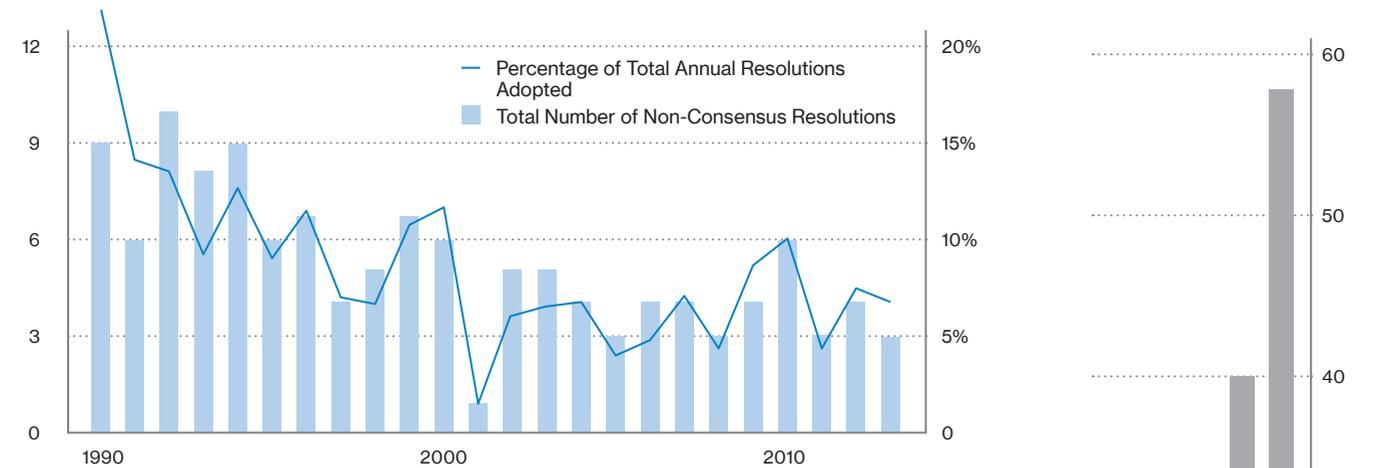


## Non-Consensus Decision-Making in the Security Council: An Abridged History

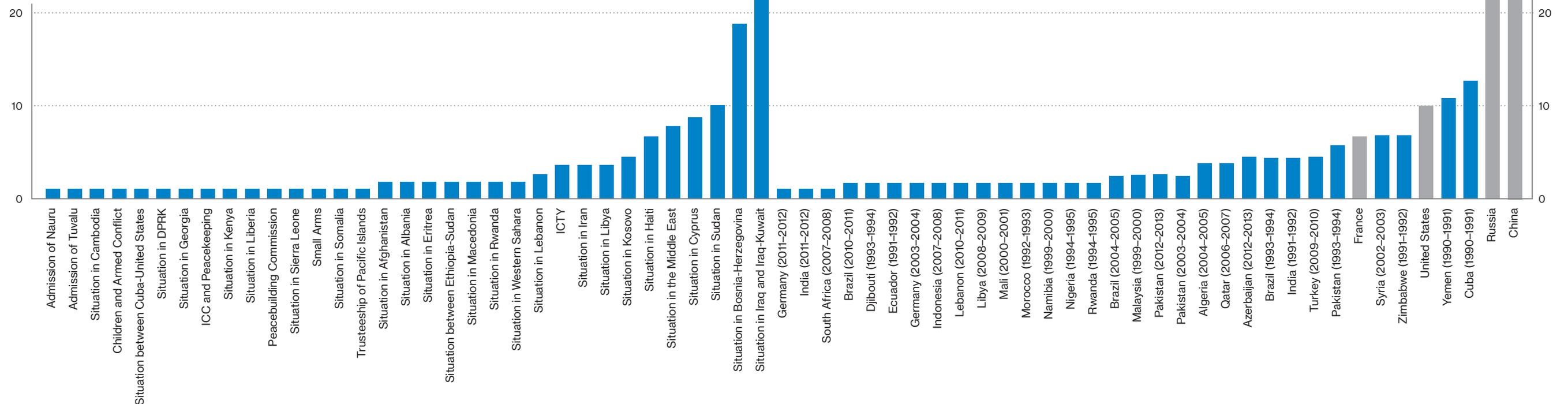
Since the end of the Cold War, consensus decision-making by the Security Council seems to have become the rule rather than the exception. Whereas 24.3 percent (9) of the resolutions adopted by the Council in 1990 were not unanimously adopted, only 7 percent (3) were adopted without the full consensus of the Council in 2013 (through 15 December). No more than 10 percent of the total resolutions adopted within any calendar year since 2001 have been adopted without consensus, notwithstanding divisions caused by the likes of the 2003 invasion of Iraq or the situation in Syria since 2011 (see graph to the right). Taking into account that presidential statements, press statements and most subsidiary body decisions are only adopted by consensus, the Security Council has mostly pronounced itself with a single voice. Save a few agenda items, most noticeably the situations in Iraq and between Iraq-Kuwait (24) and Bosnia-Herzegovina (19)—followed in decreasing order by the situations in Sudan (10), Cyprus (9), Middle East (8) and Haiti (7)—most resolutions addressing all other items on the agenda of the Council have been adopted by consensus since 1990 (see graph to the left below). In contrast to China and Russia, which have respectively cast 58 and 40 abstentions since 1990, save a few exceptions, the US (10), France (7), and especially the UK (0), have joined the enabling majority voting in favor of the resolutions. Among the elected Council members, there seems to have been a greater propensity for dissension, abstention or non-participation in the early 1990s, as demonstrated by the declining numbers registered by Brazil, India and Pakistan in successive Council terms and the fact that, with the exception of Syria (7) in 2002-2003, the three highest number of dissensions, abstentions or non-participations over a two-year Council term were registered by Cuba (13) and Yemen (11) in 1990-1991 and Zimbabwe (7) in 1991-1992 (see graph to the right below).

**Total Non-Consensus Resolutions Adopted: 1990–2013 (through 15 December)**  
[total number of resolutions on left axis; percentage of total resolutions on right axis]



**Agenda Items with Most Non-Consensus Resolutions Adopted: 1990–2013 (through 15 December)**

[agenda item titles have been abridged or combined in some cases]



**Total Dissensions, Abstentions or Non-Participations by Council Term on Adopted Resolutions: 1990–2013 (through 15 December)**

[excludes 10 other members with one dissension, abstention or non-participation; aggregate totals for permanent members over the entire 1990–2013 period]