

## **Abstract**

Since the end of the Cold War, the United Nations has been working to adapt its peacekeeping missions to the changing conflict environment. However, it still faces several key challenges in its approach to its peacekeeping missions. As the UN operates within increasingly complex conflict environments, it requires greater funding, more resources, and further commitment from its member states. The UN Security Council, which controls the design and implementation of peacekeeping operations, is dominated by the P5 nations of the US, the UK, France, China, and Russia. While the UNSC's failings are often discussed, this dissertation attempts to address a gap in the literature by exploring the foundational influences on the UN within the context of ethnocentrism. The concept of ethnocentrism is fundamental to the functioning of global society, as it influences international relations and structure. The presence of ethnocentrism promotes exploitative practices and the belief in dominance over other groups. This study addresses the UN's political challenges in its capability to engage in peacekeeping operations, within an ethnocentric framework, by focusing on UN documents, independent reports, secondary literature, and analysing voting patterns, mandate structure, and financial contributions. The findings of this study are that the UN has developed under ethnocentric influences and continues to practice and promote ethnocentric processes in its approach to peacekeeping. As such, the dominance of the US and the other P5 nations within the Security Council, enable these countries to exert their influence and shape the practices of UN peacekeeping to act within their own interests. This contributes to the inefficiency of the UN to adhere to its rhetoric as a global peacekeeping organisation. The impact and implications of these findings are also discussed, including attempting reform of the UN Security Council, or the potential replacement of the UN as the leading global peacekeeping body by regional organisations.