

# GLOBAL.

NEWSLETTER

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*Our Past Shapes our Future.*





## Nº5.

*This week on GLOBAL. we are discussing the how our world has been shaped by our past successes and failures as a species. From high tech supersonic aircraft, to Italy's Meloni, to the legalization of genocide, to the creation of new geopolitical norms, and why the UN struggles to take action. These stories shape us and our future. Its important to always remember never to forget where you started.*

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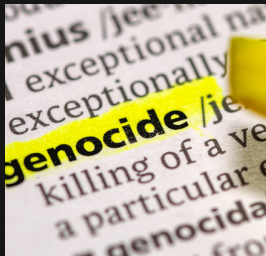
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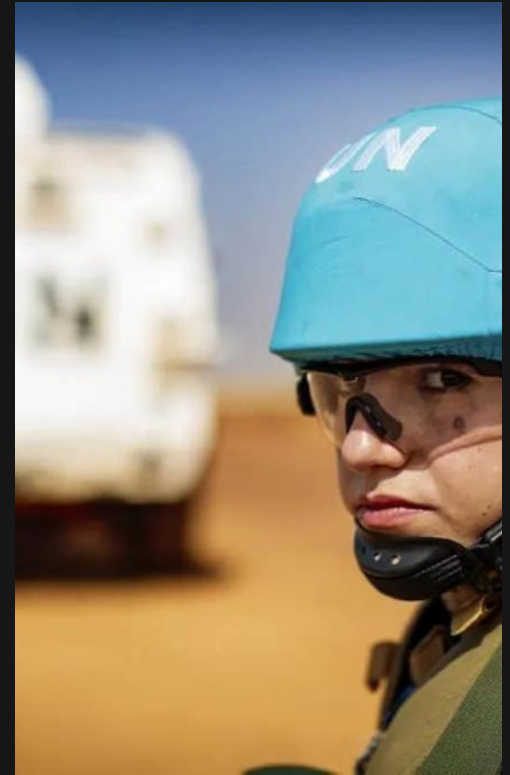


MELONI IS PUT TO  
THE TEST.



# WHY THE UN OFTEN STRUGGLES TO PROTECT?

BY: AUSTIN WALLACE



The United Nations is the world's largest intergovernmental organization and is perhaps the predominant force on peace, humanitarian assistance, and global development. It operates in 193 countries and several unrecognized states (UN, 2024). It employs thousands of people and billions of dollars annually in budgetary requirements. It is a true behemoth of humanitarian assistance and, therefore, projects enormous influence diplomatically and physically in dozens of countries worldwide.

This influence has made the UN General Assembly, Security Council, Trusteeship Council, and ECOSOC valuable international peace and development tools in the last several decades. Its ability to enforce many laws and binding and non-binding resolutions created in its various bodies of power is at the core of its work. This work is often delegated to Special Political Missions and their peacekeeping or stabilization forces. These multinational forces are usually hefty (10,000 +) and operate globally in some of the harshest conditions (UN, 2024). Their ability to establish stability and peace is critical to achieving UN SDGs and other various goals for international politics.

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*However, with growing conflicts since the mid-90s, the UN has struggled to enforce much of its peacekeeping mandates and enforce peace. Rwanda, Bosnia, Macedonia, Syria, Gaza, Ukraine, the DRC, and Mali have been some of the most recent and controversial UN mandates. In the cases of Rwanda and Bosnia, the conflict became so severe that genocide was reached, and in the DRC, the conflict has never ended since the mid-90s. With significant UN losses growing globally, the UN has recently been more cautious about intervening and even had to create an enforcement branch known as the FIB (Force Intervention Brigade) (Tull, 2017, UN, 2024).*





"Authorized in March 2013 to launch offensive military operations against insurgent groups, the FIB may come to epitomize a sea change in the transition from robust peacekeeping to a qualitatively different kind of UN peace operation." (Tull, 2017). This shift in policy has been slow, frequently blockaded by an ever more solidified Security Council. Due to this, many countries worldwide have begun to turn away from the UN for its protection or assistance. Separate partnerships between the African Union and European Union in the Sahel are an example of this drive away from UN peacekeeping.

Many argue that if the Security Council could increase its permanent membership, this body of power could better use the FIB and peacekeeping forces to administrate and "keep the peace" appropriately (Gill, 2009). While this could be possible, minimal action has been taken to change this current situation, despite even interest from India and Brazil in becoming permanent members. With all this being said, the future of the UN in the lens of current conflict is very uncertain. While its work in humanitarian rescue, medicine, sustainability, and development remains strong, its original intended goal of being a global peacekeeper has been under immense scrutiny. This scrutiny is damaging its once impenetrable prestige.

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# TRAVELING FASTER THAN SOUND

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BY: GLOBAL TECH TEAM

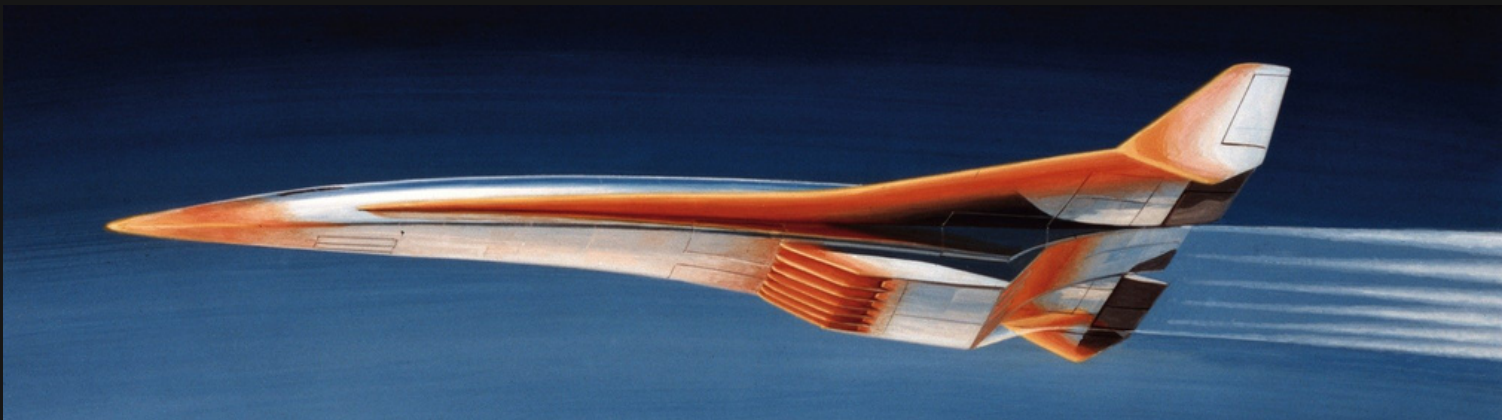
Flying has been a marvel since its early beginnings in commercial travel in the 20th century. The fact that you could fly over land and water to destinations on other continents significantly changed our world's connectivity and culture. With the introduction of the jet engine and later the supersonic plane, air travel became accessible and widely used. However, due to its highly technical nature and production expense, supersonic flight became relegated to the elite, who used it to fly faster and show off their economic status. The Concorde was the vessel for this massive new air change in speed. It was a marvel of technology, but no doubt it was flawed. It was too small, too expensive, and a commercial failure. Concorde would be retired in 2003, costing countries and companies billions and returning very little. However, it achieved cult status and retained a record of being the most successful attempt to ferry people around at supersonic speeds in the air.

Starting in mid-2010, a movement began to grow to push for new types of efficient, high-speed travel for the masses and even potentially supersonic travel. As complaints of cramped and uninspired travel continue to plague airlines, it becomes clear that new companies like Boom Supersonic are set to alter this new dilemma with speed, flashy renderings, and high-value marketing of the future we could all have. "Earlier this month, a demonstrator aircraft for what could be the first new civil supersonic plane to be launched since the 1960s took to the skies. It is a milestone moment in the highly anticipated new era of supersonic travel." (CNN, 2024). This milestone began a mass change in air travel that Boom says can be achieved by 2029. Boom is not alone; they compete with Hermeus and NASA, who plan to fly passengers within the decade. With the new plane called "Overture," Boom promises to fly with sustainable aviation fuel, be much cheaper than ever, and be greener overall (CNN, 2024). However, skepticism grows for these new startup projects.



The challenges for Boom Supersonic are enormous. "...high costs and overland flight restrictions because of sonic booms could hinder the production and certification of Overture...He estimated Boom's plane would likely cost less to operate than the Concorde but would still struggle to find people willing to pay the high ticket price." (BI, 2024). Oddly, despite Boom's commitments to cost reduction and its adamant pursuit of technological usage to bring costs down, it is clear that many of the issues plaguing Concorde still exist. According to Boom, they will operate the plane at Mach 0.94 over land and sly supersonic over the ocean, and with over 600 planned routes and airlines like United and American Airlines taking up pre-orders, there is potential to have this work (Boom Supersonic, 2024). Questions remain: can the cost be low enough for this new startup project to be affordable and available for passengers and airlines?

Decades since the most technically advanced passenger aircraft, Concorde, was retired, Boom supersonic is pushing to change the aviation industry over again alongside Hermeus and NASA. These projects provide all the glitzy and stylish glamour of supersonic travel from before but have proven to be significant technological and engineering hurdles costing billions and, worst yet, still not proving their ability to prove Concorde wrong and make supersonic for the masses. With supersonics banned over land in most of the world, economic issues globally, fuel prices skyrocketing, and engineering costs growing, only time will tell if Boom supersonics and the new high-speed trend will carry over to airlines and passengers by 2029.





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# WHY IS GENOCIDE HARD TO PROVE?

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*BY: GLOBAL. LEGAL TEAM*



Since the horrors of the Second World War became public knowledge, the term genocide has been at the forefront of human rights and legal research to determine its ability to be used in global circumstances. First used by Raphael Lemkin in 1944, the term genocide has been used in a variety of contexts since the Holocaust to describe many forms of ethnic cleansing and massacre (UN, 2024). In 1946, it first became coined under international law, bringing it into the mainstream of modern political thought on mass violence against people. The modern definition of the word is, "In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

1. Killing members of the group;
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." (UN, 2024).





This terminology has, up until recently, been considered the standard baseline for understanding genocide. However, conflict in Ukraine, Gaza, Haiti, and other states has meant that the word has become criticized for its inability to be used critically regarding issues that surround or are not perfectly within those categories. Instead, many feel it is nearly impossible to convict of genocide, and as history shows, it is complicated.

Rwanda, Bosnia, Armenia, Sudan, Libya, Myanmar, China, and many more nations have had widespread ethnic cleansing in the last couple of decades. However, only some of these cases have ever made it to be considered genocides officially. China, Libya, and Armenia's ethnic ceasing have not been considered official genocides, while Bosnia, Rwanda, Myanmar, and Sudan have all been recognized as such. This stems from a set of legal qualifications for genocide legally. "To establish genocide, prosecutors must first show that the victims were part of a distinct national, ethnic, racial or religious group. This excludes groups targeted for political beliefs. Genocide is harder to show than other violations of international humanitarian law, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, because it requires evidence of specific intent." "Genocide is a difficult crime to prove. Parties have to bring a lot to the table," said Melanie O'Brien, president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars. She cited the combined requirement of showing intent, the targeting of a protected group, and crimes like killings or forcibly removing children." (Reuters, 2022). This essentially means that intent becomes the basis and structure to form a legal argument for genocide, making it extremely difficult to prove when evidence and information can be skewed. According to the UN, to prove the intent, you must identify the motive and how it was carried out and backtrack; often, this is the most challenging part to prove. (UN, 2024).

Rwanda was the sight of one of history's fastest and deadliest genocides to date. In 4 months, 1 million people were killed in ethnic cleansing attacks carried out by the Hutu majority against the Tutsi minority. In this case, the legal aspect of intent was argued and debated by numerous states, such as the US and France, who claimed it was ethnic cleansing but not necessarily genocide. In the end, it was legally identified as a genocide due to its particular and deliberate mass murder of a sub-group identity. Importantly, it took years to achieve this legal definition. Today, many, like South Africa, accuse countries like Israel of committing genocide. Like in Rwanda and many other cases, the debate and deliberations are often graphic, complex, and, in many cases, years long. However, whether or not Israel/Russia/ other states are committing genocide will be up to the ICJ to determine, but it is unlikely to be an easy nor straightforward decision as the repercussions are often enormous and diplomatically devastating.



# HOW WW<sub>2</sub> CHANGED EMPIRE

BY: AUSTIN WALLACE

Today, the concept of an empire has all been lost to history, despite some lasting until the 90s. Empire seems to many to be in a distant authoritative period of rule. However, the reality is much more complex. What were once physical overseas giants transferred to land-based superstates, known more formally as superpowers? This massive change in the perception of empire and why its terminology is no longer used to describe massive nations is one embedded in guilt and the horror of the Second World War, decolonization, and the UN.

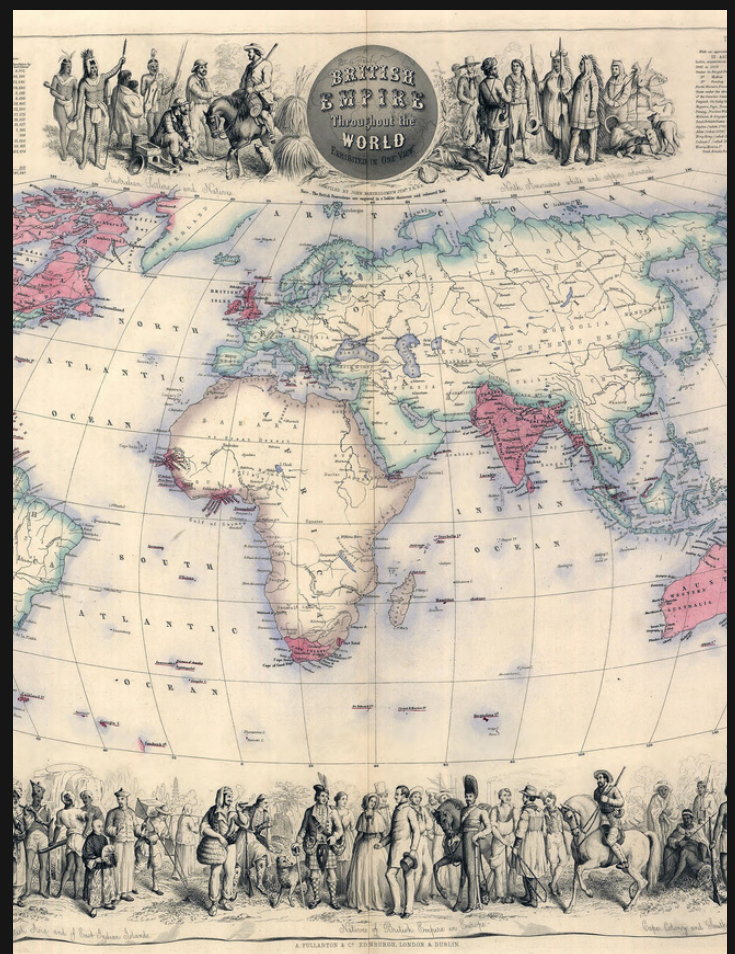
"As fighting came to an end in 1945, people the world over faced for the first time the unprecedented extent of destruction and loss of life caused by World War II. As the costs of victory came into devastating focus, the diplomatic responses, rising global tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, and social disruption that followed in the aftermath of this conflict showed that World War II was truly "the war that changed the world." (NWM, 2024). As the reality of the toll the war had taken on Europe's grand states set in, the realization of their inability to hold onto the empire hit quickly. Within months, the revolution hit the Dutch East Indies, British India, and French Indochina. As their empires crumbled, the foundation of the UN meant that formerly subjugated people could now come forward and talk of their grievances. Many states, like the Netherlands and the British, swiftly devised plans to grant independence but retain economic contracts to survive. The Netherlands failed at this venture, while the English not only succeeded but created the most successful post-colonial system of the bunch. The British Commonwealth would outlive the French Community, Portugal and Spain's autocratic colonial systems, the Belgian Congo project, and even the Soviet Union. As France and the UK began to deal with being secondary on the global stage, the USA and the Soviet Union began to eye up the world for their "new" empires.



The USA took a very different approach. America would give up the Philippines, symbolically showing its approval of decolonization and liberalization. However, "Fears of another "red fascist" regime in the Soviet Union, and later anti-communist China, motivated Americans to tolerate restrictions on personal freedom in the name of security." (NWM, 2024). This move meant that the Americans would also begin to invade and operate its CIA in many nations in the Americas and Asia in order to secure the "capitalist" experience globally. The Soviet Union operated equally, even sometimes more directly, such as in Afghanistan and the Middle East. The Soviets indeed had a colonial empire in communist disguise. Their control over Eastern Europe was colonial by every nature, although nowhere near as grand in perception. As both states pretended not to operate Neo-colonially, other great powers were reeling from their devastation. Germany, Japan, and Italy emerged empireless, economically devastated, and, worst yet, with a vast shadow of shame for their widespread human rights violations. All three would emerge broken. Germany was divided in half, Japan was occupied, and Italy was ideologically divided. As the world realized they had to reinvent new methods for wealth and capacity building, countries such as the UK and France managed a new method of global control.

Realizing that their former colonial empires had given them access to vital linguistic and cultural connections meant that both states would have policing roles in former colonies. This was more innovative for Britain as the British decolonization effort outside of Israel/Palestine and a few other colonies was peaceful and liberalized, with many former colonies joining its Commonwealth soon after independence. "The Cold War added further complexities, as Britain attempted to insulate former colonies from the influence of the Soviet Union." (IWM, 2024). France, on the contrary, had a dirtier track record. Its colonial breakup was through violent suppression in Algeria and Indochina, and the French were eventually forced to essentially give up their empire alongside Britain after the Suez Crisis. Due to the French disaster of decolonization, France has had a massively influential but unstable relationship with many of its former colonies.

The breakup of colonial empires was a massive geopolitical change that altered the world's cultural, societal, linguistic, economic, and political makeups. Suddenly, there were 60-70 new nations. The traditional empire was over with the handover of Portuguese Macau and British Hong Kong in the 90s. The Soviet Union would fall in 1991, marking the end of the first communist empire. China, the USA, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, the EU, the UK, and Russia are all remnants of the 20th-century imperial breakdown of the world. All of these groups and states operate political and economic controls globally. They are no longer considered empires but potentially Neo-colonial activities, especially in Africa. Today, China and the USA remain the most influential states, operating numerous military installations on every continent. They use their economic and political power to split the world between them as BRICS and NATO continue to put heads on policies globally. Empire as we knew it may have died, but it is back again in a new form, now in the shadow of ideology and money. The world's future is getting murkier every day, and as countries like Russia are up to their old tricks, it becomes clear that they may not look colonial anymore, but it is starting to get close again.





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# MELONI TO THE TEST

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BY: NICOLO COBIANCHI



In the last week what has held court in the Italian media is the detention in the Hungarian jails of Ilaria Salis, an Italian citizen and anti-fascist activist. Ilaria Salis, 39 years old has been kept in a high-security detention center in Budapest since February 2023 when she was arrested by the Hungarian police on suspicion of having participated in two aggressions which took place on the tenth of the same month in Budapest. The assaults in which Salis allegedly took part were conducted toward two participants in Hungary's Day of Honour commemorations. A celebration that takes place every year in Budapest and that attracts neo-Nazi sympathizers from all over Europe. Salis was arrested with other Antifa activists, and her eventual conviction might result in 11 years of detention as asked by the prosecutors.

Although the Italian citizen has been detained for almost a year now, the case has received large attention and generated a heated debate very recently: after the release of a video depicting Ilaria Salis arriving at the court for the start of the judicial proceedings handcuffed and with the legs shackled. The video is dated back to 29th January, and it prompted a large scandal in the Italian media and among the Italian political elite concerned for the poor conditions in which the girl would be detained. Much indignation came from the opposition parties of Meloni's government, with the former demanding the executive to pressure the Hungarian government and the prime minister Orban, a longtime ally of Meloni, to clarify the conditions of Salis's detention and by attacking Orban and its judicial modus operandi. Indignation came also from the Italian government itself and from members of the ruling parties, even if with softer tones than those used by the opposition. Members of the Italian ruling coalition called for a fair and right process in compliance with European principles on human rights. Recently the foreign Italian Minister Roberto Tajani, a member of the "Forza Italia" party, declared that the government is ready to do whatever is necessary with the purpose of bringing Ilaria Salis back to Italy for house detention but that it can be done only after the Hungarian judges concede to the Italian citizen house detention in Hungary. Tajani added also that the executive is carefully following the events, but that Italy cannot interfere directly in foreign judicial proceedings.



The scandal involving Ilaria Salis's process and detention outbreak coincidentally during the days in which Orbán was pressured by the European Council to lift its veto on the EU budget involving an additional €50 billion allocated to Ukraine on top of further funds for addressing migration and common security policy. Hungary was threatened with being suspended in the voting procedure under Article 7 of the TEU if the veto on the budget had not been removed. Orbán decided in the end to remove his veto, and the protagonist in the negotiation process was Meloni, the closest political ally of the Hungarian president. In the last few days, Orbán also declared his decision to enter with Fidesz, his party, in the European Conservatives and Reformist group after the European elections of June 2024. The ECR is the home of Meloni's party Brothers of Italy, and the Italian delegation has the co-presidency of the group (together with the Polish Law and Justice). Again Meloni, who has come closer to Von Der Leyen since becoming Italian Prime Minister, will be asked to further mediate between the President of the Commission and the Hungarian Prime Minister, even in light of the possible reelection of the former.





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ANGOLAN COMMUNISM.

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