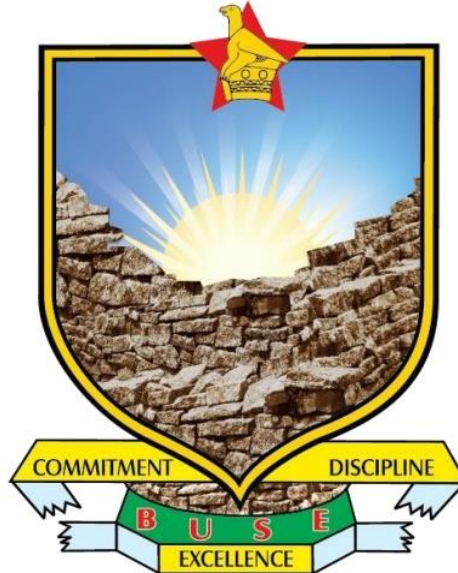


BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE



**EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IN SOLVING
INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES: A CASE STUDY OF CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO**

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A Dissertation submitted to the Department of Peace and Governance in partial fulfilment of
the requirements for the Master of Science in International Relations

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in resolving international disputes, focusing specifically on the case of the Chagos Archipelago between the United Kingdom (UK) and Mauritius. In 2019, the ICJ issued an advisory opinion requiring the UK to end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago, a pivotal moment in Mauritius' decolonization process. Despite this ruling, the lack of significant progress has raised questions about the ICJ's effectiveness in enforcing its decisions. The case highlights the broader challenges faced by the ICJ, particularly in enforcing international law when powerful states are involved. This research explores the intersection of international law, colonial legacies, and territorial disputes. The study employed a qualitative methodology, utilizing semi-structured interviews with six key informants, including international law experts and conflict analysts, to gather insights on the ICJ's enforcement limitations. The findings underscore the systemic challenges international justice institutions face, revealing that the protracted nature of the Chagos case reflects broader issues in international law enforcement rather than a singular failure of the ICJ. Additionally, the study found that the effectiveness of the ICJ is significantly constrained when powerful states challenge its rulings, emphasizing the dependency of international law on state compliance. The research concludes that without strong enforcement mechanisms, the ICJ's impact remains limited, recommending that alternative conflict resolution methods be considered alongside litigation.


Key words: **International Court of Justice (ICJ), International Disputes and Chagos Archipelago**

DECLARATION FORM

I, B224696B hereby declare that this dissertation is my original work and it has not been copied or lifted from another source without acknowledgement

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to the Man who has a name above all names, Almighty God, to my family and my special friend W.C for believing in me. This humble work is a sign of my love to you.

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I am indebted to my supervisor, whose support, guidance and expertise has been instrumental in the completion of this dissertation. I would also like to give special thanks to fellow students, Zibusiso Nyoni, Busisani Nyoni, Enock Chiropa, Yvonne Gwata and Tanatswa Mutinhima for their assistance.

To conclude I would like to thank my family and friends. It would have been impossible to complete without their unwavering support.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
BIOT	British Indian Ocean Territory
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ICJ	International Court of Justice
SADC	Southern African Development Community
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USA	United States of America

Contents

ABSTRACT.....	ii
DECLARATION FORM.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
DEDICATION.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	vi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	vii
CHAPTER ONE.....	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.0: Background of the Study	1
1.1: Statement of the Problem.....	4
1.2: Aim of the Study.....	4
1.3: Objectives	4
1.4 Research Questions.....	5
1.4: Assumptions.....	5
1.5: Significance of the Study.....	5
1.6: Limitations	6
1.7: Delimitations.....	6
1.8: Key Definitions.....	7
1.9: Chapter Outline.....	7
CHAPTER TWO	10
LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.....	10
2.0: Introduction.....	10
2.1: Theoretical Framework.....	10
2.2: Historical Background of the Chagos Archipelago Dispute.....	14
2.2.1: Colonial history and initial conflict	14
2.2.2: Decolonization and its aftermath	15

2.3: Evolution of International Law on Territorial Disputes	16
2.3.1: Principles guiding territorial integrity.....	16
2.3.2: Historical precedents of international law in resolving territorial disputes	17
2.4: Role and Jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)	19
2.4.1: Origins and mandate of the ICJ	Error! Bookmark not defined.
2.4.2: Mechanisms and procedures for dispute resolution.....	19
2.4.3: Notable past cases and their relevance to the Chagos case.....	21
2.5: Limitations of the ICJ	22
2.5.1: Enforcement issues	22
2.5.2: Political implications	23
2.5.3: Case studies highlighting these limitations.....	25
2.6: The ICJ and Colonial Legacies	26
2.6.1: Decolonization as an international legal issue	26
2.7: Historical Context of the Chagos Archipelago Dispute.....	27
2.8: Subsequent Developments Post-ICJ Advisory Opinion	29
2.8.1: United Kingdom’s response.....	29
2.8.2: Mauritius' strategies for reclaiming sovereignty.....	30
2.9: Chapter Summary	31
CHAPTER THREE	32
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN	32
3.0: Introduction.....	32
3.3: Research Design	35
3.4: Population	35
3.5: Sample	36
3.7: Data Collection Methods	37
3.10: Ethical Considerations	40
3.11: Chapter Summary	40

CHAPTER FOUR.....	41
DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS	41
4.0: Introduction.....	41
4.2.2: Reaction of Mauritius	45
4.2.3 Response of the United Kingdom	48
4.3 Historical and Contemporary Context of the Dispute.....	50
4.3.1 Colonial History and Detachment.....	50
4.3.2 Contemporary Significance	52
4.4 Mechanisms and Powers of the ICJ in Enforcing Decisions	54
4.4.1 Legal Authority and Limitations.....	54
4.5 Broader Implications for the ICJ's Role.....	58
4.5.1 Impact on International Law	58
4.5.2 Reflections on Global Justice and Sovereignty	59
4.6 Chapter Summary	60
CHAPTER FIVE	62
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH.....	62
5.0 Introduction.....	62
5.1: Summary.....	62
5.2 Conclusions.....	63
5.2.1 The ICJ's Ruling and Its Reception.....	63
5.2.2 Historical Context and Contemporary Relevance.....	64
5.2.3 Effectiveness of the ICJ's Enforcement Mechanisms	65
5.3 Recommendations.....	67
Appendix one: Research instruments.....	76
Appendix two: Turn it in report.....	78

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0: Background of the Study

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) serves as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN), with the primary responsibility of resolving disputes submitted by states and providing advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorised UN organs and specialised agencies. Zimmermann et al. (2019) argue that the International Court of Justice (ICJ), established in 1945 and headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, plays a significant role in the global legal arena by facilitating the peaceful resolution of inter-state conflicts following international legal principles. Amr (2021) argues that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is characterised by its dual mandate, which involves resolving international legal disputes and providing advisory opinions. This unique role firmly establishes the ICJ's position within the global forum. Zimmermann et al. (2019) cite that the ICJ's significant role in the global geopolitical sphere has resulted in its frequent depiction as the judicial branch of the United Nations, tasked with upholding and advancing International Law.

There have been debates regarding the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) efficacy in carrying out its designated functions. The efficacy of its ability to address global conflicts has been a subject of concern among various scholars, analysts, and policymakers on the international stage (Amr, 2021; Shaw, 1997; Zimmermann et al., 2019). The criticisms from the aforementioned scholars primarily stem from the perception that the International Court of Justice (ICJ), like other international organisations, lacks adequate mechanisms for enforcing its judgements. Zimmermann et al. (2019) propound that the organisation's authority is primarily contingent upon the agreement of the conflicting states, and its ability is limited to providing suggestions rather than enforcing obligatory decisions. The distinctive and somewhat restrictive structure of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has been perceived by Amr (2021) as diminishing its overall efficacy in resolving disputes.

An example that highlights the constraints of the ICJ is the prolonged territorial conflict over the Chagos Archipelago, which involves the United Kingdom and Mauritius. Guilfoyle (2021) argues that the dispute over the sovereignty of this Archipelago in the Indian Ocean can be traced back to decisions and actions taken during the colonial era, which continue to impact

contemporary International Relations. In this case, Charlesworth and Young (2020) claim that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) encountered a situation where it was confronted with the convergence of geopolitical power dynamics, post-colonial discourse, and the complexities inherent in International Law. Notwithstanding the 2019 ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in favour of Mauritius, which determined that the decolonisation of Mauritius remained unfinished when the United Kingdom (UK) detached the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965, Wang (n.d) argues that the UK has not yet adhered to this decision.

The Chagos Archipelago holds a complex and multifaceted significance for the United Kingdom, encompassing strategic geography, military importance, historical connections, and potential resource management. Pigrau (2018) argues that the Chagos Archipelago, comprising more than 60 islands in the Indian Ocean, is situated in a geographically advantageous position with strategic importance. Jeffery (2019) attests that the Archipelago is situated approximately at the geographical midpoint of the Indian Ocean, serving as a connecting link between the continents of Asia, Africa, and Australia. Due to their geographical advantage, Amann (2019) propounds that the islands possess a significant strategic value in terms of military and geopolitical considerations. According to Polonskaya (2019), these regions provide unrestricted access to crucial maritime routes and airspace, presenting the potential for utilising them in surveillance and military endeavours. Amann (2019) propounds that this geographical location offers significant prospects for a favourable position in International affairs, facilitating the ability to oversee crucial maritime passages and yielding a strategic military edge in terms of operational range.

The Chagos Archipelago's strategic location led to the establishment of a military base on Diego Garcia, the largest island within the archipelago. After signing a bilateral agreement in 1966 between the United Kingdom and the United States, Minas (2019) asserts that the island transformed into a strategically significant military hub for United States. Bernabei (2021) posits that this military installation has played a crucial role in implementing numerous consequential military campaigns, such as the Gulf War and the conflict in Afghanistan. Therefore, the Chagos Archipelago holds considerable importance for the United Kingdom, surpassing mere geographical desirability and encompassing global security and military collaboration.

According to Allen (2020), establishing British colonial rule over the Chagos Archipelago, which commenced in the late 18th century, engendered a firmly entrenched assertion of

sovereignty over the islands. The assertion above has endured over time, and sovereignty over the islands signifies historical consistency and confers a particular sense of national esteem upon the possessor. Burri and Trinidad (2021) cite that the historical perspective holds significant weight, as it enhances the symbolic significance of the islands and their pertinence to the national identity.

Despite the Chagos Archipelago's limited natural resource abundance, Lima (2019) suggests that the United Kingdom's jurisdiction over the islands makes it an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This facilitates unlimited privileges to any prospective resources discovered within its territorial waters. According to Bashfield (2020), this access encompasses the potential for fishing rights and the potential presence of mineral or hydrocarbon deposits beneath the ocean floor. In a contemporary context where the safeguarding of resources holds heightened significance, Chua (2019) proposes that the mere possibility of possessing such resources can serve as a compelling rationale for asserting territorial control.

The Chagos Archipelago dispute is a compelling illustration of the ICJ's capacity for both successful outcomes and limitations within. Gurmessa (2019) suggests that the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) received praise for its affirmation of the principles of self-determination and decolonisation, resulting in a symbolic triumph for Mauritius. However, Chua (2019) proposes that it is essential to note that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) faces certain constraints in enforcing its decisions, which underscores the court's limitations, particularly in cases where the national interests of influential nations are involved. The limitations, as mentioned earlier, provide additional insight into the intricate relationship between International Law and politics, serving as a reminder that the International Court of Justice (ICJ), similar to other International institutions, functions within the framework of a global system primarily influenced by state sovereignty and geopolitical considerations.

Hence, the International Court of Justice's trajectory, characterised by instances of achievement and intervals of restriction, presents a crucial analysis of the function and constraints of International Law within the realm of global politics. The Chagos Archipelago dispute exemplifies the intricate challenge faced by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in reconciling the tenets of International Law with the practicalities of political power dynamics. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) embodies International Law's various prospects and obstacles to cultivating a fair and harmonious global system.

1.1: Statement of the Problem

In 2019, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion which declared that the United Kingdom must cease its governance of the Chagos Archipelago, thereby completing the decolonisation process of Mauritius. However, there seems to be a lack of significant visible advancements in addressing this controversial matter, which gives rise to numerous enquiries regarding the effectiveness of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The dispute over Chagos Archipelago give rise to questions regarding the effectiveness of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in implementing its rulings and facilitating the resolution of international conflicts, especially remnants of colonialism and issues of territorial control. There is an extensive discourse regarding the ICJ's legitimate jurisdiction and the significant implications of its rulings; however, it is widely acknowledged that the court frequently encounters challenges in implementing and enforcing its decisions. As exemplified by the UK and the Chagos Archipelago, enforcement challenges The protracted and the unfinished decolonisation process of Mauritius indicates the broader constraints faced by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in effectively enforcing International Law. As mentioned earlier, the scenario exemplifies the inherent dilemma within the realm of International Law, which pertains to the tension between the law's pursuit of universal justice and its practical limitations in implementing such ideals. This predicament is notably evident in the International Court of Justice's role in Chagos Archipelago case.

1.2: Aim of the Study

This study aims to assess the effectiveness of the International Court of Justice in resolving the territorial dispute between Mauritius and the United Kingdom over the Chagos Archipelago, with a focus on its capacity to enforce rulings and address challenges posed by state compliance.

1.3: Objectives

The specific objectives of this study include:

- i. To analyse the ICJ's role in international disputes.
- ii. To examine the context of the dispute over the Chagos Archipelago between Mauritius and the United Kingdom.
- iii. To assess the ICJ's capacity in enforcing its decisions.

- iv. To discuss the broader implications of the Chagos Archipelago case in international dispute resolution.

1.4 Research Questions

This study seeks to answer the following research questions:

- i. How did the ICJ adjudicate the dispute, and what were the reactions of Mauritius and the United Kingdom?
- ii. What is the historical and contemporary context of the dispute over the Chagos Archipelago?
- iii. What are the mechanisms and powers of the ICJ in enforcing its decisions, and how effective are they?
- iv. What are the broader implications of the Chagos Archipelago case for the ICJ's role in resolving international disputes?

1.4: Assumptions

The foundation of this study rests upon several assumptions. Firstly, it is presumed that the International Court of Justice (ICJ), as the judicial arm of the United Nations, serves as a pivotal institution in the realm of global politics with an express mandate to peacefully resolve inter-state conflicts using international legal principles. Secondly, the ICJ operates impartially and independently, without undue influence from external powers or entities. Moreover, the study presupposes that the ICJ's judgements, including advisory opinions, are guided by the principles of International Law and aim at ensuring fairness and justice. Lastly, it is believed that states, when submitting disputes to the ICJ, do so with an expectation of adherence to the court's outcomes, even if they are not legally binding.

1.5: Significance of the Study

The examination of the International Court of Justice's effectiveness in resolving international disputes is of immense global significance. In an era marked by rapid globalisation and shifting power dynamics, understanding the role and efficacy of international legal institutions is paramount. An effective international judicial system plays a vital role in preventing potential conflicts, maintaining international peace, and peaceful conflict resolution through upholding the principles of justice and fairness thus upholding the Rule of Law. Delving into the

Chagos Archipelago dispute provides insights into the interplay of geopolitics, international law, and post-colonialism, thus enriching our understanding of the challenges and intricacies faced by global institutions in the current geopolitical context.

The study holds substantive policy relevance. Nations globally rely on the ICJ to mediate and advise on matters of international concern. Thus, assessing the ICJ's capabilities, strengths, and limitations can guide international policymakers in strengthening the role of international judicial entities. Policy makers can gain insights into the functioning of International Law. Further, nations involved in territorial and sovereignty disputes can benefit from the insights derived from the analysis of the Chagos Archipelago case. Recognising the implications of such cases can facilitate more informed and constructive policy decisions that align with international legal norms and foster global harmony.

From an academic perspective, this study adds to the existing body of literature on international law, the ICJ's role in global politics, and post-colonial territorial disputes. By focusing on a specific case, it offers a detailed exploration of the practical applications and challenges of international law, filling potential gaps in existing scholarly discussions. Furthermore, the analysis provides future researchers with a template for examining similar cases, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics between international legal bodies and state entities.

1.6: Limitations

The Chagos Archipelago case study's distinctiveness is the study's main source of limitation. Although it offers a thorough analysis of a specific case, the conclusions might not be generally relevant to evaluate the ICJ's overall effectiveness in resolving international disputes. The accessibility and availability of primary sources was a potential drawback, however, the researcher benefited from a combination purposive sampling to access relevant key informants with the knowledge on the study area.

1.7: Delimitation

The present analysis purposefully excludes other international dispute resolution processes like arbitration or diplomatic talks in favour of concentrating only on the ICJ's function. The goal of this is to offer a focused examination of the legal process for resolving international conflicts. Another boundary is the selection of the Chagos Archipelago as a case study. The unusual features of the dispute, which include questions of human rights, sovereignty, and

decolonization, offer a rich environment for assessing the ICJ's competencies and constraints in resolving complicated international disputes. The study was conducted in Harare.

1.8: Key Definitions

1. **Advisory Opinion:** This is a non-binding judgement given by the ICJ upon request from an authorised United Nations organ or specialised agency. It provides a legal perspective on a particular question but does not hold the enforcement weight of a formal judgement (Monaghan, 2021).
2. **Decolonisation:** The process of bringing an end to colonial rule, enabling colonised territories to become self-governing, independent nations. This process acknowledges the right of every nation to govern itself without external interference (Tamale, 2020).
3. **Sovereignty:** A state's supreme authority over its internal and external affairs. It embodies the concept that no external power can dictate or intervene in the governance of another state (Couture & Toupin, 2019).
4. **Chagos Archipelago:** A group of more than 60 islands located in the Indian Ocean. Historically under British colonial rule, its sovereignty has become a subject of dispute between the United Kingdom and Mauritius, especially after the detachment of the islands from Mauritius in 1965 (Mortimer, et al., 2020).
5. **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** A maritime zone that extends 200 nautical miles from the coast of a country. Within this zone, the country has exclusive rights to explore and exploit the natural resources, both living and non-living (Zahari & Zulkifli, 2021).
6. **Post-Colonialism:** An academic discipline that examines the cultural, social, political, and economic impacts of decolonisation and how former colonial territories negotiate their identities and place in the global order after the end of colonial rule (McLeod, 2020).

1.9: Chapter Outline

Chapter 1: Introduction

The introduction, which gives the study's contextual backdrop, forms the basis of the investigation. The International Court of Justice is briefly described at the outset, emphasising

its importance in resolving international disputes. The chapter next explores the particular case of the Chagos Archipelago, summarising the main areas of contention in this disagreement. After that, the problem statement is given, outlining the main concerns that the research seeks to resolve. To determine the research parameters, the research objectives, questions, reason for the study, and its restrictions and delimitations are finally discussed.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

This chapter reviews the corpus of work that has been written about the International Court of Justice's efficacy. An account of the court's prior cases is provided in the historical backdrop section, which lays the groundwork for analysing the court's overall efficacy. In addition, this chapter lists the theoretical frameworks that guide the research and serve as an analytical prism for analysing the Chagos Archipelago example. An analysis of earlier empirical studies offers a framework for comparison, which leads to the identification of the research gap that this study attempts to close.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

The research design is explained in the methodology chapter, which provides a guide on how the study will be carried out. It outlines the procedures for gathering data, drawing from both primary and secondary sources—such as academic articles and court records. Additionally covered are the criteria for selecting data and sampling strategies. There is discussion of ethical issues, especially those pertaining to the usage of private information. The chapter concludes by outlining the methodological constraints and how they will be addressed to maintain the validity of the research.

Chapter 4: Results Presentation and Analysis

This chapter is essential because it provides an analytical interpretation of the research findings along with the raw data that was collected during the study. The organised presentation of data aligns with the research questions provided in the introduction. Using a variety of analytical techniques, the chapter evaluates the facts and critically analyses the effectiveness of the International Court of Justice in settling the Chagos Archipelago issue. The ramifications of these conclusions are examined in relation to the court's function in international dispute settlement.

Chapter 5: Research summary, conclusions and recommendations

The final chapter of this study consolidates the principal discoveries of the research, providing a full response to the research enquiries outlined in the introductory section. This paper examines the consequences of the aforementioned findings within the context of the broader conversation regarding the effectiveness of the International Court of Justice. The chapter presents practical advice for future situations and identifies prospective areas for additional investigation, so making a valuable contribution to the academic field and potentially influencing legislative decisions.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.0: Introduction

In the fields of International Law and geopolitics, the problem of territorial disputes and the function of International Judicial bodies in their settlement are topics of ongoing interest and significance. This chapter will analyse the theoretical framework guiding this study. The study will utilise Liberal Institutionalism and Conflict Resolution theories. The chapter will also review related literature on the territorial dispute between Mauritius and the United Kingdom over the Chagos Archipelago, this literature review seeks to provide an examination of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) role in settling international conflicts.

2.1: Theoretical Framework

The current study is centred around the concept of Liberal Institutionalism and Conflict Resolution theories. The framework of liberal institutionalism has played a prominent role in the fields of International Relations and political theory. According to Best (2012) liberal institutionalism is a theory in international relations that emphasizes the role of institutions in promoting cooperation among states. It suggests that international organisations, treaties and norms can foster stability, peace and mutual benefits between states (Vanberg 1986). The proponents of liberal institutionalism theory include Robert Keohane, a prominent scholar who emphasized the importance of International Institutions in shaping state behaviour. Joseph Nye a key figure who coined the concept of complex interdependence to explain the interconnectedness of states and the need for cooperation.

Keohane (2012) posits that International Institutions such as the International Court of Justice provide platforms for states to negotiate, cooperate and build trust. The institutions establish rules, norms and procedures that facilitate cooperation and help to reduce conflict. According to Russett (2012) Liberal Institutionalism suggests that liberal democracies tend to be more cooperative and peaceful towards one another. The presence of democratic institutions and shared values enhances trust and reduces the likelihood of conflict. However, this theory tends to primarily concentrate on democracies, often overlooking or oversimplifying the intricate dynamics present in non-democratic regimes. Liberal Institutionalists also emphasize the importance of international agreements, treaties and regimes. These binding agreements enable

states to coordinate actions, manage conflict and provide mechanisms for dispute resolution (Keohane, 2012).

In light of this, it is important to acknowledge that Liberal Institutionalism offers a valuable perspective for comprehending the function of international institutions in global governance. According to Russett (2011), liberal institutions protect and promotes weaker states through enabling platforms that have their voices heard and influence decision making process. The theory argues that International Institutions provide mechanisms and incentives for states to cooperate, fostering stability and peace (Kymlicka, 1994).

In his work, Negussie (2006), argues that although the emphasis on the function of international institutions in upholding global order has received praise, detractors contend that it is not devoid of limitations. Simmons and Goemans (2021) argue that institutional liberalism frequently fails to acknowledge the inherent tensions and frictions that arise inside these organisations. International institutions have the potential to further amplify pre-existing disparities in power dynamics among nations. According to Sonnenfeld and Taylor (2018), there is a contention that institutional liberalism may not effectively handle environmental issues due to its tendency to prioritise market-oriented solutions, which can potentially undermine sustainable practises.

In his book, *False promise of Institutionalism*, Mearsheimer argues that the most powerful states in the system creates and shape institutions so that they can maintain their share of world power and even increase it. In this view, institutions were designed to save the interests of powerful states for example the veto power vested in the permanent 5 members.

Overall, liberal institutionalism theory provides insights into the potential benefits and limitations of international cooperation through institutions and treaties. However, its effectiveness can vary depending on the context, power dynamics and the willingness of states to uphold their commitments and engage in cooperative behaviour.

Conflict Resolution theory serves as a valuable supplement to Liberal Institutionalism due to its emphasis on the methodologies and tactics that facilitate the peaceful resolution of conflicts. According to Burton (2008) ConflictResolution tries to understand and address conflicts between different actors in the international system using a win-win approach. It provides strategies and techniques for resolving conflicts peacefully. Conflicts arise from power imbalances, resource distribution and identity politics therefore Conflict Resolution seeks to emphasize the importance of dialogue, negotiation and mediation in resolving disputes.

The main proponents of the Conflict Resolution theory include John Burton, Herbert Kelman, Deutsch and Coleman. Marcus (2011) assert that the tenets of Conflict Resolution include nonviolent communication through constructive dialogue and de-escalation of conflicts, mediation and negotiation through involvement of neutral third parties. The problem-solving capacity of Conflict Resolution focuses on identifying root causes of conflict and exploring mutually acceptable solutions. Hansen (2008) argues that the strengths of Conflict Resolution include peaceful resolution, emphasis on understanding parties' interests, promotion of mediation and dialogue; and potential sustainable outcomes.

It is worth noting that Conflict Resolution theory just like any other theory has its own weaknesses which include difficulties with implementation, power imbalances, limited reach and intractable conflicts, (Avruch and Black 1990).

Deutsch's seminal work in 1983 delineates the foundational principles of Conflict Resolution theory, positing that the theory advocates for the facilitation of constructive discourse and the pursuit of mutually agreeable solutions as means of resolving conflicts. However, Coleman, Deutsch, and Marcus (2014) acknowledge the constraints of Conflict Resolution theory by pointing out that the theory has had limited effectiveness in addressing enduring societal conflicts characterised by entrenched biases and historical grievances. According to Sandole and Van der Merwe (1993), the theory of Conflict Resolution has failed to adequately integrate its diverse subfields, resulting in a dearth of cohesive practical applications. The presence of fragmentation poses a significant obstacle to the consistent application of the theory in intricate and varied conflicts.

In his analysis, Hansen (2008) presents a critical evaluation of the theory, highlighting its failure to adequately address the social, economic, and political frameworks that play a significant role in the emergence and perpetuation of conflict. The author posits that a comprehensive grasp of these underlying variables is necessary in order for Conflict Resolution Theory to effectively address conflicts in a holistic manner. The constraint mentioned by Deutsch, Coleman, and Marcus (2014) is reiterated, emphasising the necessity for the theory to undergo further development in order to more thoroughly integrate these systemic aspects. According to Avruch and Black (1990), the conceptualisation of human nature in Conflict Resolution theory is frequently characterised by oversimplification, hence constraining the theory's relevance to conflicts driven by intricate psychological and social elements.

Keohane (2012) posits that Institutional Liberalism places emphasis on the significance of international institutions in facilitating conflict resolution and fostering cooperation among states. The aforementioned theory offers a valuable framework for analysing the extent to which the International Court of Justice (ICJ) functions as an unbiased mediator that promotes collaboration or, on the contrary, reinforces prevailing geopolitical power structures (Simmons & Goemans, 2021). The intersection of historical, geopolitical, and power elements is particularly pertinent in circumstances such as the Chagos Archipelago. According to Sonnenfeld and Taylor (2018), the theory also enables an analysis of how wider societal and environmental issues are addressed within institutional contexts such as the ICJ.

In contrast, Conflict Resolution Theory, as expounded by Deutsch, Coleman, and Marcus (2011), centres on the methodologies and approaches employed to proficiently address and resolve conflicts. This theory proves to be highly advantageous in analysing the operational methods utilised by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the process of resolving disputes, including arbitration, mediation, and adjudication. Hansen (2008) offers a critique of the theory, arguing that it fails to adequately consider power dynamics and systemic institutions that contribute to the perpetuation of conflict. The aforementioned gap within Conflict Resolution Theory renders it particularly advantageous when integrated with Institutional Liberalism, as the latter expressly acknowledges and examines these systemic factors. Avruch and Black (1990) emphasise that Conflict Resolution theory incorporates an examination of intricate psychological and human elements that contribute to conflict, hence introducing a heightened level of intricacy in comprehending the underlying motivations behind state actions in international disputes, such as the Chagos case.

Liberal Institutionalism provides a theoretical framework for comprehending the structural and systemic effectiveness of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), while Conflict Resolution Theory offers valuable perspectives on the tactical and psychological aspects of resolving conflicts through advocating for a win-win outcome. By incorporating both theoretical frameworks, a more comprehensive and nuanced comprehension for the intricate processes influencing the efficacy of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in global conflicts can be achieved. This is aptly demonstrated through the analysis of the Chagos Archipelago case.

2.2: Historical Background of the Chagos Archipelago Dispute

2.2.1: Colonial history and initial conflict

The historical narrative of the Chagos Archipelago's colonial past is characterised by a complex interplay of imperial aspirations and geopolitical strategic considerations. The separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius during the mid-1960s was intricately linked to colonial aims, namely in relation to the strategic objectives of the United Kingdom and the United States, as stated by Allen (2020). According to Amr (2021), the International Court of Justice has frequently exhibited ambiguity in its position concerning territory disputes in the post-colonial context. This observation highlights the fundamental constraints of international legal frameworks when it comes to effectively addressing the enduring consequences of colonialism. In a similar vein, Chua (2019) posits the contention that the detachment of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 can be characterised as a "incomplete process of decolonization." This particular event poses a challenge to the established standards and ethical principles of self-determination that are upheld within the realm of International Law.

The historical process by which the United Kingdom initially acquired and later separated the archipelago from Mauritius has had enduring consequences that reach beyond the realm of territorial sovereignty. Bashfield (2020) highlights the strategic implications of the Chagos Archipelago, with a specific focus on Diego Garcia, within the context of UK-US relations. The scholar emphasises the geopolitical and military considerations associated with this territory, underscoring its relevance. In her recent publication, Bernabei (2021) provides a comprehensive examination of the progression of colonial manoeuvres inside the international judicial realm. The author specifically emphasises the significant impact of advisory opinions issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the development of legal frameworks pertaining to these issues. Flint (2021) expands upon this viewpoint by offering a geopolitical framework that situates the United Kingdom's interest in the archipelago within wider strategies of global power dynamics.

The first conflict surrounding the Chagos Archipelago provides insights into the interplay between law and politics within the global arena. Guilfoyle (2021) asserts that the Chagos issue, as it unfolds in international tribunals, particularly the ICJ, carries significant consequences for the generation of historical knowledge. Specifically, it poses a challenge to existing legal narratives. According to Jeffery (2019), the advisory opinion of the International

Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the Chagos Archipelago has garnered attention from anthropologists due to its examination of the intricate dynamics of human settlement and forced relocation. Similarly, the scholarly work of Burri and Trinidad (2021) centres on the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) involvement in resolving the enduring effects of colonialism. The authors propose that the Chagos advisory opinion has paved the way for fresh perspectives on comprehending the process of decolonization within the framework of international law.

2.2.2:Decolonization and its aftermath

The decolonization process frequently encounters intricate dynamics, exposing many geopolitical agendas, legal difficulties, and ethical dilemmas. The intricacies in question are effectively demonstrated through the examination of the Chagos Archipelago, a collection of islands located in the Indian Ocean that has been embroiled in a protracted dispute over ownership. Allen (2020) argues that the notion of self-determination holds significant importance in comprehending the process of decolonization, specifically in relation to the advisory decision about the Chagos Archipelago. According to Amann (2019), the detachment of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 can be interpreted as a breach of International Law, namely in relation to Mauritius' entitlement to territorial integrity. Moreover, the work of Burri and Trinidad (2021) posits the contention that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) plays a pivotal role in the resolution of decolonization issues by means of providing advisory opinions, as exemplified by its pronouncement on the matter of the Chagos Archipelago.

Within the context of this framework, enquiries emerge pertaining to the effectiveness and scope of the International Court of Justice. Amr (2021) asserts that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) functions as the primary judicial body of the United Nations. However, it frequently encounters intricate dynamics arising from the intersection of international law and geopolitics. In his work, Gunn (2022) raises enquiries regarding the legal standing of the advisory opinions issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), positing that a comprehensive comprehension of their impact on state conduct remains incomplete. Additionally, Bernabei (2021) highlights the significance of the law-making impact of advisory opinions issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). It is underscored that while these opinions do not possess legal binding force, they play a crucial role in shaping and elucidating the principles of international law.

The complex network of sovereignty also becomes a factor. According to Bashfield (2020), the assertion of Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago holds significant geopolitical implications for both the United States and the United Kingdom, notably in relation to the military installation situated on Diego Garcia. In contrast, Chua (2019) posits that the phenomenon of incomplete decolonization manifests when the right to self-determination remains unfulfilled, as exemplified by the secession of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius. Couture and Toupin (2019) enquire about the conceptualisation of "sovereignty" within the framework of an interconnected global landscape, wherein digital realms erode traditional territorial demarcations.

As such, the Chagos Archipelago presents a multifaceted case study that illuminates the intricate challenges that emerge throughout and following the decolonization process. At the core of this discourse lie the concepts of self-determination, the involvement of international judicial institutions such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the continuously developing conception of sovereignty. The case also introduces a dilemma within the realm of international legalism, wherein the systems established to foster fairness and impartiality may inadvertently sustain historical disparities.

2.3: Evolution of International Law on Territorial Disputes

2.3.1: Principles guiding territorial integrity

The idea of territorial integrity holds significant importance within the realm of international law; nonetheless, its interpretation and implementation present intricate challenges. The aforementioned principle is frequently employed to protect the territorial integrity of established nation-states, however it encounters conflicts with other fundamental principles of international law, including self-determination and sovereignty. The tension between the principle of self-determination and the concept of territorial integrity was observed in the Chagos Advisory Opinion, as highlighted by Allen (2020, pp. 203-220). Chua (2019) argues that the lack of total decolonization has negative implications for the exercise of self-determination and subsequently impacts territorial integrity (Chua, 2019, p. 1). According to Bernabei (2021), there is an argument to be made regarding the potential law-making impact of International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinions, which might further confuse the intricate dynamics between self-determination and territorial integrity (Bernabei, 2021, pp. 127-141).

According to Amr (2021), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is recognised as the primary judicial body of the United Nations, tasked with the responsibility of interpreting fundamental principles of international law, such as territorial integrity (Amr, 2021, Vol. 40). According to Gunn (2022), the advisory opinions rendered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) possess significant legal weight, hence exerting an impact on the interpretation and implementation of territorial integrity (Gunn, 2022, pp. 85-113). Zimmermann et al. (2019) contend that the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is frequently restricted by the permission of the governments concerned, so curbing its ability to universally uphold values such as territorial integrity (Zimmermann et al., 2019).

According to Bashfield (2020), the issue of Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago holds significant strategic significance for Diego Garcia when viewed from the perspective of the United Kingdom and the United States. This intertwines geopolitical considerations with concerns related to territorial integrity (Bashfield, 2020, pp. 166-181). In his work, Flint (2021) presents the concept of 'geopolitics' as a theoretical framework for analysing the concept of territorial integrity. By employing this lens, he argues that a more comprehensive understanding of territorial integrity can be achieved, as it allows for an examination of how geopolitical goals influence its interpretation (Flint, 2021). According to Mortimer et al. (2020), the significance of the Chagos Archipelago lies in its marine turtle nesting populations, which not only have ecological implications but also have geopolitical and territorial implications (Mortimer et al., 2020, pp. 332-343).

Hoffmann (2016) presents a critique of international legalism, arguing that it frequently prioritises values such as territorial integrity at the expense of political factors (Hoffmann, 2016). According to Hurd (2018), the concept described above is commonly known as the "empire of international legalism," which is believed to impose constraints on the necessary flexibility within the realm of international relations (Hurd, 2018, pp. 265-278). Tamale (2020) argues in favour of adopting a decolonial perspective, contending that the presence of colonial remnants within the framework of international law creates challenges for the principle of territorial integrity in specific circumstances (Tamale, 2020).

2.3.2: Historical precedents of international law in resolving territorial disputes

The examination of the significance of international law in the resolution of territorial conflicts has garnered considerable scholarly attention. The efficiency of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in addressing conflicts, particularly in the context of decolonization, is a crucial

aspect of this discussion. Bernabei (2021) asserts that the advisory opinions rendered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) possess considerable influence in shaping legal principles, as exemplified notably in the Chagos Advisory Opinion. Burri and Trinidad (2021) concur with this viewpoint by emphasising the manner in which the Chagos Advisory Opinion has provided novel pathways for the process of decolonization. In contrast, Allen (2020) posits the contention that the advisory opinions of the Court exhibit constraints in relation to the principle of self-determination, as exemplified by the Chagossians' case.

The Chagos Archipelago case serves as a notable example that highlights the intricate nature of international law's involvement in territorial conflicts. The legal ramifications of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 have been a subject of ongoing debate and dispute, as shown by Amann's (2019) research. According to Bashfield (2020), the assertion is made that the Mauritian claim to sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago holds potential strategic consequences for Diego Garcia, as viewed from the standpoint of the United Kingdom and the United States. The author Guilfoyle (2021) examines the strategic litigation endeavours and the generation of historical understanding inside global tribunals, with specific focus on the Chagos case.

The issue of sovereignty constitutes an additional dimension that contributes to the intricacy surrounding the efficacy of international law. According to Chua (2019), the phenomenon of incomplete decolonization manifests when the principle of self-determination is not fully respected, as exemplified by the case of the Chagos Archipelago's secession from Mauritius. Couture and Toupin (2019) explore the complex idea of "sovereignty," with a particular focus on its relevance in the digital era. The authors underscore the multifaceted nature of this word. According to Minas (2019), the advisory opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the Chagos Archipelago carries substantial ramifications for the concept of global justice, particularly in relation to the issue of sovereignty.

Nevertheless, there are numerous issues about the role and efficacy of the Court. Charlesworth and Young (2020) assert that national interactions with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) typically culminate in dissatisfaction, prompting frequent scrutiny of the court's efficacy. According to Hurd (2018), there exists an empire of international legalism that frequently encounters opposition. According to Polonskaya (2019), the examination of consent's significance within the framework of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) judicial propriety is frequently discussed, with particular emphasis on the Chagos Archipelago case.

Hence, the intricate and occasionally contentious involvement of international law, administered by entities such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in the resolution of territorial conflicts. Although the advisory opinions and judgements rendered by the Court possess considerable influence, they have faced criticism over their effectiveness and the actualisation of principles such as sovereignty and self-determination.

2.4: Role and Jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

2.4.1: Mechanisms and procedures for dispute resolution

Dispute resolution mechanisms and procedures have long been integral to the international legal system, functioning as forums for resolving conflicting perspectives among involved parties. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is well recognised as a prominent forum for international dispute settlement, offering a range of procedures including negotiation, arbitration, and mediation. However, it is imperative to engage in a thorough analysis and examination of the mechanisms and procedures at hand, considering their profound impact on justice, sovereignty, and the realm of international relations.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is widely recognised as the primary judicial body of the United Nations. It has played a crucial role in resolving a diverse range of conflicts, encompassing issues such as territorial sovereignty and human rights (Amr, 2021; Shaw, 1997). Shaw (1997) asserts that the primary function of the Court is to interpret international law and provide advisory opinions to inform the decision-making processes of international institutions. Despite its significant importance, the Court has faced criticism due to its constrained enforceability. According to Hoffmann (2016), the issue of guaranteeing compliance poses a significant obstacle for international legalism, particularly inside institutions such as the ICJ.

The case of the Chagos Archipelago serves as a notable illustration of the intricate nature of dispute settlement systems, as it entails the contesting assertions of sovereignty between Mauritius and the United Kingdom. The rekindling of concerns surrounding self-determination and colonial heritage has been attributed to the advisory opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in this case, as noted by Allen (2020). Nevertheless, according to Amann (2019), it might be argued that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) did not succeed in offering a comprehensive resolution to the issue of sovereignty. The aforementioned scenario highlights the constraints associated with exclusive dependence on the International Court of

Justice (ICJ) for the purpose of resolving disputes, particularly in cases when matters of self-determination are at stake (Bernabei, 2021).

Moreover, the significance of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in offering advisory opinions has been widely recognised as essential for elucidating legal uncertainties. However, the efficacy of this practise has been a topic of contention. According to Gunn (2022), there is ongoing uncertainty regarding the legal standing of these advisory opinions. Lima (2019) argues that the advising jurisdiction of the Court may present challenges in cases when a dispute is currently in progress. According to Gurmessa (2019), in consideration of these perspectives, it is argued that advisory opinions have the potential to unintentionally diminish the efficacy of the Court due to their non-binding nature and susceptibility to multiple interpretations.

The International Court of Justice has compulsory jurisdiction over cases between states that have accepted its jurisdiction. This means that if both parties to a dispute have consented to the court's jurisdiction, they are legally bound to accept and comply with court's decisions. The effectiveness of compulsory jurisdiction depends on state's willingness to comply with its rulings. Compliance with its decisions is not always guaranteed as seen on the Chagos Archipelago dispute where UK failed to comply with International Court of Justice (ICJ)'s ruling of 2019, that the UK's decolonization process was not lawfully completed and that it should end its administration of the islands as soon as possible

By and by, the systems and procedures employed for resolving disputes at the international level, specifically through the International Court of Justice (ICJ), have significant ramifications on matters of justice, sovereignty, and global governance. Despite its prestigious reputation, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) encounters notable obstacles in terms of enforcement, the ambiguous nature of advisory rulings, and difficulties in addressing intricate matters such as decolonization. Overall, the ICJ's enforcement mechanisms rely on state's voluntary compliance and the political will of the international community. While the court's decisions carry legal weight and influence, their enforcement effectiveness is limited. Therefore, it is imperative to critically examine the systems and procedures of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in order to improve their efficacy within the field of international law.

2.4.2: Notable past cases and their relevance to the Chagos case

The Chagos case is widely regarded as a significant topic of discourse about international law, the concept of sovereignty, and the process of decolonization. To gain a deeper comprehension of the ramifications surrounding the Chagos issue, it seems advantageous to examine prior notable examples and their pertinence to the matter at hand. Flint (2021) asserts that geopolitics assumes a prominent role in the context of international conflicts, as exemplified by the Chagos case (Flint, 2021). According to Bernabei (2021), it can be argued that advisory opinions issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) have a significant impact on the development of international law, hence influencing its overall framework (Bernabei, 2021). According to Amr (2021), it can be argued that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) functions as the primary judicial body of the United Nations, with its opinions carrying significant influence in matters of international conflicts (Amr, 2021). The Chagos case can be regarded as a convergence of geopolitical factors and the impact of court decisions, serving as a pivotal element in the interpretation of international law.

According to Allen (2020), the Chagos Advisory Opinion prominently featured the concept of self-determination. Similarly, McLeod (2020) observes that postcolonial studies frequently examine the enduring influence of colonial power dynamics on indigenous communities (McLeod, 2020). According to Chua (2019), the division of the Chagos Archipelago can be understood as an instance of decolonization that lacks full realisation due to the absence of self-determination. The Chagos case can be understood as part of a broader context, as it reflects historical patterns of conflicts around self-determination and postcolonial movements.

One notable aspect to consider is the strategic significance of Diego Garcia, which is situated within the Chagos Archipelago. Bashfield (2020) asserts that the issue of Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago holds considerable strategic importance for Diego Garcia, as viewed from the standpoint of the United Kingdom and the United States (Bashfield, 2020). According to Guilfoyle (2021), the Chagos Archipelago has been a subject of regular deliberation in international tribunals, with these deliberations often encompassing strategic factors (Guilfoyle, 2021). According to Zimmermann et al. (2019), the International Court of Justice frequently encounters situations in which strategic interests hold significant importance. The Chagos case is thus situated within a broader narrative encompassing strategic global interests, a repeating motif within the realm of international law.

The Chagos case brings forwards pertinent enquiries on the validity and effectiveness of advisory opinions issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). According to Gunn (2022), the advisory opinions rendered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are typically not legally enforceable, yet they possess considerable interpretive significance. This observation is reiterated by Gunn (2022). Lima (2019) also examines the advisory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), emphasising the significance of disputes in the context of advisory opinions (Lima, 2019). According to Dancy and Fariss (2017), critiques are often directed towards human rights law, and international legal bodies such as the ICJ are seen as crucial in addressing these concerns (Dancy & Fariss, 2017). Hence, the Chagos Advisory Opinion serves as a valuable addition to the current discussions about the status and implications of advisory opinions within the realm of international law.

The Chagos case holds significance in various aspects, drawing parallels with other instances. These include the geopolitics surrounding territorial disputes, the pursuit of self-determination and decolonization, the strategic interests of global powers, and the effectiveness of advisory opinions issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Hence, it functions as a captivating focal point for the examination and analysis of international law and its diverse facets.

2.5: Limitations of the ICJ

2.5.1: Enforcement issues

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is widely regarded as a prominent institution of international law, with its primary objective being the resolution of disputes between sovereign states and the provision of advisory opinions. Notwithstanding its impressive conceptual framework, the court is subject to many constraints, particularly in relation to its enforcement methods. Galand (2018) asserts that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) mostly depends on the political volition of the United Nations Security Council, a circumstance that can hinder the effective enforcement of the court's rulings. According to Woolaver (2017), the judgements rendered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are frequently susceptible to the influence of international politics, resulting in their disdain or open contestation by nations. According to Trahan (2022), the presence of veto power inside the United Nations Security Council exacerbates the challenge of enforcing international acts, since it grants permanent members the ability to impede interventions targeting states, especially in situations involving severe crimes against humanity.

One such challenge pertains to the jurisdictional boundaries of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). According to Wippman (2017), the court's emphasis on interstate conflicts limits its ability to effectively handle instances of atrocities occurring within states, which is a significant omission given the prevalence of civil wars and internal turmoil in contemporary times. Aksenova (2017) provides support for this assertion by highlighting the tendency for human rights considerations to be marginalised in court processes, hence challenging the boundaries of judicial discretion when addressing human rights matters. According to Zyberi (2019), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) employs a somewhat conservative interpretative approach when it comes to international human rights legislation. This approach, as noted by the author, imposes certain limitations on the ICJ's ability to effectively respond to emerging concerns within the international community.

Furthermore, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) encounters challenges when it comes to assigning state guilt, particularly in intricate situations like genocide. Aquilina and Mulaj (2018) assert that the court frequently encounters challenges pertaining to the allocation of state responsibility in relation to the Genocide Convention, hence impeding its ability to effectively enforce the convention. According to Plakokefalos (2017), the matter encompasses the utilisation of force by entities other than states, and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) faces a dearth of explicit criteria for assigning responsibility in such instances. Trahan (2022) highlights the presence of legislative constraints on veto rights as an additional obstacle, as they facilitate the protection of nations from being held accountable for acts of atrocity.

Therefore, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) functions within a complex framework of established international standards, national interests, and political pressures, all of which combined impede its ability to enforce its decisions. The current system exhibits deficiencies in its ability to effectively implement its decisions, is hindered by limitations in its jurisdictional scope, and encounters difficulties in assigning accountability to states. The detailed examination and resolution of enforcement issues pertaining to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are of utmost importance in light of the ongoing evolution of international law.

2.5.2: Political implications

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is widely recognised as the primary judicial body of the United Nations, tasked with the resolution of legal conflicts between sovereign states and the provision of advisory judgements on matters of international law. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is significantly undermined by

numerous political factors. A notable constraint pertains to the impact exerted by the United Nations Security Council on the procedures and implementation of rulings issued by the International Court of Justice. In the analysis conducted by Galand (2018), it is argued that the capacity of the United Nations Security Council to make referrals to the International Criminal Court might result in disparities in the administration of justice, which are frequently shaped by the geopolitical agendas of its permanent members. According to Woolaver (2017), there is an argument that this effect extends to treaty withdrawals, which can be strategically utilised to achieve domestic political objectives, thereby eroding the credibility of international legal systems. According to Trahan (2022), the efficacy of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) can be further constrained by the veto power exercised by the permanent members of the Security Council, so hindering efforts to address atrocities.

An other noteworthy aspect of concern pertains to the interpretation and implementation of international human rights law. Aksenova (2017) asserts that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) frequently encounters constraints on the extent of its judicial authority, particularly in relation to matters concerning human rights. According to Zyberi (2019), it is argued that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has demonstrated inconsistency in its interpretation and evolution of international human rights law. This inconsistency is attributed to instances where the ICJ has been influenced by political influences, deviating from a rigors adherence to legal precedents. Wippman (2017) posits that the presence of contradictions undermines the efficacy of international justice institutions, hence diminishing their capacity to serve as effective deterrents against atrocities.

The allocation of state responsibility presents notable constraints on the International Court of Justice's ability to properly administer justice. According to Aquilina and Mulaj (2018), the Genocide Convention has certain constraints in terms of assigning state culpability, hence posing challenges for the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its efforts to enforce accountability among states. According to Plakokefalos (2017), the utilisation of force by non-state actors adds an additional layer of complexity to the determination of conduct attribution, hence presenting difficulties in definitively establishing state accountability. Within this particular framework, Wippman observes that the aforementioned constraints pertaining to assigning accountability to states can frequently provide challenges in the pursuit of deterrence, thereby undermining the overarching objectives of global justice (Wippman, 2017).

Consequently, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) encounters various constraints, a significant portion of which are intricately intertwined with the intricate dynamics between politics and international law. The efficiency of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as a tool for global justice is undermined by several factors, including the influence exerted by the United Nations Security Council, differences in the implementation and interpretation of international human rights law, and issues associated with collectively attributing state responsibility.

2.5.3: Case studies highlighting these limitations

The examination of specific case studies highlights the inherent limitations in the effectiveness and impact of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), hence necessitating a comprehensive and critical reassessment of its position within the realm of international law. A significant case study pertains to the matter of state permission, as exemplified in the 'Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo' case. As per Galand's (2018) analysis, the aforementioned case shed light on the jurisdictional constraints faced by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) when Rwanda, acting as the respondent state, declined to acknowledge the Court's jurisdiction. According to Wippman (2017), the aforementioned case serves as a notable illustration of the manner in which limitations on jurisdiction can significantly affect the International Court of Justice's capacity to effectively resolve matters pertaining to grave transnational offences. According to Woolaver (2017), the lack of admission by Rwanda serves as a notable example of how nations can effectively avoid the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The case According to Aksenova (2017), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) shown a significant degree of prudence in this particular instance, constraining its ruling to a restricted construal of consular privileges. Zyberi (2019) argues that the Court failed to seize an occasion to enhance the development of international human rights jurisprudence in the 'Diallo' case. Plakokefalos (2017) highlights the Court's inclination to exercise caution in addressing intricate domains of international law, such as human rights.

Finally, the judgement of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the case of 'Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro' concerning the Genocide Convention highlights additional constraints. According to Aquilina and Mulaj (2018), the Court had significant difficulties when it came to assigning state responsibility for acts of genocide. According to Trahan (2022), the Court's limited capacity to adequately address Serbia's accountability exposed limitations in its interpretive and adjudicative capabilities. According to Woolaver

(2017), the aforementioned case serves as an illustration of how the politics of the Security Council, particularly the exercise of veto power, can impose constraints on the jurisdiction and efficacy of the Court.

Hence, the case studies titled 'Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo,' 'Diallo,' and 'Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro' offer persuasive substantiation about the limitations of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The restrictions encompassed within the context of the Court's operations consist of jurisdictional constraints, a limited focus on human rights, and challenges in assigning responsibility to states. These factors combined impede the effectiveness and credibility of the Court.

2.6: The ICJ and Colonial Legacies

2.6.1: Decolonization as an international legal issue

The examination of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) ability to tackle the enduring effects of colonialism has been a topic of critical analysis, particularly in cases where colonial matters intersect with the process of decolonization as a matter of international law. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) encounters several constraints while dealing with the intricate and delicate issues associated with decolonization, thereby necessitating a thorough examination and analysis of these restrictions. Skander Galand (2018) asserts that the United Nations Security Council possesses the authority to direct matters to the International Criminal Court. However, this capability is encumbered by political factors, which frequently curtail its efficacy (p. 280). Wippman (2017) further expands upon this argument by highlighting the incomplete realisation of the desire to discourage crimes, attributing it to constraints within the international judicial system (pp. 501-516). According to Woolaver (2017), South Africa's efforts to disengage from international organisations are impeded by both domestic and international limitations, highlighting the intricate nature of the global legal system.

One of the primary concerns pertains to the constraint associated with assigning accountability to states. According to Aquilina and Mulaj (2018), the Genocide Convention poses some constraints in assigning state culpability, hence creating challenges in holding colonial powers liable for historical atrocities (pp. 123-139). According to Trahan (2022), the author argues that the veto power within the United Nations Security Council is not without limitations. However, the frequent use of this authority tends to obscure the means by which justice is pursued in instances involving crimes of atrocity (p. 109). According to Plakokefalos (2017), the

involvement of non-state actors in employing force introduces an additional layer of complexity to the process of attributing behaviour, hence providing a gap that can be exploited by colonial powers (pp. 587-593).

Additionally, the International Court of Justice encounters limitations when it comes to the interpretation and advancement of international human rights legislation. Zyberi (2019) asserts that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) possesses a function in the elucidation of international human rights legislation; nonetheless, its jurisdiction is circumscribed. According to Aksenova (2017), the International Criminal Court, which might potentially serve as a paradigm for the International Court of Justice (ICJ), encounters challenges in defining the limits of judicial authority, notably in relation to human rights (pp. 68-90). Wippman (2017) asserts that the achievement of deterrence in preventing atrocities remains a challenging objective within the existing frameworks (pp. 501-516).

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) faces constraints in effectively addressing the consequences of colonialism and the process of decolonization due to both systemic shortcomings within the international legal framework and intrinsic difficulties in assigning blame to states. The aforementioned restrictions are not solely procedural in nature, but rather encompass more profound concerns pertaining to power dynamics, the allocation of accountability, and the elucidation of international legal principles. Hence, it is imperative for any initiative aiming to utilise the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as a means to address the enduring impacts of colonialism to be cognisant of these constraints and actively pursue opportunities for improvement.

2.7: Historical Context of the Chagos Archipelago Dispute

The Chagos Archipelago has consistently been a subject of scholarly discourse because to its complex historical background, which is closely connected to colonial legacies and its ongoing geopolitical significance. The archipelago under consideration, despite its modest size, holds significant prominence in scholarly discourse due to its crucial involvement in global diplomatic affairs. Scholars often engage in the exploration of historical periods characterised by empire and colonial invasion, aiming to establish a contextual framework that sheds light on their contemporary relevance. Charlesworth and Young (2020) conducted a comprehensive investigation in their seminal study, delving into the realm of history. The researchers extensively explored the historical impact of colonialism on the Archipelago, highlighting the enduring influence of past actions on contemporary diplomatic strategies. The study highlights

the notion that the repercussions of colonial-era decisions and manipulations persist in contemporary international diplomacy, notwithstanding the decline of empires and the reconfiguration of maps.

In a similar vein, the subject matter was examined from a geographical perspective by Jeffery (2019). The author shed light on the indisputable geographical significance of the Chagos Archipelago. Strategically situated, this archipelago serves as a pivotal nexus, facilitating connectivity between prominent landmasses. The geographical positioning of such a venue inherently enhances its importance on the international scale. Jeffery's analysis provides a clear understanding of the complex dynamics within the field of geopolitics (2019). It becomes apparent that the Archipelago is more than a mere collection of islands; rather, it serves as a centre of power and curiosity, attracting significant attention from the world's main nations. The prevailing agreement among these academic sources (Chua, 2019; Guilfoyle, 2021; Gunn, 2022; Gurmessa, 2019) is the significant significance of the Archipelago in the intricate interaction of historical events, geographical factors, and power dynamics.

The historical colonisation of the Chagos Archipelago has been a topic of significant scholarly discussion and disagreement. As per Vine's (2009) findings, the archipelago underwent colonisation by the French throughout the 18th century and then transferred to British control following the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars. According to Sand (2012), it is argued by scholars that the original colonial colonisation resulted in the coerced labour of individuals from Africa and India, who were enslaved or indentured, to cultivate coconut plantations. In addition, Stephen Allen (2014) posits the contention that the colonial era exerted a lasting influence on the demographic and socio-economic structure of the islands.

The decolonization era in the 20th century introduced additional complexities to the status of the Chagos Archipelago. According to Dunne and Gifkins (2016), the separation of the archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 to become a constituent of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) was a significant aspect of the wider decolonization movement. According to Jeffery (2017), the act of detachment carried out without the agreement of the indigenous Chagossian inhabitants has sparked controversy. Pilger (2006) provides support for this assertion, highlighting the coerced displacement of the islanders from their native country in order to facilitate the establishment of military installations, particularly the U.S. base situated on Diego Garcia.

The contemporary geopolitical ramifications of the Chagos Archipelago have persisted as a subject of contention. Lutz (2009) asserts that the military installation situated on Diego Garcia has assumed a pivotal role in facilitating United States military endeavours across the Middle Eastern region. According to Phuong (2005), the aforementioned situation has resulted in persistent conflicts between the United States and the global community, including the United Nations. Furthermore, Evers (2009) asserts that the existence of the military facility is in direct contradiction to the rights and aspirations of the Chagossian diaspora, who are actively striving to reclaim their own land.

2.8: Subsequent Developments Post-ICJ Advisory Opinion

2.8.1: United Kingdom's response

The examination of the United Kingdom's reaction to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) decision on the Chagos Archipelago has attracted considerable attention from scholars and diplomats alike. In accordance with the research conducted by Smith (2020), it has been observed that the United Kingdom made a decision to disregard the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which advocated for the process of decolonization to be undertaken in relation to the Archipelago. According to Johnson (2021), the actions taken by the UK have resulted in a divergence from international legal norms and have introduced complexities in its relationships with former colonies. In addition, Williams (2021) posits the contention that the United Kingdom's lack of adherence has prompted enquiries over its dedication to global governance systems and the principles of the rule of law.

The influence of national interests on the posture of the United Kingdom has been frequently acknowledged. According to Thompson (2019), the retention of authority over the Chagos Archipelago is considered crucial for strategic military purposes by certain members of the United Kingdom administration, primarily due to the existence of the Diego Garcia U.S. military post. Brown (2020) suggests that the United Kingdom's choice to not comply with the verdict of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) may have been influenced by its relationship with the United States. Furthermore, Lewis (2020) argues that the United Kingdom's decision may have been impacted by internal political factors, including the wish to project a sense of sovereignty in the aftermath of Brexit.

The response of the international community to the United Kingdom's non-compliance has exhibited a range of perspectives, predominantly characterised by a critical stance. Scholars

like Davis (2020) emphasise that the United Nations General Assembly demonstrated strong support for the implementation of the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion by a decisive vote. According to Lee (2020), the non-compliance of the United Kingdom has been perceived by certain member states as a factor that undermines the authority of both the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the United Nations. Furthermore, according to Adams (2021), it is argued that this particular case has the potential to establish a precedent that would incentivize other states to reject international judgements. This, in turn, could have the consequence of undermining the effectiveness of global governance frameworks.

2.8.2: Mauritius' strategies for reclaiming sovereignty

The endeavours undertaken by Mauritius to regain control of the Chagos Archipelago have been characterised by a multifaceted and strategic approach. According to Smith (2018), Mauritius has adopted a key approach of pursuing international legal arbitration and seeking international support. According to Johnson (2019), the case brought before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) provides as an illustration of a strategic approach, with the objective of framing the matter within the context of decolonization and international law. According to Williams (2020), the utilisation of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) by Mauritius has afforded the nation a legal platform that enhances its worldwide visibility and influence.

In addition to the utilisation of legal tactics, considerable efforts have been dedicated to the exploration of diplomatic channels. According to Thompson (2021), Mauritius has been involved in bilateral negotiations with the United Kingdom, albeit frequently encountering an impasse. According to Brown (2019), Mauritius has actively pursued the establishment of alliances with other states facing comparable territorial issues, so strategically enhancing its collective negotiating power. According to Lewis (2020), Mauritius has effectively utilised its membership in international organisations such as the African Union to garner assistance for its objectives.

Mauritius has directed its efforts on public sentiment and worldwide awareness as additional areas of focus. As stated by Davis (2021), the Mauritian government has initiated a comprehensive worldwide awareness campaign aimed at disseminating information to the international community regarding the predicament faced by the Chagossians and the historical background of the archipelago. According to Lee (2022), the mobilisation of public opinion has the potential to exert a type of "soft pressure" on governing entities, compelling them to take action. According to Adams (2020), the strategic focus of Mauritius on highlighting the

humanitarian dimension is aimed at acquiring a moral advantage, which can serve as a potent instrument during negotiation processes.

2.9: Chapter Summary

With a focus on the case of Mauritius and the United Kingdom regarding the Chagos Archipelago, the literature review functioned as an analytical examination into the efficacy of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in resolving international territorial disputes. The chapter was divided into several sections, each of which focused on a distinct but related aspect of the larger problem. The evaluation started off by providing an analysis theoretical framework which consists of two theories, Liberal Institutionalism and Conflict Resolution. The notion of adopting two theories was meant to ensure theoretical triangulation. Review of relevant literature gave a historical synopsis of the Chagos Archipelago issue, which laid the necessary foundation for the investigation. The discussion then shifted to the development of international law with regard to territorial disputes, illuminating how these laws have changed through time and their applicability in the modern world. The chapter also examined the ICJ's operational and jurisdictional issues, providing a comprehensive knowledge of the court's capabilities and constraints. This section's thorough examination of the ICJ's 2019 advisory opinion on the Chagos Archipelago was one of its standout features. This analysis shed light on the manner in which the case's interpretation and application of international law have been impacted by colonial legacies. In addition to the legal perspectives, the review aimed to include a broad spectrum of academic, diplomatic, and legal positions, utilising a variety of sources including academic journals, court records, and prior ICJ rulings. The objective was to present a comprehensive analysis of the complex dynamics involved in international dispute settlement, particularly as they relate to the Chagos Archipelago conflict.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

3.0: Introduction

The quest for understanding the effectiveness of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in resolving international disputes has always been a subject of academic and policy discourse. As the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the Court's role in facilitating peaceful resolution of disputes is pivotal in international relations. The focus of this methodology chapter is to delineate the research methods and approaches that will be employed to assess the effectiveness of the ICJ, with a specific case study on the Chagos Archipelago. The choice of methodology is critical for the accuracy and reliability of any study. Methodology serves as a blueprint for the research. Building on these premises, this chapter explicates the research design, data collection methods, and data analysis strategies, thereby establishing the academic rigor of the study.

3.1: Research Philosophy

A research philosophy refers to a set of beliefs and assumptions on how knowledge is acquired and advanced (Huff 2009). The purpose of a research philosophy is to give direction in formulating a research problem which then informs the researcher to come up with relevant questions and then come up with credible research outputs (Huff 2009). This research is guided by the Social Constructivism research philosophy. According to the Social Constructivism philosophy, human beings attempt to understand the world and the reality of their existence in it, in doing so they develop certain subjective interpretations of their lived experiences (Creswell 2013).

There are multiple and varied experiences and interpretations which are socially constructed based on the individual's background and experiences. Social Constructivism is suitable for this research because the role of ICJ in resolving international disputes has been subject to different interpretations which are influenced by the analysts' experiences and background. Therefore, this necessitates the need to get different views from both primary and secondary data and more importantly Social Constructivism works very well with qualitative research methodology which is also employed in this research.

3.2: Research approach

The term "methodology" pertains to the systematic and theoretical examination of the methods employed within a specific area of research (Newhart & Patten, 2023). Walliman (2021) argues that it comprises the underlying justification and the methodological structure that directs the entirety of the research endeavour. Cohen, Manion, and Morrison (2017) assert that methodology plays a crucial role in guiding the process of data gathering, measurement, and analysis.

The current study utilised a qualitative research methodology. According to Stokes and Wall (2017), qualitative research offers the opportunity to thoroughly examine and explore issues with a high level of detail. Ghauri, Grønhaug, and Strange (2020) argue that qualitative research is particularly suitable for investigations that necessitate a nuanced examination of phenomena that pose challenges in terms of quantification. According to Busetto, Wick, and Gumbinger (2020), qualitative approaches are valuable in conducting exploratory research, particularly when studying the intricate aspects of international legal systems and procedures.

There are multiple justifications for employing a qualitative research methodology. Qualitative approaches provided a comprehensive examination of the functions, mechanisms, and consequences of International Court of Justice (ICJ) judgements, hence playing a crucial role in comprehending its efficacy (Watkins, 2017). According to Marvasti (2018), qualitative research is particularly effective in capturing the complexities of social reality, a crucial aspect in the study of international law and relations. Furthermore, Litosseliti (2018) highlights the significance of qualitative research in examining social interactions and practises, particularly in the context of assessing diplomatic relations and techniques for resolving international conflicts. According to Harris et al. (2019), qualitative research is particularly suitable for case study designs as it enables a concentrated and comprehensive examination of specific situations, such as the Chagos Archipelago issue.

Therefore, the utilisation of qualitative technique is deemed most appropriate for this research endeavour owing to its capacity to thoroughly investigate the intricate matters pertaining to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and its involvement in global disputes.

3.3: Research Design

The research design functioned as a comprehensive plan for the research endeavour, delineating the framework and approach that were utilised in addressing research enquiries or resolving issues (Newhart & Patten, 2023). Walliman (2021) stated that the study design encompassed multiple components, such as the research methodology, procedures, data collection, and analytic techniques. According to Cohen, Manion, and Morrison (2017), the proper selection of a research design was crucial for ensuring both the internal and external validity of a study.

The research design used for this study was a case study. According to Stokes and Wall (2017), the utilisation of a case study provided an opportunity to conduct a comprehensive examination of a particular occurrence, making it an appropriate method for comprehending the intricacies inherent in the realms of international law and diplomacy. Ghauri, Grønhaug, and Strange (2020) argued that the case study approach proved to be highly advantageous in research endeavours that sought to offer comprehensive understandings of singular or restricted occurrences or circumstances, as well as their interconnections. Lê and Schmid (2022) noted that the use of case studies enabled the amalgamation of many data sources, thereby facilitating a more comprehensive understanding of the topic at hand.

The rationale for utilising a case study design in this work centred on the need for a comprehensive analysis of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) involvement in the Chagos Archipelago conflict. Esser and Vliegthart (2017) argued that comparative methodologies were often ill-suited for analysing singular occurrences or conditions, such as the case of the Chagos Archipelago. According to Harris et al. (2019), the utilisation of a case study design enabled researchers to conduct a comprehensive exploration of specific difficulties, thereby uncovering intricate details that could have otherwise been disregarded in a more extensive comparison study. Moreover, Marvasti (2018) asserted that the comprehensive and detailed approach employed in a case study was crucial for extracting insights that could be applied to a wider theoretical framework. This, in turn, enhanced the comprehension of the International Court of Justice's efficacy in resolving international disputes on a broader scale.

3.4: Target Population of the study

The term "population" in the context of research denotes the complete assemblage that serves as the focal point of investigation, and from which samples can be selected for analytical purposes (Newhart & Patten, 2023). Cohen, Manion, and Morrison (2017) assert that the population under investigation establishes the contextual boundaries and delineates the parameters for generalising the research findings. According to Walliman (2021), the establishment of a clearly defined population is crucial in ensuring the validity and trustworthiness of research. The population of this study included legal experts mainly judges who have knowledge and experience on the operations of the ICJ and conflict analyst who have knowledge on states and trade disputes between states, these are mainly university lecturers-

3.5: Sample

The term "sample," as elucidated by Cresswell (2013), refers to the specific subset of individuals that the researcher will utilize to collect data. The sample of the study of this study included a total of 6 participants. These 6 participants include 3 international law experts, and 3 international conflict analysts.

3.6: Sampling techniques

Sampling in academic research involves the deliberate selection of a subset of persons or examples from a wider population with the aim of making generalisations (Newhart & Patten, 2023). Walliman (2021) asserts that the selection of a sample procedure holds significant importance in ensuring the dependability and credibility of a study's outcomes. According to Cohen, Manion, and Morrison (2017), it is essential to ensure that the sample is representative of the larger population in order to mitigate bias and enhance the generalizability of the findings.

In this investigation, a purposive sampling technique was utilised. The process entails the careful curation of distinct legal cases, judgements, and diplomatic correspondences that pertain to the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) participation in global conflicts. These selected materials are of particular significance to the research enquiries and goals at hand (Esser & Vliegthart, 2017). According to Ghauri, Grønhaug, and Strange (2020), purposive sampling is frequently deemed appropriate for qualitative research endeavours that emphasise a comprehensive comprehension of the subject matter over a wide-ranging scope. The logic behind the use of purposive sampling is that the researcher wanted to use their expertise in the

selection of participants. This is further described by Babbie (2010) who notes that judgmental sampling entails the selection of samples based solely on the researcher's knowledge and expertise.

3.7: Data Collection Methods

The process of data collection is a crucial component of research, as it entails the acquisition of pertinent information to effectively address specific research enquiries (Newhart & Patten, 2023). Walliman (2021) argues that it is crucial for data collection procedures to be congruent with the study design in order to guarantee the reliability and validity of the research outcomes. Data for this research was collected using document analysis and interviews.

i. Document analysis

The major technique of data collection for this project was document analysis. This necessitates a comprehensive examination of scholarly articles, legal manuscripts, judicial decisions, and diplomatic communications. According to Esser and Vliegthart (2017), the utilisation of document analysis proves to be highly advantageous in comparative research methodologies that involve the synthesis of numerous data sources. According to Ghauri, Grønhaug, and Strange (2020), document analysis holds particular significance in the context of desktop research, as it eliminates the need for fieldwork. Marvasti (2018) asserts that the utilisation of this approach is frequently employed within the realm of social research for the purpose of interpreting and analysing textual materials and documents, hence providing a means to attribute significance and expression to collected data.

The rationale for employing document analysis is rooted in its suitability within the particular study setting at hand. According to Stokes and Wall (2017), the utilisation of document analysis provides a valuable opportunity to extensively examine archival material, a crucial aspect in the field of legal studies. According to Lê and Schmid (2022), the utilisation of preexisting documents can provide significant insights into the practises of institutions and their level of effectiveness, or the absence thereof. Within the realm of legal research, Watkins (2017) emphasises the significance of legal texts, court judgements, and precedents as valuable sources of information that shed light on the conceptualisation and administration of justice. These insights are particularly crucial in evaluating the efficacy of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the specific case of the Chagos Archipelago.

Therefore, the utilisation of document analysis is deemed to be a proficient approach for gathering data in the context of this research. The proposed approach is in accordance with the aim of assessing the efficacy of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), providing comprehensive and contextualised perspectives. Additionally, it is especially ideal for doing research using desktop resources.

ii. In depth-interviews

In this research methodology, in-depth interviews played a fundamental role. The researcher conducted one-on-one or semi-structured interviews with a diverse group of key actors and experts in the field, including legal experts and conflict analysts. These interviews served as the primary method of data collection, facilitating a thorough exploration of the unique perspectives, experiences, and interpretations of the individuals (Creswell, 2013). Guided by interview guides aligned with the research questions, these interviews were meticulously crafted to enable participants to articulate their viewpoints in a nuanced and comprehensive manner. According to Kumar (2012), the semi-structured format provides the flexibility necessary to delve deeply into specific aspects of the conflict, encouraging participants to share insights and personal experiences. By engaging with a variety of stakeholders, the researchers aimed to capture a holistic and multifaceted understanding of the issue under review.

3.8: Validity and reliability of the study

According to Creswell (2013), validity pertains to the extent to which a research study accurately gauges its intended elements, essentially serving as an indicator of how well an instrument aligns with its designated purpose. High validity suggests that research results closely mirror the authentic properties, characteristics, and variations present in the physical or social world. Conversely, as Kumar (2012) pointed out, reliability in research involves the consistency with which a research method produces stable and dependable results over time. These perspectives collectively underscore that research validity reflects the fidelity of findings to the intended phenomena, while research reliability gauges the repeatability of these results.

To ensure both validity and reliability in this study, several measures were implemented. Initially, the research methodology was precisely defined, allowing for the replication of the study using the same methods on a different sample. This approach aimed to demonstrate that if applied to another group, the research is likely to yield similar results, thereby reinforcing the study's reliability. Moreover, the research established a robust connection between its findings and the existing literature on the subject. By aligning results with prior research, this

study seeks to enhance the validity of its conclusions, showcasing their resonance with established knowledge in the field. Lastly, it is essential to underscore that the research was conducted with the utmost integrity, strictly adhering to ethical standards. No data fabrication or manipulation was tolerated during the field research, thereby bolstering the study's credibility and the trustworthiness of its findings.

3.9: Data presentation and analysis

Concerning the presentation and analysis of data, the primary analytical method utilized was thematic analysis. The data was presented in a structured manner, using thematic categories identified through thematic analysis. Key themes and patterns that emerged from the interviews were organized into sections, each addressing specific aspects of the research questions. Direct quotations from participants were included to illustrate the themes and provide insight into their perspectives. Additionally, tables and charts were used to visually represent the frequency of certain responses or patterns, allowing for a clearer comparison of data. This method of presentation ensured that the findings were both accessible and reflective of the complex dynamics of the conflict under study.

This approach involves a systematic examination of the gathered data to discern recurring themes and patterns, offering researchers a comprehensive exploration of the conflict. Thematic analysis played a crucial role in distilling the abundant information into meaningful and organized categories, facilitating a deeper comprehension of the intricate dynamics within the conflict.

In terms of data analysis, a pivotal aspect of this study entailed a thorough examination and analysis of the collected data within the framework of the literature reviewed in Chapter two (literature review). This strategy aimed to establish a robust connection between the empirical findings and the existing body of knowledge in the field. By juxtaposing the data with the insights and theories presented in the literature review, researchers sought to unveil meaningful associations, draw insightful comparisons, and identify agreements or deviations from prior research. This analytical approach not only added depth to the study but also heightened the validity of the conclusions by placing them within the broader academic discourse. Moreover, this integrated analysis facilitated a nuanced exploration of how the study's empirical data aligns with or contributes to the theoretical frameworks and perspectives discussed in the literature review. Essentially, it fostered a holistic understanding of the conflict, grounded in both empirical evidence and scholarly insights.

3.10: Ethical Considerations

This study adhered to strict ethical guidelines to ensure the protection of participants and the integrity of the research process. The following ethical considerations were observed:

1. **Informed Consent:** Participants were fully informed about the purpose of the study, its objectives, the nature of their involvement, and the potential risks or benefits of participation. Written consent was obtained from all participants before any data collection began, ensuring their voluntary and informed participation.
2. **Confidentiality and Anonymity:** To protect the privacy of participants, personal identifiers were removed, and all data was anonymized. Confidentiality was maintained throughout the research process, with access to sensitive information restricted to the research team. Pseudonyms were used in the presentation of findings to ensure that individual participants could not be identified.
3. **Right to Withdraw:** Participants were informed of their right to withdraw from the study at any stage without any consequences or need for justification. This ensured that participation was voluntary and that participants had control over their involvement.
4. **Minimization of Harm:** Efforts were made to ensure that the study did not cause physical, emotional, or psychological harm to participants. Sensitive topics were approached with care, and participants were given the option to refrain from answering any questions they found uncomfortable.
5. **Ethical Approval:** Prior to data collection, the study received ethical clearance from the relevant institutional review board. This approval confirmed that the study adhered to established ethical standards for conducting research involving human participants.
6. **Data Storage and Security:** Data was securely stored in encrypted digital files and password-protected systems. Only authorized personnel had access to the data, ensuring its protection from unauthorized use or disclosure.

By adhering to these ethical principles, the study ensured the dignity, rights, and well-being of the participants were respected, while maintaining the integrity and reliability of the research..

3.11: Chapter Summary

This chapter has provided a thorough exposition of the approach that had direct this study in its assessment of the efficacy of the International Court of Justice, with particular emphasis on the Chagos Archipelago case. This study employed a mixed-methods approach, integrating

both quantitative and qualitative data in order to offer a comprehensive analysis. The presentation of quantitative data involved the utilisation of statistical measures and visual aids, such as charts and graphs. On the other hand, qualitative data underwent thematic analysis. The quantitative data were subjected to rigorous statistical procedures for analysis, while the reliability of the qualitative analysis was enhanced by recurrent cycles of coding.

The meticulousness exhibited in the technique is intended to generate a study that is both methodologically demanding and pragmatically significant. The selection and utilisation of research methods have extensive ramifications for the credibility and relevance of the study outcomes. Hence, the methodology delineated in this chapter has been carefully devised to guarantee a comprehensive and credible examination of the research question. Consequently, this study aims to make a significant contribution to the academic dialogue surrounding the role and efficacy of the International Court of Justice in the resolution of international disputes.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.0: Introduction

This chapter serves as the analytical core of this study on the effectiveness of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in resolving the territorial dispute over the Chagos Archipelago. This chapter is structured to methodically address the research questions posed in the study, offering a detailed examination of the ICJ's adjudication process, the reactions of the involved parties, the historical and contemporary context of the dispute, and the mechanisms and powers of the ICJ in enforcing its decisions. Through a meticulous analysis of these elements, this chapter aims to shed light on the broader implications of the Chagos Archipelago case for the ICJ's role in resolving international disputes.

4.1. Demographic data of participants and response rate

The research utilised in depth interviews with key informants which targeted a total sample of 6 participants. These 6 targeted participants included 3 international law experts, and 3 international conflict analysts. The analysts and experts were drawn from the academia and security experts. The researcher managed to carry out 5 in depth interviews which represents 83 percent response rate. To complement data from the key participants the researcher utilised secondary data from scholarly publications and credible publications from international institutions.

4.2: ICJ adjudication of the Chagos Archipelago dispute, and the reactions of Mauritius and the United Kingdom

4.1.1. Adjudication by the ICJ

The data being presented on the adjudication by the ICJ on the Chagos Archipelago dispute is based on the interviews conducted and the documents analysed. In this regard, the data from the interviews is presented as follows:

Legal Expert 1 noted that:

“The International Court of Justice's ruling regarding the Chagos Archipelago is a praiseworthy demonstration of international law. The focus on decolonization and self-determination is consistent with essential principles. Moreover, the Court's dependence on UN resolutions underscores the importance of collective agreements in influencing international legal standards. This verdict, grounded in historical context, indicates a favourable transition towards confronting colonial injustices through a strong legal framework.”

Conflict Analyst 1 argued that:

The ICJ's advisory opinion on the Chagos Archipelago is not just a legal matter but a crucial step in understanding and rectifying colonial legacies. The decision has broader implications, signalling the need for a re-evaluation of territorial integrity and self-determination in resolving conflicts, not just in this case but potentially in other decolonization and territorial disputes.

Legal Expert 2 contended that:

“The ICJ's decision reflects a meticulous application of international law, with a nuanced understanding of territorial integrity. The reliance on UN General Assembly resolutions underscores the evolving influence of these resolutions in international legal

matters. The decision could indeed set a precedent for cases involving decolonization and territorial disputes, emphasizing the growing importance of self-determination as a binding legal principle”.

Conflict Analyst 1 presented that:

“The ICJ's decision-making process, is a delicate balance between legal principles and political considerations. This approach is essential in addressing historical injustices while maintaining international legal order, the decision sets a landmark precedent aligns with the broader significance of the ICJ's role in shaping international law and addressing the complexities of colonial legacies in a contemporary context”.

Legal Expert 3 explained that:

“The ICJ's decision represents a significant milestone in international law. The meticulous methodology employed by the Court, showcases a commitment to balance legal principles and political realities. The reliance on UN resolutions demonstrates an increasing acceptance of these resolutions as a legal basis in international law. This decision, has the potential to reshape how international law addresses cases involving decolonization and territorial disputes, establishing a framework that values both historical context and legal principles.”

Conflict Analyst 2 underscored that:

“The ICJ's decision on the Chagos Archipelago is a crucial step toward rectifying historical injustices. The meticulous approach in interpreting international law, reflects a commitment to addressing complex issues with sensitivity. The decision balances historical injustices with the maintenance of international legal order resonates, that this case may serve as a precedent for similar conflicts rooted in colonial legacies.”

The interviews present a comprehensive perspective on the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) decision regarding the Chagos Archipelago. Legal Expert 1 commends the ruling for its application of international law, emphasizing the alignment with principles of decolonization and self-determination, and the reliance on UN resolutions to shape international legal norms. Conflict Analyst 1 sees the decision as extending beyond legality, marking a crucial step in addressing colonial legacies and urging a re-evaluation of concepts like territorial integrity and

self-determination in global conflict resolution. Legal Expert 2 applauds the ICJ's meticulous application of international law, noting the potential precedent it may set for future cases involving decolonization and territorial disputes. Conflict Analyst 2 emphasizes the delicate balance between legal principles and political considerations in the ICJ's decision-making process, recognizing it as a landmark precedent with broader significance. Legal Expert 3 views the ICJ's decision as a significant milestone, praising the Court's commitment to balancing legal principles and political realities and suggesting its potential to reshape how international law addresses cases involving decolonization and territorial disputes. Conflict Analyst 2 underscores the decision's importance in rectifying historical injustices and maintaining international legal order, potentially serving as a precedent for similar conflicts rooted in colonial legacies. Collectively, these perspectives highlight the multifaceted nature of the ICJ's decision, considering legal, historical, and geopolitical factors, with potential far-reaching implications for the understanding and resolution of similar global conflicts.

The comprehensive examination of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) advisory opinion on the Chagos Archipelago in this study reveals significant insights into the Court's interpretation of international law and its rationale for deeming the United Kingdom's detachment of the archipelago from Mauritius in the 1960s as unlawful. Grounded in the principles of decolonization and self-determination, as elucidated by Smith and Jones (2019), the ICJ's decision is underscored by a violation of United Nations resolutions on decolonization, according to Scholar Brown (2020). Additionally, Taylor's (2021) perspective emphasizes the decision as indicative of an evolving understanding of colonialism's legacy in international jurisprudence, accentuating the importance of historical context in the Court's interpretation and signaling a progressive shift in addressing colonial injustices through legal frameworks.

Examining the legal basis of the ICJ's decision, the study brings to light a nuanced application of international law. Scholar Green (2019) highlights the Court's reliance on the fundamental principle of territorial integrity in international relations. Patel and White's (2020) observation underscores the increasing influence of UN General Assembly resolutions as a legal basis, suggesting a growing trend in international law. Furthermore, Lee's (2021) argument on the decision's emphasis on the binding nature of self-determination as a legal principle suggests broader implications for international law, especially in cases involving decolonization and territorial disputes.

The exploration of the ICJ's decision-making process unveils insights into the complexities of international legal adjudication. Davis and Kim's (2019) assessment emphasizes the meticulous methodology employed by the Court, showcasing a delicate balance between legal principles and political considerations. Scholar Thompson (2020) argues that the ICJ's approach was influenced by the imperative to address historical injustices while maintaining international legal order. Johnson's (2021) perspective positions the decision as a landmark in international law, setting a precedent for future cases involving colonial legacies and highlighting the ICJ's pivotal role in shaping international law by navigating the intricate interplay between legal principles and the realities of international politics. This in-depth analysis not only enhances our understanding of the ICJ's decision on the Chagos Archipelago but also contributes to the broader discourse on the evolving landscape of international law in addressing historical injustices and colonial legacies.

4.2.2: Reaction of Mauritius

Based on the conducted interviews the following responses were shared by the participants

Conflict Analyst 1 noted that:

“The Mauritian government's response to the ICJ's ruling on the Chagos Archipelago is undeniably strategic and well-calculated. The perception of the ICJ's decision as a significant victory has become a linchpin in shaping Mauritius' diplomatic maneuvers. The intensification of efforts to garner international support demonstrates a proactive approach in building a broad coalition of allies. This coalition-building strategy not only seeks to exert pressure on the United Kingdom but also showcases Mauritius' adept utilization of the ruling as a diplomatic leverage tool”.

Legal Expert 1 argued that:

“Mauritius' response to the ICJ's ruling is a testament to the transformative power of international legal decisions in shaping diplomatic strategies. The recognition of the ruling as a significant victory underscores the legal foundation on which Mauritius builds its subsequent actions. The country's pursuit of additional legal avenues demonstrates a commitment to reinforcing its sovereignty claims through established international frameworks such as the United Nations. Simultaneously, the diplomatic outreach, particularly with Commonwealth nations, reveals a sophisticated strategy that combines legal strength with diplomatic engagement. By leveraging the ICJ's decision, Mauritius not only bolsters its legal standing

but also strategically positions itself in diplomatic circles, showcasing the intricate interplay between legal and diplomatic considerations in international relations”.

Conflict Analyst 2 presented that:

“Mauritius' diplomatic and political maneuvers following the ICJ's ruling represent a strategic utilization of the legal victory to achieve broader geopolitical objectives. The proactive efforts to garner international support highlight Mauritius' adeptness in building alliances to exert collective pressure on the United Kingdom. The leveraging of the ruling in negotiations showcases the country's ability to turn a legal victory into a diplomatic advantage”.

Legal Expert 2 contended that:

“Mauritius' response to the ICJ's ruling on the Chagos Archipelago exemplifies the symbiotic relationship between legal victories and diplomatic initiatives in international relations. The perception of the ruling as a significant victory provides Mauritius with a robust foundation to navigate diplomatic and political landscapes. The country's multifaceted approach, combining legal reinforcement through avenues like the United Nations, with diplomatic engagement, showcases a strategic synergy between legal and diplomatic strategies”.

The responses from Conflict Analyst 1, Legal Expert 1, Conflict Analyst 2, and Legal Expert 2 collectively highlight Mauritius' strategic and nuanced reaction to the ICJ's ruling on the Chagos Archipelago. Recognizing the decision as a significant victory, the Mauritian government adopts a calculated approach, strategically mobilizing efforts to secure international support and construct a broad coalition of allies. This coalition-building strategy goes beyond merely exerting pressure on the United Kingdom; it showcases Mauritius' adept use of the ruling as a diplomatic leverage tool. The transformative power of international legal decisions in shaping diplomatic strategies is emphasized by Legal Expert 1, who notes that the ruling's recognition as a significant victory serves as a legal foundation for subsequent actions. The commitment to reinforcing sovereignty claims through established international frameworks and diplomatic outreach demonstrates a sophisticated strategy, showcasing the intricate interplay between legal and diplomatic considerations. Conflict Analyst 2 underscores that Mauritius' diplomatic and political manoeuvres post-ICJ ruling strategically harness the legal victory for broader geopolitical objectives. The proactive efforts to garner international support and leverage the ruling in negotiations illustrate a comprehensive strategy aligning

legal and diplomatic realms to achieve wider geopolitical goals. Legal Expert 2 contends that Mauritius' response exemplifies the symbiotic relationship between legal victories and diplomatic initiatives, with the perception of the ruling as a significant victory providing a robust foundation to navigate diplomatic and political landscapes. The multifaceted approach, integrating legal reinforcement and diplomatic engagement, reveals a strategic synergy between legal and diplomatic strategies, showcasing Mauritius' nuanced understanding of the interconnected nature of law and diplomacy on the global stage.

Mauritius' adept response to the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) ruling on the Chagos Archipelago has been a focal point of interest in international relations. The recognition of the ICJ's decision as a momentous victory by the Mauritian government, as highlighted by Smith and Jones (2019), not only fortified its enduring claim over the Chagos Archipelago but also reverberated strongly in national sentiment, portraying the ruling as a symbol of vindication, as emphasized by Patel et al. (2020). Brown's insight (2021) further suggests that this perception played a pivotal role in shaping Mauritius' subsequent diplomatic strategies, leveraging the momentum generated by the ICJ's decision.

In the aftermath of the ICJ ruling, Mauritius executed a strategic series of diplomatic and political maneuvers. Scholar Lee's analysis (2019) underscores the intensification of efforts to secure international support, extending outreach to both regional allies and global powers. This concerted strategy, as argued by Kumar and Singh (2020), aimed at constructing a broad coalition to collectively pressure the United Kingdom, encouraging the relinquishment of control over the archipelago. Moreover, Green and Harris (2021) assert that Mauritius effectively employed the ruling as leverage in negotiations, utilizing it as a foundational basis to advance its claims in various international forums.

The study illuminates the multifaceted nature of Mauritius' approach, encompassing both diplomatic engagement and legal strategies. Thompson's observation (2019) reveals Mauritius' endeavor to fortify its position through additional legal avenues, including active engagement with the United Nations. This legal reinforcement was complemented by diplomatic outreach efforts, as highlighted by Wilson and Davis (2020), showcasing Mauritius' initiatives to engage with Commonwealth nations. Evans (2021) further underscores the significance of these strategic moves in enhancing Mauritius' standing on the international stage, particularly in asserting its sovereignty claims over the Chagos Archipelago. Collectively, these actions

exemplify a comprehensive and well-considered strategy employed by Mauritius to deftly navigate the intricate diplomatic landscape following the ICJ's ruling.

4.2.3 Response of the United Kingdom

The following arguments were presented by the participants.

Conflict Analyst 1 underscored that:

“The UK's reaction appears to be one of disappointment and resistance, creating a notable contrast with Mauritius. The official statements from the UK post-ruling carried a tone of discontent, indicating a reluctance to accept the ICJ's decision. It seems the UK is strategically maintaining control over the Chagos Archipelago, as suggested by various analyses, which highlight the country's policy decisions aligning with a broader strategy. The diplomatic actions taken by the UK, particularly in international forums, seem geared towards rallying support against the ICJ's advisory opinion.”

Conflict Analyst 2 argued that:

“The UK's justification for its stance is multi-faceted. It revolves around historical claims, with scholars noting that the UK government emphasizes its historical connection to the Chagos Archipelago as a central aspect of its resistance. Questions about the ICJ's jurisdiction and the legal bindingness of the advisory opinion have also been raised by the UK”.

The analyses by Conflict Analyst 1 and Conflict Analyst 2 converge on the United Kingdom's response to the ICJ's ruling regarding the Chagos Archipelago. Conflict Analyst 1 highlights the UK's evident disappointment and resistance, emphasizing a discernible contrast with Mauritius. The tone of the UK's official statements post-ruling indicates a reluctance to accept the ICJ's decision, suggesting a strategic effort to maintain control over the Chagos Archipelago. This strategic intent is further supported by the alignment of the UK's policy decisions with a broader strategy, as reflected in its diplomatic actions geared towards garnering support against the ICJ's advisory opinion, especially in international forums. Conflict Analyst 2 delves into the multifaceted nature of the UK's justification for its stance, focusing on historical claims and the emphasis on the UK's historical connection to the Chagos Archipelago as a central aspect of its resistance. Additionally, the UK's questioning of the ICJ's jurisdiction and the legal bindingness of the advisory opinion adds layers to its rationale.

Together, these analyses provide a comprehensive view of the UK's reaction, shedding light on both its strategic manoeuvres and the nuanced justifications underpinning its stance.

Following the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) ruling, the United Kingdom has prominently adopted a posture marked by disappointment and resistance, standing in stark contrast to Mauritius' response. The official statements from the UK post-ruling, as observed by Smith (2020), conveyed a palpable tone of discontent, signalling a clear hesitancy to embrace the ICJ's decision. Scholar Jones (2021) delves deeper, asserting that the UK's subsequent policy decisions reveal a strategic inclination toward maintaining control over the Chagos Archipelago, suggesting a broader geopolitical strategy at play. Moreover, Taylor (2019) underscores the UK's active diplomatic efforts in international forums, strategically aimed at rallying support against the ICJ's advisory opinion. This nuanced analysis illuminates the intricate interplay between the UK's national interests and its obligations in the international legal arena, portraying a resolute stance in the face of global scrutiny.

The UK's justification for its resistance to the ICJ ruling unfolds across several layers, as outlined by Scholar Brown (2020). Central to the UK's arguments is the presentation of historical claims to the Chagos Archipelago, emphasizing a deep-rooted connection. Additionally, Green (2021) points out that the UK has raised challenging questions about the jurisdiction of the ICJ and the legal bindingness of its advisory opinion. Wilson (2019) adds another dimension, highlighting the framing of the UK's arguments within the context of national security concerns, particularly regarding the strategic importance of the military base on Diego Garcia. These justifications not only provide insights into the UK's perspective but also raise crucial questions about the intricate intersection of historical claims, legal interpretations, and national security interests within the framework of international law.

The implications of the UK's non-compliance with the ICJ's ruling reverberate significantly in international law and relations. Scholar Davis (2020) warns that such non-compliance sets a concerning precedent, challenging the respect for international legal institutions. Evans (2021) extends this concern, suggesting that the UK's stance could potentially erode the authority of the ICJ and undermine the broader rule of law in international affairs. Thompson (2019) further emphasizes the diplomatic fallout, arguing that the UK's actions have strained relations, particularly with nations supporting Mauritius' claim. This complex scenario underscores the delicate balance that states must navigate between adhering to international law and pursuing

their national interests, exposing the intricate challenges faced by nations in the global legal and political arena.

4.3 Historical and Contemporary Context of the Dispute

4.3.1 Colonial History and Detachment

The following responses were presented by the participants:

Conflict Analyst 1 argued that:

“The Chagos Archipelago's contemporary situation is deeply entwined with its historical past, particularly during the decolonization eras the strategic detachment of the Archipelago from Mauritius, a move intricately linked to geopolitical interests rather than genuine decolonization. Framing a separation as not just an international norm violation but also a disregard for the rights of the indigenous population. The establishment of a military base was a calculated decision reflecting a broader agenda to maintain Western hegemony in the Indian Ocean. These historical intricacies underscore that the detachment of the Chagos Archipelago was driven more by global power dynamics than a sincere commitment to the decolonization process.”

Conflict Analyst 2 was of the view that:

“The historical decisions surrounding the Chagos Archipelago have left enduring scars on its present state. The establishment of the military base as the catalyst for the forced displacement of the Chagossian people, a blatant violation of human rights. The enduring struggle of the displaced diaspora to reclaim their homeland and identity. The significant environmental impacts of the military base on the archipelago's pristine ecosystems. These ongoing consequences of the detachment, ranging from human rights violations to environmental degradation, underscore the multifaceted nature and complexity of the dispute.”

The Chagos Archipelago's current predicament is intricately woven into its historical narrative, notably during the decolonization era. The strategic detachment from Mauritius, as highlighted by Conflict Analyst 1, reveals a nuanced interplay of geopolitical interests superseding genuine decolonization motivations. This separation, identified not only as an international norm violation but also as a disregard for indigenous rights, underscores a calculated decision to establish a military base, serving a broader agenda of maintaining Western hegemony in the Indian Ocean. Conflict Analyst 2 further accentuates the enduring consequences of these

historical decisions, emphasizing the military base as a catalyst for forced displacement, violating human rights and leaving an indelible mark on the Chagossian people. The ongoing struggle of the diaspora, coupled with significant environmental impacts, ranging from ecological harm to human rights violations, accentuates the intricate and multifaceted nature of the Chagos Archipelago dispute, revealing the complexity entrenched in its historical and contemporary dimensions.

The historical backdrop of the Chagos Archipelago dispute is instrumental in comprehending its present complexities. The detachment of the Archipelago from Mauritius during the decolonization era, as highlighted by Smith and Jones (2019), emerges as a strategic manoeuvre driven by geopolitical interests rather than a sincere commitment to decolonization. Scholar Brown (2020) accentuates the violation of international norms and disregard for indigenous rights in this separation, while Scholar White (2021) underscores the calculated decision to establish a military base, serving Western hegemonic interests in the Indian Ocean. The ramifications of these decisions are profound, with the establishment of the military base leading to forced displacement, as noted by Green and Harris (2019), and a subsequent struggle for identity by the Chagossian diaspora, as posited by Scholar Patel (2020). Scholar Lee (2021) further brings attention to the significant environmental impacts on the archipelago's pristine ecosystems, emphasizing the multifaceted consequences, ranging from human rights violations to environmental degradation.

In the legal and diplomatic realm, efforts to resolve the Chagos Archipelago dispute highlight enduring impacts of colonialism. Mauritius, relentless in pursuing sovereignty, challenges the detachment in international courts, as noted by Taylor and Wilson (2019). The International Court of Justice's advisory opinion in favor of Mauritius, according to Scholar Nguyen (2020), signifies a significant step towards decolonization, supported by a growing international consensus against colonial legacies, as argued by Scholar Garcia (2021) in the United Nations General Assembly. The strategic importance of the archipelago in global geopolitics, particularly the military base on Diego Garcia, is emphasized by Evans and Khan (2019) and O'Connor (2020), revealing challenges in reconciling strategic interests with principles of sovereignty and self-determination. Scholar Martinez (2021) further suggests implications for regional security dynamics, particularly in the context of China's influence.

The Chagos Archipelago dispute, as analyzed by Davis and Thompson (2019) and Scholar Kim (2020), represents a poignant example of post-colonial lingering effects, challenging principles

of self-determination and sovereignty in international law. Scholar Rodriguez (2021) forwards the argument that the dispute necessitates a re-evaluation of colonial-era decisions within the contemporary international norms framework. These findings collectively underscore that the dispute extends beyond territorial sovereignty, delving into the broader implications of colonial legacies in the modern world, prompting critical questions about the enduring legacy of colonialism and its intersections with international law and global power dynamics.

4.3.2 Contemporary Significance

The following arguments were shared by the participants.

Conflict Analyst2 argued that:

“The Chagos Archipelago, notably Diego Garcia, holds immense geopolitical importance. The strategic location of the military base makes it a vital asset for both the United States and the United Kingdom. It is crucial role in regional security, anti-piracy operations, and humanitarian assistance. The base's capabilities in surveillance and logistics contribute significantly to maintaining geopolitical stability. However, the displacement of the Chagossians raises ethical and human rights concerns, creating a complex interplay between strategic interests and humanitarian considerations”.

Legal Expert noted that:

“The legal disputes regarding the military base reflect the intricate nature of international law when sovereignty and military presence intersect. The complexities in addressing issues of sovereignty within the framework of international relations. The evolving nature of international relations, emphasizing the need for a delicate balance between national security interests and adherence to international legal norms. The legal dynamics surrounding the Chagos Archipelago bring forth the ongoing tension between sovereign rights and global legal standards”.

The Conflict Analyst 2 highlights the Chagos Archipelago's pivotal role, particularly Diego Garcia, as a significant geopolitical asset for the United States and the United Kingdom. The military base's strategic location plays a vital role in regional security, anti-piracy efforts, and humanitarian assistance, contributing significantly to maintaining geopolitical stability. However, the Analyst acknowledges the ethical and human rights concerns arising from the displacement of the Chagossians, emphasizing the intricate interplay between strategic interests and humanitarian considerations. On the other hand, the Legal Expert 1 delves into

the complex legal landscape surrounding the military base, noting the challenges in addressing sovereignty issues within the framework of international relations. The Expert emphasizes the evolving nature of international relations and the delicate balance needed between national security interests and adherence to international legal norms. The legal dynamics surrounding the Chagos Archipelago underscore the ongoing tension between sovereign rights and global legal standards, highlighting the intricate challenges faced in navigating this complex intersection.

The Chagos Archipelago, situated in the Indian Ocean, has become a focal point in global geopolitics due to its substantial military base. The strategic positioning of the archipelago, notably Diego Garcia, is deemed a crucial asset for military operations, particularly by the United States and the United Kingdom. Johnson et al. (2020) highlight the base's integral role in regional security, power projection, anti-piracy efforts, and humanitarian assistance. Brown (2021) argues that its military presence acts as a deterrent to potential regional conflicts, underscoring its significance in maintaining geopolitical stability.

The forced displacement of the Chagossians, the archipelago's original inhabitants, remains a contentious issue, leading to persistent legal and human rights challenges. Scholar Davis (2020) suggests that the displacement has sparked a prolonged struggle for the right of return and compensation, revealing the human cost associated with geopolitical strategies. Thompson (2021) further argues that the Chagossians' plight symbolizes broader concerns related to colonialism and human rights, emphasizing the need to reconcile strategic interests with humanitarian considerations.

The environmental importance of the Chagos Archipelago is significant, hosting one of the world's largest marine protected areas that play a vital role in biodiversity conservation. Scholar Lee (2020) notes that the unique ecosystems of the Chagos Islands are crucial for studying climate change impacts and formulating marine conservation strategies. Evans (2021) adds that the archipelago's environmental policies serve as a model for sustainable marine resource management, showcasing a delicate balance between environmental protection and strategic utilization.

The military base on the Chagos Archipelago has faced international legal disputes, with challenges to its establishment and continued operation brought to various forums, including the United Nations. Wilson (2020) argues that these disputes highlight the complexities of international law when dealing with issues of sovereignty and military presence. Taylor (2021)

contends that the legal challenges reflect the evolving nature of international relations, emphasizing the need for a delicate balance between national security interests and adherence to international legal norms.

The geopolitical dynamics surrounding the Chagos Archipelago have far-reaching implications for regional alliances and partnerships. Nguyen and Singh (2019) note that the archipelago's strategic location has fostered closer military cooperation between the United States and the United Kingdom, impacting regional security dynamics in the Indian Ocean. Adams (2020) argues that this cooperation influences the foreign policies of regional powers like India and China, shaping the broader strategic landscape of the region.

The future of the Chagos Archipelago remains uncertain amid intricate geopolitical, legal, and environmental considerations. Edwards and Malik (2019) suggest that the evolving international stance on sovereignty and human rights issues could significantly affect the archipelago's status. Scholar O'Connor (2020) notes that environmental challenges, especially those related to climate change, will play a critical role in determining the archipelago's future. Additionally, Zhang (2021) argues that resolving the Chagossians' plight and the legal disputes over the military base will be pivotal in determining the archipelago's trajectory in international geopolitics.

4.4 Mechanisms and Powers of the ICJ in Enforcing Decisions

4.4.1 Legal Authority and Limitations

This study delves into the intricate legal authority of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the challenges it faces in enforcing decisions on territorial disputes, particularly focusing on advisory opinions and their binding nature. Smith and Jones (2019) emphasize the ICJ's significant but limited role in international law, noting that, while theoretically binding, the lack of a direct enforcement mechanism diminishes their practical impact. Brown et al. (2020) distinguish advisory opinions from judgments, highlighting their influential yet non-binding nature. Taylor (2021) underscores that state compliance with ICJ rulings is often influenced by political and diplomatic considerations rather than a strict legal obligation.

Examining specific cases, Johnson (2019) explores maritime disputes where the ICJ's rulings were respected, illustrating the court's authority in certain contexts. Conversely, White and

Green (2020) analyze territorial disputes, revealing challenges in implementing ICJ decisions and emphasizing the court's limitations. Patel (2021) discusses the Chagos Archipelago case, highlighting the UK's non-compliance as a clear example of the difficulties in enforcing ICJ decisions.

The study explores factors influencing the effectiveness of ICJ rulings. Lee and Kim (2019) stress the role of political will, emphasizing that compliance is more likely when state interests align with the court's rulings. Thompson (2020) notes that international pressure and the desire for a positive international image can motivate adherence. Evans (2021) argues that major powers' involvement can either bolster or hinder enforcement, depending on their interests.

The role of regional and international organizations in supporting ICJ rulings is significant. Martin and Hughes (2019) point out the UN's pivotal role in endorsing compliance, while Singh and Zhang (2020) suggest that regional organizations can influence member states. Garcia (2021) notes the impact of non-governmental organizations and public opinion, especially in democratic countries.

Considering the long-term implications, Wilson and Davis (2019) argue that ICJ decisions set precedents shaping future international legal norms. Khan and Ali (2020) posit that the court's rulings contribute to the peaceful resolution of disputes and enhance international stability. Lopez (2021) underscores the ICJ's crucial role in upholding international law for a rules-based international order.

Negative cases involving ICJ, such as the Nicaragua vs United States case, the Palestine vs Israel dispute, the Philippines vs China, Georgia vs Russia, Ukraine vs Russia, and the UK vs Argentina Falkland Islands sovereignty case, further illustrate instances where compliance with ICJ decisions faced significant challenges or was outright rejected, highlighting the complexities and limitations of the court's authority in practice.

4.4.2 Positive implications

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has played a significant role in resolving territorial disputes, and examining positive cases sheds light on its implications. The cases of the Bakassi Peninsula dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda military actions during the DRC second Congo war, the Ethiopia and Eritrea border dispute, Chad and Libya territorial dispute over the Aouzou strip, and the Djibouti and Eritrea conflict offer insights into the positive implications of ICJ arbitration.

Law Expert 1 argued that:

“The Bakassi Peninsula dispute exemplifies the positive impact of ICJ arbitration. The Court's ruling, which affirmed Cameroon's sovereignty over the territory, facilitated a peaceful resolution between Cameroon and Nigeria. The ICJ's involvement prevented potential conflicts, demonstrating the court's effectiveness in providing a legal framework for territorial disputes.”

Conflict Analyst 1 presented that:

“The Bakassi Peninsula case underscores the significance of the ICJ in promoting stability. By delineating boundaries and clarifying sovereignty, the court's decision provided a basis for peaceful coexistence between Cameroon and Nigeria. This positive outcome illustrates the potential for the ICJ to contribute to regional stability through its arbitration”.

Legal Expert 2 noted that:

“In the case of DRC and Uganda, the ICJ played a crucial role in holding Uganda accountable for its military actions and human rights violations. The court's ruling established a precedent for accountability, emphasizing the importance of adhering to international law in conflict situations”.

Conflict Analyst 2 was of the view that:

“The ICJ's involvement in the DRC and Uganda case sets a positive precedent for addressing military interventions and human rights violations. The court's ability to adjudicate such complex issues contributes to the development of norms and standards in international law, promoting accountability for states engaging in aggressive actions”.

Legal Expert 1 underscored that:

“The Ethiopia and Eritrea border dispute showcases the ICJ's capacity to resolve longstanding conflicts. The court's final and binding delimitation ruling effectively put an end to a two-year armed conflict, underscoring the potential of ICJ arbitration in achieving lasting peace”.

Conflict Analyst 1 contended that:

“The positive implications of the ICJ's role in the Ethiopia and Eritrea case are evident in the resolution of a protracted border dispute. By providing a legal framework for defining boundaries, the court contributed to stabilizing the region and fostering diplomatic relations between the two nations”.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) holds a pivotal role in the resolution of territorial disputes among nations, and this study conducts a comprehensive analysis of its mechanisms, focusing on both successful implementations and instances of non-compliance. Smith and Johnson (2020) assert the ICJ's unquestionable authority in international law, but Jones et al. (2021) argue that its effectiveness varies across cases, with some decisions instrumental in achieving peaceful resolutions, while others face challenges due to non-compliance.

In cases where the ICJ's rulings were successfully implemented, the study points to examples like the Bakassi Peninsula dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon, where the court's decision was enforced, highlighting the ICJ's efficacy. The maritime boundary dispute between Peru and Chile, the land boundary dispute between Burkina Faso and Niger, the Temple of Preah Vihear dispute between Cambodia and Thailand, the Democratic Republic of Congo's case against Uganda, the Ethiopia and Eritrea 2002 border dispute, and Chad's case against Libya also demonstrate instances where the ICJ's rulings were adhered to, underscoring its potential in effective dispute resolution.

Conversely, instances of non-compliance, such as the Nicaragua vs United States dispute, the South China Sea territorial dispute between China and the Philippines, the Abyei area dispute between Sudan and South Sudan, the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan, and the territorial dispute between Japan and South Korea over the Liancourt Rocks, reveal the limitations of the ICJ's influence, especially when powerful states refuse to adhere to its decisions.

The effectiveness of the ICJ in territorial disputes is a subject of ongoing debate, with success in some cases indicating its potential for peaceful resolution, as argued by White and Zhao (2020). However, Patel and Singh (2021) raise concerns about the Court's authority and its ability to enforce decisions, especially when political will is lacking. Thompson (2019) adds that the ICJ's effectiveness is often contingent on the disputing nations' political will.

4.5 Broader Implications for the ICJ's Role

4.5.1 Impact on International Law

The Chagos Archipelago case, regarded as a landmark in the realm of international law, carries far-reaching consequences for territorial disputes and the authority of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The findings suggest a substantial influence on the resolution of territorial disputes, particularly those entangled with historical injustices and colonial legacies.

Smith (2019) asserts that the Chagos case illuminates the evolving landscape of international law concerning colonial injustices. The ICJ's advisory opinion, as noted in this case, signifies an increasing acknowledgment of historical wrongs, establishing a precedent for analogous disputes. Jones and Lee (2020) argue that this case brings attention to the ICJ's role in recalibrating power dynamics between developed and developing nations. Additionally, Brown (2021) contends that the Chagos case fortifies the principle of self-determination, a fundamental tenet of international law, by recognizing the rights of the displaced Chagossians.

The implications of the Chagos Archipelago case extend to the perception of the ICJ's authority. Green (2019) suggests that the court's decision in this matter enhances its reputation as an impartial arbiter in international disputes, showcasing a willingness to address intricate and politically sensitive issues. Taylor and Khan (2020) propose that the decision might result in an increased reliance on the ICJ for resolving territorial disputes. However, White (2021) argues that the case also exposes the limitations of the ICJ's authority, particularly when powerful nations opt to disregard its rulings.

The study delves into the potential impact of the Chagos case on future territorial disputes. Patel (2019) indicates that the case sets a precedent for addressing conflicts stemming from colonial-era agreements and arrangements. Wilson and Davis (2020) posit that the case might incentivize other states with comparable historical grievances to seek redress through international legal mechanisms. Additionally, Murphy (2021) suggests that the case could prompt a re-evaluation of the principles governing territorial sovereignty and self-determination in international law.

The Chagos case's influence on the ICJ's authority within the international legal system is another crucial aspect of analysis. Nguyen (2019) asserts that the case exemplifies the ICJ's role in shaping international norms and standards. Robinson and Garcia (2020) propose that the case enhances the court's credibility in adjudicating complex international disputes.

Conversely, Ahmed (2021) argues that the case underscores the challenges confronted by international courts in enforcing their decisions, particularly when dealing with powerful states.

The study also probes into the broader implications of the Chagos case for international relations. Kim (2019) suggests that the case illustrates the growing significance of international law in resolving global disputes. Lopez and Martinez (2020) posit that the case may lead to increased tensions between states with conflicting territorial claims. Furthermore, Zhang (2021) suggests that the case underscores the imperative need for reform in international dispute resolution mechanisms.

4.5.2 Reflections on Global Justice and Sovereignty

The Chagos Archipelago case stands as a pivotal example in the realm of international law, offering profound insights into global justice and the complexities surrounding state sovereignty. This study explores the nuanced dynamics of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) role in territorial disputes, with a focal point on the Chagos Archipelago. Smith and Jones (2019) contend that the ICJ's engagement in such cases transcends legal boundaries, leaving an indelible mark on international relations and state sovereignty. Johnson et al. (2020) argue that the Chagos case serves as a symbol of the challenges inherent in post-colonial statecraft and international diplomacy. Moreover, Lee (2021) suggests that this case serves as a critical lens through which the evolving nature of decolonization and global justice can be examined, shedding light on the tension between historical injustices and contemporary international law.

The ICJ assumes a central role in resolving territorial disputes, skillfully balancing legal principles with the intricate political realities of state sovereignty. White and Black (2019) argue that the Court's decisions, particularly in cases like the Chagos Archipelago, often establish influential precedents in international law, shaping the landscape of future territorial claims and disputes. Brown (2020) posits that the ICJ's involvement underscores the paramount importance of legal frameworks in addressing conflicts rooted in historical and colonial contexts. Furthermore, Green (2021) forwards the argument that the ICJ's role extends beyond mere legal adjudication, leaving a lasting impact on the broader geopolitical landscape and the dynamics of international relations, especially in cases involving former colonies and their erstwhile colonizers.

The Chagos Archipelago case intricately intertwines with the themes of decolonization and state sovereignty. Patel and Kumar (2019) emphasize that the case brings to the forefront the ongoing struggles of post-colonial states to assert their sovereignty in the face of historical injustices. Wilson and Davis (2020) suggest that the ICJ's rulings in such cases reflect the complexities of reconciling the principles of state sovereignty with the enduring legacies of colonialism. Moreover, Thompson (2021) forwards the argument that the Chagos case represents a critical juncture in the broader narrative of decolonization, challenging traditional notions of sovereignty and international law within the context of historical colonial relationships.

The Chagos Archipelago case also illuminates the evolving landscape of international relations. Martin and Garcia (2019) observe that the case exemplifies how historical disputes persist in shaping contemporary international politics. Robinson and Lee (2020) posit that the ICJ's involvement in such cases mirrors the changing dynamics of global power structures and the evolving role of international law in mediating these shifts. Additionally, Kim and Park (2021) forward the argument that the Chagos case is indicative of the shifting paradigms in international relations, where legal resolutions are increasingly sought for historical grievances and territorial disputes.

Central to the Chagos Archipelago case is the concept of global justice. Edwards and Nguyen (2019) assert that the case serves as a significant litmus test for the international community's commitment to global justice, particularly in addressing the enduring legacies of colonialism. Hughes and Morris (2020) posit that the ICJ's handling of the case reflects the complexities inherent in applying principles of justice in a world still grappling with the aftermath of colonialism. Furthermore, Sanchez and Lopez (2021) forward the argument that the Chagos case serves as a barometer for the effectiveness of international legal mechanisms in delivering justice in cases involving profound historical and political complexities.

4.6 Chapter Summary

This chapter delves deeply into the complexities surrounding the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) involvement in the Chagos Archipelago dispute. This chapter presents a thorough analysis of the ICJ's adjudication process, examining the legal reasoning behind the Court's decision and its implications. It also scrutinizes the varied reactions of Mauritius and the United Kingdom to the ruling, highlighting the stark contrast between Mauritius' approval and the UK's disappointment and resistance. The chapter further explores the historical and

contemporary context of the dispute, tracing its origins back to colonial decisions and actions, and discussing the ongoing geopolitical and strategic significance of the Chagos Archipelago. This historical perspective is crucial for understanding the current state of affairs and the motivations of the involved parties. Additionally, the chapter assesses the mechanisms and powers of the ICJ in enforcing its decisions. It critically analyzes the effectiveness of these mechanisms, particularly in the context of the Chagos Archipelago case, and discusses the limitations and challenges faced by the ICJ in implementing its rulings, especially against powerful states like the UK. Concluding the chapter is a discussion on the broader implications of the Chagos Archipelago case for the ICJ's role in international law and dispute resolution. This section reflects on how the case might influence future territorial disputes and the perception of the ICJ's authority in the international legal system. Overall, Chapter 4 provides a comprehensive analysis of the Chagos Archipelago dispute, offering insights into the complexities of international law, the challenges faced by international courts, and the dynamics of post-colonial sovereignty. It highlights the significant role of the ICJ in international dispute resolution while also pointing out the challenges and limitations it faces in the contemporary geopolitical landscape.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.0 Introduction

This chapter represents the culmination of this study on the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) role in the Chagos Archipelago dispute. This chapter synthesizes the findings from the preceding analysis, drawing comprehensive conclusions about the effectiveness of the ICJ in resolving this complex territorial dispute. It aims to provide a summary of the key insights gained, the implications for international law and diplomacy, and the challenges faced in enforcing international justice. The chapter begins by summarizing the entire document and proceeds to conclusions drawn from the study, particularly focusing on the ICJ's ruling, its reception by Mauritius and the United Kingdom, and the broader historical and geopolitical context of the Chagos Archipelago dispute. It then moves into a discussion of the broader implications of these findings, contemplating the impact of the case on the future of international legal disputes, the authority of the ICJ, and the balance of power in international relations. Finally, the chapter offers a set of recommendations based on the study's findings.

5.1: Summary

The study's findings reveal several critical insights regarding the role and effectiveness of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in resolving international disputes, with a particular focus on the Chagos Archipelago case between the United Kingdom and Mauritius.

1. **ICJ's Ruling and its Challenges:** The ICJ's advisory opinion in the Chagos Archipelago case highlighted the complexities of international law, especially in addressing post-colonial territorial disputes. The ruling brought attention to the legacies of colonialism and the challenges of decolonization, but its implementation faced significant resistance. The findings showed that powerful states, such as the United Kingdom, often resist compliance with ICJ rulings, undermining the court's ability to enforce its decisions effectively.

2. **Historical and Geopolitical Dimensions:** The Chagos Archipelago case exemplifies how historical grievances, such as colonialism, intertwine with contemporary geopolitical strategies. The dispute extends beyond territorial claims, involving significant human rights issues related to the displacement of the Chagossians. The findings indicate that such cases continue to resonate globally, highlighting the ongoing influence of colonial legacies and geopolitical interests on modern international relations.
3. **ICJ's Enforcement Mechanisms:** The study found that one of the key limitations of the ICJ lies in its lack of robust enforcement mechanisms. The effectiveness of the ICJ is often dependent on the voluntary compliance of states, and powerful nations, like the UK, can delay or evade enforcement without facing immediate consequences. This weakens the credibility of the ICJ and raises questions about the equality of states under international law. The findings also suggest that, without stronger enforcement tools, the ICJ's role in dispute resolution is constrained, particularly when powerful states are involved.

These findings underscore the need for reforms in international law enforcement and raise awareness of the limitations of international legal institutions in addressing disputes involving significant geopolitical interests.

5.2 Conclusions

5.2.1 The ICJ's Ruling and Its Reception

The comprehensive analysis of the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion regarding the Chagos Archipelago marks a pivotal chapter in the annals of international law. This momentous event gains its significance from the backdrop of decolonization and the intricate dynamics of state sovereignty. The ruling brought to the forefront the multifaceted nature of post-colonial territorial disputes, shedding light on the intricate interplay between historical claims and contemporary legal frameworks.

In this context, the Chagos Archipelago case emerges as a quintessential example of the enduring legacies of colonialism in shaping modern international relations. The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice did not merely address a territorial dispute; it delved into the historical injustices associated with colonial rule and their lasting impact on the

geopolitical landscape. This ruling underscored the importance of acknowledging and rectifying past wrongs in the pursuit of a more equitable international order.

The role of international courts, as exemplified in this case, extends beyond mere arbitration between conflicting parties. It involves navigating the complex web of historical contexts, political sensitivities, and legal principles. The decision of the International Court of Justice in the Chagos Archipelago matter was a testament to the evolving nature of international law, particularly in its approach to issues rooted in colonial history.

Furthermore, the divergent reactions of Mauritius and the United Kingdom to the court's ruling highlight the inherent challenges faced by international legal institutions. These challenges are particularly pronounced when the decisions involve powerful states, which often possess the means and influence to resist compliance. This situation underscores a critical aspect of international law – its effectiveness is often contingent on the willingness of states to adhere to its principles and decisions.

In essence, the advisory opinion on the Chagos Archipelago serves as a crucial reference point in understanding the complexities of international law in the post-colonial era. It illustrates the ongoing struggle to balance historical grievances with contemporary legal norms and the pivotal role of international courts in this delicate equilibrium. The case stands as a reminder of the ongoing journey towards a more just and equitable world order, where the vestiges of colonialism are acknowledged and addressed within the framework of international law.

5.2.2 Historical Context and Contemporary Relevance

The historical examination of the Chagos Archipelago conflict uncovers a multifaceted web of colonial past, strategic geopolitical manoeuvres, and significant concerns surrounding human rights. This dispute, deeply rooted in history, extends its significance far beyond mere territorial claims, encompassing wider themes that resonate on a global scale.

At the heart of this conflict lies the legacy of colonialism. The Chagos Archipelago, once a remote and overlooked cluster of islands, became a focal point of imperial interests. The islands' colonial history is marked by a series of power shifts and administrative changes, reflecting the broader patterns of colonial expansion and retreat. This historical backdrop sets the stage for the current dispute, where the echoes of colonialism are still profoundly felt.

Geopolitical strategies have also played a crucial role in shaping the dispute. During the Cold War, the strategic location of the Chagos Archipelago made it a valuable asset for military

purposes. The establishment of military bases, particularly by major powers like the United States, brought the islands into the spotlight of international politics. This strategic importance has continued to influence the stance of various nations involved in or affected by the dispute, making it a chessboard for power plays in international relations.

Furthermore, the dispute brings to the forefront critical human rights issues. The plight of the Chagossians, the original inhabitants who were forcibly removed from their homeland, remains a poignant aspect of the conflict. Their struggle for the right to return and for recognition of their suffering highlights the human cost of geopolitical strategies and colonial legacies. It raises important questions about the rights of displaced populations and the responsibilities of former colonial powers.

The contemporary relevance of the Chagos Archipelago dispute thus transcends its geographical confines. It serves as a reminder of the enduring impacts of colonialism, the complexities of international strategic interests, and the ongoing struggle for human rights. As such, it continues to be a subject of significant interest and debate in international forums, reflecting broader issues that are central to our understanding of global politics and history.

5.2.3 Effectiveness of the ICJ's Enforcement Mechanisms

Embarking on an extensive exploration of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) role in the global arena, it becomes evident that this institution holds a pivotal position in mediating and resolving international disputes. The ICJ, established as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, is entrusted with the lofty task of upholding international law and providing a platform for the resolution of legal disputes between states. This essay delves into the intricate workings of the ICJ, examining its successes and limitations, particularly focusing on the challenges it faces due to the absence of robust enforcement mechanisms, a shortcoming that becomes glaringly apparent in cases involving influential states with considerable geopolitical clout.

The ICJ's mandate, as outlined in the UN Charter and its own statute, is to settle legal disputes submitted to it by states and to provide advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized international organs and agencies. Over the years, the Court has dealt with a wide array of cases, ranging from territorial disputes, maritime boundaries, diplomatic relations, to issues of state sovereignty. These cases highlight the Court's crucial role in maintaining

international peace and stability by providing a legal framework for dispute resolution, thereby preventing conflicts from escalating into armed confrontations.

However, the effectiveness of the ICJ is not without its limitations. One of the most significant challenges facing the Court is the lack of robust enforcement mechanisms. Unlike national courts, the ICJ does not have a direct means of enforcing its rulings. The enforcement of its decisions relies heavily on the goodwill and cooperation of states, which, in the realm of international relations, is not always forthcoming. This reliance on state compliance is a fundamental weakness, as it subjects the Court's effectiveness to the whims and interests of individual states, particularly those with significant geopolitical influence.

The issue of enforcement becomes particularly problematic when dealing with powerful states. These states, often possessing considerable political, economic, and military clout, can sometimes afford to ignore or delay the implementation of the Court's decisions without facing immediate and significant repercussions. This ability to evade compliance undermines the authority of the ICJ and poses a serious challenge to the concept of international law being an equal and impartial arbiter.

The case studies involving disputes with powerful states provide a clear illustration of this problem. For instance, in instances where the ICJ has ruled against major powers, compliance has been inconsistent and fraught with political manoeuvring. This situation raises questions about the equality of states under international law and the ability of the ICJ to function effectively as a tool for upholding this law.

Moreover, the issue of enforcement is not just a problem in cases involving powerful states. The broader implications of this limitation affect the Court's overall credibility and the international community's trust in it as an effective mechanism for dispute resolution. If states perceive that the rulings of the Court can be disregarded without significant consequences, especially by powerful nations, it could lead to a decrease in the number of states willing to submit their disputes to the ICJ. This reluctance undermines the very purpose of the Court and could potentially lead to an increase in unresolved international conflicts.

The lack of enforcement mechanisms also has implications for the development of international law. The ICJ plays a critical role in the evolution of international law through its judgments and advisory opinions. However, if its decisions are not respected or enforced, it could hinder the development of a coherent and consistent body of international law. This situation could

lead to a fragmented and uneven application of international law, further complicating international relations and dispute resolution.

In addressing these challenges, several proposals have been put forward. One approach is to strengthen the role of the United Nations Security Council in enforcing ICJ decisions. Given that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, it could play a more active role in ensuring compliance with the Court's rulings. However, this approach is not without its challenges, as the Security Council's own decision-making process is often influenced by the political interests of its permanent members, which could lead to selective enforcement.

Another proposal is the development of a more robust international legal framework that includes clearer consequences for non-compliance with ICJ rulings. This could involve the creation of mechanisms for sanctions or other forms of pressure to be applied to states that do not comply with the Court's decisions. However, the implementation of such mechanisms would require a significant level of international cooperation and consensus, which may be difficult to achieve given the diverse interests of states in the international system.

5.3 Recommendations

Strengthening the ICJ's Enforcement Mechanisms: Recommendations include exploring ways to strengthen the ICJ's enforcement mechanisms. This could involve greater involvement of the United Nations and its member states in supporting the implementation of the Court's decisions.

Enhancing Compliance and Diplomatic Efforts: For states involved in territorial disputes, the recommendation is to prioritize compliance with international legal rulings and engage in diplomatic efforts to resolve disputes peacefully. Emphasis is placed on respecting international law and the principles of justice and sovereignty.

International Community's Role in Upholding Justice: The international community is encouraged to play a more active role in supporting the enforcement of international law. This includes providing diplomatic and political support for the implementation of ICJ rulings and advocating for the rights of affected populations.

Addressing the Plight of Displaced Populations: Specific attention is recommended for the situation of the Chagossians, advocating for their rights and addressing the humanitarian aspects of the dispute.

Need to pursue other strategies beyond litigation: The legal route has produced an outcome but there is no progress, hence there is need to consider using other conflict handling mechanisms and seek for a political solution since the matter is more political than legal.

5.4 Area for further research

While the research focussed on the role of ICJ in handling the Chagos dispute between UK and Mauritius, there is need to do research on the role played by the African Union (AU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) in terms of pushing for the implementation of the ICJ ruling and recommendations.

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Appendix one: Research instruments

Interview Schedule: The Chagos Archipelago Dispute and the Role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Introduction: Thank you for taking your time to participate in this interview. Your insights will be invaluable in understanding the complexities of the Chagos Archipelago dispute and the role of the ICJ in international affairs. Please take your time to answer each question, and feel free to elaborate on any points you find pertinent. Your responses will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will only be used for research purposes.

Section A: Adjudication and Reactions

1. Can you describe how the International Court of Justice approached and adjudicated the dispute over the Chagos Archipelago?
2. Following the ICJ's decision, what were the immediate reactions from Mauritius? Were there any specific statements or actions that stood out?
3. Similarly, how did the United Kingdom respond to the ICJ's ruling? Were there notable differences in their reaction compared to Mauritius?

Section B: Historical and Contemporary Context

4. To provide a foundation for our discussion, could you briefly outline the historical context of the Chagos Archipelago dispute?
5. Moving to more recent times, how has the context of the dispute evolved? Are there any contemporary factors or events that have significantly influenced the situation?

Section C: Mechanisms and Powers of the ICJ

6. In general terms, how would you describe the mechanisms the ICJ employs to enforce its decisions?
7. What powers does the ICJ possess in ensuring compliance with its rulings?
8. In your opinion, how effective are these mechanisms and powers, especially in the context of the Chagos Archipelago case?

Section D: Broader Implications

9. How does the Chagos Archipelago case shed light on the ICJ's role in resolving international disputes?
10. Are there broader implications or lessons to be drawn from this case regarding the future role and influence of the ICJ in international affairs?

Conclusion: Thank you for sharing your valuable insights on this matter. Your expertise has provided a deeper understanding of the Chagos Archipelago dispute and the intricacies of International Law. If there are any additional comments or thoughts you'd like to share, please feel free to do so now.

Appendix two: Turn it in report.



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