

The United Nations Secretary-General and the Security Council: A Comprehensive Guide

The United Nations Secretary-General and the Security Council are two of the most important bodies within the United Nations system. The Secretary-General is the chief administrative officer of the United Nations, while the Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security.



The UN Secretary-General and the Security Council: A Dynamic Relationship by Gianni Dragoni

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The Secretary-General

The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. The term of office is five years, and the Secretary-General can be reappointed for a second term. The current Secretary-General is António Guterres, who began his term on 1 January 2017.

The Secretary-General has a wide range of responsibilities, including:

- Representing the United Nations at international meetings and conferences
- Appointing senior officials within the United Nations system
- Preparing the annual report on the work of the United Nations
- Bringing to the attention of the Security Council any matter that may threaten international peace and security
- Mediating disputes between Member States

The Secretary-General is also the head of the United Nations Secretariat, which is responsible for providing administrative and technical support to the other organs of the United Nations system.

The Security Council

The Security Council is the primary body responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The Council has 15 members, including five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and ten non-permanent members that are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

The Security Council has a wide range of powers, including:

- Authorizing the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security
- Imposing sanctions on countries that threaten international peace and security

- Establishing peacekeeping operations
- Mediating disputes between Member States

The Security Council is the only body within the United Nations system that can authorize the use of force. However, the Council's decisions must be made with the concurrence of at least nine of its members, including all five permanent members.

Interaction between the Secretary-General and the Security Council

The Secretary-General and the Security Council work closely together to maintain international peace and security. The Secretary-General is responsible for keeping the Security Council informed about matters that may threaten international peace and security, and the Security Council can request the Secretary-General to provide assistance in resolving disputes.

The Secretary-General also plays an important role in the implementation of Security Council resolutions. The Secretary-General is responsible for appointing the heads of peacekeeping operations, and the Secretariat provides administrative and technical support to peacekeeping operations.

The relationship between the Secretary-General and the Security Council is not always easy. The Security Council is often divided, and the Secretary-General can sometimes be caught in the middle of disputes between the Council's members.

However, despite the challenges, the Secretary-General and the Security Council continue to work together to maintain international peace and security. The two bodies play a vital role in the United Nations system, and

their cooperation is essential for the maintenance of international peace and security.

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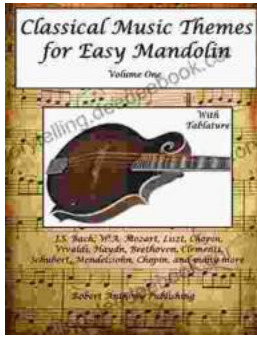
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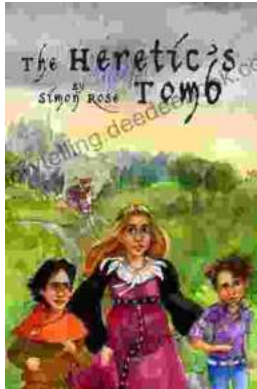
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