

Liberalism in International Relations II

Institutionalisation and the Rule of Law

Commentators placing faith in the United Nations take a range of perspectives, from those who see economic sanctions and military action under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter as important steps to making and guaranteeing peace, to those that emphasise more peaceful measures.

Those emphasising the United Nations' capacity to resolve disputes peacefully look at other aspects of its potential than Ch.7: The UN and its associated bodies could address underlying causes of tension: poverty, environmental degradation, and so on. It could serve as a forum for meaningful disarmament. The UN could provide good offices in negotiating issues under dispute, fact-finding, and confidence building; while the World Court could impose equitable resolutions. If need be, the UN can act directly to see a transition to peaceful arrangements, providing peacekeepers and observers, monitoring elections, and so forth.

All the UN needs is the necessary will and resources from its member states. In the end, they can be only as strong as the member states allow them to be.