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## **Document-Based Activities on the United Nations**

*Using Primary Sources and the Internet*

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## Foundations of the UN Teacher Page

### Introduction:

In this lesson, students examine two documents that provided both the theoretical and practical framework for the United Nations: the Atlantic Charter and the Dumbarton Oaks agreement. Students will consider the ideals that underlay and the circumstances surrounding the creation of each document.

### Objectives:

Students will:

- assess the values upon which the United Nations was established
- summarize the structure of the United Nations as declared at the Dumbarton Oaks conference

### Web Sites Used in this Lesson:

The Atlantic Charter

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/atlantic.htm>

Dumbarton Oaks Agreement

<http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/policy/1944/441007a.html>

### Strategies:

Explain to students the concept of “liberal internationalism.” (You can find varying definitions of the term at [http://www.fpif.org/commentary/2002/0211power\\_body.html](http://www.fpif.org/commentary/2002/0211power_body.html) and at [http://www.u.arizona.edu/~landolt/international\\_relations/weeks/week\\_04.htm](http://www.u.arizona.edu/~landolt/international_relations/weeks/week_04.htm).) Point out that it was the basis of the diplomacy of Woodrow Wilson and the League of Nations.

### Wrap-Up:

Ask students to find instances where they think principles of liberal internationalism are reflected in the Atlantic Charter and the Dumbarton Oaks agreement.

### Extension Activity:

Issued on January 1, 1942, the “Declaration of United Nations” supported the principles in the Atlantic Charter and is also cited as a document that influenced the founding of the United Nations. Have students read this document at <http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/policy/1942/420101a.html> then compare it to the two documents they read in this lesson.







