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## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. There are many issues and problems around the world. How might countries work together through organizations to solve these problems and issues? Can citizens play a role in solving these problems and issues? Hmm... these are important questions to consider, so let's get started!
2. After watching this video you will be able to:
  - ◆ Identify some major international organizations where governments play a role, such as NATO, the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, and the World Trade Organization.
  - ◆ Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of U.S. membership in international organizations.
  - ◆ Describe the ways in which individuals and governments can play a role in international organizations.
3. International organizations are groups of governments or people from different countries that work together to solve an issue that crosses a country's borders.
4. One type is an intergovernmental organization which is an organization formed with groups of governments for a specific purpose.
5. Let's begin by looking at some major intergovernmental organizations.
6. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also known as NATO, is a military and defense agreement among the governments of member nations. It was established in 1949 and represents a group of 28 countries that have agreed to protect each other in case of attack.
7. Western Europe and the United States originally formed NATO to protect themselves against the Soviet Union, its allies and the spread of communism during the Cold War.
8. The goal of the United Nations, also known as the UN, is to keep peace around the world and develop friendly relationships among nations. It was created in 1945 after World War II, 193 countries and their governments are currently members of the United Nations.
9. We also have the United Nations Children's Fund, or UNICEF, which was established in 1946. This provides help and care to mothers and children in poor nations. UNICEF focuses its work on a variety of children's issues throughout the world that include education, sanitation, and protecting children from violence.
10. The goal of the World Trade Organization, also known as the WTO, is to promote trade and economic growth. It was created in 1995 and is currently made up of 164 countries. The World Trade Organization tries to promote economic growth by lowering taxes and removing

limits on some types of trade between member countries. Countries may join and make agreements with other countries about trade and taxes.

11. The International Court of Justice, also known as the World Court, was established in 1945. The World Court gives legal advice to the United Nations and deals with international legal issues, such as a disagreement about borders between countries. It was established in 1945.
12. Let's check in. Based on what you have learned so far, how might international organizations play a role in trying to solve problems facing the world?  
→ ANSWER TO QUESTION
13. Another type of international organization is an International Non-Governmental Organization, also called an INGO. These are voluntary citizens groups that are organized on an international level.
14. INGO's perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to governments, advocate for certain issues such as human rights or the environment, and encourage political participation. Individual citizens can be a part of international non-governmental organizations.
15. One example of an international non-governmental organization is the International Red Cross/Red Crescent. The International Red Cross/Red Crescent was established in 1863. It was founded to protect human life and health, to promote respect for all human beings, and to help people who suffer because of war or natural disasters.
16. So now let's see if we can answer the question, how can governments and individual citizens participate in and support international organizations?
17. So let's talk about how individuals and governments can participate in and support the United Nations.
18. Remember that there are 193 nations that are members of the UN, and membership to the UN is open to nations that agree to the Charter of the United Nations, the organization's governing document.
19. So how can governments participate in the UN? Well, the UN's general assembly, made up of all members, debates international issues and makes membership decisions based on the advice of the UN Security Council, made up of 15 members responsible for maintaining international peace and security.
20. So that's how governments can participate in and support the United Nations. But how about individuals like me and you? Well, we can support the United Nations by donating money. We can participate in the United Nations by interning or working for the UN.
21. Remember, we just learned that the International Court of Justice, or the World Court, gives legal advice to the UN and handles international legal issues, such as disagreements about borders. Countries and governments can participate in the World Court by being members of the United Nations.

22. So that's how government and nations can participate in the World Court, but how about individuals like me and you. How can we participate in the World Court? Well, we can work or intern for the organization.
23. Do you remember what the United Nations' Children's Emergency Fund, or UNICEF, does? That's right. It provides help and care to children in poor nations, and it does this in a variety of ways. It focuses on education, sanitation, and protecting children from violence.
24. So UNICEF sure does do some great work. But how can individuals like me and you support and participate in UNICEF's work? Well, we can participate in UNICEF by working, interning or volunteering for the organization. We can support UNICEF by donating money, educating others about the organization, and spreading awareness of their work through social media.
25. Do you remember what an international non-governmental organization is? That's right, it's a voluntary citizen group organized on an international level. So let's talk about one of those groups, the International Red Cross or Red Crescent.
26. Remember that the International Red Cross/Red Crescent is one of the most important international non-governmental organizations. It protects human life and health, promotes respect for all human beings, and helps people who suffer because of war or natural disasters.
27. So the International Red Cross/Red Crescent does some really good work. How can governments support the International Red Cross/Red Crescent? Well, they can donate money, educate people, and provide volunteers to help in the work.
28. So how can individuals like me and you support and participate in the work of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent? Well, we can do it in many ways: donate money, support its causes through social media, volunteer, work for the organization, and raise awareness.
29. We've learned a lot so far, so let's check in- What are some ways in which government and individuals can support and participate in international organizations?  
→ ANSWER TO QUESTION
30. Now international organizations are not the only way that countries can try and solve problems. We should also know that countries can form treaties instead of creating organizations. A treaty is an agreement or arrangement between two or more countries.
31. An example of a treaty is the Geneva Convention, which was revised and became active in 1949. It was signed by hundreds of countries, including the United States. It defines the basic rights of wartime prisoners, civilians and military personnel, establishes protections for the wounded and sick, and provides protections for the civilians in and around a war-zone.
32. Well, we've learned a lot today, so let's recap. Try to answer each of these questions.
33. What are the international organizations where government plays a role?  
→ ANSWER TO QUESTION

34. Let's try one more. Now, based on what you learned, how can countries work together, through something like the Geneva Conventions, if they don't form an international organization?

→ ANSWER TO QUESTION

35. International organizations are usually established to encourage the cooperation of nations. Some international organizations protect human rights (the rights that people have simply because they exist); others focus on economic and trade issues.

36. While these organizations have members from countries around the world, the United States is a leading member in many of them. Membership in organizations vary based on the needs of the country and its people, and this is no different for the U.S. The president, secretary of state, and other cabinet members that are involved in foreign policy, discuss the advantages and disadvantages of membership in international organizations.

37. Some advantages to membership in international organizations like NATO and the UN are that it can give the U.S. allies when it wants to take action to address an issue. For example, membership in the UN helped the U.S. get support for its invasion of Iraq to free Kuwait in 1991. Membership in these organizations can also help the U.S. resolve things like trade disputes through the World Trade Organization.

38. A disadvantage to membership in these organizations is that it can sometimes make it difficult for the U.S. to take actions it needs to take for the national interest because it is limited by the rules or requirements of the organizations. For example, the World Trade Organization can decide against the United States in a trade dispute. International organizations may also require a financial or military commitment of some kind. The United States, as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, can be asked by other members to support them if they are attacked.

39. Ultimately, the President, in collaboration with the Cabinet and the Senate, must make decisions that will reflect the will of the people, while still considering those national interests you learned about in our last video on Domestic and Foreign Policy.

40. All in all, international organizations play a large role in both the world in general and in our lives. How we can participate with them to help make the world a better place is something we should all think about.