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Research exercise: United Nations Reform: Inefficiencies of the Responsibility to Protect

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United Nations Reform: Inefficiencies of the Responsibility to Protect
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What is R2P?
- Doctrine adopted in 2005 in response to violations in Rwanda and the Balkans
- A state’s sovereignty does not protect them from international intervention when HR violations are occurring in their borders
- Libya, Cote d’Ivoire, Sudan, Yemen, Darfur

UN Peacekeeper, 2004
Darfur genocide camp, 2006
Colin Powell’s infamous UN speech, 2003
Syrian bombing, 2013

What is wrong with R2P?

P-5 interests
- Private interests of world super powers
- Veil of humanitarianism
- USA in 2003
- USSR in 1979

No standing army
- UN relies on member states to lend aid and support
- Lack of willingness
- Improper resources to implement

Legal precedent
- UN Charter restricts violence yet R2P calls for it
- Hypocrisy
- Who ranks higher? UN or State?

Proposed Reform
- Unanimous Security Council vote to void P-5 veto
- Small, standing UN military force for faster response
- Redefine criteria to approve humanitarian intervention

References