The Problem: The United Nations was established in the wake of the Second World War. The institutional framework reflects the context of that period; it spliced together a concern for human rights with national sovereignty, above all that of the permanent members of the security council.

Implications: The United Nations is not fit for purpose in the 21st Century.

Initial members of the United Nations in 1945

Members of the United Nations joined after 1945

Not members: The Vatican, Kosovo

Source: Press Release ORG/1469 of July 2006

NEW ISSUES ON THE AGENDA

‘Problems without passports’ (Kofi Annan)

United Nations

Climate change

Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Terrorism

Economic meltdowns

Pandemics

Human security

Gender inequality
What the world is doing about it: Implementation of new issue areas

Since 1945, the United Nations has expanded its membership, as well as the range of issue areas it deals with.

What the research suggests: The United Nations must reinvent itself to deal with new challenges

Many argue that the United Nations has failed to adjust fast enough to contemporary global challenges.