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Research Guide Series

The United Nations

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United Nations

The United Nations was officially established on 24 October 1945, its Charter being signed by 51 original member states. Today, UN membership totals 192 countries. When States become Members of the United Nations, they agree to accept the obligations of the UN Charter, an international treaty that sets out basic principles of international relations.

The UN Security Council has primary responsibility, under the Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is so organized as to be able to function continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at United Nations Headquarters. The council has 5 permanent members (the United Kingdom, the United States, Russian Federation, China and France) and 10 non-permanent members. The latter are elected by the General Assembly for two year terms.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on the United Nations. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available

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