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Creation of the United Nations - II

Lead: Determined to avoid the mistakes of the League of Nations, the founding states of the United Nations met to draft a charter in San Francisco in the Spring of 1945.

Intro. : *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: One of the factors complicating the establishment of the United Nations was that its Charter provisions were hammered out when the primary concern of the founders was the defeat of the Axis. Nothing could be allowed to deter the Allies

from this task. Therefore the negotiations proceeded with a certain delicacy.

At preliminary conferences, at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington in October 1944 and then again at Yalta in February 1945, the main issue was security and how the great powers, the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, China and later France, would maintain their predominance and protect their own interests. The principal agency of that concern became the Security Council, the permanent membership of the great powers and their right to veto enforcement actions, if not discussion of all matters. While specific changes were enacted at the San Francisco

Conference, the broad outline of great power agreement prevailed.

At the Charter conference, issues governing admission of disputed states, the role of smaller nations, the disposition of colonies and territories held in trust by large nations, and, importantly, the ultimate responsibilities of the Secretary-General and the role of the General Assembly, were subject to sometimes heated negotiations, but in the end the United Nations that emerged was an organization that reflected great power consensus. It would change over the years in complexion and approach, but that would come as a result of Cold War conflict and enormous growth.

**At the University of Richmond,
this is Dan Roberts.**

Resources

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