

THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND THE SECURITY COUNCILS  
PERPETUATION OF INEQUALITY  
BETWEEN NATIONS



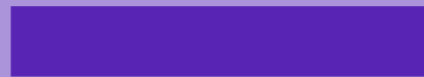
THE UNITED NATIONS

# 01

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POLICY

# FOREIGN AFFAIRS



# THE IMPACT OF INSTITUTIONS ON PERPETUATING NEO-COLONIAL INEQUALITIES AND INACCESSIBILITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

By Vriddhi Khattar and Fabienne Bull

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*Located in the historic town of Kenilworth in the heart of Warwickshire, The Cross is an award-winning pub that combines Michelin-starred food with a welcoming, relaxed atmosphere. Under the guidance of chef-owner Andreas Antona and head chef Adam Bennett, they have held a Michelin star for over six years and are proud to boast three AA Rosettes. They received a Good Food Award Gold Seal in 2021. The Cross is housed in a Grade II listed 19th-century inn and has been sympathetically restored to retain its heritage alongside contemporary touches that make it a fabulous place to enjoy great food, a casual atmosphere, and informal but attentive service. During the pandemic, Andreas launched a nationwide meal delivery service, inspired by dishes served at The Cross and its sister restaurant Simpsons in Edgbaston. He is now building on its success with the launch of Soko Patisserie, producing ethical, artisan chocolate and Antona Bespoke catering services.*

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# BRIEFING NOTE

This section focuses upon the impact institutions have in perpetuating neo-colonial inequalities and inaccessibility in the 21st century. The briefing summarises key elements contributing towards this perpetuation, with an intended inclusion of both a range of institutions and global regions.

## OVERVIEW

The structure of international institutions places an inherent emphasis upon neo-colonial practices, and the rigid nature of these systems creates a path dependency that curtails the possibility of decreases in inequality and increases of accessibility within these arenas. It is also worth noting that economic inequalities for the most part have a cyclical relationship with neo-colonial inequalities where some neo-colonial practices promote development in social collectives that largely side and account for such practices, while those that are averse face an ostracisation on the global level thereby receding development rates and deepening inequalities not only within countries but also across borders.

Our research highlights problems that have perpetuated neo-colonial inequalities over time. This includes, but is not limited to:

- The very framework of International Organisations such as the UN have structural impacts that exacerbate inequalities
- The United Nations through its framework of the P5 nations alongside its links with IMF and the World Bank tips a lot of decisions in the favour of its major investors thus defeating the point of equality between its member nations
- Neo-colonial frameworks such as corruption and distributive policies in economic institutions perpetuate inequalities
- Globalisation creates economic and social divides through hegemony other tactics that control development in the political economy

## STRUCTURAL IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The inclusion of five permanent members within the UN Security Council undermines the intended equality the UN should provide.

- The P5 can veto any resolution suggested to the Security Council, allowing them to block any actions considered disadvantageous to them or their allies.
- Despite unlawfully annexing Crimea in 2014, the UN failed to adopt the draft resolution urging countries to not recognise results of the referendum due to Russia's veto.<sup>1</sup>
- Russia and China both vetoed the renewal of resolution 2165- a resolution that provided critical humanitarian aid via Turkey to north-western Syria.<sup>2</sup> Russia argues aid should be channelled instead through its ally; Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, despite analysts believing that the Damascus government restricts the flow of aid into the areas held by their opponents.<sup>3</sup>
- Over 190 resolutions have been vetoed since the Security Council first met in 1946, meaning over 190 potential changes have been blocked by just five states.<sup>4</sup>

'Would be states' are unable to gain full membership status because of P5 prejudice.

- The General Assembly can only admit new states to the institution if the state in question has received a favourable recommendation from the Security Council. This requires 9 affirmative votes but must have the agreement of each P5 member.
- Despite Taiwan arguably possessing all necessary qualifications as provided within the Montevideo Convention criteria for statehood, the CCP's 'one China policy' makes Taiwan's becoming of even a spectator state essentially impossible.<sup>5</sup>
- Palestine has been accorded a non-member observer State status in the UN, but face opposition from both the US and Israel and unless the US changes its position and agrees to back a Palestinian UN membership bid, it will never gain full membership.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations. 'UN Security Council action on Crimea referendum blocked'. UN News, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2014/03/464002-un-security-council-action-crimea-referendum-blocked>. Published 15/03/13, accessed 02/11/21.

<sup>2</sup> Amnesty International UK. 'Syria: millions at risk after Russia and China 'callously' block UN aid'. Amnesty International UK, [https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/syria-millions-risk-after-russia-and-china-callously-block-un-aid?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=grant&utm\\_campaign=BRD\\_AWA\\_GEN\\_dynamic-search-ads&utm\\_content=](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/syria-millions-risk-after-russia-and-china-callously-block-un-aid?utm_source=google&utm_medium=grant&utm_campaign=BRD_AWA_GEN_dynamic-search-ads&utm_content=). Published 10/01/20, accessed 02/11/21.

<sup>3</sup> BBC. 'Syria: Russia and China veto last-ditch aid extension deal'. BBC World News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-53370890>. Published 10/06/20, accessed 02/11/21.

<sup>4</sup> Weiss, G. T and Kuele, G. 'The Veto: Problems and Prospects'. E-International Relations, <https://www.e-ir.info/2014/03/27/the-veto-problems-and-prospects/>. Published 27/03/14, accessed 02/11/21.

<sup>5</sup> Capuano, M. 'The P5: An Abuse of Power'. MJIL, Volume 37, <http://www.mjionline.org/the-p5-an-abuse-of-power/>. Accessed 02/11/21.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations.(2013) 'Status of Palestine in the United Nations'. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-182149/>

**The lack of consideration of cultural differences in the drafting of international human rights charters has meant certain regions have reduced accessibility to the protection these charters should provide.**

- A lack of consideration of cultural relativity within charters created by international institutions allows greater scope for regions to ignore or re-interpret international human rights agreements.
- China has detained over 1 million people of the Uyghur Muslim minority, abusing human rights to such an extent their actions could largely be considered as genocidal, yet it justifies such abuses under the pretext of countering terrorism, and the communist priority of protecting the rights of the collective over the rights of the individual.<sup>7</sup>
- Despite being a UN member, the Belarus government has been rapidly curtailing women's civic and political rights, insisting that their actions are 'aimed at preserving order and protecting the rights of all citizens'<sup>8</sup>. The state is now largely authoritarian, and the UDHC it ratified has done nothing to protect the victims of recent crackdowns.<sup>9</sup>

**The narrow and 'one-size-fits-all' frameworks used as templates for enabling the development of United Nation member states perpetuate neo-colonial notions**

- Development-based resolutions create a dependency of developing states upon the developed, as they lack consideration of cultural differences and force the developing states to follow the policies and practices of the most powerful states in the UN (the P5).
- The Millennium Development MDGs introduced in 2000 have restricted the ways through which Africa has been able to develop by encouraging a Western-led reform that leaves little scope for contextualisation and forces the continent to conform to the ideals of the powerful.

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<sup>7</sup> BBC.(2021) 'Who are the Uyghurs and why is China being accused of a genocide'. BBC World news, China, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-22278037>.

<sup>8</sup> UN. (2021) 'Human rights in Belarus continue downward spiral, warns Bachelet'. UN News, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1101102>.

<sup>9</sup> IndustriAll.(2020) 'Belarus- human rights must be respected'. IndustriAll Global Union, <http://www.industrial-all-union.org/belarus-human-rights-must-be-respected>.

## **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND INSTITUTIONS**

**Research surrounding Economic Inequality differs in its outcome-based results due to differing definitions**

- The way researchers assess economic inequality differs as some use it interchangeably with income or wealth inequality<sup>10</sup> which poses challenges since the monetary value is incredibly volatile, leading to difficulty in assessing overall results
- Another definition assesses economic inequality in terms of access to equal opportunities which is a broader conceptualisation that accounts for individual heterogeneity in capability, needs, and preferences (Bapuji, 2015)
- The latter conceptualisation accounts for inequalities within and between countries<sup>11</sup> as it considers inequalities in consumption, education, health, social status, and political freedom thus leading to a more accurate assessment of inequalities
- This definition allows for a cross-level examination of economic inequalities since it accounts for ‘dispersion in the endowment of resources’, which include both financial and non-financial resources (like status or education), an uneven distribution of these resources, and finally an uneven reward/outcome of their labour (Bapuji, 2015)

### **Intersectionality proliferates inequalities**

- When individuals experience inequality in any social collective, its effects carry on to all other social collectives (Bapuji, 2015) that they are a part of due to intersectionality
- This can be seen by the difference in experiences for men and women of colour where men of colour face unequal treatment by virtue of their colour while women face differing treatment by virtue of their colour and sex, thus leading to a differential treatment
- Similarly, Cis-het white men are at the top of the social ladder as the overlapping of their social identities leads to a more empowered and privileged social status

### **Economic Inequality affects organisational performance indirectly**

- Human Development is ‘a process of enlarging people’s choices’<sup>12</sup>. The lack of an ability to access some basic and essential choices (healthcare, education, and resources for a basic standard of living) prevent people from accessing other choices and opportunities
- High levels of economic inequality lead to poor physical and mental health, increased crime, and lower education skills
- This affects organisational performance in ways such as absenteeism, increased risks due to an unsafe work environment, and poor job performance thus leading to increased costs for an organisation (such as healthcare and decreased APL)

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<sup>10</sup> Bapuji, H. (2015) ‘Individuals, interactions and institutions: How economic inequality affects organizations’, *Human Relations*, 68(7), pp. 1059–1083. doi: 10.1177/0018726715584804

<sup>11</sup> Kanbur, R, Zhang, X (2005) Fifty years of regional inequality in China: A journey through central planning, reform, and openness. *Review of Development Economics* 9(1): 87–106

<sup>12</sup> Human Development Report (HDR) (1990) Human Development Report 1990. New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr1990>.

- This also leads to a deterioration in the financial performance of an organisation due to a reduced Average Product of Labour and increased Marginal costs and a consequently reduced demand, which on a macroeconomic level leads to high inflation rates and a lesser value for money
- At an international level, as the country faces high inflationary rates, credit ratings of the country fall, and consequently investment risks increase, and the ability to acquire credit through investment decreases

### **Economic Inequality affects organisational performance directly**

- Under conditions of high economic inequality, two distinct classes (the rich (lesser in number) and the rest (larger in comparison)) emerge. Inequality affects these groups differently in varying dimensions such as, but not limited to, emotion, cognition, and behaviour<sup>13</sup>
- This significantly affects their interactions with others and hence affects the way they perform in organisations and institutions
- The divide between the rich and poor also significantly affects and shapes the broader institutional framework apropos corruption, distributive policies, and protectionism which all affect organisational performance

### **Deteriorating organisational performance further leads to a deepening of inequalities**

- Institutional framework apropos corruption, distributive policies, and protectionism lead to a widening of the gap between the rich and the rest
- A deepening of this gap further implies that the groups affected at this level carry their inequalities into other social collectives leading to the worsening of social status
- This leads to a worsening of their physical and mental health due to a poor environment, hence reducing their performance and employability leading to a rather cyclical relationship between economic inequality and institutions

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<sup>13</sup> Manstead A. (2018). The psychology of social class: How socioeconomic status impacts thought, feelings, and behaviour. *The British journal of social psychology*, 57(2), 267–291. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5901394/>



## **THE IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON NEO-COLONIAL INEQUALITIES**

### **Globalisation depends on a specialisation based differentiation for efficacy**

- Globalisation has caused firms to function in increasingly competitive markets with larger firms having to reduce costs and prices in order to continue to be in the market<sup>14</sup>
- The efficiency is increased based on the skills workers specialise in, thereby reducing working hours and hence costs for Multinational Competitive Firms
- This also gives rise to more specialist markets, such as ethnic markets thereby confirming global homogenisation (Levitt, 1983)
- Most profit maximising MNCs do business by personalising business relationships in an intimate fashion rather than a completely standardised product that might not appeal to local consumers

### **Countries that are globalisation averse fall behind on development**

- A market with more localised and traditional industries lack the resources to reduce prices and are manual work intensive
- This leads to a reduction in the demand for such local firms due to a high price as consumers have the ability to source cheaper goods from a combined global market online
- This is evidenced by companies like AliExpress that have sellers who sell cheap locally sourced items for a higher rate online, that international buyers find comparatively cheaper to goods in their own markets
- Economies of scale benefit from technological innovations due to globalisation while localised economies face resource losses not only directly (with industries in decline) but also through brain drain
- Trade in services is becoming more valuable than trade in goods in the global economy<sup>15</sup>

### **Globalisation leads to lower wages for lesser-skilled workers and higher wages for highly skilled workers hence deepening the divide**

- This wave of specialisation and profit maximising perspective leads to an increase in unemployment due to competitive employment strategies
- The way skills match between workers is the crux of the perpetuating of inequalities due to globalisation. If a higher skilled worker is suited to work with an even more advanced skilled worker, they look for opportunities across the border and the lower-skilled workers get knocked out of the globalisation process<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>Levitt, T. (1983) The Globalization of Markets, Harvard Business Review, Accessible at: <https://hbr.org/1983/05/the-globalization-of-markets>

<sup>15</sup> Lund, S. et al. (2019) Globalization in transition: The future of trade and value chain, McKinsey Global Institute, Accessible at: <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/innovation-and-growth/globalization-in-transition-the-future-of-trade-and-value-chains>

<sup>16</sup> Maskin, E. (2014) Globalization Is Increasing Inequality, Accessible at:

- As the demand for low skilled workers reduces in the globalisation process, their impact on negotiating their wages reduces, thereby lowering their wage (Maskin, 2014)
- The opposite is true for high skilled workers since a higher international demand implies a rise in wages (Maskin, 2014)

**Neo-Colonial Inequalities are perpetuated by pre-existing global economic inequalities**

- Post-colonial economic booms are usually attributed to technological advancements from the west thus creating a bias against more traditionalist industries
- Colonialism perpetuates inequalities through heterogeneous effects for development across different places (like retarding it in Spain while promoting it in Britain) which consequently leads to culture-based social inequalities through the creation of distinct societies
- Comparatively developed nations tend to take advantage of pre-existing global economic inequalities by exchanging cheaper resources (from less developed economies) in turn for seemingly beneficial services (like technology) that further profit their own economies

# INSIGHT

## OVERVIEW

Institutions are able to perpetuate neo-colonialism through various forms. In this section, we will briefly outline how institutions are able to enable such perpetuation, by considering the structures of the institutions, their financial repercussions, and incentives, and the increasing effect of globalisation on perpetuating a bias against traditionalists thereby leading to a wider divide in the global economy. The effect of the structure of institutions will be considered with a focus specifically upon the United Nations and considering the impact of having 5 permanent members of the Security Council.

Root causes such as colonialism explain how the inheritance of specific political and economic systems are affected differently due to their contributions to corrupt practices that further deepen the divide. This section will also explain how globalisation is a neo-colonial practice that perpetuates inequalities.

## **The presence of 5 permanent members in the UN Security Council enables the perpetuation of neo-colonial practices that benefit these states through the policies they implement**

The United Nations has 5 permanent members of its Security Council, as stated in Article 23 of the United Nations Charter: ‘The Republic of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America shall be permanent members of the Security Council’.<sup>17</sup> As previously outlined, all P5 members have the ability to veto any resolution presented to the Council. This enables an increased level of influence and power, and, as demonstrated through the introduction of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, enables the perpetuation of neo-colonial inequalities as the P5 pass resolutions that benefit their states on an individual level.

The MDGs were aimed at combatting ‘poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women’.<sup>18</sup> A critical examination of development in Africa in the African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation, and Development summarised how the MDGs encouraged a Western-led reform that is often in conflict with Africa’s own development strategies, and that the lack of contextualisation led to MDGs in African countries acting as a ‘form of further exploitation by the Western nations using a neo-colonialist dictate’.<sup>19</sup> The conflict of development strategies has been termed ‘competing agendas’, and is specifically the disparities between the ideas of Western institutions and those of African governments in which states should develop.<sup>20</sup> This was particularly evident under the 3rd MDG: to ‘develop a global partnership for development’.<sup>21</sup> The 3rd goal encompassed a large range of sub-targets, but largely depended upon the use of foreign aid, and highlighted the stark reality that developed countries were entirely aware that developing states would need to rely upon financial assistance and opportunities provided by them. This dependency enabled the implementation of conditions that favoured the lending states, with ‘aid’ given as high-interest rate loans and with liberal market requirements such as privatization, deregulation and increased globalization. Specifically, the UN’s approach largely forced developing states such as Africa to embrace the Western capitalist market, as they were encouraged to open their borders to foreign goods and investment from transnational corporations: the MDGs seem to have been a means of encouraging ‘the West’s market extension

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<sup>17</sup> United Nations, ‘United Nations Charter, Chapter V: The Security Council’. UN, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-5>.

<sup>18</sup> World Health Organisation (WHO), (2019) ‘Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)’. WHO, Newsroom, [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/millennium-development-goals-\(mdgs\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/millennium-development-goals-(mdgs)).

<sup>19</sup> Durokifa, A. A & Chikata, D. I., ‘Neo-colonialism and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa: A blend of an old wine in a new bottle’. African Journal of Science 2018, Technology, Innovation and Development, 10:3, 355-366, DOI: 10.1080/20421338.2018.1463654.

<sup>20</sup> Ake, C. (1996) Democracy and Development in Africa. Washington DC.: Brookings Institution Press, [https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=VbMxhKsa05YC&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=Ake.+C.+1996.+Democracy+and+Development+in+Africa.+Washington+DC.:+Brookings+Institution+Press.&ots=Lc9-IR6BCB&sig=KiyOjk8omUog\\_FAJX1\\_u\\_j7MjRw&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=VbMxhKsa05YC&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=Ake.+C.+1996.+Democracy+and+Development+in+Africa.+Washington+DC.:+Brookings+Institution+Press.&ots=Lc9-IR6BCB&sig=KiyOjk8omUog_FAJX1_u_j7MjRw&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false)

<sup>21</sup> United Nations. ‘Goal 8: develop a global partnership for development’. United Nations, Available at: <https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/global.shtml>

and the exercise of power and domination over Third World countries<sup>22</sup> rather than genuinely benefiting the developing states themselves.

The existence of the P5 (four of which were previously colonial powers), enables a narrow exertion of power and significantly changes the emphasis on development strategies: developing states are somewhat forced to follow the advice and recommended behavior of just 5 (albeit powerful) states. The extent to which this neo-colonialism is intentional is a matter of debate, but there has certainly been an implicit link between the frameworks as set out by the UN and a subsequent dependency developed between the developing states and those who created the suggested means of development. This specifically relates to Dependency theory itself, in which core states (such as the USA and Russia), exploit the periphery (in this case, Africa).<sup>23</sup> Essentially, although suggested to be a means of developing Africa, the MDGs have actually increased the reliance of the continent upon the imperial P5 states that are forcing the implementation of mainstream (typically liberal) development discourse.

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<sup>22</sup> Durokifa, A. A & Chikata, D. I,(2018) 'Neo-colonialism and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa: A blend of an old wine in a new bottle. African Journal of Science 2018, Technology, Innovation and Development, Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/20421338.2018.1463654>

<sup>23</sup> Munro, A. (2018) 'Dependency theory'. Encyclopedia Britannica, Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/dependency-theory>.

## **The relationship between economic inequality and institutions is heavily interdependent due to broader neo-colonial frameworks such as corruption and distributive policies**

Poverty and low levels of development breed corruption which in turn impedes economic growth leading to the creation of a vicious cycle. This supports the fact that LEDC's have higher rates of corruption. Like Warwick Think Tank's report in 2020 shows, macroeconomic indicators are linked with high levels of corruption and that corruption hinders economic development.<sup>24</sup>

As the case of Latin American countries shows, the system of extraction left a legacy of inequalities leading to economic growth not being felt by significant portions of the population. Social disparities were thus exacerbated by the economic divide between sections of society as the higher social classes felt no responsibility or concern for the lower because they felt they were different from the 'rest' (Goga et al., 2020). Similarly, other colonies also felt a larger divide amongst them due to the largely aristocratic system that trade relied upon. These pre-existing inequalities meant that with the systems in place, the lower classes would be caught in a vicious cycle seeing as a low social class implied lesser education opportunities which further translated into no job prospects due to a lack of skills.

Corruption is largely rooted in such economic and political biases that lead to a ton of instability and volatility. This further aggravates economic development since economic volatility and political instability is unattractive to investors. This implies a lack of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) seeing as investors are unlikely to get a good return on their investment due to the political backdrop which is rooted in corruption and inequalities due to pre-existing colonial frameworks.

Distributive policies and redistributive policies that aim to distribute equal opportunities and wealth across the social classes paradoxically tend to help the more well-off sections instead of the sections these policies are aimed towards. Korpi and Palme found that the more the benefits are targeted towards the poor, the less likely they are to reduce poverty and inequality.

As benefit level income becomes more common, this effect is also seen in modern-day Britain as inequalities continue to rise.<sup>25</sup> This is attributed to the fact that over time, targeting may undermine broad-based support for the politically weak poor, therefore potentially leading to lower levels of social security expenditure, thereby increasing inequalities.

Most earnings-related social welfare programs (like furlough and benefit level income) tend to have strong elements of redistribution built into them. In practice, all schemes have a level below which benefits aren't allowed to fall to a level above which the percentage of earnings are gradually

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<sup>24</sup>Goga, A. et al. (2020) Corruption and Good Governance: Latin America Case Study, Warwick Think Tank, Available at:

[https://159b1186-4bc6-400c-a11a-b4774876ead1.filesusr.com/ugd/b1799c\\_ca9da493313a4d54b40aeff1e8b5607a.pdf](https://159b1186-4bc6-400c-a11a-b4774876ead1.filesusr.com/ugd/b1799c_ca9da493313a4d54b40aeff1e8b5607a.pdf)

<sup>25</sup>Sefton, T. (2009), Distributive and Redistributive Policy, The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy, Available at:

<https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199548453.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199548453-e-030>

reduced.<sup>26</sup> This ultimately favours lower earners. However, even in this case, the policy ultimately benefits the high-level producers that continue to produce because the low-level consumers now have the resources to buy products from them. This leads to another potential issue for liberal welfare schemes. Liberals want their welfare schemes to support the poor and the poor only while also costing the least to macroeconomic performance. This causes them to temper the pursuit of poverty alleviation (Sefton, 2009). However, US Welfare Systems are ‘over-tightly targeted’ which causes many poor people to receive less than they need and a substantial portion do not receive any transfer payments.

Colonial frameworks perpetuating corruption, distributive policies, and protectionism, therefore, deepen pre-existing inequalities that were exacerbated by extractionist trade techniques that created a divide based on an aristocratic system. Ultimately, those who were given access to such opportunities much earlier on continued to remain higher up in the hierarchy while those who started off comparatively disadvantaged continue to face discrimination based on other social factors that prevent them from accessing all possible opportunities. Therefore, the colonial institutional framework causes socially disadvantaged sections of society to be caught in a vicious circle of economic inequality, thereby further exacerbating social inequalities.

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<sup>26</sup> Sefton, T. (2009), Distributive and Redistributive Policy, The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy, Available at: <https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199548453.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199548453-e-030>

## **Globalisation is a neo-colonial practice that favours social-collectives that are willing to adapt their practices while simultaneously creating an economic divide within and among such collectives**

The comparative advantage of countries is a notion first proposed by economist David Ricardo.<sup>27</sup> Nations tend to concentrate only on industries that are more competitive compared to other nations and trade with other countries for all other products. This, as aforementioned, is largely due to neo-colonial frameworks. The industry specialisation, which is a major feature of globalisation, and international trade always make countries better off.

However, this is not always the case. Nobel Laureate Eric Maskin reveals the fact that although average income has been rising as a result of global trade, this has caused an increment in the level of inequalities and subsequent social divide rather than the intended reduction (Maskin, 2014).

According to Maskin, the crux of understanding why globalisation leads to an increase in inequality is due to how skills match between workers. The better the skills match between workers, the lesser the inequality. As aforementioned, lower-skilled workers get kicked out of the globalisation process as due to globalisation, workers who are better suited to a higher-skilled worker look beyond borders, and as international demand for those skills increases, they are able to negotiate higher salaries.

The opposite is true for lower-skilled workers. Education as a means to climb the social ladder is also not particularly helpful. Trying to break the cycle of being working class by attending higher education opportunities does not particularly help because systemic classism means that you are still less likely to get a good job than someone from a more privileged background with a lower degree grade than you.

Extrapolating this idea of systemic classism to a larger level, hegemony nudges economies to make more pro-globalisation decisions while accommodating to more western ideals that seem to only profit such economies. This creates a system of ostracisation of more traditional markets. Economies of scale benefit from the efficiency of technological innovation which is less likely to be seen in such localised markets since they lack international trade. Globalisation has also seemingly moved from a trade of goods to that of services, implying that services are more valued in the global economy.<sup>28</sup>

Thus those developing nations that invest in educational opportunities for their citizens suffer brain drain as the workforce moves to parts of the global economy that are able to provide better returns on their degree and match their needs for higher standards of living. Globalisation, thus, perpetuates and deepens inequalities both within and amongst such social collectives.

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<sup>27</sup> Maskin, E. (2014) Globalization Is Increasing Inequality, Accessible at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/06/23/theorist-eric-maskin-globalization-is-increasing-inequality>

<sup>28</sup> Lund, S. et al. (2019) Globalization in transition: The future of trade and value chain, McKinsey Global Institute, Accessible at: <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/innovation-and-growth/globalization-in-transition-the-future-of-trade-and-value-chains>





## CONCLUSION

- The structure of the P5 not only promotes neo-colonialism through the implementation of specific regulations and policies for development (such as the MDGs), but also through the direct link the institution has with other institutions, namely the IMF and World Bank
- The relationship between economic inequality and institutions is heavily interdependent due to broader neo-colonial frameworks such as corruption and distributive policies
- Globalisation is a neo-colonial practice that favours social-collectives that are willing to adapt their practices while simultaneously creating an economic divide within and among such collectives

# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## OVERVIEW

Our policy recommendations aim to highlight the reforms and suggested opportunities that should be implemented within both the UN and the international community as a whole. A key focus is upon changes within the UN, which aim to reduce (if not eradicate) the abuse of power that the current structure enables. In turn, the legitimacy of the institution will be reinstated, encouraging greater involvement from all member states and limiting the perpetuation of neo-colonial access and inequalities as the historically powerful states lose their imperialistic status. Additionally, we will also highlight the need for specificity in programs aimed to combat the socio-economic inequalities typically created through increased globalisation.

- Action 1: The UN should remove the ability of the P5 member states to veto resolutions in Security Council decision making to limit the extent to which the current P5 are able to indirectly perpetuate their individual power and interests through neo-colonial practices.
- Action 2: Increase the number of permanent member seats within the Security Council to broaden the representation of historically excluded states such as those in Africa. This will enable more flexible and inclusive considerations into decision making,
- Action 3: Offer targeted job training to lesser-skilled workers that is specific to their needs by identifying the individual circumstances, background, ability, and capacity to learn given skills.

## **ACTION 1: Removing veto power of P5**

Removing the veto power of the P5 members will re-introduce equality into a decision-making process within the institution. This requires 9 affirmative votes of the current Security Council members, including all P5 members to either support or abstain from the proposed reform.<sup>29</sup>

The decisions made within the 15 member security council affect states across the entirety of the UN, and the presence of the veto undermines the equality that the institution was intended to provide. It allows P5 states to block any decision ‘to defend their national interests, to uphold a tenet of their foreign policy or, in some cases, to promote a single issue of particular importance to a state’.<sup>30</sup> As such, neo-colonial inequality and inaccessibility is perpetuated; the P5 have a significantly greater position of power than all other member states, and can subsequently advocate decisions and policies that directly benefit them, which typically hinders others. Additionally, the removal of the veto power will reinstate culpability- P5 states that break international law will no longer be able to prevent retaliatory measures from being taken. This will reduce the rate and extent to which inequalities such as human rights are being infringed upon, and limit the perpetuation of neo-colonial inaccessibility as imperialist actions could now be policed effectively.

Although unlikely to be reformed immediately, there is a growing sense of awareness of the veto’s inequality, and an increase in pressure from the international community upon the P5 could result in this policy recommendation being achieved in future years. Already, Security Council reforms are being discussed, with France proposing that the veto power be limited; namely that it is not able to be used ‘in cases of mass-atrocity crimes’.<sup>31</sup> Whilst an acceptance of such reforms has yet to be seen, there has certainly been an increase in discourse upon the subject of veto, and the continuation of pressure from states upon the P5 members will make this policy recommendation more than feasible. Similarly, this recommendation intentionally allows the status of the P5 to remain the same (rather than remove them altogether), in order to acknowledge the international power of these States and to increase the likelihood of such a recommendation being introduced. The P5 remain assured in their permanent seats on the Council, and retain the ability to influence the decisions, but would no longer be able to entirely stop decisions from being made without a majority consensus.

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<sup>29</sup> United Nations. ‘Voting System’. The United Nations Security Council, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/voting-system>.

<sup>30</sup> Security Council Report.(2015) ‘UN Security Council working methods: The Veto’. Security Council Report 2015, <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-security-council-working-methods/the-veto.php>

<sup>31</sup> Evans, G. (2015) ‘Should the UN Security Council be limited?’. World Economic Forum 2015, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/02/should-the-un-security-council-veto-be-limited/>

## **ACTION 2: Increasing representation**

Increasing the representation of developing states within the permanent seats of the Security Council will help counter the perpetuation of neo-colonial inequality and inaccessibility as development goals such as the MDGs are less susceptible to being favorable to a small minority of states (the current P5). This will again require 9 affirmative votes of the current Security Council members, including all P5 members to either support or abstain from the proposed reform.<sup>32</sup> It is worth noting, however, that if the previously mentioned policy recommendation was implemented (veto of P5 is abolished), then this would merely require 9 affirmative votes of current Security Council members, regardless of the opinion of the P5 states.

The inclusion of a greater range of states will limit the extent to which the current P5 are able to dominate UN decision making, and subsequently counter the implementation of neo-colonial recommendations and resolutions. The MDGs demonstrated the extent to which the exclusion of states from key decision-making subjects such states to a position of dilemma- accept the neo-colonial practices being enforced, or reject the aid that is paramount to development. The United Nations should recognise how global dynamics have changed since its creation, and how the inclusion of more developing states into positions of power is a necessary change in today's international environment. The lack of current involvement of developing states in the decision-making that directly affects their development needs to be addressed.

Even though the P5 themselves might currently be reluctant to allow this change, the international community as a whole is growing in support of greater inclusivity. In 2018, Assembly President María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés stressed the need for the Security Council to 'adapt to new political realities with increased representation boosting its legitimacy and the implementation of its decisions.'<sup>33</sup> This debate particularly acknowledged Africa as an underrepresented region, with Sierra Leone's representative specifying how it is 'time to redress the historical injustice of not being represented in the permanent category' (United Nations, 2018). Evidently, recognition of the need for increased representation is growing, and if member states continue to persist in their demands for greater equality, expansion of the Security Council is feasible.

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<sup>32</sup> United Nations. 'Voting System'. The United Nations Security Council, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/voting-system>.

<sup>33</sup> United Nations. (2018) 'Member States Call for Removing Veto Power, Expanding Security Council to Include New Permanent Seats, as General Assembly Debates Reform Plans for 15 Member Organ'. The United Nations, Meetings Coverage and Press releases, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/ga12091.doc.htm>.

### **ACTION 3:**

#### **Offer targeted job training to lesser-skilled workers specific to their needs**

Globalisation reveals the shift from a trade of goods to that of services is more significantly profitable to economies. However, this skill-based division also leads to an increase in socioeconomic inequalities. Since globalisation increases average income in all countries, it is not likely that governments will be willing to make a shift to more localised economies seeing as that would incur further losses. However, as Maskin suggests, it is better to allow low-skilled workers to share the fruits of globalisation.<sup>34</sup>

Maskin (2014) suggests that the skill level of these workers be raised by offering job training opportunities so that they can better access international opportunities. But, as aforementioned, systemic classism still proves to be a hurdle in gaining complete advantage of such opportunities. Therefore, it is better that such training programs be conducted by third parties like the government, multilateral companies, and NGOs. However, there must be a single independent body that overlooks the functioning of these programs specific to each country so that a more equitable skill level is achieved.

The program itself must be provided on the basis of some conditions that accurately depict the individual's social standing and previous experiences that might be relevant to the program itself. This can be done through a simple initial questionnaire that identifies the intersectionality between the identities of social collectives that the individual belongs to. Similarly, a consequent questionnaire could assess the individual's ability, will, and capacity to adopt certain skills. On the basis of these, targeted programs could help optimise the worker's skill set, thereby eliminating biases but instead, utilising a combination of experiences and ability. These programs could range from 3-month, 6-month to 12-month programs based on what the worker wants to get out of the program.

However, this does not necessarily mean the worker will secure a job opportunity. Based on how the worker performs and the skills they've acquired by the end of the program, workers could be incentivised through special access to overburdened government departments that require additional support. Not only would this reduce the cost incurred by governments through the provision of benefit level income, but it also improves the efficiency of the departments themselves. The presence of an independent body that is meant to report its findings and overlook the functioning of such programs ensures transparency and a less corrupt system seeing as they have little to no incentive to partake in such activities. Ultimately, even a solution such as this comes with its own challenges with regards to the composition and functioning of this independent body seeing as even international organisations and their officials largely rely on benefits they may receive from unequal distribution and inequalities between member states. However, the pros of this proposal outweigh the cons and hence make it a rather viable option for less developed economies.

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<sup>34</sup> Maskin, E. (2014) Globalization Is Increasing Inequality, Accessible at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/06/23/theorist-eric-maskin-globalization-is-increasing-inequality>

## CONCLUSION

The perpetuation of neo-colonial inaccessibility and inequality in the 21st Century is far-reaching and difficult to address. The UN is currently enabling the continuation of neo-colonial practices through its hierarchical structure, and the re-evaluation of this structure is a necessary means of limiting the imposition of neo-colonial practices and increasing the legitimacy of the institution as a whole. Whilst the abolition of the P5 members entirely might be unattainable, the removal of their ability to veto any resolution is not. Already the international community has recognised this power as being unlawful, and abolishing this rule might finally introduce a level of accountability that has never been present before. The removal of the veto would similarly increase the ease with which greater representation of developing states could be achieved, further reducing neo-colonial perpetuation of inequality and inaccessibility as the states upon which the practices are being forced could become directly involved with decision making and offer viable and alternative solutions than those lending themselves to neo-colonial practices.

This level of specificity also links to the need to avoid a 'one size fits all' assumption when addressing the increase in socioeconomic inequalities caused by globalisation. Offering job training opportunities can help increase the skill levels of workers in developing states, but it is absolutely paramount that these programs relate directly to the individual's social circumstances and abilities. This enables the maximisation of the potential increase in their skill sets by ensuring the program is tailored to the people themselves, and not just a broad conception of what generic skills might be worth trying to develop.