and Crime
- UN-Women: Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
- UNICRI: Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
- UNIDIR: Institute for Disarmament Research
- UNRISD: Research Institute for Social Development
- UNSSC: System Staff College
- UNAIDS: Joint Program on HIV/AIDS
- UNISDR: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- UNOPS: Office for Project Services

Specialized Agencies
- ILO: International Labor Organization
- FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
- WHO: World Health Organization
- IMF: International Monetary Fund
- IDA: International Development Association
- IBRD: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- IFC: International Finance Corporation
- ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organization
- UPU: Universal Postal Union
- ITU: International Telecommunication Union
- WMO: World Meteorological Organization
- IMO: International Maritime Organization
- WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization
- IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development
- UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- MIGA: Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- ICSID: International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes
- UNWTO: World Tourism Organization

- GATT: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
- WTO: World Trade Organization

IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency
CTBTO PrepCom: Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
OPCW: Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The five permanent members of the Security Council are China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and United States of America. A negative vote from any one of the permanent members has the power of a veto.

Specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as the International Monetary Fund, are separate autonomous organizations, related to the United Nations by special agreements.

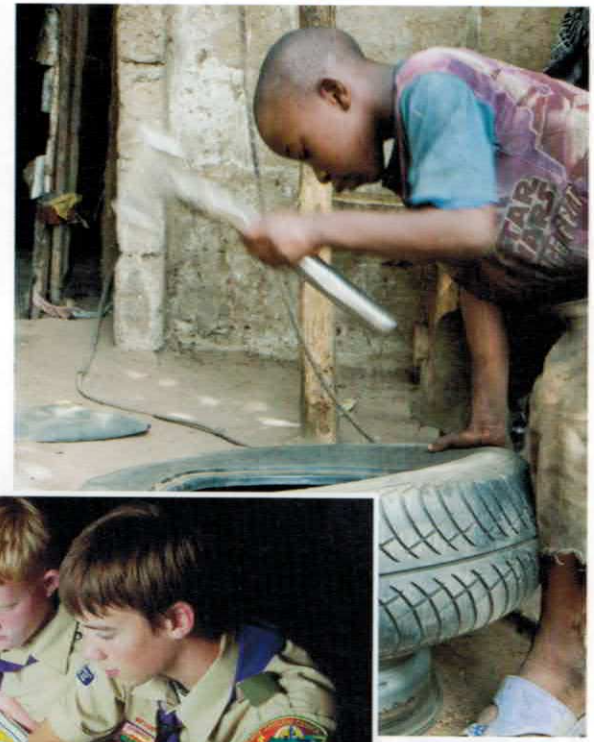
Call for Reform

Most people think of the United Nations' efforts in terms of peacekeeping and military conflicts. Historically, however, its most valuable contributions are in the areas of international law and the development of nations.

Citizens of many nations believe that the United Nations is out of step with world changes. The balance of power has shifted since 1945. Countries are no longer under colonial control, and all trust territories are now self-governing or have gained their independence.

Some nations are demanding an increase in the number of permanent members in the Security Council. Others, such as the United States, question how much sovereignty they have to give up in order to cooperate with the United Nations.

Third world countries form the majority of members of the U.N. General Assembly, where they have objected to the widening gap between rich and poor nations. Many of these nations think the United Nations is too financially dependent on the United States and other first world countries. If the wealthy nations refuse to pay their dues, they can severely handicap the United Nations' ability to fulfill its purpose.



As you learn about other nations, a map of the world will help you put things into perspective. The map will most likely be a political or a physical map and may include features such as territorial boundaries.

Unless the majority of citizens around the world see the United Nations as representing their interests—and not just the interests of the permanent members of the Security Council and their allies—then they will not trust the United Nations. If that happens, the United Nations will not be able to function anywhere.

Global Issues, Watchdogs, and Advocates

Global issues are boiling in pots around the world. Many of us don't lift the lids because we are not hungry, but the problems still boil.

Because it is easy to ignore issues that don't seem to affect us directly—or are too complicated to be solved by one person—we tend to leave the world's problems to the politicians. However, global issues such as environmental damage, contaminated food products, and infectious diseases affect us all.

Activists such as **watchdogs** and **advocates** keep these problems in front of world citizens, policymakers, and intergovernmental agencies. United Nations organizations often appoint celebrities as goodwill ambassadors to bring attention to global issues.

A **watchdog** is a person who tries to guard the integrity of an organization or cause by watching out for illegal or unethical conduct. An **advocate** supports a person or issue and pleads the case in courts of law or public opinion.

Human Rights Issues

Although today human rights have a higher place on foreign policy agendas, nations disagree about which kind of rights are most important. In first world countries, particularly in the West, the critical human rights are individual freedoms. In third world countries, where making ends meet is a common problem, economic and social rights are more important than political and civil rights.

Children have the rights to survival, good health, development, and protection, yet millions suffer from poverty, malnutrition, preventable diseases, and the trauma of war. Many are recruited to serve as soldiers or forced to work in sweatshops. Wars and pandemics have orphaned millions of children and forced survivors into refugee camps or to fend for themselves.

In parts of the world, women are still regarded as property. They are not allowed to finish school and are married off as girls. Their lack of education has a direct impact on the population explosion and the poor health of families.

Genocide—the extermination of a racial, ethnic, religious, or political group—still occurs. In 1994, extremists controlling the government of the African nation Rwanda systematically killed a half-million people.

How nations deal with the reports and facts of genocide and other human rights abuses depends on national interest and foreign policies. Tragically for the victims, nations are reluctant to intervene if the human rights issues don't directly threaten the higher issues of national security and economic interests.

International Human Rights and Humanitarian Organizations

Nongovernmental organizations, or NGOs, act as the global conscience, constantly reminding the world's nations of their human and moral responsibilities. These private groups, officially or unofficially linked to the United Nations, prod the United Nations to action as well as extend its influence. NGOs use the Internet to share information with people all over the world, "naming and shaming" corrupt individuals, governments, and groups that commit human rights abuses. One of the best-known international NGOs is Amnesty International.

The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights,** adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, states that the "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and unalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. . . ." The declaration established the standard for international behavior concerning human rights.

Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement dedicated to protecting human rights as set out in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights.** This organization works to gain the release of people who have been imprisoned for their political or religious beliefs, racial or ethnic origin, or sex—provided they have not used or encouraged violence. Its members campaign to abolish the death penalty, torture, and degrading punishment. They advocate prompt and fair trials for all political prisoners, and try to ensure that abusers are brought to justice in accordance with international law.

Amnesty International cooperates with other international agencies and organizations, such as the United Nations, to further shared goals. Each year it publishes global reports on the state of human rights in most nations of the world, including the United States. Despite winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977, Amnesty International is considered by many to be a controversial organization.

Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE)

Founded in 1945 to help World War II survivors, CARE has evolved into an international relief agency dedicated to ending poverty. In more than 60 countries around the world, CARE provides food, disaster aid, health care training, self-help development programs, and economic opportunities. As an independent organization, CARE partners with other humanitarian groups and builds relationships with governments to influence policy decisions about overcoming poverty.

ICRC/Franco Pagetti

The ICRC partners with the national societies such as the American Red Cross and Jordanian Crescent Society to bring emergency relief to disaster victims. Here, needy farmers in Afghanistan receive seed and food rations from the International Red Cross.

International Red Cross

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the umbrella organization for the individual national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the international federation of those societies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Established in 1863, the International Committee of the Red Cross is a neutral and independent organization whose mission is to provide protection and assistance to victims of armed conflict. The ICRC directs and coordinates international relief activities in accordance with the **Geneva Conventions.** Its efforts include visiting prisoners of war, tracing missing persons, and re-establishing contact between family members separated by war or disaster.

The **Geneva Conventions,** among the most widely ratified agreements in the world, deal with the conduct of warfare and the behavior of combatants. Rules established for the humane treatment of the wounded, sick, and shipwrecked in battle—as well as prisoners of war—are the foundation of international humanitarian law. The Geneva Conventions have been extended to protect civilians caught up in armed conflict, such as hostages.

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations. Its main purpose is to collaborate with governments, health professionals, and international organizations to increase the level of health of all people. WHO has a global strategy to improve primary health care. WHO also works with international agencies such as the World Trade Organization and the World Bank to ensure that international trade agreements and foreign investments maximize health benefits and minimize health risks to poor and vulnerable populations.

In Sibiti, Congo, a WHO worker administers the polio vaccine to a child.

The Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, is where meetings of the International Court of Justice are held.

International Law

The world is made up of approximately 200 nations with strong ideas about sovereignty and national interests. As these countries grow increasingly interdependent, their relationships are challenged by serious issues, including the threat of nuclear war, terrorism, destruction of the environment, trade imbalances, famine, and disease control. Often, because of their political, economic, religious, and cultural views, nations do not agree about how to address these issues. By applying international law to specific situations, countries may avoid a conflict that leads to aggression or outright war.

Supreme Law

There are two legal theories about national and international law. One is the **monist** theory, which proposes the unity of national and international laws. It suggests that international law is not only part of a national legal system, but also superior to national law. Germany's legal system is based on the monist theory.

The other theory is the **dualist** theory, which holds that the national and international legal systems are separate and different. According to this theory, international law cannot be supreme because it is apart from the national legal system and has no influence on domestic law.

Public international law considers **states** (nations) to be legal entities. The law consists of all the rules, principles, customs, and agreements that these nations accept as having the force of law in their relations with each other. International law is applied as follows.

In international terms, an independent sovereign nation is called a **state** and "country" often refers to the geographical boundaries of a nation. In this pamphlet and in general usage, the terms *state, nation,* and *country* mean the same thing.

International Conventions and Treaties. These are formal pledges between or among nations. Conventions are general agreements among nations regarding matters of common concern, such as the Geneva Conventions. Treaties are written contracts, which are considered legally binding on those nations that signed the agreements. The United Nations charter is a multilateral treaty that addresses the agreements, rights, and duties of U.N. members. **Executive agreements** are pacts made between heads of state.

International Customs. These are international rules that have been practiced so long that courts regard them as unwritten laws. Most customary laws are based on Western culture and ideas. The laws are difficult to enforce because many non-Western nations are not likely to agree to the terms of laws that differ from their own customs.

General Principles of Law. These are general principles found in the various legal systems of many nations. One example is a nation's right to defend itself. The International Court of Justice may base its rulings on general principles of law, but it is reluctant to do so because many member nations think the Court is "creating" new laws instead of applying established laws.

Comity of Nations. This is the courteous and friendly practice between nations of mutually recognizing executive, legislative, and judicial acts. Comity allows one nation to recognize another's laws while still upholding its own laws. This form of international law is used in diplomatic situations.

International Court of Justice

Jurisdiction is the authority to interpret and apply the law.

The International Court of Justice is the judicial organ of the United Nations. All United Nations members are automatically members of the ICJ. As a civil court, it applies the rule of law to international disputes between nations. Its **jurisdiction** is twofold: settling international disputes and giving advisory opinions on legal questions.

Only nations may be party to cases before the Court, but international organizations can obtain advisory opinions. In fact, the ICJ will try only those cases in which both nations agree to accept the judgment of the Court.

Unlike national law, which is supported by a system of courts and prisons, international law is difficult to enforce. The lack of power to enforce the law handicaps the Court. However, nations can enforce international law through economic sanctions like **embargoes** and the following coercive actions.

An **embargo** is a government restriction or restraint on trade of a specific product or with a particular nation.

Retorsion. A lawful retaliatory act used by a nation to pressure another nation into reversing an unfriendly act. The action is identical or similar to the offense, such as imposing high tariffs or discriminatory duties.

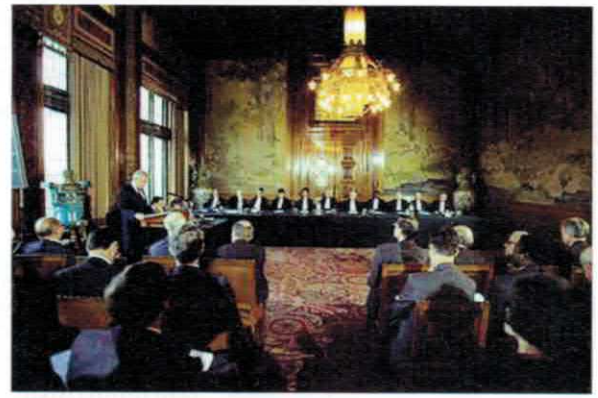
Reprisal. An act of force in response to an illegal action against a nation. In most circumstances, the retaliatory act itself would be illegal. However, as a reprisal, it is lawful. For example, if a country refuses to repay a loan, the lending nation could legally seize its property.

War. The last resort. Because the consequences of war are so serious, the threat of war often is sufficient to force a country to change its ways.

The Security Council has the authority to back the Court's judgments but has never used it. Many developing countries are critical of the International Court of Justice because they believe that the ICJ is an instrument to further the interests of the first world nations.

The International Court of Justice has had success in defining the principles by which disputes are judged. Some of these principles involve drawing lines to establish territorial sovereignty. These principles are applied in disputes about territorial waters and fishing rights.

The Court's actions include judgments on hostage-taking, the right of asylum, rights of passage, economic rights, and nationality. Certain advisory opinions deal with the status of human rights informers and the threat or use of nuclear weapons.



A meeting of the International Court of Justice in The Hague's Peace Palace

The **principle of complementarity** means that nations have the primary duty to try the most serious international crimes. The ICC, however, may step in as a last resort if the nation fails to act because its legal system has collapsed or because it is shielding the person from prosecution.

International Criminal Court

This permanent international criminal court of justice will try individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Its goals are to promote the rule of law and ensure that those people responsible for the most serious crimes do not go unpunished. The ICC's jurisdiction is **complementary** to national jurisdictions.

Mistaken Identity

Many people confuse The Hague with the United Nations' International Court of Justice, but The Hague is actually a city. And the International Court of Justice is just one of the many international, diplomatic institutions that call The Hague home. Located on the eastern coast of the Netherlands, near the nation's capital city of Amsterdam, it is truly an international city, with 81 embassies and 46 consulates. More than half of its residents are actually from other countries!

Like the International Court of Justice, the ICC is located in The Hague, but the two courts are different. The ICJ is part of the United Nations system, and its purpose is to try civil disputes between countries. The ICC is an independent criminal court established to prosecute individuals.

The International Criminal Court does not have the support of the whole international community. In fact, the United States decided not to join because the ICC's general rules of action conflict with fundamental American beliefs about sovereignty, checks and balances, and national independence.

International Criminal Police Organization

INTERPOL is the world's largest police organization. It maintains databases of forensic information (such as DNA and fingerprints) to share with national law enforcement agencies and supports them in cooperative efforts to combat international crime. These crimes between two or more countries include:

- Terrorism
- Financial crimes (money laundering, counterfeiting)
- Trafficking in human beings (smuggling people across borders for prostitution, forced labor, removal of organs)
- Drug trafficking
- High-tech crimes (computer viruses, identity theft)
- Theft of art work (looting of museums, forgeries)
- Intellectual property crimes (software piracy and counterfeiting of clothing, medicine, and CDs)

International law has had a positive impact on agreements and treaties concerning telecommunications, mail, health, weather forecasting, and air and sea transport. It has not had as much success with controversial issues that infringe on national sovereignty such as human rights legislation and laws of peace.

Most nations obey international law most of the time. One of the main reasons the application of international law works is because the countries recognize the need for order, stability, and predictability in their international relations. They know that it is in the mutual interest of all nations to follow the rules.

U.S. Embassy, Moscow, Russia

Representation Abroad

A nation advances its foreign policy objectives through foreign assistance, official representation, and diplomacy. Maintaining a presence in foreign countries communicates a nation's values and goals to the inhabitants of those countries. Participation in intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency ensures that a nation's voice is heard on the international stage.

Representatives are not limited to people acting in an official capacity. Citizens traveling abroad as tourists, students, businesspeople, artists, activists, athletes, and humanitarians are, in the eyes of foreign peoples, representatives of their countries. How these citizens conduct themselves reflects on their nations.

Olympic Athletes

Nations all around the world sponsor athletes to represent their countries at the summer and winter Olympic Games, which are governed by international agreement. These ambassador-athletes demonstrate the highest level of physical skill, discipline, and sportsmanship. Through their participation in fair and honest competition, the athletes show the world how to be good citizens. By acknowledging and respecting the strengths of others and accepting differences, we can all learn to compete and cooperate in international arenas. Despite centuries of wars, abuses, and even scandals, the Olympic flame still burns.

The U.S. Department of State

The State Department is the lead U.S. foreign affairs agency, providing direct advice to the president through the secretary of state and supporting foreign policy programs in other U.S. government organizations. It develops, conducts, and communicates foreign policy, and coordinates U.S. representation abroad through Foreign Service employees at our embassies and consulates in foreign countries. The Bureau of Consular Affairs protects and assists U.S. citizens overseas.

The website for the State Department provides information about foreign policy and world events, as well as descriptions of every bureau and office, from Counterterrorism to Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

U.S. Agency for International Development

The United States Agency for International Development is an independent agency that receives general direction and foreign policy guidance from the secretary of state. The USAID manages U.S. economic and humanitarian assistance programs to promote sustainable development in more than 100 countries. The programs—administered through overseas missions in conjunction with U.S. embassies—concentrate on the following interrelated areas:

- Improving health and living conditions
- Developing human abilities through education and training
- Promoting economic growth and agricultural development
- Protecting the environment

These programs advance democratic values, encourage international cooperation, and help to establish economic conditions that create markets for U.S. goods and services in developing countries.

Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

The public diplomacy functions of the former United States Information Agency (USIA) have been integrated into the Department of State. The **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs** promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through exchange activities. Cultural exchanges increase people's awareness of traditions and accomplishments in art, music, literature, and science. Educational exchanges allow students to visit and study in foreign countries. Academic and professional exchanges include the Fulbright Exchange Program and the International Visitors Program.

The **Bureau of International Information Programs** develops strategic communications for the U.S. foreign affairs community. It produces electronic and print publications, speaker programs, and resource services that explain U.S. policies, society, and values for the media, government officials, opinion leaders, and the general public in more than 140 countries.

Although the **Voice of America** is now part of an independent agency, it broadcasts television programs through Worldnet Television and Film Service, which is part of IIP. The programs—produced in English and 13 foreign languages—include international and regional news, public affairs reports that reflect American life, and discussions on United States foreign and domestic policies.

Diplomatic Relations

Under international law, every nation has the **right of legation**—the right to send and receive diplomatic representatives. The head of state—also the nation's chief diplomat—appoints people to serve as his or her representatives in foreign countries and at international negotiations. In order to be recognized as a legal representative, the diplomat must be **accredited** to the foreign country or organization by presenting credentials (formal letters stating that the individual is the official designate of the head of state) to the foreign government or governing body.

In 1778, the Second Continental Congress appointed America's first foreign service officer when it chose Benjamin Franklin to be minister to France.

International law states that all persons within the boundaries of a sovereign nation are subject to the nation's jurisdiction. One exception is **diplomatic immunity,** which says that diplomats are not subject to the laws of the nation to which they are accredited. Diplomats cannot be arrested or taxed, their residences (embassies) cannot be searched without their permission, and their official papers and belongings cannot be seized.

Diplomatic immunity is necessary for nations to conduct international relations, but it assumes that diplomats will not abuse their privileges. Occasionally, a diplomat does violate the local law or offends the government. If the host government considers the diplomat's behavior to be unacceptable or unwelcome, it may declare the diplomat **persona non grata** and expel this individual from the country, or ask the sending country to **recall** (summon back home) the diplomat. This withdrawal of recognition of the diplomat's status as a nation's legal representative is the sharpest diplomatic rebuke one nation can make to another—and it can sometimes lead to war.

Diplomacy is a way for nations to conduct international relations, communicate foreign policy objectives and values, and resolve disputes peacefully. It is often called "an invitation to a dialogue" between two nations.

U.S. Embassy, Dublin, Ireland

Embassies, Consulates, and Missions

The United States has diplomatic relations with more than 180 nations. It maintains approximately 260 diplomatic and consular posts worldwide, including embassies, consulates, and missions to international organizations.

An **embassy** is the headquarters for a nation's diplomatic relations with a host country. Generally, it is located in the capital city and is headed by the top-ranking diplomat (ambassador, minister, or chargé d'affaires). In a U.S. embassy, the "chief of mission" (usually the ambassador) directs all programs and personnel (except those nondiplomatic military staff under a U.S. military commander). As the personal representative of the president, a U.S. ambassador is responsible for:

- Ensuring that *all* communications from the embassy about U.S. foreign policy accurately reflect the nation's position.
- Providing expert and honest feedback about U.S. interests to the president and secretary of state.
- Cooperating with U.S. legislative and judicial branches to advance U.S. foreign policy goals.
- Taking direct responsibility for the security of the embassy and the protection of all U.S. diplomatic personnel and their families.

A **consulate** serves as a branch of an embassy and usually is located in a large commercial city outside of the capital or in a dependency of the host country. In the United States, foreign countries have consulates in major cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, and Houston.

The head consular officer is the **consul general.** Diplomatic personnel in a consular office are called consuls. They are appointed to encourage trade with the host nation and to take care of their overseas citizens. Consular officers at U.S. diplomatic posts protect millions of Americans who travel and live abroad.

Most U.S. ambassadors are career diplomats trained at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute in the State Department. The president always appoints the ambassador and often selects someone who has supported the president's election to office.

In order to further U.S. representation abroad, the president appoints special diplomats—also known as ambassadors—to top diplomatic posts such as the United Nations or to international conferences, such as the Conference on Disarmament. These official representatives are organized into delegations. The larger, more permanent delegations are called **missions.** The U.S. Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an example of a permanent mission.

Passports and Visas

A **passport** is an official document issued to a citizen by a government affirming the individual's nationality. The passport permits the citizen to travel or live abroad and entitles the citizen to privileges guaranteed by international custom and treaties: safe passage, lawful aid, and protection while under the foreign government's jurisdiction.

A **visa** is a permit to enter another country and must be issued by the country one wishes to enter. It is a special seal stamped on a valid passport that indicates an official of that country has approved the visit. Prior to leaving, the traveler should apply for a visa—if required by that particular country—at the appropriate foreign embassy or nearest consulate.

Every year, thousands of people come to the United States to get a better education. They travel with temporary student visas, then return home to work or help improve conditions in their own countries.

An alien (foreign national) wishing to enter the United States must apply for a visa *outside* the United States at embassies and consulates worldwide. An immigrant visa permits a person to stay in the United States permanently. A nonimmigrant visa allows an alien to enter the country for a temporary stay. Tourists, temporary workers, missionaries, business professionals, artists, and athletes travel on temporary visas.

U.S. Passports

The U.S. Department of State issues more than 7 million passports a year. Applications are available at post offices and other municipal buildings, and at the 13 offices of the U.S. Passport Agency. You also can download an application from the State Department's website. More than 5,000 public places accept completed passport applications.

U.S. citizens traveling abroad can obtain information about health, security, and general travel tips from **consular information sheets,** which the State Department publishes for every country in the world. The Bureau of Consular Affairs posts an online version of the consular information sheets with additional information including voting assistance abroad, visas for foreigners wishing to come to the United States, international adoptions, and tips for American students abroad.

To find out what passport services are offered where you live, look up "United States Government, Department of State, Passport Agency" in the "government" (blue) pages of your telephone book.

Expand Your Own Borders

Your thoughts about the world are limited to your experience and knowledge. Yet as you earn the Citizenship in the World merit badge, you no doubt realize that learning to appreciate other cultures and traditions is increasingly important in our interdependent world. You can stretch your understanding by working for local organizations that support international causes, attending events that celebrate other cultures or feature foreign artists or performers, traveling abroad, or participating in a world Scout jamboree.

World Scouting

The World Organization of the Scout Movement is an international Scout association of more than 28 million Scouts from 216 countries and territories. Its main goal is to promote the integrity and development of the Scout movement worldwide. The Boy Scouts of America is proud to be the one national Scout organization from the United States recognized as a member of the WOSM.

Every four years, the World Organization of the Scout Movement sponsors a **world Scout jamboree,** an international camping experience attended by tens of thousands of Scouts from all over the globe. These young people interact, develop friendships, and learn about other cultures. Jamboree-on-the-Internet takes place at the same time to enable other Scouts to participate in the jamboree experience.

The World Organization of the Scout Movement conducts its activities based on a constitution and has three principal parts.

The **World Scout Conference,** similar to the General Assembly in the United Nations, serves as the governing body of the WOSM. It is composed of all member Scout organizations. The World Scout Conference meets every three years. Each member is represented at the conference by a maximum of six delegates. Observers, like nongovernmental groups at the United Nations, may attend conferences if approved by Scout organizations.

The **World Scout Committee,** a 14-member committee, serves as the executive branch of the WOSM. This committee consists of 12 volunteers from different countries (each elected to a six-year term) plus the secretary-general (who is appointed by the World Scout Committee) and treasurer of the WOSM. The committee, which meets every two years, implements the resolutions of the World Scout Conference and acts on its behalf between conference meetings. The World Scout Committee members represent the interests of Scouting as a whole—not the interests of their own countries.

The **World Scout Bureau,** directed by the secretary-general, carries out the instructions of the World Scout Conference and the World Scout Committee.

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the World Scout Bureau also has regional offices: Africa Region, Arab Region, Asia Pacific Region, Eurasia Region, European Region, and Interamerican Region.

The World Organization of the Scout Movement reaches out to other international organizations to improve the lives of young people in developing nations. In cooperation with the World Bank, the WOSM helped to create a Children's and Youth Policy, which will affect millions of children—including Scouts in those countries.

As a member of the Boy Scouts of America, you have an exciting opportunity to participate in the global brotherhood of Scouting.

Reaching Out

You do not have to go far to have an international experience. Walk through the produce section in your local grocery store. You might be surprised that you cannot identify many of the fruits and vegetables from other countries. Perhaps you and your family could buy some international foods and make a special meal. You could learn to cook in the style of another culture or visit an ethnic restaurant.

Most communities hold special festivals throughout the year to celebrate a culture or holiday, such as Cinco de Mayo or Chinese New Year. You also can attend museum exhibits, storytelling conventions, concerts, and plays.

Hobbies like coin or stamp collecting can teach you about the history, heroes, architecture, achievements, and cultures of different countries. Find out more about a popular sport played in other countries—such as cricket or rugby.

Events such as this parade celebrating Japanese culture offer an exciting taste of the kaleidoscope of customs that exist in our world's many nations.

Learn a foreign language. At home or abroad, you will enjoy talking to people from another culture in their own language. In this era of global economic competition, your future employment may depend on your ability to speak a foreign language.

The U.S. Department of State and other organizations sponsor exchange programs for U.S. students to study abroad, or for foreign students to study in the United States. Find out if foreign exchange students attend your school and make a point to talk to them. Consider the possibility of going to school for a semester or a year in a foreign country. Nothing matches living in a foreign country for understanding the people's way of life.

With your parent's permission, explore the websites listed in the resources section at the back of this pamphlet. You will learn about the current events and international issues that concern policymakers, entrepreneurs, humanitarian groups, environmentalists, and diplomats everywhere. Pick a topic that interests you and find out about the organizations that deal with it. Perhaps your research will inspire you to consider a career that involves solving an international problem or improving the lives of people around the world.

The **Presidential Classroom** is a weeklong experience in Washington, D.C., where high school students have the opportunity to interact with foreign embassies, participate in seminars held at the State Department, the World Bank, and at the International Monetary Fund. Participants may choose topics from a variety of programs supported by different cabinet departments. The Future World Leaders Summit program brings international student leaders together to practice diplomacy skills and increase their understanding of different cultures.

Conclusion

Our world is changing at an astonishing pace. On the Internet, ideas flow instantaneously across national borders. Governments and diplomats can no longer control all information. Today, power belongs to the people who can process information quickly and accurately and ask the right questions. Now individuals can organize themselves to take action and quickly address the problems in the world.

Rapid globalization affects the world's economic, social, and political systems. As more countries participate in the free market system, competition increases. If Americans want to remain competitive in the global economy, they must develop their understanding of mathematics and science as well as specialized communications and technical skills. As the world becomes more interdependent, people will find themselves working on teams with people from other countries. Perhaps the greatest skill you can learn is how to listen to and cooperate with people from different cultures.

Citizens in democratic societies have the responsibility not only to obey the law, but also to be informed. Working on this merit badge is one of the best ways to "Be Prepared" for the challenges and opportunities you will face as a Scout and as a world citizen.

Resources

Scouting Literature

American Business, American Cultures, American Heritage, American Labor, Archaeology, Architecture, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Communications, Energy, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Science, Journalism, Law, Public Health, Soil and Water Conservation, and *Space Exploration* merit badge pamphlets

For more information about Scouting-related resources, visit the BSA's online retail catalog (with your parent's permission) at http://www.scoutstuff.org.

Books

Ammon, Royce J. *Global Television and the Shaping of World Politics: CNN, Telediplomacy, and Foreign Policy.* McFarland & Company, Inc., 2001.

Breuilly, Elizabeth and Joanne O'Brien, Martin Palmer, and Martin E. Marty. *Festivals of the World: The Illustrated Guide to Celebrations, Customs, Events and Holidays.* Checkmark Books, 2002.

Burgess, John. *World Trade: Exploring Business and Economics.* Chelsea House, 2001.

Canter, Laurence A., and Martha S. Siegel. *U.S. Immigration Made Easy.* 11th ed. Nolo, 2004.

Dresser, Norine. *Multicultural Manners: New Rules of Etiquette for a Changing Society.* Wiley, John & Sons, Inc., 1995.

Friedman, Thomas L. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree: Understanding Globalization.* Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1999.

Giddens, Anthony. *Runaway World: How Globalization Is Reshaping Our Lives.* Routledge, 2000.

Giesecke, Ernestine. *Governments Around the World.* Heinemann Library, 2000.

Janello, Amy, and Brennon Jones, eds. *A Global Affair: An Inside Look at the United Nations.* Jones & Janello, 1995.

Lewis, Barbara A., and Pamela Espeland. *Over 500 Service Ideas for Young People Who Want to Make a Difference.* Free Spirit Publishing, Inc., 1995.

Longworth, Richard C. *The Global Squeeze: The Coming Crisis for First-World Nations.* Contemporary Books, 1998.

Perkins, Ralf. *International Red Cross (World Organizations).* Franklin Watts, 2001.

Powell, Jillian. *World Health Organization (World Organizations).* Franklin Watts, 2001.

Power, Jonathan. *Like Water on Stone: The Story of Amnesty International.* Northeastern University Press, 2001.

Shpigler, Debra R. *How to Become a U.S. Citizen.* 5th ed. Peterson's, 2004.

Terraroli, Valerio. *Treasury of World Culture: Monumental Sites, UNESCO World Heritage.* Skira, 2004.

Turner, Barry, ed. *The Statesman's Yearbook: The Politics, Cultures and Economies of the World.* Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

Organizations and Websites

The American Academy of Diplomacy
1800 K St. NW, Suite 1014
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: 212-807-8400; 202-331-3721
Website:
http://www.academyofdiplomacy.org

American Institute for Foreign Study
River Plaza
9 West Broad St.
Stamford, CT 06902
Toll-free telephone: 866-906-2437
Website: http://www.aifs.org

Amnesty International USA
5 Penn Plaza
New York, NY 10001
Website: http://www.amnestyusa.org

British Broadcast Company
Website: http://www.bbc.co.uk

Cable News Network
Website: http://www.cnn.com

C-SPAN
Website: http://www.c-span.org

Embassy World
Website: http://www.embassyworld.com/embassy/inside_usa.htm

Federal Reserve Bank of New York: The Basics of Foreign Trade and Exchange
Website: http://www.ny.frb.org/education/fx/index.html

International and Foreign Law Tutorial
Website: http://library.kentlaw.edu/tutorials/IntlLaw_Tutorial/Intro.htm

International Committee of the Red Cross
Website: http://www.icrc.org

International Criminal Police Organization
Website: http://www.interpol.int

National Constitution Center
525 Arch St.
Independence Mall
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Toll-free telephone: 866-917-1787
Website:
http: www.constitutioncenter.org

The New York Times
Website: http://www.nytimes.com

Peace Corps
Website: http://www.peacecorps.gov

People to People International
World Headquarters
501 E. Armour Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64109-2200
Telephone: 816-531-4701
Website: http://www.ptpi.org

Presidential Classroom
119 Oronoco St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
Toll-free telephone: 800-441-6533
Website:
http://www.presidentialclassroom.org

Sister Cities International
1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 850
Washington, DC 20004
Telephone: 202-347-8630
Website: http://www.sister-cities.org

United Nations
UN Headquarters
760 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
Website: http://www.un.org

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Website: http://www.unesco.org

U.S. Agency for International Development
Information Center
Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, DC 20523-1000
Website: http://www.usaid.gov

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Website: http://uscis.gov

U.S. Department of State
Website: http://www.state.gov

U.S. Department of State Youth Exchange Programs
Youth Programs Division
U.S. Department of State, SA-44
301 Fourth St. SW, Room 568
Washington, DC 20547
Website: http://exchanges.state.gov/education/citizens/students

U.S. Embassies and Consulates
Website: http://usembassy.state.gov

The Wall Street Journal
Website: http://www.wsj.com

The Washington Post
Website:
http://www.washingtonpost.com

The World Factbook
Website: http://www.worldfactbook.com

World Health Organization
Website: http://www.who.int/en

World Organization of the Scout Movement
Website: http://www.scout.org

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Randy Piland—pages 12 and 88 *(right)*

MERIT BADGE LIBRARY

Though intended as an aid to Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and qualified Venturers and Sea Scouts in meeting merit badge requirements, these pamphlets are of general interest and are made available by many schools and public libraries. The latest revision date of each pamphlet might not correspond with the copyright date shown below, because this list is corrected only once a year, in January. Any number of merit badge pamphlets may be revised throughout the year; others are simply reprinted until a revision becomes necessary.

If a Scout has already started working on a merit badge when a new edition for that pamphlet is introduced, *he may continue to use the same merit badge pamphlet to earn the badge and fulfill the requirements therein.* In other words, the Scout need not start over again with the new pamphlet and possibly revised requirements.

Merit Badge Pamphlet	Year
American Business	2002
American Cultures	2005
American Heritage	2005
American Labor	2006
Animal Science	2006
Archaeology	2006
Archery	2004
Architecture and Landscape Architecture	2010
Art	2006
Astronomy	2010
Athletics	2006
Automotive Maintenance	2008
Aviation	2006
Backpacking	2007
Basketry	2003
Bird Study	2005
Bugling (*see* Music)	
Camping	2005
Canoeing	2004
Chemistry	2004
Chess	2011
Cinematography	2008
Citizenship in the Community	2005
Citizenship in the Nation	2005
Citizenship in the World	2005
Climbing	2011
Coin Collecting	2008
Collections	2008
Communication	2009
Composite Materials	2006
Computers	2009
Cooking	2007
Crime Prevention	2005
Cycling	2003
Dentistry	2006
Disabilities Awareness	2005
Dog Care	2003
Drafting	2008
Electricity	2004
Electronics	2004
Emergency Preparedness	2008
Energy	2005
Engineering	2008
Entrepreneurship	2006
Environmental Science	2006
Family Life	2005
Farm Mechanics	2008
Fingerprinting	2003
Fire Safety	2004
First Aid	2007
Fish and Wildlife Management	2004
Fishing	2009
Fly-Fishing	2009
Forestry	2005
Gardening	2002
Genealogy	2005
Geocaching	2010
Geology	2005
Golf	2002
Graphic Arts	2006
Hiking	2007
Home Repairs	2009
Horsemanship	2010
Indian Lore	2008
Insect Study	2008
Inventing	2010
Journalism	2006
Landscape Architecture (*see* Architecture)	
Law	2003
Leatherwork	2002
Lifesaving	2008
Mammal Study	2003
Medicine	2009
Metalwork	2007
Model Design and Building	2010
Motorboating	2008
Music and Bugling	2003
Nature	2003
Nuclear Science	2010
Oceanography	2009
Orienteering	2003
Painting	2008
Personal Fitness	2006
Personal Management	2003
Pets	2003
Photography	2005
Pioneering	2006
Plant Science	2005
Plumbing	2004
Pottery	2008
Public Health	2005
Public Speaking	2002
Pulp and Paper	2006
Radio	2008
Railroading	2003
Reading	2003
Reptile and Amphibian Study	2005
Rifle Shooting	2001
Robotics	2011
Rowing	2006
Safety	2006
Salesmanship	2003
Scholarship	2004
Scouting Heritage	2010
Scuba Diving	2009
Sculpture	2007
Shotgun Shooting	2005
Skating	2005
Small-Boat Sailing	2004
Snow Sports	2007
Soil and Water Conservation	2004
Space Exploration	2004
Sports	2006
Stamp Collecting	2007
Surveying	2004
Swimming	2008
Textile	2003
Theater	2005
Traffic Safety	2006
Truck Transportation	2005
Veterinary Medicine	2005
Water Sports	2007
Weather	2006
Welding	2012
Whitewater	2005
Wilderness Survival	2007
Wood Carving	2006
Woodwork	2011

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