

Presentation of Mr. Maher Nasser from the United Nations about multiculturalism



Mr. Maher Nasser, from the United Nations Department of Public Information made several very interesting points during his presentation on November 27, 2018 while speaking at UVU. His discussion centered primarily around the goals and reason behind the United Nations especially as it pertained to the Sustainable Development Goals in nations across the world. He described the three pillars of the UN, peace and security, development, and human rights.

An interesting point that he made while speaking on terrorism as well as other projects that the UN works with was that you can't always see how a preventative measure helped with a situation because that situation didn't occur. He used the analogy of a vaccine, people will go and get a vaccine and then if they don't get sick it almost feels like they didn't need the vaccine because they were never sick when in reality it was because of the vaccine that they didn't become sick. It's the same way with certain choices made by the UN, in hindsight it is difficult to see how they helped because the situation they were created for never occurred or was mitigated. While I

appreciated the analogy and understood his point, it felt a lot like an excuse. Essentially saying that you can't see how what we do works, and we can't explain it, but it does, and you'll just have to trust us. This is not to say the UN doesn't work but I have no doubt there are certain policies that haven't been effective or necessary.

Another interesting topic that was discussed was what the UN does in terms of the NGO's already in existence. For example, with the World Hunger Organization, they already have a large network and system in which they can operate so how does the UN fit into that or vice versa? Mr. Nasser used the example of a disaster, there are many organizations around the world that are ready and willing to help with the rebuild, the refugees, and anything else that might need to be done. The UN coordinates those efforts to make sure that the maximum amount of good is being done for the area that was devastated, if there wasn't someone or something at the head of these projects then the different organizations could neglect certain aspects of the relief and over do others. The UN oversees the relief efforts so that each category is taken care of and that resources aren't wasted.

All in all, the presentation was very interesting, to see how the sustainable development goals play such a large role in the United Nations' view of countries and how it effects their decision making. I didn't realize how these goals could be utilized but after hearing how the UN is broken down into different organizations and groups that focus on certain aspects of the development goals it seems like there is a pretty effective system in place, or at the very least, a system with the potential to be very effective.

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