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# Global Security Issues

## MAIN IDEA

**POWER AND AUTHORITY** Since 1945, nations have used collective security efforts to solve problems.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Personal security of the people of the world is tied to security within and between nations.

## TERMS & NAMES

- proliferation
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- political dissent
- gender inequality
- AIDS
- refugee

**SETTING THE STAGE** World War II was one of history’s most devastating conflicts. More than 55 million people died as a result of bombings, the Holocaust, combat, starvation, and disease. Near the end of the war, one of humankind’s most destructive weapons, the atomic bomb, killed more than 100,000 people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in a matter of minutes. Perhaps because of these horrors, world leaders look for ways to make the earth a safer, more secure place to live.

### TAKING NOTES

**Categorizing** Use a chart to list collective methods employed by the world’s nations to increase global security.

| Method                  | Examples                 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Form military alliances | NATO, SEATO, Warsaw Pact |
|                         |                          |

## Issues of War and Peace

In the years after the end of World War II, the Cold War created new divisions and tensions among the world’s nations. This uneasy situation potentially threatened the economic, environmental, and personal security of people across the world. So, nations began to work together to pursue collective security.

**Nations Unite and Take Action** Many nations consider that having a strong military is important to their security. After World War II, nations banded together to create military alliances. They formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO), the Warsaw Pact, and others. The member nations of each of these alliances generally pledged military aid for their common defense.

In addition to military alliances to increase their security, world leaders also took steps to reduce the threat of war. The United Nations (UN) works in a variety of ways toward increasing collective global security.

**Peacekeeping Activities** One of the major aims of the UN is to promote world peace. The UN provides a public forum, private meeting places, and skilled mediators to help nations try to resolve conflicts at any stage of their development. At the invitation of the warring parties, the UN also provides peacekeeping forces. These forces are made up of soldiers from different nations. They work to carry out peace agreements, monitor cease-fires, or put an end to fighting to allow peace negotiations to go forward.

As of the end of 2002, the UN had close to 40,000 soldiers and police in 13 peacekeeping forces around the world. Some forces, such as those in India and Pakistan, have been in place for decades. Others, such as those in East Timor, achieved their goals in only a few months.

## Weapons of Mass Destruction

Nations have not only worked to prevent and contain conflicts, they also have forged treaties to limit the manufacturing, testing, and trade of weapons. The weapons of most concern are those that cause mass destruction. These include nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons that can kill thousands, even millions of people.

In 1968, many nations signed a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to help prevent the **proliferation**, or spread, of nuclear weapons to other nations. In the 1970s, the United States and the Soviet Union signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties. In the 1980s, both countries talked about deactivating some of their nuclear weapons. Many nations also signed treaties promising not to produce biological or chemical weapons.

**Disarming Iraq** Other nations, however, have tried to develop weapons of mass destruction. Iraq, for example, used chemical weapons in conflicts during the 1980s. Many people suspected that the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, had plans to develop biological and nuclear weapons too. As part of the cease-fire arrangements in the Persian Gulf War, Iraq agreed to destroy its weapons of mass destruction. UN inspectors were sent to monitor this disarmament process. However, in 1998, the Iraqis ordered the inspectors to leave.

In 2002, Saddam Hussein once again came under suspicion of developing weapons of mass destruction. The UN Security Council issued a resolution threatening Iraq with “severe consequences” unless the weapons inspectors were allowed to return. Iraq complied, but some UN members suspected that the Iraqis were not fully cooperating with the inspectors. So, in March 2003, a coalition led by the United States and Great Britain sent troops to disarm Iraq by force. After four weeks of fighting, Saddam Hussein’s government fell.

**Ethnic and Religious Conflicts** Conflicts among people of different racial, national, religious, linguistic, or cultural groups are not new. Some struggles have roots that reach back for decades and, in some cases, for centuries. Such conflicts include those between Protestants and Catholics in Ireland, between Palestinians and Israelis in the Middle East, and among Serbs, Bosnians, and Croats in the former Yugoslavia.

Ethnic and religious conflicts have often led to terrible violence. People caught in these conflicts sometimes suffered torture, or massacres of their whole towns or villages. The Kurds of southwest Asia have been the victims of such violence. For decades, Kurds have wanted their own separate country. But their traditional lands cross the borders of three nations—Turkey, Iran, and Iraq. In the past, the Turks responded to Kurdish nationalism by forbidding Kurds to speak their native language. The Iranians also persecuted the Kurds, attacking them over religious issues. In the late 1980s, the Iraqis dropped poison gas on the Kurds, killing 5,000. Several international organizations, including the UN, are working to end the human rights abuses inflicted upon the Kurds.



▲ In central Baghdad, a U.S. Marine watches as a statue of Saddam Hussein is pulled down.

## Human Rights Issues

In 1948, the UN issued the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), which set human rights standards for all nations. It stated that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. . . . Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.” The declaration further listed specific rights that all human beings should have. Later, in the Helsinki Accords of 1975, the UN addressed the issues of freedom of movement and freedom to publish and exchange information.

Both the declaration and the accords are nonbinding. However, the sentiments in these documents inspired many people around the world. They made a commitment to ensuring that basic human rights are respected. The UN and other international agencies, such as Amnesty International, identify and publicize human rights violations. They also encourage people to work toward a world in which liberty and justice are guaranteed for all.

**Continuing Rights Violations** Despite the best efforts of various human rights organizations, protecting human rights remains an uphill battle. Serious violations of fundamental rights continue to occur around the world.

One type of violation occurs when governments try to stamp out [political dissent](#), or the difference of opinion over political issues. In many countries around the world, from Cuba to Iran to Myanmar, individuals and groups have been persecuted for holding political views that differ from those of the people in power. In some countries, ethnic or racial hatreds lead to human rights abuses. In Rwanda, for example, fighting between Hutus and Tutsis—the two main ethnic groups—led to horrendous rights violations. In 1994, Hutus massacred about 500,000 Tutsis in one of the worst cases of genocide. **A**

**Women’s Status Improves** In the past, when women in Western nations entered the work force, they often faced discrimination in employment and salary. In non-Western countries, many women not only faced discrimination in jobs, they were denied access to education. In regions torn by war or ethnic conflict, they were often victims of violence and abuse. As women suffered, so too did their family members, especially children.

However, in the 1970s, a heightened awareness of human rights encouraged women in many countries to work to improve their lives. They pushed for new laws and government policies that gave them greater equality. In 1975, the UN held the first of several international conferences on women’s status in the world. The fourth conference was held in Beijing, China, in 1995. It addressed such issues as preventing violence against women and empowering women to take leadership roles in politics and in business.

In 2000, the UN reviewed the status of women. Its report, titled *Progress of the World’s Women 2000*, found that women had made notable gains during the 1990s, especially in the areas of education and work. Even so, the report concluded that [gender inequality](#)—the difference between men and women in terms of wealth and status—still very much existed.

### Vocabulary

*A nonbinding agreement means that a nation does not suffer a penalty if it does not meet the terms of the declaration.*

### MAIN IDEA

#### Analyzing Issues

**A** What responsibilities do nations have for protecting human rights in other countries?

### History Makers



#### Mother Teresa 1910–1997

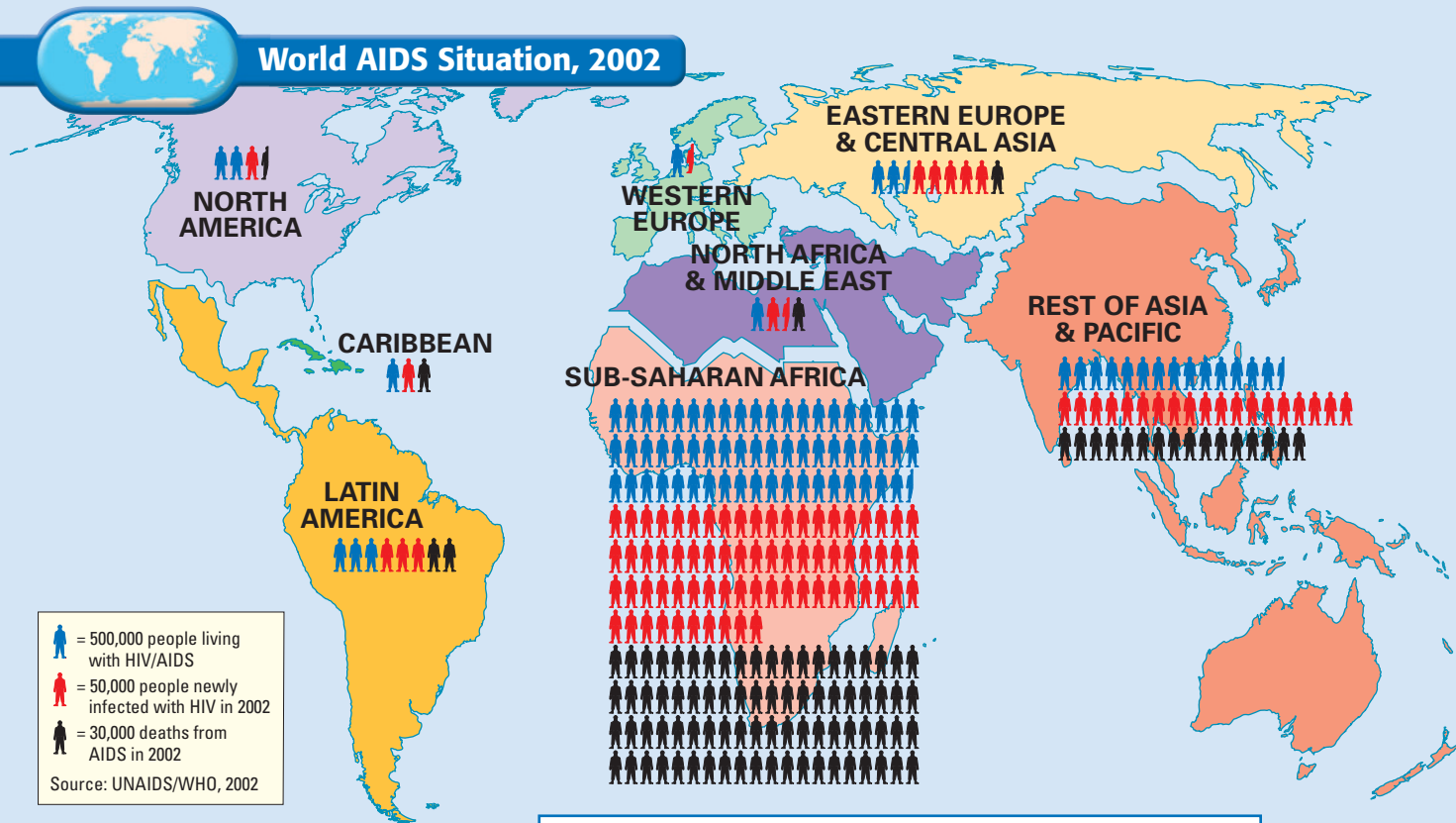
Mother Teresa was one of the great champions of human rights for all people. Born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in what today is Macedonia, Mother Teresa joined a convent in Ireland at the age of 18. A short time later, she headed to India to teach at a girls’ school. Over time, she noticed many sick and homeless people in the streets. She soon vowed to devote her life to helping India’s poor.

In 1948, she established the Order of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, which committed itself to serving the sick, needy, and unfortunate. In recognition of her commitment to the downtrodden, Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

#### INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

**RESEARCH LINKS** For more on Mother Teresa, go to [classzone.com](#)

## World AIDS Situation, 2002



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- Region** Which region is confronted by the greatest challenge from the AIDS epidemic?
- Region** Which region had the greatest number of new HIV infections in 2002, Latin America or Eastern Europe and Central Asia?

## Health Issues

In recent decades, the enjoyment of a decent standard of health has become recognized as a basic human right. However, for many people across the world, poor health is still the norm. World health faced a major threat in 2003, with the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). This pneumonia-like disease emerged in China and rapidly spread to other Asian countries, Europe, and North America. Afraid of infection, many people canceled travel to Asia. The resulting loss of business hurt the economies of several Asian countries.

**The AIDS Epidemic** Perhaps the greatest global health issue is a disease known as **AIDS**, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome. It attacks the immune system, leaving sufferers open to deadly infections. The disease was first detected in the early 1980s. Since that time, AIDS has claimed the lives of nearly 25 million people worldwide. By the end of 2002, there were 42 million people across the world living with HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) or AIDS. And in 2002, 5 million people were newly infected with HIV.

While AIDS is a worldwide problem, Sub-Saharan Africa has suffered most from the epidemic. About 70 percent of the world's HIV and AIDS sufferers live in this region. And in 2002, on average more than 6,500 people died of AIDS each day. Most of the people dying are between the ages of 15 and 49—the years when people are at their most productive economically. AIDS, therefore, is reducing the number of people available as workers, managers, and entrepreneurs. As a result, economic growth is slowing in many countries in the region.

In response to the devastating impact of the disease, the UN issued the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS in 2001. This document set targets for halting the spread of AIDS and provided guidelines on how countries could pool their efforts.



▲ Two Afghan girls quietly wait for food at a refugee camp on the Afghanistan-Iran border.

## Population Movement

The global movement of people has increased dramatically in recent years. This migration has taken place for both negative and positive reasons.

**Push-Pull Factors** People often move because they feel pushed out of their homelands. Lack of food due to drought, natural disasters, and political oppression are examples of push factors of migration. In 2001 alone, the number of **refugees**—people who leave their country to move to another to find safety—stood at 12 million.

Not only negative events push people to migrate. Most people have strong connections to their home countries and do not leave unless strong positive attractions pull them away. They hope for a better life for themselves and for their children, and thus migrate to developed nations. For example, hundreds of thousands of people migrate from Africa to Europe and from Latin America to the United States every year. **B**

**Effects of Migration** Everyone has the right to leave his or her country. However, the country to which a migrant wants to move may not accept that person. The receiving country might have one policy about accepting refugees from political situations, and another about migrants coming for economic reasons. Because of the huge volume of people migrating from war-torn, famine-stricken, and politically unstable regions, millions of immigrants have no place to go. Crowded into refugee camps, often under squalid conditions, these migrants face a very uncertain future.

On the positive side, immigrants often are a valuable addition to their new country. They help offset labor shortages in a variety of industries. They bring experiences and knowledge that can spur the economy. In addition, they contribute to the sharing, shaping, and blending of a newly enriched culture.

### MAIN IDEA

#### Analyzing Causes

**B** What push and pull factors cause people to migrate?

### SECTION

## 3

### ASSESSMENT

**TERMS & NAMES** 1. For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

- proliferation
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- political dissent
- gender inequality
- AIDS
- refugee

#### USING YOUR NOTES

2. What methods have resulted in the greatest contribution to global security? Why?

| Method                  | Examples                 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Form military alliances | NATO, SEATO, Warsaw Pact |
|                         |                          |

#### MAIN IDEAS

3. What steps have nations taken to control the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction?
4. How has AIDS affected the economy of Sub-Saharan Africa?
5. What positive effects does immigration have?

#### CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING

6. **MAKING INFERENCES** Why might nations want to retain or develop an arsenal of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons?
7. **IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS** How are ethnic and religious conflicts related to problems of global security?
8. **RECOGNIZING EFFECTS** How can individuals affect social conditions around the world? Consider the example of Mother Teresa when writing your answer.
9. **WRITING ACTIVITY** **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** Write a **paragraph** explaining how advances in science and technology have increased threats to global security.

#### CONNECT TO TODAY CREATING A DATABASE

Locate recent information on refugees around the world. Use your findings to create a **database** of charts and graphs titled "The Global Refugee Situation."