CFR Resources


A brief introduction to the International Monetary Fund and the role it has played in a number of crises. (2,500 words)


A brief introduction to the World Bank that considers both its critics and its successes. (2,050 words)

James McBride and Andrew Chatzky, “What’s Next for the WTO?”

A brief introduction to the World Trade Organization that considers its precarious position in the face of criticism from President Donald J. Trump and others. (2,200 words)

“The Role of the UN General Assembly.”

A brief introduction to the structure and functioning of the UN General Assembly. (1,800 words)

“The Role of the UN Secretary-General.”

A brief introduction to the position of UN secretary-general. (1,700 words)

“The UN Security Council.”

A brief introduction to the structure and powers of the United Nations Security Council as well as an examination of criticisms the organization faces and its prospects for reform. (2,400 words)

“What Does the World Health Organization Do?”

A brief introduction to the functioning of the World Health Organization and a guide to criticisms of the institution. (2,050 words)
Articles

A look at how Australia and other smaller countries are adapting as the United States and China change their stances toward global governance. (1,550 words)


An op-ed by CFR’s president that details the shortcomings and failures of the United Nations. It provides a counterpoint to Tijjani Muhammad-Bande’s article. (1,000 words)


An op-ed by the president of the seventy-fourth session of the UN General Assembly and permanent representative of Nigeria to the United Nations that details the successes and promise of the United Nations. It provides a counterpoint to Richard N. Haass’s article. (1,300 words)


A comprehensive look at a recent International Criminal Court case against Omar al-Bashir, the former president of Sudan. (800 words)


A New York Times story on a report that found that UN peacekeepers stationed in Haiti fathered and then abandoned hundreds of children. (1,200 words)

A profile of an important UN official at a pivotal time in the organization’s history. An excerpt from Power’s book listed below. (11,200 words)


A comprehensive look at a recent International Court of Justice case over the genocide of the Rohingya people in Myanmar. (1,500 words)


A story, with some excellent graphs, about how the World Trade Organization has changed since China joined it. (2,600 words)


An explainer on the United Nations that includes analysis of the organization’s challenges. (1,400 words)

Books


A history of how the modern systems of global governance came to be in the wake of World War II, with a particular focus on the Bretton Woods Conference, the founding of the United Nations, and the Nuremberg trials. (437 pages)


An introduction to the United Nations that explains its history and functioning as well as examines its successes, failures, and challenges. (192 pages)

A comprehensive history of the United Nations that argues it is a flawed but indispensable institution. (384 pages)


A detailed biography of the United Nations’ most famous and most effective secretary-general. (760 pages)


An introduction to the World Trade Organization that explains its history, structure, and purpose in an effort to contextualize controversies about the organization. (155 pages)


A biography of a senior UN official that illuminates a number of crises in which the UN intervened. (622 pages)


A detailed but readable look at the dynamics of negotiations at the Bretton Woods Conference. (464 pages)

**Multimedia**


A podcast episode that argues the United States has abandoned some elements of international law and discusses the practical effects of this abandonment. (38 minutes)

An approachable introduction to the World Trade Organization centered on a handful of incisive questions about the institution. (19 minutes)

Resources

[About the UN](https://www.un.org/aboutun/), United Nations.

The United Nations’ own website, which has a wealth of information about the organization.