

# ***Role of International Organizations in Conflicts of the Powers: Case Study in US-China Trade War and Ukraine-Russian War***

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**Abstract:** This work examines the capability of international organizations to maintain international order. Recent conflicts between the great powers that have attracted international attention illustrate the ineffectiveness of international organizations in coordinating international relations and resolving international disputes. This paper also proposes viable reform methods for critical international organizations based on the US-China trade and the Russian-Ukraine conflict. Regarding a trade war, the article evaluates the functions of the G20 during the US-China trade war and recommends the G20 focus on its actions and consensus consistency. In the case of military conflict, the article highlights the enhanced responsibility of the UN Security Council. It assesses the methods to strengthen its legitimacy by improving its ability to resolve disputes regarding international security. This study's suggestions for improvements in international organizations can help future researchers better analyze the role of international institutions in regulating great powers and the importance of global governance.

**Keywords:** international organizations, G20, UNSC, US-China trade war, Russian-Ukraine war, great powers

## **1. Introduction**

The realism-based assumption, which emphasizes national security and survival in the international community, has been one of the canonical theories in the study of International Relations. Its core idea of inevitable competition for interests and international anarchy may lead the countries to war rather than cooperation. However, conflicts between the great powers are likely to threaten the stability of the international environment and the interests of other countries. To some extent, the undesirable outcomes of the conflicts provided the impetus for finding ways to mitigate the global context of anarchy. After World War II, the incremental establishment of international organizations led by the United States showed the potential for achieving orderly international relations. In recent decades, the potential for conflict has increased as more actors have joined the

international arena and emerging powers have become prominent. Recent conflicts that have attracted international attention, for instance, the US-China trade war and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, illustrate the ineffectiveness of international organizations in coordinating international relations and resolving international disputes. Thus, in an unstable global situation, international organizations such as G20 and the United Nations Security Council should play significant roles in international relations by settling disputes and promoting cooperation.

This article intends to reassess the ability of international institutions to address significant power conflicts in terms of both trade and the use of force based on the cases of the US-China trade war and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. In the aspect of business, the article will first review the causes and feasible solutions of the US-China trade war in section one. The second section demonstrates that the G20, an informal international organization, potentially influences trade relations. Then, the article shifts to the military perspective — the Russian-Ukraine War. The final part presents the existing deficiencies, evaluates the functions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), and suggests some reform methods for the UNSC to resolve the conflicts better and promote cooperation between the great powers.

## **2. Understandings of the Trade War and Possible Ways to Cool Down**

One of the most representative examples of conflicts between great powers is the trade war between China and the US, which has attracted much attention in recent years. Unlike conventional wars, trade wars take place silently, with retaliation affecting each party and the world's markets in various ways. This section will first examine how such a 'silent war' is caused and how the threat to world markets can be mitigated by ending or cooling the conflict.

### **2.1. Background of the Trade War**

Between 2017-2018, the imposition of vicious tariffs by the US government worsened the already tense US-China trade relations into a trade war. In March 2018, the Trump administration imposed a significantly high tariff (25%) on about \$50 billion of Chinese goods. In retaliation, China responded with an even higher tax on American goods resulting in an escalation of the conflict between the top two trading countries in the world, with both sides being hunted by the dispute. According to Liu & Woo (2018), the number of tariffs imposed by China hit American agricultural exports so hard that the US government decided to pay farmers a subsidy of around \$12 billion to compensate for the losses [1]. On China's side, many believe that a full-blown trade war would undermine the country's hitherto successful export-oriented strategy because China relies on a vast trade surplus with the US. The uncertainty that resulted from trade has hit market sentiment and confidence [2].

However, a large-scale trade war would not only affect both sides' economic development but could also bring about an unsatisfactory situation that significantly impacts global economic development. For this reason, many scholars have paid close attention to the trade war, analyzed how the conflict between China and the US occurred, and made many suggestions about minimizing its impact on the global economy by the end of the trade war.

### **2.2. Causes of the Trade War**

Considering the economic activities between China and the US before the trade war, it is not difficult to conclude that there were lengthy trade disputes before the trade war happened. Since President Trump took office, the White House has taken a tough line on trade, particularly with China. By analyzing the various actions and economic decisions between the two countries, the following possible reasons for the trade war can be inferred.

### **2.2.1. Concerns about the Possibility That China's Large Trade Surplus with the US Will Suppress American Employment Rate and Opportunities**

It is clear that there is a more significant trade surplus in China than in the US almost all the time, and the gap is widening even today. In 2017, the US ran a trade deficit; at times, half of that deficit was due to trade with China. In addition, by analyzing the structure of each country's exports, it can also be noted that final goods account for a more significant proportion of China's imports to the US. It is not hard to imagine that this has been unkind to America's low-skilled workers. This will significantly reduce their competitiveness in the labor market, and those still in employment will also risk losing their jobs.

### **2.2.2. Concerns about Technology Transfer**

Many scholars have focused on this issue when studying the trade conflict. Many mention that when a foreign company wants to enter the Chinese market, the company will be asked to set up production facilities in a joint venture in China with a large state-owned enterprise (one with close ties to the government) as an "entry ticket" to the market [1]. This requirement may not be entirely reasonable, but most companies operating for profit will accept it for the more significant business prospects offered by the Chinese market. As mentioned above, Chinese exports of sophisticated high-tech products to the US are not a tiny part of its trade surplus, which may have alerted the US.

### **2.2.3. Concerns about National Security Issues Arising from Economic Disputes**

Before entering into each transaction, the US explicitly considered the possibility that any commodity would be a kind of threat to America. For this reason, many countries must consider the possibility of one side of the world acquiring more advanced technology to gain higher status, and even fear that they will be threatened. The US is no exception. In addition, some actions by Chinese companies have raised doubts in the US about this possibility. Therefore, the US treats China as a potential threat rather than a potential partner [1].

### **2.2.4. Closing the Federal Budget Deficit**

According to Kapustina et al., the budget deficit was affected by the tax cut in December 2017, increasing the US deficit to approximately USD 21 trillion [3]. Raising tariffs effectively allows the US to raise additional revenue to cover its still-rising budget deficit. However, such a targeted imposition of tariffs on China must be viewed as a consequence of the abovementioned issues.

## **2.3. Possible Solutions to End the Trade War**

Many scholars believe that the trade disputes between China and the US, as two major countries, will affect each other's economies and worldwide trade. The adverse effects on the world are related to import tariffs. Li, He, & Lin reported that by taking the 60% reciprocal import tariff trade war as an example, the total world welfare, GDP, manufacturing employment, and trade would decrease individually by -0.015%, -0.277%, -0.655%, and -1.911% [4]. Therefore, it is necessary to solve the trade war. Here are some suggestions made in response to the above questions.

### **2.3.1. Address Excessive Trade Surpluses and Job Losses**

There may be other ways for the US to increase its trade surplus rather than excessively targeting imported Chinese goods. For example, the US could encourage advanced industries by increasing welfare subsidies to balance the composition of its import and export trade with China or promote

research and development of new technologies. Additionally, the technological progress that can aid and be put back into production lines would effectively increase the output and quality of goods. Still, this method will work better in the long run. The improvement in products could also help exports from the US to gain higher competitiveness in the global market. The US could train or encourage the education of low-skilled workers to increase their employment choices and productivity.

### **2.3.2. To Solve the Problem of Technology Transfer**

About US concerns about China's technological advances, good, fair, and peaceful learning between countries is encouraged. However, forced technology transfers are not a suitable market for foreign investment entering the Chinese market. Intellectual property rights, the World Trade Organization (WTO), and other international institutions may help this situation rather than aggravating already poor trade relations by imposing tariffs. It is worth noting that the WTO is not very specific about the rules required to enter a market. Therefore, the WTO, to prevent potential conflicts from happening and also to benefit its work, should provide more clarity on this point. In addition, another primary reason the US has been unable to solve the problem is that American companies are too heavily influenced by the Chinese market and its potential benefit to band together to resist demands from China [1]. They also suggest that the US needs more regulation in this area.

### **2.3.3. National Security Issues**

National security is a prudent measure every government takes to protect its interests. Still, excessive protectionism can also jeopardize a country's multilateral economic and trade development and potential loss of trade partners. In their 2018 study, Liu & Woo suggested that competition from other countries energized the US technology sector. While the immediate future shows no profit, playing the long game would bring success for both sides [1]. Therefore, the US may benefit more from reducing tariffs than increasing them.

### **2.3.4. Federal Budget Deficit**

There are many ways to close the budget deficit besides tariffs. Instead of tariffs alone, the US could close its deficit by cutting welfare benefits internally or raising taxes. It would also be helpful to put a reasonable and practical tariff system in place or use other trade protection measures, such as quotas. Still, they cannot be relied upon to compensate for the deficit.

### **2.3.5. Political Issues**

From a political standpoint, any move by Chinese leaders to agree with the US is seen as damaging to China's national interests [5]. That makes it harder for both sides to agree, Sun. The detente between China and the US requires technical negotiations and firm political resolve. With strong political will, reaching an agreement should be easy.

The trade war between US and China was not a one-off decision but a long-planned one stemming from a far-reaching trade dispute between the US and China. This section first provides a comprehensive understanding of the causes of the US-China trade war and then offers potential implications for both sides to mitigate the tension. Under the background of connected economic relations, increasing tariffs is not the best way to solve the existing problems. It will hurt both sides and the world. The benefits of ending the trade war are more significant and longer-term than what the US seeks from the trade war itself. Furthermore, influential countries should consider

shouldering the responsibility to establish harmonious diplomacy and trade to impact the world positively. To resolve the trade war, international organizations and their mediation are expected to be essential.

### **3. G20: Roles, Obstructions, and Suggestions**

In the face of significant power conflicts and trade wars with China and the United States as the core, all international organizations have failed to develop a completely satisfactory model for stopping trade wars and growing the economy. The trade war between China and the United States has caused enormous international economic losses and made us rethink the role and effectiveness of international law and international organizations in addressing these issues.

The G20 is the only significant international organization that has allowed a 90-day buffer period for trade wars and prevented things from becoming irreversible. At their latest summit in 2022, the two presidents' meeting also strengthened the chances of maintaining communication and ending the war. This section will start with a brief introduction to the G20 and its importance and discuss its two main missions and successful experiences; secondly, point out three reasons why it has not played a satisfactory role in the trade war; finally, based on other existing literature and research, it will give some suggestions for further reform and improvement.

#### **3.1. Introduction of the G20**

According to the latest research, the G20 or Group of Twenty, founded in 1999, comprises 19 countries and the EU. G20 works to address significant issues such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development. The G20 includes most of the world's largest economies [6].

While China and the United States are at the center of the trade war, some dynamics could pluralize U.S.-China relations by involving other actors. Within the G-20 grouping — which accounts for around 80% of the gross world product, there are opportunities for change, according to the article G20 and Its Importance in Today's World [7].

McBride, J. pointed out in the paper What Does the G20 Do? The council on Foreign Relations establishing the G20 mechanism is closely related to the standard will and initiative of China and the United States [6]. The close cooperation between the two countries has played a vital role in improving the mechanism.

At its 2009 summit, which established the G20, it declared itself the primary venue for international economic and financial cooperation. The group's stature has risen during the subsequent decade, and analysts recognize it as exercising considerable global influence; it is also criticized for its limited membership, lack of enforcement powers, and the alleged undermining of existing international institutions. Summits are often met with protests, mainly by anti-globalization groups.

#### **3.2. Roles of G20 and Past Successful Experience**

##### **3.2.1. G20 Deepens Friendship and Consolidates the Circle of Friends in Foreign Exchanges**

As Juha Jokela mentioned in the paper "The G-20: A Pathway to Effective Multilateralism?", the G20 Summit is an essential platform for building relations between major countries and promoting international multilateral cooperation [8]. The Osaka Summit allowed countries to resolve trade disputes and engage in multilateral diplomacy.

Shortly after the trade war began, the G20 summit provided a platform for telephone communication between President Xi Jinping and President Trump. The talks between them have

allowed buffering of the trade war and temporarily avoided further deterioration. In today's increasingly integrated global economy, we can only expand and consolidate the circle of friends in diplomacy and trade by abandoning the zero-sum mentality and being good friends and partners in international exchanges.

### **3.2.2. Members of G20 Work Together to Write a New Chapter in International Governance**

Since 2008, emerging economies, especially China, have made outstanding contributions to institutionalizing the global response to the crisis, stabilizing the global financial turmoil triggered by the economic problems in the United States and Europe, and gradually reviving the world economy.

The current momentum of global economic recovery is not stable, and emerging countries are also encountering difficulties. Countries have different views on the means to boost growth. Some advocate countries with room to use fiscal policy to boost global demand, while others emphasize fiscal discipline and supply-side reform. Western countries also have inconsistent monetary policies. The new situation calls for a new consensus. The Hangzhou summit is expected to see the world's significant economies agree on fiscal and monetary policies and structural reforms to achieve "strong, sustainable, and balanced growth."

As the world's second and most significant economy, policy coordination between China and the United States is crucial to global economic growth. It will be interesting to see whether China and the US can set the tone for a multilateral consensus to promote global economic rebalancing.

In June 2016, in Beijing, during the eighth round of the china-us strategic and economic dialogue, the two sides realized the structural reforms to maintain the importance of the two countries and the world economic growth. China promised to moderately expand aggregate demand while strengthening the structural reforms' supply side. The US commitment to normalizing monetary policy fully considers spillover effects on the international financial market, making policies more transparent and predictable.

### **3.3. Obstructions of G20 During the US-China Trade War**

#### **3.3.1. External Influences**

As an informal international organization, G20 is not a regime with actual sovereignty and coercive power to determine the international political and economic environment. Frequent outbreaks of COVID-19 and wars characterize the international situation, and the global economy is under downward pressure, which has been further damaged by close international trade [4]. The international community is generally faced with inflation or deflation, the stagnation of economic growth, while the consumption index increases. Global financial liquidity has weakened, and trade protectionism and anti-globalization trends have emerged and developed. Now more than ever, countries must ensure the stability of their national interests and economies. This also allows us to understand the behavior of other countries in joining the trade war after the beginning of the trade war between China and the United States.

#### **3.3.2. National Purpose and National Conditions**

G20 cannot quickly and effectively change the overall situation of a country in the current dire economic situation.

The United States

Faced with a trade deficit, the United States hopes that the world will provide economic support and that international organizations and treaties will attract and harvest global wealth through



economic means. But at the same time, due to enormous financial pressure and the difficulties of people's lives at the micro level, the influence of racism, populism, and trade protectionism in the United States continued to recover. It even withdrew from some international economic organizations, significantly weakening the binding force of such organizations as the G20. As a maritime and capitalist civilization, the United States is inherently expansionary and faces capital outflow pressure due to its trade deficit with China. These situations are challenging to resolve and cannot be interfered much by international law and international organizations.

#### China

As the largest exporter of manufactured and manual goods, China runs a general trade surplus with the rest of the world, keeps commodity prices low through cheap labor, and has active foreign trade and sizeable foreign currency inflows. Outward exports hit domestic firms and markets in other countries.

However, faced with the adverse factors of the epidemic and bad relations with the United States and other countries, China's export trade has been dramatically affected. Ocean transportation was almost interrupted for a time; the epidemic blockade led to a significant decline in the output of the same level of labor, the lack of stability and sustainability of production, the continuous rise of costs, and the reduction of sales channels. Political and national systems affect economic performance, and trade protection measures such as massive order cancellations and even huge tariffs begin to appear in the international market.

Another core of the trade war between China and the United States is the struggle for international status and hegemony. Considering the future global discourse power and long-term protection of its interests and other purposes, the United States hopes to suppress dissenters and maintain its international domination. But China still wants to keep growing and, based on current data models, has a strong chance of overtaking the US in terms of economic size, leading to conflicts of interest and status. Given the limited international market and consumption capacity, seeking new economic growth areas is urgent through international exchanges. The G20 needs to make further efforts in this regard.

### **3.3.3. The Working Mode and Implementation of G20 Are Not Enough**

Same as Yaohui Wang wrote in his article *The Prospect of China-US Trade Negotiations: A Return to Rationality and the Argentine Consensus*. As an informal governmental organization, too much G-20 activity is insider baseball [9]. It has no right to interfere in the internal affairs of countries. It cannot guarantee the implementation of actions or the fulfillment of agreements through coercive force after giving advice or reaching a consensus. This is also a common problem faced by all international organizations, and there is no doubt that there are no more monitoring and resolution mechanisms in the conference process [3]. Finally, the lack of sincerity at the G20 meeting will further drag down the organization's ability to implement and influence, making it challenging to produce exciting and significant results under the current circumstances.

## **3.4. Suggestions and Improvements**

### **3.4.1. Suggestions for G20**

After reviewing the articles and reform proposals of the G20, I have the following suggestions for the G20: First, less focus on words and more focus on actions. The G-20 can become a platform for ministers to act, not only to feed ideas to their leaders and wait for them to work. Secondly, according to the research *Strengthening the G-20 in an era of great power geopolitical competition* [10], G20 should connect with people more. Senior political advisers to G-20 heads of government need to involve themselves in summits, and G20 need to exert more significant influence to

reconnect their leaders to their public by managing the G-20 communications processes that are relevant and meaningful to citizens and social issues. Last but not least, consistency and follow-through are problematic as the hosting country changes. Continuity could be improved by creating a small but effective secretariat to tease up for leaders to communicate, monitor, and evaluate.

### **3.4.2. Suggestions for US and China**

In another respect, resolving international conflicts also depends on the efforts of China and the United States, and acceptance and tolerance of differences are still the starting point.

First, in terms of international politics and diplomacy, the two countries should strengthen communication on bilateral trade negotiations on the occasion of the G20 summit between China and the United States to bring China and the United States back to the “Argentine summit consensus.” [11].

In economy and trade, improve statistical methods for China-US trade to fairly and impartially show the value gained by the two countries, including work in services, tourism, and study abroad. China can increase its trade purchases from the US, and the US should ease the export of high-tech products to China and lift the crackdown on Chinese high-tech enterprises to mitigate the negative impact of China-US trade frictions.

In terms of international law and organizations, improve the rules for implementing the Foreign Investment Law, increase the attraction of foreign investment, and respond to US concerns about China’s legal issues. China has strengthened measures to implement IPR protection and intensified efforts to crack down on infringement. Continue to uphold the multilateral trading mechanism and promote WTO reform through multilateral cooperation. Regarding culture and low-level diplomacy, vigorously carry out “state-level diplomacy” and actively strengthen collaboration with U.S. and municipal governments. Finally, promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Above all, the G20 is a large international organization that has taken practical actions to reduce the damage of the trade war during the China-US trade war. It is hoped that the study of G20 will deepen people’s understanding of informal international organizations and enhance their importance in people’s minds as a reasonable and considered solution to international disputes.

## **4. Assessment of the UNSC and Methods of Reform**

The perspective of this article will then shift from the trade war to the military conflict between major powers. As a great example, the Russian-Ukrainian Military War has been an ongoing and festering military war since 2022. Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine has led to mass deaths and met widespread international condemnation. However, it represents a territorial issue for Russia and a battle between Russia and western countries led by the United States. Thus, international organizations must take responsibility for conflict resolution and cooperation between superpowers such as Russia and the United States.

Due to several global crises, such as pandemic disease, climate change, and armed conflicts, international cooperation is facing challenges. The United Nations, as the most influential multilateral forum of the world representing universal interests, is expected to resolve disputes and manage global order. However, in the face of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the UN has taken several measures but has not effectively stopped the fight. In this context, one of the central bodies of the United Nations, the Security Council, needs to play its role in maintaining international peace and security. The UN Charter defined the responsibilities of UNSC: “its members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf” [12].



## **4.1. Background of the United Nations Security Council**

The UN Security Council is authorized to impose binding obligations to its members with negotiations, sanctions, and force of arms. It comprises five permanent members and ten temporary members elected every two years. The P5, including China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, has veto power in making resolutions to ensure the use of the world body is not violating the interests of the countries considered significant [13]. However, some argue that the structure of the UNSC, except for one expansion of the temporary membership since its establishment, has been outdated and needs to be reformed. Therefore, the UN Security Council must be reformed to better resolve disputes among great powers and promote transnational cooperation. Expanding a limited number of permanent UNSC members and adding non-permanent members would be the most feasible method to reform UNSC.

## **4.2. Weaknesses of the UN Security Council**

### **4.2.1. Lack of Global Representation**

One of the UNSC's controversial weaknesses is its lack of global representation. According to Federal Foreign Office, the Council must be representative, which means to be empowered and legitimate, for better respect and implementation of the resolutions by all countries [14]. The existing permanent members of the Security Council are the victors of World War II and are essential to the world in the post-war era. However, the defeated countries of WWII have no permanent seats, even though they are influential in the international community today. Besides, the lack of representation from regions such as Africa and Latin America makes the Council inconsistent with contemporary geopolitics. Outdated powers can no longer manage on behalf of global interests today. Therefore, there is a need to enhance the representativeness of the Council by offering permanent seats, in particular, to other leading countries to make resolutions.

### **4.2.2. Illegitimacy in Resolving Disputes among P5**

Another reason for UNSC reform is its incapability to handle the conflicts among the great powers. During the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the Council was deadlocked and rarely took action due to the constraints of the two great powers. Furthermore, there's no solution to Syria's civil war due to disagreements among the P5. More importantly, abuse of the veto, especially by Russia and the U.S., threatens international stability. Russia has used veto multiple times to get rid of the pressure from the UN's scrutiny over its operations in Ukraine or protection of its allies, for example, the Syrian regime [15] which eventually led to the Russian-Ukraine War. The abuse of the veto by the P5 and their competing interests in making resolutions have weakened the effectiveness and legitimacy of the Council.

## **4.3. Existing Proposals to Reform UNSC**

### **4.3.1. Expanding the Permanent Memberships**

There are several proposals to reform the UNSC, and expansion of the permanent membership is the most popular, as it would bring the Council's membership more in line with contemporary international geopolitics, increase the representation of all regions of the world, and weaken the excessive influence of major powers on the veto. A resolution to reform the Security Council was drafted by G4, which are Germany, India, Brazil, and Japan, in 2005 to add "six new permanent members to the Security Council (two seats each for Asia and Africa and one seat for the Western European and Others Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Group respectively)" [16]. G4

are the most competitive countries for permanent seats due to their considerable influence in today's international community. Specifically, Germany, "as the fourth-largest contributor, a leading provider of development aid and also a major player in many areas of the UN's work" [16], desires a permanent seat in the Security Council. However, it costs the chance to have the veto with its defeat in WWII. Germany's role in the world has also changed fundamentally from a defeated country to a staunch advocate of international cooperation. Such transformation gives it a reason to be one of the representatives of world interests.

Other underrepresented regions, such as Africa, seek permanent seats on the Security Council. Even though Africa has a large population and land in the world, it still lacks the stature to make essential decisions in the Council. Africa's permanent membership can strengthen UN governance of the Global South and increase the representation of the African continent in the UNSC. Adding the permanent seats not only renews the status of the world's great powers but also increases the opportunities for regions worldwide to defend their interests rather than being represented by a few countries on their behalf.

However, the existing great powers in permanent memberships may make limited concessions to such reform. As Hosli and Dörfler stated, France and the United Kingdom cautiously support the expansion of the Council's memberships, but China, Russia, and the US oppose any reform of the Council [17]. As P5 have become accustomed to their privileges in the Council, the additional permanent seats will reduce their influence in making decisive decisions to affect the world. If the permanent memberships increase, the great powers will be better checked and balanced, and the veto power will be weakened. In this case, Russia may be fearful of a growing number of world powers and make prudent choices about war by limiting its military operations in Ukraine.

#### **4.3.2. Adding the Non-permanent Members**

The second proposal is to add temporary seats to the Security Council to represent more world regions and coordinate Council members to reach a consensus. The G4 draft resolution in 2005 also suggested adding "four or five non-permanent members to the Security Council (one seat each for Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and one or two seats for Africa)" [16]. The additional seats should speak for broader geographic interests, such as Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Despite being less influential in decision-making than permanent members, expanding temporary seats would better contribute to UNSC's agenda.

Not only does it increase global representation, but expanding temporary seats can also play a role in achieving greater consensus in the face of disputes among permanent members [18]. They act as intermediaries between the members electing them and the permanent powers who can veto all resolutions. They are responsible for making prudent and reconcilable proposals to represent universal interests. Additional non-permanent members may enhance the ability to coordinate members' interests and accelerate the resolution process.

However, due to structural defects, a short two-year term of the elected seats restricts them from making more effective decisions on their behalf. In contrast, the permanent seats have longer tenure to have more influence on global decisions. Nonetheless, this proposal is easier to be accepted by the great powers because of less harm to their status. When a growing number of countries can make decisions for their interests, they are more likely to vote for the proposals that maintain international peace and security, even if they can't shake the veto.

#### **4.3.3. Supermajority to Overturn a Veto**

A supermajority to override the veto is the third proposal for reforming the UNSC to weaken the veto power. It would be a breakthrough enabling the Council members to make decisions vetoed by

the permanent members but representing the interests of most countries. It was argued by Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein that "a three-quarters or seven-eighths vote in the General Assembly should be sufficient to override a permanent member's veto" [19]. If a proposal positively impacts the international community and benefits most countries, it will be endorsed by many Council members. However, to maintain international peace, it is necessary to override the veto power of a permanent member bent on representing only its interests and undermining the international order. For instance, Russia used the veto to avoid UN interference in its military operations in Ukraine. In this case, the proposals Russia vetoed in favor of international security should be re-voted by overturning Russia's veto.

The proposal has a good vision while preserving the interests of the majority of non-represented members and limiting the veto power of the permanent members. It is also a revolutionary proposal since it may change the decisions vetoed by the permanent members, which have been impossible to overturn. However, the obstacles to this proposal would be even more significant: it is the change to the UN Charter and needs the approval of two-thirds of UN members, including the permanent members. The permanent members are unlikely to concede on the veto and be consciously bound by the Council.

#### **4.4. Recommendations**

Overall, overturning the veto by a supermajority of the Council members would be the most practical proposal to reform UNSC. The ban has uncertainty in the abuse of the great powers. Such power may represent permanent members' absolute authority and small countries' powerlessness in decision-making. This proposal protects the interests of unrepresented nations and prevents the disruption of the international order caused by the arbitrary actions of the major powers. Compared to the other two proposals expanding memberships to get the great powers to reduce the number of vetoes used consciously, this proposal allows non-permanent members to make decisions on their initiative, effectively weakening the veto power and strengthening the legitimacy of the Council. If this reform method is implemented, the proposal on Ukraine vetoed by Russia will be reopened. UNSC may sanction Russia because of the weakened veto power and the will of most UN members. Nonetheless, limited expansion in permanent and additional temporary seats with increasing regional representation would be the most feasible but to reform the UN Security Council. The existing great powers tolerate increased Council representation only in temporary seats. Increasing the number of non-permanent seats would better address the under-representation of regions and more effectively propose and deliver proposals that benefit the global community by coordinating the interests among the Council members.

Furthermore, adding a limited number of new great powers, such as G4, in the permanent seats will be more acceptable for the existing permanent members and better facilitate cooperation among the significant authorities. Renewed great powers in permanent seats would be more in line with contemporary geopolitics so that UNSC can limit the veto abuse with checks and balances and enable the excellent capabilities to negotiate for their interests and jointly maintain international order. Therefore, the UNSC's goals of maintaining international peace and security would be better interpreted after the reform. With more respect from members and better implementation, the Council will also have greater legitimacy.

#### **4.5. Security Council Reform Linkages with Other International Organizations in Trade**

A reformed UNSC can promote cooperation among its members to find solutions for the global economy. The reform of the Council has strengthened its power and legitimacy so that its members will propose and implement more effective agendas to address the global economic problems

caused by the U.S.-China trade war. Additional seats and representation in the permanent and non-permanent memberships reflect a balance of power and constraint on the great powers such as China and the United States. The renewed great authorities in the permanent membership would negotiate and cooperate to cope with international economic issues. The temporary members will help the members reach a consensus on financial solutions. Moreover, reform enables to overturn of the veto against a proposal making the world economy more prosperous by a supermajority of members.

Additionally, reform of the Security Council and other international organizations like WTO and G20 would enhance the importance of international organizations in managing international relations and their effectiveness in promoting cooperation. The illegitimacy of these international organizations is closely related to unilateral action by states rather than multilateral cooperation on global platforms. The excessive power of members in international organizations such as the UNSC and G20 has weakened their ability to resolve disputes between major powers and reduced the likelihood of cooperation. In this context, the most critical reform approach is multilateral negotiation and collaboration to prevent unilateral actions from undermining international peace. Consensus reached by the major powers in international organizations, whether governing international trade or security, will better resolve international disputes and bring peace and prosperity to the world.

## 5. Conclusion

This article has explored the potential for international organizations to enhance their capability in settling international disputes, especially between the great powers, and support interstate cooperation. Based on the US-China trade and the recent Russian-Ukraine conflict, this research proposes viable reform methods for critical international organizations. In the aspect of a trade war, the responsibility of informal international organizations should be considered. The article evaluates the functions of the G20 during the US-China trade war. It recommends that the G20 needs to play a more critical role in outstanding power disputes by focusing on its actions and consensus consistency.

In the case of military conflict, the article highlights the enhanced responsibility of the UN Security Council. To better maintain international peace and security, the UNSC must strengthen its legitimacy by improving its ability to resolve disputes regarding global security. The veto power should be limited to promote international negotiations and cooperation. The extent to which reforms can be achieved depends on the time to which concessions by significant authorities are possible.

Although international institutions still need to fulfill their role as effective agents to manage interstate activities in these case studies, we still believe that the global governance framework is essential to maintain the international order and that reforms are required to improve its functioning. Negotiations among states on those reforms are necessary to leave more room for international cooperation to reshape institutions that can be more reliable in the future. Furthermore, international organizations must keep their relative independence and act as neutral mediators, thus restoring confidence in transnational cooperation to prevent international conflicts.

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