



Jam : Tim, did you read the newspaper today? It said that the United Nations is almost **in the red**. How can that be?

Tim : Well, one of the problems is that the US owes about \$2 billion because it hasn't paid its regular membership dues since the early 1970`s. Every member country is supposed to **draw up** and pay a percentage of their GDP in order to finance UN operations, I think they **drove a hard bargain** on that.

Jam : But I thought the US was one of the countries that gave the most foreign aid? I

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Tim : Things like the World Bank or the Red Cross. But in many ways, congress keeps a tight hold on the national purse strings.

Idiom	Meaning
in the red	losing money
draw up	straighten oneself
drove a hard bargain	An agreement establishing the terms of a sale or exchange of goods or services
ball was in court	your turn to act and you must do something
back out	a retreat from an earlier commitment or activity

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