

# Conflict and conflict resolution

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## Abstract

Man was born free but everywhere he is in chains (Rousseau). The modern world is characterized by diversity and escalating intolerance. From the early period of human thinking there has been a clear understanding that war is neither a natural phenomenon nor the irreversible will of God. The vision of world without war was embraced as the core approach to peace in Hellenic civilization. The conflict emerges from the pursuit of incompatible goals which intensify struggle between opposing forces specially in the absence of collaborative problem solving mechanisms. Conflict also arises because of the hegemony maintained by institutionalization of power relation. All history is the history of class struggle. All spiritual traditions also recognize the counter force of evil as a perennial problem in the human existence.

**Keywords** - *Conflict and conflict resolution, Human nature, Interests, Desires and Goals, Power relations, Violence, War crisis etc.*

## 1. Introduction

Man always thinks in the capacity of discrimination. Human mind is so constructed that various types of instincts and urges drive or motivate human beings to external acts, and takes the form of conflict and aggression. According to Karl Marx, class consciousness and class solidarity first binds the group or party to make the numerical strength. Class interests plays an important role in unification of people. Once numerical strength is gained, power may come in the form of social control, political power, economic power or religious power. Power in one form or another tries suppress opponent in every form. Power may be also democratic power in vote or dictator power in an individual. In Indian context power may be in higher caste. Once the power is acquired it is reflected and used. However, the opponent does not accept the ruling party or the individual. Conflict arises and expresses itself in the form of killings, battles, war or civil war. Violence is the result of conflict. The intensity of conflict may be shorter or long lasting. If the conflict is short, the violence will be high. However, if the conflict is long the intensity of

violence will be low. The conflict and violence will be unending if it is based on unrealistic issues/ goals and ideology. The solution to conflict in this contemporary world seems totally an unattainable goal.

Conflict and violence seems not only natural but moral too. George Sorel says that violence has a positive role in bettering human conditions. Conflict is also in the mind from the psychological point of view. Sometimes, we think whether to do or not. However, this mental conflict is overcome by stress management. Role conflict and status set go together. Conflict is however an unending process. It may come in one form or another. There may be inter-personal conflict, intra-societal conflict etc.

## 2. Inequalities and identities

Inequalities in access to resources, material or non-material generates conflict. The social contract expressed the radical view that the person who fixed poles around a piece of land and called it his own was really the prime originator of social conflict. Different identities based on religion, sex, caste, language, colour or race etc are also the prime source of conflict. Mans dissatisfaction in terms of rewards or values also causes conflict.

## 3. State's role and conflict perspective

Sometimes miscommunication, misinformation, miss governance, relation with resources, culture, rights, values also causes conflict. At certain point of time dissatisfied people protests. This leads to violent clashes and sometimes revolutions. In the modern world the ideas of failed state has come into existence. The failed states is that state that is unable to provide basic necessities of life like food and security to its citizens. Whether the conflict is of micro level or macro level it always leads to social tension and disintegration.

Conflict is found everywhere within the individual between the individuals, within the religion( sects ), between the religions, within the state ( Marxism and Naxalism in India ) between the states (India-China or India-Pakistan), or Arab Israel conflict, between the races like Black African Negros or

White U.S. people. Within the races by claiming more superior over other.

In Indian context the conflict is in terms of caste conflict. However, class conflict is in terms of U.S. class conflict. The invention of the weapons of WMD and Nuclear Weapons has created a picture of global arms race and global war atmosphere. International terrorism has become a trigger for global war. Some writers like Samuel Huntington has described conflict in terms of clash of civilizations. His statement that global politics will be dominated by clash of civilization is gaining prominence and support in the contemporary world.

Michael Howard, the foremost historian and theoretician of war in his book, "The invention of peace 2000", says that the pursuit of peace is an artificial pursuit with no certainty of final success. Magared Mead on the contrary says that it is the war not peace that is human invention. In 1968, historians namely WILL and Ariel Durant calculated that there had been only 268 years free of war in the previous 3421 years.

#### 4. Conclusion:

The only solution to conflict is the pacific settlement of Disputes by means of Negotiation, dialogue, toleration, Mediation, Conciliation, Enquiry or adjudication, Satyagraha etc. The national or international organization like U.N., European Union, SAARC, OIC, SCO, ASEAN, NAM etc can be successful in solving international issues and thereby establishing peace only if some nations specially developed nations (both military and economically) can limit or give up their excessive desires. Because desire for control over resources or technology (which is mans natural and basic instinct) can only lead to conflict and violence and hence no peace. However, since man is selfish by nature therefore conflict seems to natural and unending.

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