Transnational Forces and Movements

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In diplomacy and international law, it is widely assumed that international relations consists of the relations between coherent units called **states**. However, global politics also include companies and non-governmental organizations…
While there are more or less 200 governments in the global system, there are approximately
- 60,000 major transnational companies (TNCs), such as Coca Cola, Ford, Shell, Microsoft, Nestlé etc;
- 10,000 single-country non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as Freedom House, Médecins sans Frontières etc;
- 250 intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) such as the UN, NATO, the EU etc; and
- 5,800 international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), such as Amnesty International, the Red Cross etc.
The importance of the state as the primary actor in international politics is challenged by other forces like IGOs, INGOs, transnational corporations, multinational corporations, subnational groups, etc.

- Examples of this challenge: international intervention, refugee settlements, international finance, courts of justice.

- The creation of IGO and INGO is not new

- It began in the second half of the XIX century, but proliferated more after the ’70s
INGO’s Growth 1909-1999
Intergovernmental Organization (IGO)

- An international organization with sovereign states or other IGO’s as members.
- Must be established by a *treaty* that provides a legal recognition.
- Are subjects of international law.
- Differ in function, membership and membership criteria.
- Exist to increase international relations, promote education, healthcare, economical development, environmental protection, human rights and conflict resolution within a region.
Examples and Classification

- We can divide the IGO on geographic considerations
  - Regional (71%)
    - European Union (EU)
    - Mercosur
  - Global (at least 60 members)
    - United Nations
  - Intercontinental
    - Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
    - Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
Examples and Classification

- **By Scope**
  - **Monofunctional**
    - International Monetary Fund (IMF)
    - World Health Organization (WHO)
    - World Trade Organization (WTO)
  - **Multifunctional**
    - UN
    - Organization of American States (OAS)
Examples and Classification

- **By Function**
  - **Security:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
  - **Economic:** NAFTA
  - **Political:** OAS
  - **Social:** United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR)
  - **Cultural:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Examples and Classification

- **By Integration**
  - **Low**
    - Alliance without or with minimal institutional framework and powers conferred
  - **High**
    - Supranational organization: member states have transferred powers and decision making.
    - World government
Non-government Organizations (NGO’s)

- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have become increasingly influential in world affairs.
- Impact the social, economic and political activities of communities and the country as a whole.
- Address a host of issues, including, but not limited to, women’s rights, environmental protection, human rights, economic development, political rights, or health care.
- In numerous countries, NGOs have led the way in democratization, in battling diseases and illnesses, in promoting and enforcing human rights, and in increasing standards of living.
Thousands of NGOs are also active at the international level; according to one estimate, some 25,000 organizations now qualify as NGOs.

Amnesty International, for instance, has more than a million members and affiliates in over 90 countries and territories.

In the field of international relations, scholars now speak of NGOs as “non-state actors” (a category that can also include transnational corporations).
UN Definition of NGO’s

- Although companies, criminals, and guerillas are literally non-governmental, they are not NGOs.
  1. An NGO should support the aims and the work of the UN.
  2. An NGO should be a representative body, with identifiable headquarters and officers, responsible to a democratic policy-making conference.
  3. An NGO cannot be a profit-making body.
  4. An NGO cannot use or advocate violence.
  5. An NGO must respect the norm of ‘non-interference in the internal affairs of states’.
  6. An international NGO is one that is not established by intergovernmental agreement. (This is a technical legal expression of the property of being non-governmental).
UN Definition of NGO’s

- NGOs interact with the UN Secretariat, programs, funds, agencies, and UN Member States.
- NGOs work with the UN comprises a number of activities including:
  - information dissemination
  - awareness raising
  - development education
  - policy advocacy
  - joint operational projects
  - providing technical expertise
Classification of NGO’s

- It is difficult to categorize NGOs by their specific activities; many NGOs perform a variety of activities and often shift the balance of the activities they pursue.

- In broader terms can be classified as:
  - **Operational**
    - achieve small-scale change directly through projects.
    - have to mobilize resources in the form of financial donations, materials, and volunteer labor in order to sustain their projects and programs.
  - **Campaigning**
    - achieve large-scale change indirectly through influence on the political system.
Hybrids

- Normally, a sharp distinction is made between IGOs and INGOs. In practice, governments do not rigidly maintain the separation. There is an overlapping pattern of relations in another category of international organizations, hybrid INGOs, in which governments work with NGOs.
- Example of an hybrid INGO is the International Red Cross.