

— TOP TAKEAWAYS —  
**A Real World Primer On the United Nations**  
By Claudia Rosett



**THE UN HAS A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON OUR LIVES**

- The victorious powers founded the UN at the end of World War II, with a noble goal on which the UN has failed to deliver: “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”
- The UN influences policy on many fronts, from economic development, to debates on climate, matters of war, peace, and nuclear proliferation.
- The UN supports central planning with its “development goals” and aid programs often carried out by despotic governments whose misrule keeps their own people poor.

**UN FAILINGS TRACE BACK TO FUNDAMENTAL FLAWS IN ITS DESIGN**

- The UN is not accountable to any coherent legal jurisdiction or any genuinely empowered constituency of voters. There is no mechanism for reliably enforcing UN compliance with its own charter.
- Too often, the UN has actively undermined basic freedoms and human rights, among other world-impacting failings.
- The UN legitimizes dictators, giving them membership, voting rights, and seats in the General Assembly, alongside democratic peace-loving governments.

**THE UN IS MORE OFTEN A HINDRANCE TO THE U.S. THAN A HELP**

- While the UN likes to claim credit for world progress and relative peace since WWII, it is America that has been the real leader of progress and bulwark of peace and freedom, maintained over many decades at great personal and financial cost to Americans.
- It was America, not the UN, that won the Cold War. And it is America, not the UN, that is seriously grappling today with such predatory dictatorships as China, Russia, Iran and North Korea.
- In the General Assembly, the voting coincidence of the UN’s other 192 member states has been dismally low (for instance, in 2017 it was a mere 31 percent). In navigating today’s increasingly perilous global landscape, the UN is more often a hindrance to the U.S. than a help.

Read the full policy focus and learn more about the United Nations at [iwf.org](http://iwf.org).