# GSP 2206: Theories of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution

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# Introduction I

- Since the end of the Cold War, the aftermath of the September 9/11 attack on the USA and the intensification of conflict in the Gulf region led to the rise of the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq (ISIS), the world has been in turbulence.

- In Africa, this scholarly interest was informed by the experience of the Rwanda genocide of 1994, Liberia and Sierra Leone's civil wars of the 1990s, the rise of militia and Islamists extremists as well as the dotted spots of political, ethno-religious and environmental conflicts.

# Introduction II

- In Nigeria, since the return to democracy in 1999, there has been an increase in the number and spots of conflict in Nigeria.

- These conflicts include ethno-religious conflicts, farmers-pastoralist violence, kidnapping, the Niger-Delta squabble, electoral misconduct and violence, land disputes, secession threats and more recently the *Boko-Haram* insurgency, which has threatened the foundational survival of the country.

# Basic Concepts in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution

- **Theory:**
- A theory, according to Faleti (2006) is an idea or belief about something arrived at through assumption and in some cases a set of facts, propositions, or principles analyzed in their relation to one another and used, especially in science, to explain phenomena.
- It must also have explanatory, predictive, and problem-solving value.
- Cohen (1968:2) posits that "the goal of any theory is to explain something which has occurred with a view to dealing with problems which arose or may arise as a result".
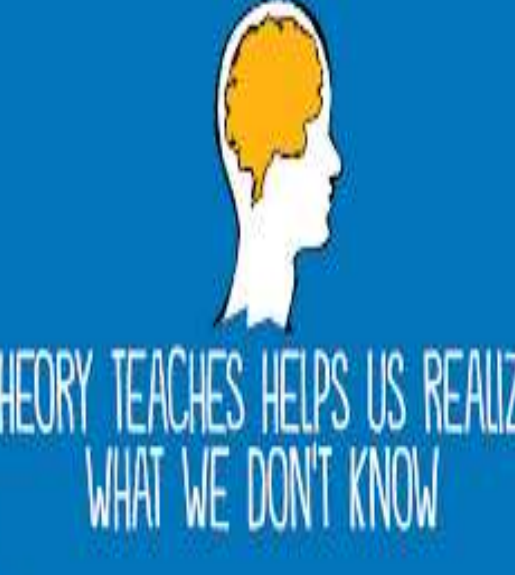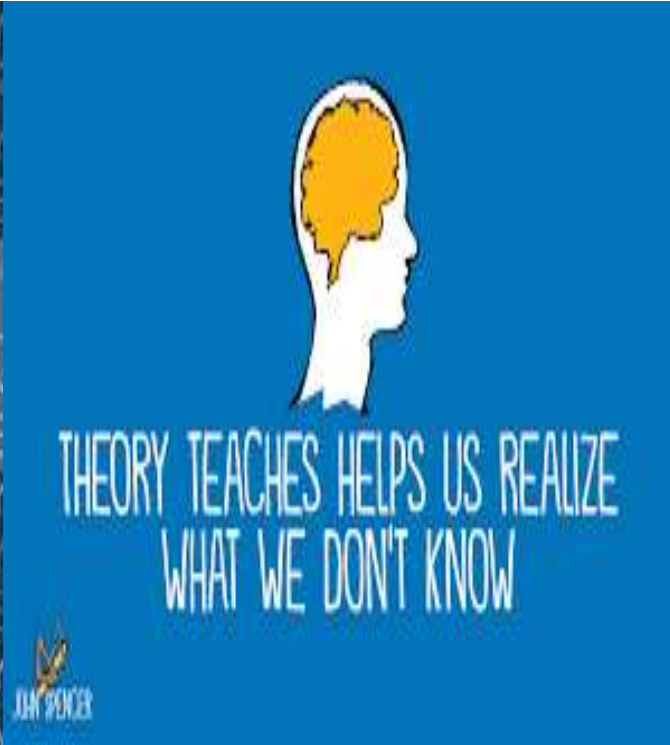
# Peace

- According to Miriam and Casmir (2009), peace is one of humanity's highest values.
- It is a state of mind in concourse with serenity: a state of harmony, tranquility, concord and a balance of equilibrium of powers.
- Peace is the opposite of conflict; it abhors violence and war. It is also a state of justice, goodness and civil government.
- Peace is not a finished condition but always a work in progress.

# Conflict

- Conflict is considered to be a product of disagreement that is rooted in the belief system and perceptions of threat to peoples' goal attainment.

- To Chaplin, conflict is "the simultaneous occurrence of two or more mutually antagonistic impulse or motives".

- Coser (1967:61) sees conflict as a "process; thus the struggle over values and claim to scarce resources, status and power in which the aims of the opponent is to neutralize, injure or eliminate their rivals".

# Theories of Peace and Conflict Resolution

- This chapter explains the theories with a view to providing frameworks of understanding the causes, patterns and dynamics of conflict in societies.

❖ **Social Conflict Theories**:

- Karl Marx (1818-1883) is, without doubt, the celebrated father of modern social conflict thinking in the social sciences.

- It is a Marxist-based theory which argues that individuals and groups (social classes) within society interact on the basis of conflict rather than consensus.

# Social Conflict Theories

- Edlyne (2009), is of the opinion that social conflict theories are anchored on the need of the social scientist to understand, explain and predict the social world.

- George (1958) also sees social conflict as representing a universal form of interaction in which groups are naturally in conflict as their purposes and interest/goals overlap, encroach on each other and often tend to be competitive.

# Social Conflict Theories

- Edlyne (2009) sees society as existing in continuous struggle or friction between different groups. The conflict assumes that social behaviour is best understood in terms of conflict or tension between competing groups. Such conflict need not be violent, it can take the form of labour negotiations; party politics; competition among religious groups for members, or disputes over cuts in the federal budget.

- This simply implies that social conflict theories view social life basically as characterized by conflict which take various forms and are expressed in divergent ways.

# Social Conflict Theories

- Generally, conflict may arise over access to valued and scarce resources (economic, political and social) in society; difference in opinion or perspective; prejudice and discrimination; belief systems, etc.

- It is the suggestion of social conflict theories that the powerful and wealthy in the upper class of society define what is right and what is wrong; the rich and mighty people can behave like "robber barons" because they make the laws and control law enforcement (Elena and Petter, 2015).

# Social Conflict Theories

- The theory explains the conflict of social classes; bourgeoisie vs proletariat, the economics of scarce resources that are responsible for orderly and disorderly actions of citizens in a country or state and in ideologies, such as capitalism, which considers that societies and organizations function, so that each individual and group play a specific role (Ogunbameru, 2008).

- Conflict theorists examine the tensions between dominant and disadvantaged groups within society and seek to understand how relationships of control are established and perpetuated.

- Crime is a function of class conflict between the wealthy and powerful and those who lack wealth and power.

    - 1) Norms and laws along with the enforcement of these laws reflect the interests of the rich and powerful. Thus, the rich and powerful are less likely to commit or be accused of committing a crime

    - 2) Even if the behavior of the rich and powerful is called into question, (even if accused) they have the means to resist the criminal label (i.e. avoid punishment).





## Social-Conflict Theory

- Sees society as an arena of inequality, generating conflict and change
- Paradigm focuses on how society's institutions including family, government, religion, education, and the media may help to maintain the privileges of some groups and keep others in subservient positions
- Looks to who benefits and who suffers

## Social Conflict Theory

- Marxist influence: capitalism creates disparity, which creates crime
- Not necessarily always "rich vs poor", but more accurately "the powerful vs the powerless"
    - Theories that examine oppression based on gender, race, etc. and its effect on crime are also Social Conflict theories

# Social Conflict Theories

- To resolve a conflict or avert violence that arises as a result of marginalization, domination and exploitative economic relationships in capitalist societies, there's need for a radical transformation in the pattern of global economic relations or a revolution that will bring about systemic change from capitalism to socialism.

❖ **Structural Theory of Conflict**

- The structural conflict theorists argue that conflict occurs in society as a result of structural flaws and imbalances.

- The theory has two main perspectives namely ***the Radical Structural Conflict Theory*** and ***the Liberal Structural Conflict Theory.***

# Structural Theory of Conflict

- **The Radical Structural conflict theory** is advocated by Marxist school of thought with promoters like Marx and Engel, Vladimir Lenin, Mao Tse Tung, etc., while

- **The Liberal Structural conflict theory** is advocated by Johan Galtung, Scarborough, Ross, etc.

- The main argument of the structural conflict theory is that conflict is built into the particular ways societies are structured and organized (Faleti, 2006).

- The theory examines social problems like political and economic exclusion, injustice, poverty, disease, exploitation, inequity, etc., as sources of conflict.

# Structural Theory of Conflict

- Structuralist argue that conflicts occur because of the exploitative and unjust nature of human societies; the domination of one class by another, etc.

- The **radical structural conflict theorists** blame capitalism for being an exploitative system based on its relations of production and the division of society into the proletariat and the bourgeoisie.

- The exploitation of the proletariat and lower classes under capitalism creates conflict. Thus, capitalist societies are accused of being exploitative, and such exploitation is a cause of conflict.

# Structural Theory of Conflict

- Structural conflict theorists further argue that in an attempt to explain the reason behind the underdevelopment of the 'third world countries', the dependency theorists accuse the 'world capitalist system' as an imperialist system that is structurally exploitative and retards the development of the third world countries.
- **The liberal perspective** argue that whenever economic and political discrimination and lack of tolerance in plural societies are embedded in human social relationship, conflicts are bound to be higher than in societies where the opposite social relationship is established.

# Structural Theory of Conflict

- Similarly, the structuralist argue that other factors such as overpopulation, economic underdevelopment, demographic factors, and uninterested social and political institutions are also responsible for the emergence of internal conflicts.

- To resolve conflict or avert violence in a radical perspective, Marxists suggest a revolutionary means or a radical transformation that will change the exploitative economic relations and entrench a socialist system while the Liberal structuralist on the other hand call for the elimination of structural defects with policy reforms.

# Conflict and Radical Theories

- Examine structural causes of crime
- Crime and law enforcement are often political acts rooted in group or class conflict
- Causes of crime are seen as rooted in conflict that stems from inequality

**Structuralist Theory-** Holds that economic disparities are built into the system- people built, organized and structured the world's economy in a certain way that can not be changed easily.

- The global economy brought into being a large-scale structures
  - Concentration of wealth in certain areas
  - Unequal relations among places

# Biological Theory of Conflict

- The essential position of Biological conflict theory is that man (by nature) has the tendency to do evil and express unfavourable circumstances in a violent manner.

- The theory further explains that human nature is genetically transferred from generation to generation.

- Just as parents can genetically transfer their godly qualities and ingenuity to their children, so can the evil nature of man be genetically transferred (Folarin, 2013).

# Biological Theory of Conflict

- Classical theorists like Thomas Hobbes, St. Augustine, Thomas Malthus, and Sigmund Freud, identified the intrinsic tendency of man to be selfish, sinful, and driven by the natural quest for the ceaseless pursuit of power as the main reasons why conflicts occur and continue to rise in human society.

- Theologians such as St. Augustine posits that religion plays an important role in regulating the sinful impulse in man, and to Hobbes, conflict could be averted when different individuals in pursuit of selfish interests, in a 'state of nature' (where life is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short), agree to surrender their 'will' (natural rights) to a Leviathan (a sovereign) by confession to ones' sin, seeking for forgiveness and healing traumatized people.

# Relative Deprivation and Frustration-Aggression Theory

- It is psychologically believe that man, naturally react to unpleasant situations.

- The theory is propounded by Dollard and Doob, et al (1939), and further developed by Miller (1948) and Berkowitz (1969).

- These theorists are of the view that conflict occurs due to relative deprivation and frustration-aggression tendencies.

- According to Horowitz (2001:7) "relative deprivation is define as actors' perception of discrepancy between their value expectations and their value capabilities; that is, the discrepancy between what people think they ought to get from society and what they believe they will actually obtain".
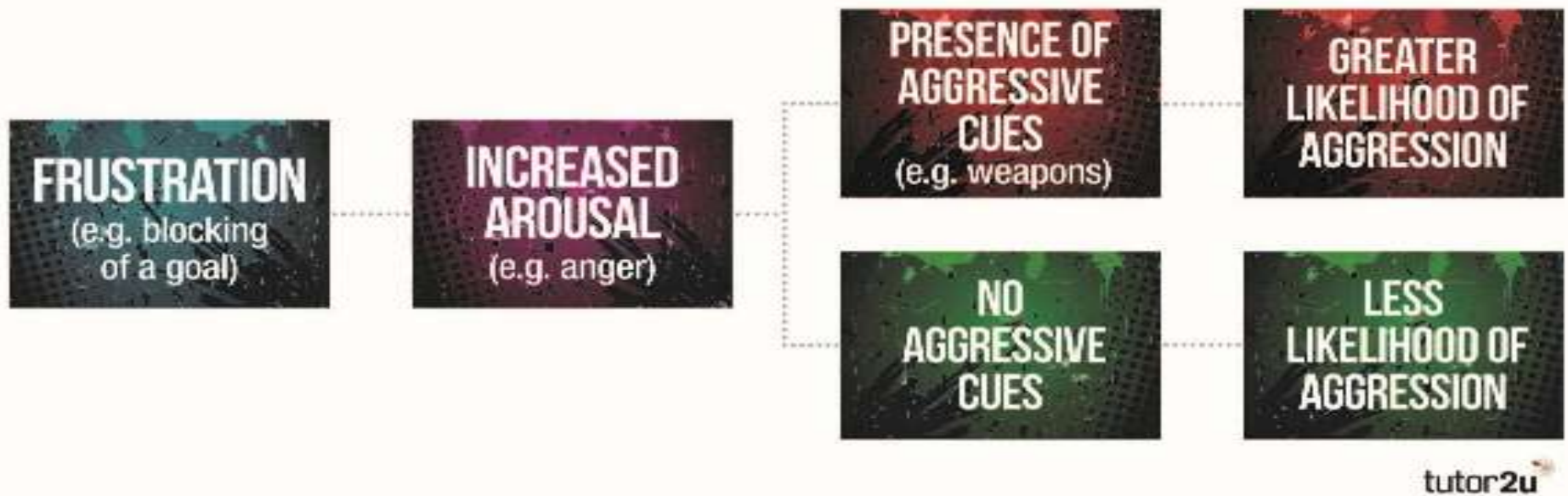
# Relative Deprivation and Frustration-Aggression Theory

- Thus, the primary focus of relative deprivation theory is the political and economic conditions that produce discontent with the political opportunity theories focusing on the relationship between political structures, the distribution of political power and collective action.

- Frustration, on the other hand, is described as the feeling we get when we do not get what we want, or when something interferes with our gaining a desired goal, as portrayed in the case of Niger Delta or the Nigerian civil war.

- Anger implies feeling mad in response to frustration or injury; while aggression refers to flashes of temper (Tucker-Lad, 2013).

# Relative Deprivation and Frustration-Aggression Theory

- The frustration-aggression theory states that aggression is caused by frustration. When someone is prevented from reaching his target, he becomes frustrated. This frustration can then turn into anger and then aggression when something triggers it (Folarin, 2013).

- Gurr (1970:33) distinctively captures this view in the following words:

-     "Frustration' is an interference with goal-directed behaviour, 'aggression' is behaviour designed to injure, physically or otherwise, those toward whom it is directed. The disposition to respond aggressively when frustrated is part of man's biological make-up; there is a biological inherent tendency, in men and animals to attack the frustrating agent which in turn, is 'an outgrowth of stimulus-response psychology".

# FRUSTRATION (e.g. blocking of a goal) → INCREASED AROUSAL (e.g. anger)

**PRESENCE OF AGGRESSIVE CUES (e.g. weapons)** → **GREATER LIKELIHOOD OF AGGRESSION**

**NO AGGRESSIVE CUES** → **LESS LIKELIHOOD OF AGGRESSION**

tutor2u

## Psychology of aggression

- **Frustration-aggression principle**: frustration creates anger. If you are blocked from a certain goal by something that seems unfair or frustrating you might feel some aggression.

- **Example:** Vending machine eats your money or the paper you spent all night working on didn't save.

## Frustration-Aggression Hypothesis

DOLLARD ET AL 1939

His hypothesis sees aggression as being the consequence of frustration, defined as *'any event or stimulus that prevents an individual from attaining some goal and its accompanying reinforcing quality'*.

In other words, frustration is caused when people are prevented from getting what they want.

# Social Movement Theories

| | |
|---|---|
| Relative Deprivation | People compare achievements, become discontent and join social movements to get their "fair share". |
| Resource Mobilization | People participate in social movements when the movement has access to key resources. |

## Social Movements

### ❖ Relative Deprivation

· **Relative Deprivation** is defined as the conscious feeling of negative discrepancy between legitimate expectations and present actualities.

SRI

Relative deprivation is the experience of being deprived of something to which one believes to be entitled. It refers to the discontent people feel when they compare their positions to others and realize that they have less of what they believe themselves to be entitled than those around them.

## Relative Deprivation Theory

- We tend to measure our own well-being against that of others.
- Even if we are doing fairly well, if they are doing better, we are likely to feel a sense of injustice and, sometimes, extreme anger.
- This feeling of deprivation relative to others may result in revolutionary social movements.

# Human Needs Theory

- The position of human needs theory is similar to that of Frustration-Aggression and Relative Deprivation theory. In order to live and attain well-being, humans need certain essentials (needs for food, clothing shelter, survival, protection, affection, recognition, understanding and autonomy).

- Human needs theorists argue that conflicts and violent conflicts are caused by unfulfilled human needs.

- Violence occurs when certain individuals or groups are denied or frustrated from achieving their basic needs or do not see any other way to meet their need.

# Human Needs Theory

- As Coate and Rosati (1998: ix) observe, human needs are a powerful source of explanation of human behavior and social interaction.

- All individuals have needs that they strive to satisfy, either by using the system, 'acting on the fringes, or acting as a reformist or revolutionary.

- Given this condition, social systems must be responsive to individual needs, or be subject to instability and forced change (possibly through violence or conflict).

- Hence, Infective and easily accessible **'satisfiers'** are to be provided by the state in order to prevent conflict. In most African states where the state institutions no longer supply adequate public goods, as a result of structural and systemic economic crises, conflict has been the case.

# Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

**Self-actualization:** achieving one's full potential, including creative activities — Self-fulfillment needs

**Esteem needs:** prestige and feeling of accomplishment — Psychological needs

**Belongingness and love needs:** intimate relationships, friends

**Safety needs:** security, safety — Basic needs

**Physiological needs:** food, water, warmth, rest

# Burton – Human Needs

- Burton says that conflict stems from unsatisfied human needs
- In conflict, people represent their interests, but not their underlying needs; however, they will use power and coercion to meet those needs
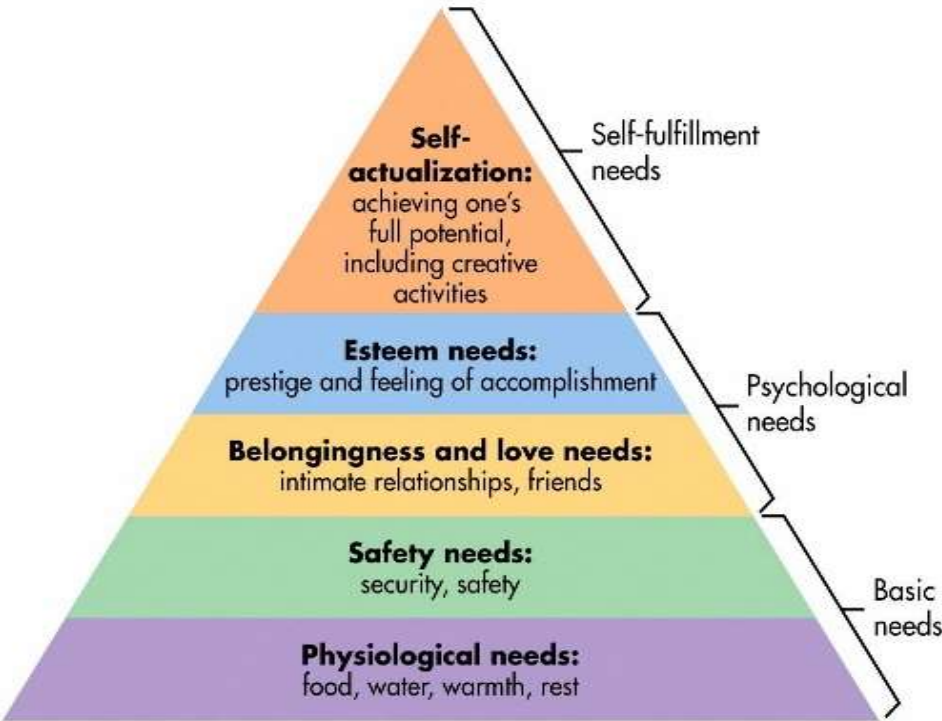
# Burton – Human Needs Theory

- consistency in response
- stimulation
- security
- recognition
- distributive justice
- appearance of rationality
- meaning
- control
- defense of role

- To solve the conflict, meet the underlying needs

- If the underlying needs are not met, the conflict will continue

# Economic Theories of Conflict

- Economists attempt to explain the occurrence of conflict in human society through economic explanations and basically see humans as rational beings that have the tendency to fight over things that are material (Faleti, 2006).

- The greed thesis sees conflict in society as resulting from human greed and the desire of some people, called conflict entrepreneurs, to benefit from conflict that propels them to go to war (Collier, 2006).

- Collier gives the example of a rebel group in a country, which uses grievance as a bait to go to war in order to gain economic benefits

# Economic Theories of Conflict

- Collier argues that conflicts are perpetrated by those who benefit from chaos (referred to as 'conflict entrepreneurs'), who not only steer conflict but also invest resources at their disposal to ensure that conflict lingers on for maximization of material benefits.

- In most cases, conflict and its prolongation have become a private business making enterprise where the sole aim of perpetrators is profit making or its maximization.

# Psycho-Cultural Theory of Conflict

- The psycho-cultural theory of conflict emphasizes the role of culturally induced conflicts; it shows how enemy images are created from deep-seated attitudes about human action that are learned from early stages of growth in the explanation of conflict (Ross, 1993:18).

- Like the human needs theory, when ones' identity (ethnicity and culture) is discriminated against or denied, it produces strong feelings of hatred, resentment and results to violent conflict; for instance, the Hutu and Tutsi in Rwanda; the 'indigenes/settlers' conflict in Plateau State, Nigeria.

# Psycho-Cultural Theory of Conflict

- The theory argues that conflicts which are caused by identity are usually dangerous, violent, intractable and highly protracted, and often very difficult to resolve.

- When the feeling of safety (identity) is threatened, there is a defensive reaction aiming at protecting it at all costs and the result is violent conflict which becomes a matter of life and death.

- The theorists further argue that resolving this type of conflict is usually very difficult and tends to defy any resolution mechanism.

# Psycho-Cultural Theory of Conflict

- There is always constant outbreak of violence with such conflicts despite attempts at resolving the conflict. Their resolution takes long and sometimes, it is not possible to talk of resolution, but management.

- This is because the issue of ethnic identity is uncompromising and its denial is a complete affront to the groups' very existence.

- To resolve a conflict of this nature, the theorists argues that tolerance and understanding among people and groups of different races, cultures, languages and historians are established.

# Realist Theory of Conflict

- Since politics is the struggle for power, then, "competitive processes" between actors, primarily defined as states, is the natural expression of conflict by parties engaged in the pursuit of scarce and competitive interests (Deutsch, 1973).

- Realist theorists include Carr (1939), Herz (1951), Morgenthau (1973), their perspective is anchored on the assumption that human nature is 'bad', sinful and wicked (Kegley and Wittkopf, 1989), and individuals and states engaged in the pursuit of personalized self-interest defined as power.

# Realist Theory of Conflict

- There are two levels of the Realist view of conflict in human society. At the heart of its tools of analysis, each paradigm combines some aspects of Hobbesian, biological and theological doctrines in order to explain the behaviour of actors in competitive power relations.

- The first level is the understanding of international system as anarchic and, according to the ardent proponent of this theory (Morgenthau, Haas, Clausewitz and Nebuer) a terrain of incompatible interests creates room for discord and conflict.

# Realist Theory of Conflict

- The latter is seen as the result of insatiable quest for self fulfillment of national interest by one or more actors which also go contrary to those of other actors.

- The second perspective and indeed the starting point of realist analysis of conflict is the individual understanding of human nature.

- This view conceives individual interest as the prime mover of conflict because there is an apparent weakness and individualism inherent in human nature that tends to make an individual self-centered, avaricious, and thus naturally inclined to conflict.

# Realist Theory

# Realism

- **Realist Theory:** A view of the world defined by assuming that the international community is in chaos and consists of political units called states.
- States are primary actors and possess some offensive military capability or power which makes them dangerous to each other.
- States can never be sure of the intentions of other states, and a state's motivation is simply to survive.
- States think strategically how to survive.

- States will act in their interests; states are the central actors
- States see interest as power
- States seek sovereignty/security and independence
- Force and war are primary tools of the international system

- Competition; world is a zero-sum game
- Hobbesian view of human nature
- States naturally seek allies and balance of power
- Interest, not ideology dominates
- States should make cost/benefit analyses; wars of choice usually not worth the costs

# Contentious Tactics

- This theory according to Pruitt and Kim (2004) seeks to impose its preferred solution on others. This usually involves persuading or forcing other to yield.

- Things that party does to dominate other using the following tactics are: ingratiation, promises, and persuasive argumentation, to shaming, tit-for-tat, and threats, to coercive commitment and various forms of violence.

- These tactics are guided by the following assumptions.

# Contentious Tactics

- First, there is nothing inherently destructive or baleful about contentious tactics other than violence. Rather, it is the end to which these tactics are used that can render them harmful.
- For example, although threats are most easily conceived of as instruments of destruction or malevolence, they may also be used to signal party's unwillingness or inability to bend beyond some critical point in a generally collaborative arrangement.
- Similarly, coercive commitments can be used not only in the service of imposing party's will on other but to signal party's determination to keep the relationship together, under even the most difficult circumstances. In short, most contentious can be used to advance the interest of collaboration as well as to defeat other.
- Secondly, contentious tactics are also assume to differ along a dimension of 'light-heaviness'.

# Contentious Tactics

- "Light tactics" is defined as those whose consequences for other are favourable or neutral while "heavy tactics" impose, or threaten to impose, unfavourable or costly consequences on other. For example, promises are lighter than threats, and threats are heavier than promises and lighter than violence.

- Thirdly, contentious tactics are more often than not deployed in an escalative sequence, moving from light to progressively heavier because 'lighter tactics' are typically less costly for party than 'heavier' ones. The transition from light to heavy implies that party has tried to prevail by utilising carrots and has been dragged only reluctantly into the use of stick as a result of other's intransigence. The light-to-heavy shift thus permits party to blame its own contentious behaviour on other.

# Contentious Tactics

- The Sequence of Light-to-Heavy Tactics:
- Light =============== Has Favourable Consequences [Ingratiation and Promises]
- Relatively Heavier ===== Adopts [Persuasive Argumentation and Shaming]
- Heavy ============== Imposes [Threats and Coercive Commitment]
- From the above presentation, both ingratiation and promises tactics constitute relatively light weight maneuvers designed to make subsequent moves more effective.

# Contentious Tactics

- For example, exaggerating on other's admirable qualities while soft-pedaling other's weakness (telling your woman she's beautiful and sensitive or a subordinate heaps praises on his boss, giving favours or presenting yourself appropriately attractive, etc) while promises are messages from party announcing its intention to reward other if other complies with party's wishes (offer something that is presumed to be attractive to other in exchange for other's compliance). Persuasive argumentation and shaming on the other hand are relatively heavier tactics.

- Persuasion is used here as a technique to induce other to lower its aspiration through a series of logical appeals (persuading labourers/workers to accept pay cuts/layoffs in order to save a business {corporate survival}) while shaming is usually achieved by publicizing other's defects or transgressions.

- Threats and coercive commitment are heavier tactics that imposes, or threaten to impose unfavourable or costly consequences on others.

## Contentious Tactics

- **Ingratiation-** Getting want you want because you're so likeable
- **Promises-** Getting what you want because you agreed to do something later
- **Shaming-** Expressing shock or disapproval about somebody's behaviour
- **Persuasive Argumentation-** The use of logic/ reason to change somebody's behaviour or position

## Dealing with contentious tactics

- Identifying the common tactics
  - Integration
  - Promises
  - Shaming
  - Persuasive Argumentation
  - Making Threats
- Tips
  - Focus on the problem not the person
  - Get at the root of the problem by asking questions, listening and paraphrasing

## INGRATIATION

- **INGRATIATION :** An art of gaining acceptance or effort to make people like us.

Usually involves:
- an ulterior motive (there are benefits for us)
- in situations where the other person has discretionary power

Often achieved by:
- Opinion conformity
- Other enhancement (flattery)
- Self enhancement through selective self presentation ( wearing attractive clothes, talking cautiously, etc.)

## Ingratiation

Universal agreement about standard ingratiation tactics

These include..    Showing an interest in the person
Smiling
Eye contact
Agreeing
Flattery

## Ingratiation

- The basis for ingratiation is an increase in the target's feeling of positive regard toward the agent.
- Flattery, praise, expression of acceptance, and expression of agreement are used to increase the agent's attractiveness to the target.
- Ingratiation is used more in a downward and lateral direction than in an upward direction.

**Tactic D: My Resume's Bigger Than Yours**

Debating is fine. It brings out perspectives for all to ponder. But watch out for trickery.

Aha. 1 out of 4 debaters will name drop and tell stories unrelated to the debate topic.

Yeah. Tell me again how that was related to the topic?

Thanks to John T. Reed:

Guy W. Wallace    Pursuing Performance    EPPIC Inc.    www.eppic.biz

People with good intentions *make* promises.
People with good character *keep* them.

— Unknown

because I said I would

**tit for tat (noun)**

Definition: a situation in which you do something bad to somebody because they have done the same to you.

Example: the routine tit for tat when countries expel each other's envoys

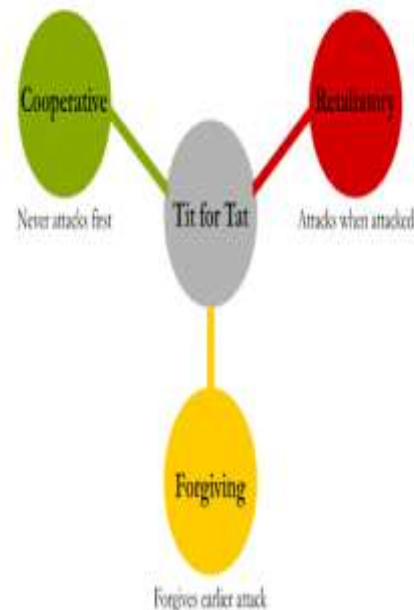Example: tit-for-tat assassinations by rival gangs

MASTER ENGLISH

The English MENTOR

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

"Tit for Tat"

Meaning (Hindi and English) + Sentence

Cooperative — Never attacks first
Tit for Tat — Attacks when attacked
Retaliatory
Forgiving — Forgives earlier attack

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