**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST**

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**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND LEGAL STUDIES**

**COURSE TITLE**

**FOUNDATIONS AND ISSUES IN SOCIOLOGY.**

**COURSE CODE**

**SOC 201**

**GROUP 5**

**DEFINITIONS OF CONFLICT AND PEACE BUILDING.**

CONFLICT

Conflict is a social interaction between a minimum of two parties who strive at the same moment in time to acquire the same set of resources. Social conflict include all activities in which men contend against one another for an objective. Conflict can be direct or indirect. Direct conflict is a situation where a group of people or individuals impede or restrain or injure or destroy one another with effort to attain a goal .Indirect conflict is where individuals or groups do not actually impede the effort of one another but nevertheless seek to attain the end in ways which destruct the attainment of the same end by others (MaClver). There are several perspective of conflict and therefore many and varied definitions of it. Some require signs of visible fighting or open struggle as criteria for existence of conflict whereas others focus on competing claim for scarce resource. In a lean man’s language, ‘Conflict is serious disagreement and argument about something important. If two people or groups are in conflict, they have had a serious disagreement or argument and have not yet reached agreement. Conflict is a state of mind in which you find it impossible to make a decision Conflict is fighting between countries or groups of people. A conflict is a serious difference between two or more beliefs, ideas, or interests. If two beliefs, ideas, or interests are in conflict, they are very different. If ideas, beliefs, or accounts conflict, they are very different from each other and it seems impossible for them to exist together or to each be true.’

SEVERAL DIFINITIONS OF CONFLICT.

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (2015). Defined conflict as a state of opposition, disagreement or incompatibility between two or more people or a group of people.

Louis Coser (1956). Defined conflict as a struggle over values or claims to status, power and scarce resources which the aims of conflicting parties are not only to gain the desired values but also to neutralize, injured or eliminate their rivals.

Wilmot and Hocker (2011). Also defined conflict as an expressed struggle between at least two interdependent parties who perceive incompatible goals, scarce resources and interference from others in achieving their goals.

According to Ruth Abigail and Dudley Cahn (2011), Conflict is a kind of communication process within which a problematic situation with certain characteristics arises.

PEACE BUILDING

Peace building is a long-term process that occurs after violent conflict has showed down or come to a halt. Thus, it is the phase of peace process that takes place after peacemaking and. peacekeeping .peace building consist of a wide range of activities associated with capacity building, reconciliation. In this view, includes early warning and response efforts, violent prevention, advocacy work, civilian and military intervention, humanitarian assistance, ceasefire agreement, and the establishment and peace zones. In the interest of keeping this essay a reasonable length, this essay primarily focus on the definitions of the term “peace building”.

Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, University of San Diego  
Strategic Peace building Principles: Peace building is complex and has multiple actors.  
Peace building requires values, goals, commitment to human rights and needs.  
Peace building goes beyond conflict transformation.  
Peace building cannot ignore structural forms of injustice and violence.  
Peace building heals trauma, promotes justice and transforms relationships.  
Peace building requires capacity and relationship building at multiple levels.

United Nations Development Program  
Peace building involves a range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development. Peace building strategies must be coherent and tailored to the specific needs of the country concerned, based on national ownership, and should comprise a carefully prioritized, sequenced, and therefore relatively narrow set of activities aimed at achieving the above objectives. This office works specifically with peace building in the context of conflict prevention.

United Nations: Peace building Support Office  
Peace building is rather the continuum of strategy, processes and activities aimed at sustaining peace over the long-term with a clear focus on reducing chances for the relapse into conflict…. [It] is useful to see peace building as a broader policy framework that strengthens the synergy among the related efforts of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, recovery and development, as part of a collective and sustained effort to build lasting peace. This office works specifically with peace building in the context of post conflict reconstruction.

**GROUP 5: DEFINITIONS OF CONFLICT AND PEACE BUILDING**

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