



THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL TRAJECTORY OF AFRICA: PEACEKEEPING, DECOLONIZATION AND SECURITY SINCE 1945

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Abstract

Since its establishment in 1945, the United Nations (UN) has remained one of the most influential international institutions in shaping the political, security, and developmental landscape of Africa. This paper examines the role of the UN in Africa's transformation from the late colonial era to the contemporary period. It argues that the organization contributed significantly to African decolonization through the promotion of self-determination and anti-colonial diplomacy. After independence, the UN became deeply involved in peacekeeping, mediation, humanitarian relief, electoral assistance, and post-conflict reconstruction across the continent. Through missions in the Congo, Namibia, Mozambique, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and elsewhere, the UN helped stabilize fragile states and promote political transitions. The paper also explores the collaboration between the UN and regional organizations such as the African Union (AU) and ECOWAS in conflict management. Despite these contributions, the UN's role in Africa has faced major criticisms, including delayed responses, great-power politics in the Security Council, funding limitations, operational failures, and allegations of misconduct by peacekeepers. Using historical and analytical methods, the study concludes that while the UN has not solved all of Africa's problems, it has remained indispensable to the continent's pursuit of peace, security, and development since 1945.

Keywords: United Nations, Africa, Development, Peacekeeping, Decolonization, Security

INTRODUCTION

The establishment of the United Nations in 24th October, 1945 marked a decisive moment in the history of international relations in the world. The organization which was established in after the Second World War, was designed to address the overwhelming experiences of the first half of the 20th century due to failure of the League of Nations to maintain peace, prevent another global conflict through collective security and cooperation, promote, encourage social and economic progress and the protection of human rights amongst others. Thus, the coming of the organization into the world space, no doubt signified a turning in the quest for peace, cooperation, unity and security. Winston Churchill in supporting international cooperation after the war declared that "meeting jaw to jaw is better than war." This phrase emphasis his support for the establishment of the organization where world leaders could converge to settle disputes through diplomacy rather than going into war.

Furthermore, world leaders like, Franklin D, Roosevelt and Harry Rumanand were instrumental to the establishment of

the organization, which aimed at maintaining peace and tranquility in the global world. Franklin D. Roosevelt who was the 32nd President of United States and one of the brains behind the formation of the United Nations, described it as a necessary instruments for preserving global peace and making sure that the generations yet unborn would not experience devastating wars as witnessed in the previous years. He opined that nations must come together to maintain and sustain collective security. Also, while speaking at the United Nations Conference on International Organization held at San Francisco in 1945, organized to draft and adopt the charter of the United Nations, Roosevelt specified that the Charter offered people the opportunity to build a lasting peace based on law rather than force. He integrated that if countries failed to use it, they would betray who died in the war.

Background to the Formation of the United Nation Organization

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries¹.The failure of the League of Nations and the brutality of the

Second World War were the underlying factors that resulted to the emergence of the United Nations as a legitimate trans-governmental organization aimed at promoting collective peace and security in the world over. As early as 1941, barely two years into the war, the then American president Franklin Roosevelt and his British counterpart began outlining and defining goals for a post-war world. These goals included the formation of a new international organization as a replacement for the defunct League of Nations that would be responsible for peacekeeping and mediation roles among the nations of the world.

In response to this, the following countries; United States, British, Soviet and Chinese representatives met at Dumbarton Oaks Conference in Washington in September, 1944, to draft the charter of a postwar international organization based on the principle of Collective Security. The Big Four countries invited other nations to take part in the conference, with the representatives of 50 countries signed and endorsed the charter.² With this, the United Nations became formally established on 24th October 1945, with five permanent members (United States, Russia, Britain, China, and France) of the Security Council, and 46 other signatory nations, and its primary objective among other things is to preserve world peace.³

Perhaps because of the overlapping principles and objectives of the United Nations with that of many Africans its emergence also marked an important milestone in the continent's growth and development. Indeed, from the nationalist movements which benefitted and utilized the principles of equality and self-government advocated by the United Nations charter, to the utilization of the United Nations as a platform, sponsor, and aid in resolving problems and issues revolving around development, peace and security in the continent. For Africa, the emergence of the UN coincided with the closing years of colonial rule and the rise of nationalist struggles across the continent. Consequently, the history of Africa's modern transformation cannot be fully understood without examining the influence of the United Nations.

Africa's relationship with the UN has been multifaceted. During the decolonization era, the organization provided legal and diplomatic legitimacy to anti-colonial movements through the principles of sovereign equality and self-determination enshrined in the UN Charter. After independence, African states increasingly used the UN General Assembly as a platform to challenge apartheid, racial domination, and economic injustice. At the same time, many African countries became sites of civil wars, military coups, humanitarian crises, and interstate conflicts that required international intervention. From the Congo crisis of the 1960s to contemporary missions in South Sudan and the Central African Republic, the UN has played a prominent role in conflict resolution and peacekeeping in Africa. Beyond security, specialized agencies such as UNESCO, WHO, FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, and UNHCR have contributed to education, healthcare, refugee protection, agriculture, and governance reforms across the continent.

Therefore, by leveraging its unique strengths as the world's leading platform for international collaboration, the United Nations system plays a vital role in coordinating various efforts to support Africa.⁴ In its efforts to uphold peace across Africa, the UN collaborates closely with the continent's regional cooperation mechanisms and maintains active peacekeeping missions in the region. UN peacekeepers have served in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Western Sahara, South Sudan, Darfur (alongside the African Union), and the disputed Abyei area. To further its support for Africa, the United Nations established the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in 2003, aimed at boosting international assistance for African development and security, and improving coordination within the UN support system. As W.F. Cottrell observed, Africa presents ample justification for the UN's concern and action in carrying out its mandate.

Thus, this paper critically examines the role of the United Nations in Africa's developmental trajectory since 1945. It focuses on three broad themes: decolonization, peacekeeping and security, and development assistance. It also evaluates the limitations and criticisms of the UN in Africa while assessing its enduring relevance.

United Nations and the Decolonization of Africa

One of the roles played by the United Nations in Africa was its intervention in the decolonization of Africa. This intervention was significant because it helped tremendously in accelerating the collapse of colonial rule across the continent after the Second World War. The emergence of United Nations coincided with the time when the nationalist movements were becoming stronger in many African colonies, and its principles of self-determination, human rights, and equality provided moral and diplomatic support for Africans demanding independence. Through its various organs, resolutions, and international campaigns, the United Nations contributed immensely to the liberation of African states from European colonial domination.

Promoting self-determination principle was one of ways through which the United Nations intervened in African decolonization. The United Nation Charter emphasized the principle of self-determination, particularly in Articles 1(2) and 55, which affirmed the right of all peoples to determine their political status and pursue economic, social and cultural development. This principle became powerful instrument in the decolonization of Africa, as nationalist leaders invoked it to demand independence from colonial rule.⁵ The organization continually condemned colonialism as a violation of human rights and encouraged colonial powers to prepare their colonies for self-rule. This strengthened nationalist struggles in many parts of Africa, including Nigeria (1960), Ghana (1957), Kenya (1963), Algeria (1962), Tanzania (1961) and Namibia (1990)

The United Nations also established the Trusteeship Council, its principal organ under Chapters XI and XIII of the United Nations Charter of 1945 to supervise the administration of

trust territories and guide them toward self-government or independence. These territories, many of which were former colonies of defeated powers, were monitored by the United Nations to ensure their political, economic, and social development towards independence. Territories such as Tanganyika, Cameroon, and Togo benefited from this arrangement and eventually attained independence under international supervision. The Trusteeship Council therefore became an important mechanism for dismantling colonial administration in some African territories.

Another landmark intervention by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV), officially titled "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" in December 14, 1960. This declaration was one of the most important United Nations resolutions in the history of decolonization and it's often referred to as the United Nations' strongest condemnation of colonialism. This is because, it openly condemned colonial rule in all its ramifications and requested for an immediate end to colonial rule worldwide. The resolution served as an encouragement to African nationalist movements and at the same time increased international pressure on European colonialist such as Britain, France, Belgium, and Portugal to as a matter of urgency grant independence to their colonies. The year 1960 subsequently became known as the "Year of Africa" because many African countries gained independence during that period. Among the countries that benefited from these resolution were Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Angola, and Mozambique amongst others.

Furthermore, the United Nations supported liberation movements in Southern Africa, especially in territories where colonialism and racial discrimination persisted. The organization condemned apartheid in South Africa and supported liberation struggles in Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. Through resolutions, sanctions, diplomatic pressure, efforts and international campaigns, the UN helped weaken colonial and minority regimes in these areas that eventually led to the collapse of apartheid. The policy of apartheid introduced by the white minority government in 1948 made the United Nations to be actively involved in South Africa. By practice, apartheid promoted racial segregation and discrimination that denied the Black majority in South Africa political rights, economic opportunities, and social equality. Thus, the United Nations viewed apartheid as a violation of human rights contrary to the principles of the United Nations Charter. At the same time, African and Asian member states persistently condemned the South African government for its racist policies and demanded international action.⁶

One of the things the United Nations did against the policy of apartheid in South Africa was to open at the General Assembly in 1946. However, the discussion over time, led to the adoption of several resolutions by the organization, condemning racial discrimination, while urging the South African government to end the policy. The consistent criticisms led to the establishment of the Special Committee against Apartheid to coordinate international efforts against

the apartheid regime² in 1962 by the UN General Assembly.⁷ To make this workable, sanctions and embargoes were imposed on South Africa. While member states were encouraged to stop military cooperation, restrict trade, and isolate the apartheid regime diplomatically. Moreso, the UN Security Council imposed a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa through Resolution 418 in 1977. These measures amongst others weakened the apartheid government economically and politically while increasing international support for the anti-apartheid struggle.⁸

Furthermore, the organization through its intervention played a vital role in the independence of Namibia. Namibia, which was formerly known as South West Africa and administered by South Africa after the First World War under a League of Nations mandate were refused independence and instead ruled under the policy of apartheid. The United Nations stood against South Africa's continued occupation of the territory and declared its administration illegal.⁵ Thus, in 1966, the United Nations General Assembly revoked South Africa's mandate over Namibia and placed the territory under direct United Nations responsibility. The organization recognized the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) as the legitimate representative of the Namibian people and supported its struggle for independence. The UN repeatedly called for the withdrawal of South African forces from Namibia and condemned apartheid policies in the territory.⁹ To facilitate Namibia's independence, the UN established the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in 1989. UNTAG supervised the ceasefire between South African forces and SWAPO fighters, monitored elections, and ensured a peaceful transition to independence. The elections were successfully conducted under UN supervision, leading to Namibia's independence on 21 March 1990.¹⁰

The intervention of the United Nations in South Africa and Namibia achieved important successes. The organization helped mobilize international opinion against apartheid, weakened the South African regime through sanctions and diplomatic isolation, and facilitated Namibia's peaceful transition to independence. Also, the United Nations played a crucial role in ending apartheid in South Africa through sanctions, resolutions, diplomatic pressure, and peacekeeping operations, the organization supported the principles of self-determination, racial equality, and human rights in Southern Africa.

The United Nations and Peace keeping in Africa

In the aftermath of independence from colonial rule, African states faced a wide range of political crises, including coups d'état, insurgencies, ethnic conflicts, and economic instability, all of which posed serious challenges to the continent's political and socio-economic development. A notable example of such was the crisis that erupted in Democratic Republic of the Congo shortly after the country gained independence from Belgium on 30th June, 1960. The Congo crisis, which lasted from 1960 and 1965, was largely a consequence of Belgium's failure to adequately prepare the

Congo for Independence. The crisis resulted in secessionist movements, military coups, political instability, ideological conflicts arising from cold war rivalries and mutinies within the armed forces. To restore peace the in Democratic Republic of Congo, United Nations through the establishment of United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) deployed peacekeeping forces, which also aimed to prevent foreign intervention in the newly independent state. ONUC helped preserve the territorial integrity of the Congo and prevented the crisis from escalating into a wider international conflict during the Cold War.¹¹

The United Nations intervention in the Democratic Republic of Congo marked the beginning of peace keeping in Africa demonstrating the organization's commitment to maintaining stability in post-colonial African countries. Subsequently, the organization deployed thousands of peace keepers to crisis-torn countries in Africa such as; Angola, Namibia (1989-1990), Mozambique (1993-1997), Somalia (1992-1995), Ethiopia and Eritrea (2008-2018), Burundi (2004-2017), Sudan (Darfur, 2007-2020), Sierra Leone (1999-2005), Liberia (2003-2018), South Sudan (2011-present), Mali (2013- present) and the Central African Republic (2014). Most importantly, the United Nations intervened in Namibia who had long been under South African control, through the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in 1989. The organization through its mission supervised the ceasefire between the forces of South Africa and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), monitored general elections, and facilitated Namibia's transition to independence in 1990. The operation is widely regarded as one of the most successful UN peacekeeping missions in Africa.¹²

Similarly, the United Nations intervened in Somalia after the overthrow of President Said Barre in 1991 plunged the country into civil war. The conflict resulted in widespread famine, violence, and humanitarian disaster which necessitated the deployment of United Nations peacekeeping forces to bring about peace and provide humanitarian assistance. The United Nations established the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) to provide humanitarian relief and restore stability. However, the mission faced serious difficulties due to resistance from local warlords and the absence of a functioning central government.¹³ In Rwanda as well, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) was established in 1993 to help carry out a prior peace accord between the Hutu-led government and the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front.

Thus, United Nations and its peacekeeping operations in Africa have achieved several successes. The organization have helped to end conflicts, supervised democratic elections, protected civilians, promoted disarmament, and supported humanitarian efforts. Peacekeeping missions have also assisted in rebuilding state institutions and encouraging national reconciliation in post-conflict societies.¹⁴ Moreso, United Nations peacekeeping operations have been central to conflict management and peace building in Africa, through military observation, humanitarian assistance, election

supervision, and post-conflict reconstruction, the UN has contributed significantly to stability in many African states.

UN Relationship with the AU in Maintaining Peace

The desire by the African states to as a matter of urgency collectively confront the developmental challenges and socio-political problems facing the continents after independence led to the establishment of various regional and continental organizations. Following the attainment of Independence, African leaders realized that the myriads of problems confronting African states such as political instability, economic underdevelopment and poverty amongst others could only be tackled by collective co-operation and integration among the African countries rather than by individual. Consequently, several organizations emerged to promote unity, economic cooperation, peace, security, and sustainable development across the continent. Among the most prominent of these organizations are the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The AU, which succeeded the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 2002, was established to promote African unity, defend the sovereignty of member states, and foster economic and political integration. Similarly, ECOWAS which was founded in 1975, had amongst its various mandates to encourage economic cooperation and regional integration among West African states. Moreso, to play an active role in preventing conflict, peacekeeping, and democratic governance among the West African states. Through their various programs and initiatives, these organizations have contributed significantly to the pursuit of development, regional stability, and collective self-reliance in Africa.¹⁵

For example, although the African Union faces its own difficulties, it has established a partnership with the United Nations to help address the remaining conflict areas across the continent. While the United Nations takes the primary role in resolving disputes and upholding peace and security in Africa, it nonetheless collaborates with the African Union in numerous respects.¹⁶ An early example can be seen at the start of the United Nations' mission in Namibia in 1989, or during its role as an observer in the voter identification process in Western Sahara. In light of the challenges it encountered, the United Nations quickly realized that its missions would lose credibility across Africa if it was not perceived as working in alignment with the African Union. Likewise, in Somalia, the UN's partners included not only the African Union but also the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Other collaborators have included sub-regional bodies, most notably the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its peacekeeping force, ECOMOG, in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The United Nations and the Quest for Peace and Security in Africa

The UN charter clearly points out that the goal of the organization is aimed to 'save succeeding generations from

the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind.¹⁷ Unsurprisingly, perhaps to add legality to this objective the article one of the UN charter explicitly states that the purpose of the Organization is to

To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.¹⁸

At this stage, it should be noted that underlying the goal of maintaining peace and security is the principle of collective security. Due to the multilateral character of the United Nations, decisions cannot be made unilaterally; rather, they require meaningful input from the organization's members, especially the five permanent members of the Security Council – China, France, Russia, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. After the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in 1990, Wilson notes that the Security Council united in objective 'moved to label the invasion a 'breach of the peace', quickly following this up with the imposition of non-military sanctions, and eventually moving to authorize a US-led coalition of states to use 'all measures necessary' to liberate Kuwait.¹⁹ This wholesome effort led eventually to the resolution of the conflict.

Peace-keeping since its emergence in 1948 has become one of the primary means employed by the UN to intervene in conflicts in the world over, though it faced problems during the cold war. It must be stated that its end improved cooperation among the veto powers so much so that there was a visible willingness among the veto powers to authorize action both military and non-military. However, peacekeeping during the 1990s faced a number of problems fueled by a growing 'Commitment gap' from the veto powers. Weiss and Kuele even point out that since the late 1990s when traditional peacekeeping grew increasingly dangerous, Veto powers became 'unwilling to send their own personnel where the risks are high and their national interests minimal. One former force commander summarized the growing gap by saying, "the willing are not capable, and the capable not willing."²⁰ Nonetheless, it must be emphasized that the presence of this multilateral tool for promoting peace and preventing conflicts has ensured that Africans have more means in tackling the problems in the continent.

Political instability, ethnic grievances, border conflicts, and a host of other factors have ensured to considerable extent insecurity in Africa. In fact, ownership of the state was fiercely contested in Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Liberia in the 1990s just as it had been in the Congo in the 1960s. We have a similar case in Angola and Mozambique, but in Somalia the state had simply ceased to exist. The United Nations has observable from the preceding paragraph have developed ways to combat this problem ensuring that Africans can

utilize its platform to call for assistance humanitarian or otherwise in dealing with these problems. Indeed, the principle of consent of the parties has remained central to peacekeeping whether those parties were states or less formal entities.²²

The Multilateralism assured by the UN allowed for the success of missions in many African Countries facing insecurity. The crisis in Liberia for example, following the collapse in 1980 of a long-standing though corrupt and inequitable system, the initial multilateral response to the crisis was a regional one by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), but through the UN the international community was drawn in to 'supervise' this intervention. Thus, the UN peace keeping mission ended in March 2017 in Liberia with the disarmament of more than 100,000 combatants, secured about 21,000 weapons, enabled about 1 million refugees and displaced persons to return home and assisted in the holding of three peaceful presidential legislature elections. (Ref) The UN's secretary General Antonio Guterres in a statement said respect the memory of 2012 peacemakers who lost their lives in Liberia also in Sierra Leone a UN mission known as UNAMSIL and to the country's nearly decade long civil war through the implementation of the dome peace agreement.²²

The United Nations is the pre-eminent body authorized to oversee peacekeeping missions. To do this, it generally follows three principles for deploying peacekeepers: Main parties to the conflict should consent: peacekeepers should remain impartial but not neutral and peacekeepers cannot use force except in defense and defense in the mandate. However, UN peacekeepers have been deployed to war zones where not all the main parties have consented, such as in Mali and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR). Under the UN charter, the Security Council can authorize an operation with an affirmative vote of at least nine of its fifteen members and without a vote from one of the five permanent members.

ASSESSING UNITED NATIONS PEACE AND SECURITY EFFORTS IN AFRICA

Without mincing words, United Nations has played a crucial role in promoting peace and security in Africa since its establishment in 1945 which have helped to protect civilians and reduce some of the worst consequences of war. Following the decolonization of the continent, the organization became actively involved in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, peace building and humanitarian assistance across the continent. Through these efforts, the United Nations has helped to significantly end conflicts and foster reconciliation in Africa by conducting peacekeeping operations in dozens of countries like Mozambique, Namibia and Tajikistan. Today the numbers of peace keeping troops have considerably increased in Africa to tens of thousands and felt in countries where civil wars and insurgencies have killed civilians and threatened to destabilize surrounding regions.²³

Peacekeeping mandates differ depending on the scope and scale of the conflict and on the body or group overseeing the mission. In Africa, United Nations deploys peacekeeping

forces to protect civilians in armed conflicts, prevent or contain fighting, stabilize post conflict zones, help implement peace accords and assist democratic transitions. To achieve these, peacemakers participate in a variety of peace building activities which include; disarmament, demobilization, restoration of the rule of law, protection and promotion of human rights and electoral assistance.

UN peace keeping has also made a real difference in other places with recently completed or on-going operations such as sierra Leone, Burundi, Cote d' Voire, Timor-Leste, Liberia etc. , by providing basic security guarantee and responding to cases, the UN operations have supported political transitions and helped buttress fragile new state institutions. They have helped countries to close the chapter of conflict and open a path to normal development.²⁴

Another benefit is financial gains, given that the United Nations reimburses infantry troops of participating nations at a rate of \$909 (1989 U.S. dollars) per soldier per month even when in reality 'many nations spend a good deal less than that per soldier per month based on overall military expenditures'. In fact, 'four of the countries that participated in peace operations in Somalia-Bangladesh, Egypt, India, and Nigeria stood to gain substantially from involvement.'²⁵ The presence of the UN has also allowed for intergovernmental relations between African countries and the international community in tackling insecurity and other problems. A case in point includes that of regional governments, like the East African governments which imposed sanctions through the UN on Burundi after the military coup there in 1996.²⁶

In addition to peacekeeping operations, the United Nations has provided humanitarian assistance to millions of Africans affected by armed conflicts. Through agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), and UNICEF, the organization has delivered food, shelter, medical assistance, and protection to refugees and internally displaced persons throughout the continent. RREF 20, The United Nations has also supported democratic governance and electoral processes in post-conflict societies. Electoral assistance and monitoring missions in countries such as Namibia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Côte d'Ivoire have helped strengthen democratic institutions and reduce political tensions.²⁷

Despite these achievements, the United Nations has face significant challenges. The United Nations peacekeeping mission have faced barrage of criticisms in Africa for a bus-wide range of problems, which includes mismanagement, failure to act when civilians are under threat, rights and financial troubles. The UN peace keepers have failed often times to intervene at critical moments. A 2014 report by the UN internal investigators found that peace keepers globally only respond to one in five cases in which civilians were threatened²⁹ and failed to use force in deadly attacks. The UN peace keeping forces have also been accused of committing human rights abuses and exploitations including pervasive allegations of sexual abuse. Most recently, the UN withdrew hundreds of Gabonese peace keepers from the Central African

Republic and opened a problem following allegations of sexual abuse of rights. However, even with the UN probe efforts, nothing serious has been done as the UN peace keepers have immunity from persecution in the countries where they are deployed.

In addition, while the developing countries or the global south as a whole has become increasingly committed to peacekeeping missions a source of disillusionment 'is the probability that some (perhaps many) of the poorer nations that contribute to U.N. peacekeeping operations do so for crude financial gain.'³⁰ Given that the United Nations reimburses infantry troops of participating

Conclusion

Since its establishment in 1945, the United Nations has played a significant role in shaping Africa's developmental trajectory through its efforts in decolonization, peacekeeping, and the promotion of security. The organization provided moral, legal, and diplomatic support for African nationalist movements, thereby accelerating the dismantling of colonial rule and facilitating the emergence of independent African states. Through instruments such as the Trusteeship Council, the principle of self-determination, and Resolution 1514 of 1960, the United Nations became a major force in the global campaign against colonialism. Beyond decolonization, the United Nations has contributed substantially to peace and security on the continent through numerous peacekeeping operations in different countries in Africa. These interventions have helped to manage conflicts, supervise ceasefires, support democratic transitions, provide humanitarian assistance, and promote post-conflict reconciliation. In addition, the organization has worked closely with African regional bodies to address emerging security threats and foster political stability.

Despite, the United Nations' involvement in Africa has not been without .challenges which includes: inadequate resources, political rivalries among major powers, complex internal conflicts, and failures in cases such as Rwanda and Somalia have sometimes undermined the effectiveness of its interventions. Despite these shortcomings, the United Nations remains an indispensable actor in Africa's quest for peace, security, development, and international cooperation.

It can therefore be concluded that the United Nations has exerted a profound influence on Africa's post-1945 history. While many developmental and security challenges persist, the organization's contributions to decolonization, conflict resolution, peace building, and state development have been instrumental in shaping contemporary Africa and advancing the continent's aspirations for unity, stability, and sustainable development.

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