

The U.N. should make the membership of the Security Council's five veto-wielding seats determined by an open auction held every two years. The five highest bidders get the five seats.

1. More representative system

- The current system is stupid and arbitrary.
- The original intent was to have rich powerful countries on the UNSC, and we'd be preserving that. We'd just be mixing it up a bit instead of having the same 5 all the time. (And, countries that pay more dues get more say.)
- The practical effect would be to add Japan and/or Germany, while eliminating Russia. Good for human rights.
- Opp will tell you this hurts UN credibility... no. The UN will actually gain credibility by opening up the system to all.

2. U.N. gets more money and institutional prestige.

- a. More money: Won't be as dependent on rich countries for funds (begging for cash all the time is demeaning)
 - Lack of funds hurts prestige
- b. More prestige: Countries are competing to be in the U.N., making it more desirable.
 - The U.S. can no longer pretend that it thinks the U.N. is useless, since it will be spending lots of money to join up.
 - Countries have invested resources to be on the UNSC (as opposed to taking membership for granted) and will thus work harder to cooperate and get things done (to avoid having their investment go to waste)
 - Ex. Japan wants to get things done vis-a-vis PDRK, Russia wants to obstruct

3. U.N. uses extra money to help poor people.

- More case for UNICEF, peacekeeping, disease prevention in the Third World, and lots of other good things. Everybody wins!
- Moral legitimacy problem if U.N. lacks resources to help out in places like Rwanda and Darfur

Now I'm gonna take a couple minutes to pre-empt what [LO's name] is gonna say.

First [LO's name] will tell you that this will somehow undermine the UN's credibility. No. The UN will actually gain credibility by opening up the system to all.

Next [LO's name] will tell you that undesirable countries like China could buy proxy seats by giving money to countries like Laos. But China would be deterred from doing this, knowing that the U.S. would respond in kind.

And even so, remember that in any such bidding war type scenario, the UN still wins, since we get even more money.

New point at the end of PMR: This would be hilarious. Awesome entertainment.