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# **CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACE BUILDING**

**B.P.S.E.- 146**

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**C.B.C.S. (Choice Based Credit System) Syllabus of**

# **I.G.N.O.U.**

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*By: Naveeta Shokeen*



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# QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

## CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACE BUILDING

B.P.S.E.-146

**Time: 3 Hours ]**

**[ Maximum Marks : 100**

**Note:** Answer five questions in all, selecting at least two questions from each Section.

### SECTION-I

**Q. 1. Discuss the concept of conflict.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'Introduction' and 'Defining Conflict'.

**Q. 2. Examine the sources of conflict.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-2, Page No. 13, 'Sources of Conflict-I' and Page No. 14, 'Sources of Conflict-II'.

**Q. 3. Write a note on the types and levels of conflict.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-3, Page No. 25, 'Types and Levels of Conflicts'.

**Q. 4. Trace the principles of conflict.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 47, 'Typology of Conflicts' and 'Management', 'Transformation Settlement' and 'Resolution of Conflicts'.

### SECTION-II

**Q. 5. Write short notes on the following:**

**(a) Any one method of conflict resolution.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 55, Q. No. 4.

**(b) Role of government and civil society in conflict resolution.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-6, Page No. 58, 'Conflicts and State' and Page No. 61, 'Civil Society and Conflict Resolution'.

**Q. 6. (a) Role of national and international organisations in conflict resolution.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-7, Page No. 77, 'Role of Regional Organisations' and Page No. 73, 'Role of International Organisations to Promote World Peace'.

**(b) Meaning and Significance of peace.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-8, Page No. 84, 'Meaning of Peace' and 'Introduction'.

**Q. 7. Discuss the different perspectives on peace.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-8, Page No. 85, 'Negative and Positive Peace' and Page No. 86, 'Typologies of Peace'.

**Q. 8. Write a note on post-conflict rebuilding and rehabilitation.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-10, Page No. 105, 'Understanding Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Rehabilitation'.

■ ■

# QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

## CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACE BUILDING

B.P.S.E.-146

Time: 3 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks : 100

Note: Answer five questions in all, selecting at least two questions from each Section.

### SECTION-I

**Q. 1. Write a note on inter-faith dialogue.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-11, Page No. 117, 'Introduction' and 'A Brief History and Forms of Inter-faith Dialogue'.

**Q. 2. Discuss the various initiatives for peace.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-12, Page No. 127, 'Introduction', 'Vinoba Bhave (1895-1982)', Page No. 128, 'Bhodan and Gramdan Movement', Page No. 129, 'Jayprakash Narayan (1902-1979)' and Page No. 133, 'Nelson Mandela (1918-2013)'.

**Q. 3. Discuss the main features of peace building.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-9, Page No. 94, 'Introduction' and 'Conceptions of Peace Building'.

**Q. 4. Describe the life-cycle of conflicts.**

**Ans. Life Cycle of Conflict:** A conflict is not a static situation, but rather a dynamic one in which the level of intensity fluctuates throughout its life cycle. Understanding the conflict cycle is critical for knowing when, and how to implement various conflict prevention and management techniques and procedures. Numerous theories and models of conflict patterns have been proposed over time. In terms of their severity levels, conflicts are typically defined as cyclical, i.e., progressing from situations of bad peace or unstable peace to crisis and war. The conflict then de-escalates into an unstable peace. The majority of researchers concur that these cycles are cyclical. The only thing that can break the cycle is peace.

Therefore, peace is not only the absence of violence but rather a so-called "positive" peace. In theory, conflict prevention, conflict management, and conflict resolution are relevant in many conflict phases. In conclusion, conflict preventive techniques are meant for the onset of a dispute before it becomes visible. In the later stages, when a conflict is clear but hasn't turned violent yet, management methods are put into place.

In contrast, conflict resolution could be utilized during the de-escalation phase of a violent conflict. The conflict life cycle given here includes both the conflict process and potential conflict prevention, management, and resolution techniques. There are five intensities of conflict (stable peace, unstable peace, open conflict, crisis and war). Stable peace is marked by low levels of tension between the parties and a wide range of connections and ways to work together, such as working together on the economy, the environment, and other non-sensitive issues.

**Crisis Prevention different from Crisis Management?**

**Crisis Prevention:** There are numerous methods for preventing conflict. Preventive measures strive to enhance the system's structure, which is required for peacefully resolving conflicts during times of stable and unstable peace. However, conflict prevention techniques are only successful during periods of stable and unstable peace, i.e., prior to the manifestation of a conflict. It is vital to distinguish between structural and direct preventive actions in this context. The best time to implement structural measures is during a steady period of peace. They are made up of structural measures that help certain groups or issues, like economic growth, political participation, and cultural freedom. The advantage of implementing structural adjustments early on is that their adoption tends to be greater when mistrust amongst players is low. Thus, more extensive and institutional steps can be taken. The more intense a disagreement develops, the more exact the corresponding measures must be.

In the unstable peace phase, direct preventive efforts focus on issues with a shorter-term objective in mind, namely reducing tension and fostering trust between the parties. Concurrently, the window of opportunity for longer-term measures, such as the establishment of institutions, gradually closes,

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# CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACE BUILDING

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## BLOCK-1 : CONFLICT: THEORETICAL CONSTRUCTS

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### Meaning and Concept of Conflict

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

We are all involved in a lot of conflicts in our daily lives. Occasionally, conflicts may be minor. A person may, for instance, ignore us while we are speaking. Occasionally, the conflict may be more severe. For instance, two individuals may become involved in a quarrel and act violently against one another. Whether large or small, conflict is not limited to individuals and their immediate surroundings. Additionally, conflict might emerge amongst unaffiliated individuals. For instance, a conflict may occur between people and the prevailing laws. Additionally, war can occur at the national and international levels. Thus, conflict can arise inside, amongst individuals within a group. External disputes can also involve individuals or groups from the outside. Conflict permeates all aspects of social existence. It is a necessary aspect of life due to situations of limited resources, division of functions, power relations, and distinction of roles. Due to its ubiquity and pervasiveness, the term has acquired numerous meanings and connotations. Conflict is associated with violence, destruction, inefficiency, and irrationality according to the normative conception of conflict, which is informed by an organizational or national design emphasis on stability and equilibrium. Using the phrase in a wide sense, one may argue that conflict encompasses all types of antagonistic or hostile relationships. Specifically, it refers to a circumstance in which two or more people have incompatible intentions, views, and behaviors. In this unit, we will examine many characteristics and types of conflict, as well as the necessity of their containment. After you finish this unit, you will be able to: define conflict and its stages, understand a conflict's life cycle, understand

how a conflict develops, tell the difference between preventing, managing, and settling a conflict, tell the difference between violent and non-violent conflicts, and describe the nature of different causes of conflicts.

#### **CHAPTER AT A GLANCE**

##### **DEFINING CONFLICT**

Conflict isn't only about conduct. If we only focus on behavior, we'll miss the bigger picture. The three-dimensional idea of conflict demands that we evaluate how parties (individuals, groups, organizations, or nations) come to have divergent aims, their interaction structure, and the nature of their goals. We must examine the emotional (distrust) and cognitive (stereotyping) orientations that accompany a conflict scenario as well as a party's range of action. Perceived danger or real conflict must arise before conflict prevention or management can begin. Understanding conflict is necessary before learning how to prevent and manage it. The traditional definition of conflict includes conflicting interests, scarce resources, objective divergence, and frustration. Conflict isn't just violence (behavior) or antagonism (attitudes), but also incompatibility or differing viewpoints. This notion goes beyond typical military warfare to incorporate behavioural aspects.

Conflicts and the opponent's motives are often characterized based on subjective judgments. A quarrel may offer many opportunities for agreement. If the parties see the conflict as unresolvable or the opponent as untrustworthy, this may not assist. Rational definitions exclude normative disagreements. These religious disagreements don't always end militarily. Conflict occurs when two or more parties perceive issue disparities at the same time.

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It assumes a violent dimension when

- No superior force or strong regulatory mechanism can balance the battle and avert escalation.
- In order to safeguard the values at stake, parties use physical force or lethal measures to injure or kill opponents.

**WHAT IS CONFLICT?**

- Two or more parties have or perceive different goals, values, or issue positions.
- Can occur at multiple levels: Interpersonal, groups, intergroup, organizational, national, international.
- Three dimensions of conflict: *Behavioural*; *emotional*, indicating disputants' feelings and *cognitive* conflict perception.

Conflict resolution requires all three.

**CONFLICT STAGES**

There is consensus regarding the four fundamental stages of conflict. Because these stages are not mutually exclusive and therefore an individual, organization, or nation may be engaged in more than one at once.

- **Intrapersonal:** a dispute within a person, group, or nation (for example, who cannot make decisions).
- **Interpersonal:** a dispute between two or more people/institutions/nations (for example, an argument between the two parties).
- **Intragroup:** disagreements are those amongst members of the same group.
- **Intergroup:** conflict involving two or more distinct groups (for example, between two different camps of groups or nations).

**THE LIFE CYCLE OF A CONFLICT**

A dispute is dynamic; its intensity changes over its life cycle. Understanding the conflict cycle helps determine when, how, and how to implement conflict prevention and management tactics. Many conflict patterns have been suggested and modeled over time. Conflicts tend to escalate from negative peace or insecure peace into crisis and war. After that, a fragile calm ensues. Scholars agree that these cycles repeat. Peace breaks the cycle.

Peace is not just the absence of violence, but a "positive" peace. Conflict prevention, management, and resolution are often appropriate at different stages. In sum, conflict preventive techniques are implemented before a conflict manifests. Later phases of a conflict, before violence, are managed.

After a violent conflict, conflict resolution could be used to de-escalate. The conflict life

cycle encompasses the conflict process, including preventive, management, and resolution techniques. There are five conflict levels (stable peace, unstable peace, open conflict, crisis, and war). Stable peace is marked by low levels of conflict between the parties and cooperation in many areas, such as the economy and the environment.

Tensions have risen during an uncertain peace. Despite negative peace, the parties' tension is so great that peace is no longer guaranteed. An open conflict is one that can be seen. Even though militarized options are desired or expected, the parties have begun to take action. Crisis is the stage before conflict breaks out. During battle, violence is widespread. In the de-escalation phase, from war to crisis, open conflict, and unstable peace give way to stable peace.

The connection between conflict prevention and conflict and crisis management needs to be developed further.

**Example: Recurring Cycle of Conflict in Afghanistan**

**Unstable Peace:** The Cold War brought in competing U.S. and Soviet interest in Afghanistan—both creating their own circle of influence among Afghan political elites. In 1973, the Durrani monarchy was ousted, and a series of coup followed. Phase of instability ensued as power kept changing from one group to another.

**Crisis:** 1978, Saur Revolution. Government of Daoud Khan overthrown by Soviet supported People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Infighting began between pro communist (supported by Soviet Union), and anti communist (supported by USA).

**War:** Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan.

**Unstable Peace:** After fighting Soviets, various warlords/extremist groups emerged vying for control of the country. By the mid-1990s, fundamentalist group Taliban took control, ruling according to Islamic Shari'a.

**Crisis (again):** Taliban created an environment for terrorist like Al Qaeda. On September 11, 2001, Al Qaeda terrorists launched attacks against the United States.

**War (again):** Post 9/11, US led bombing of Afghanistan in 2001. Taliban dislodged, new government formed NATO takes over security.

**Unstable Peace (again):** Escalating violence, from 2014 deconsizing of US/NATO troops, disputed presidential elections, back to period of uncertainty.

MEANING AND CONCEPT OF CONFLICT / 3

**CRISIS PREVENTION**

Many measures prevent conflict. Preventive measures aim to reinforce the system's structure in times of stable and unstable peace for peaceful dispute resolution. Conflict prevention strategies are only effective during stable and unstable peace, before a conflict arises. Here its important to differentiate between structural and direct preventive actions. Stable peace is ideal for structural measures. They include structural measures for economic development, political engagement, and cultural autonomy. When actors are less suspicious, early structural measures are more accepted. Thus, more institutional steps can be taken. More severe conflicts necessitate more specific measures.

In an unstable peace phase, direct preventive steps minimize stress and build confidence between parties. The window of opportunity for longer-term measures, such as institution development, slowly closes, and the dispute becomes more issue-specific and costly, both financially and politically. Formal or informal workshops on potential conflict concerns are direct preventive strategies. Former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that preventive diplomacy is using diplomatic methods to stop disagreements, armed conflict, and its spread.

**Conflict Management**

Fred Tanner defines conflict management as limiting, mitigating, or containing a disagreement without solving it. Niklas Swanstrom adds that conflict management should shift from harmful interaction to constructive. William Zartman says conflict management is avoiding violent actions and resolving the conflict politically.

Conflict management and crisis management involve strategies used when violent conflict is anticipated or imminent but before a situation escalates into war. Once a problem is discovered, participants can implement conflict management to alleviate tension and prevent escalation. Direct steps, such as reducing armed forces, third-party intervention, and informal and formal transmission of general confidence-building measures (CBMs), can handle the conflict and reverse negative behavior. Many times, queries are sensitive and not perceived as threatening at this level. Multilateral venues like the UN are being utilised more.

**Crisis Management**

Crisis management is used before a war when the situation is growing quickly and the time for

management measures is limited. This phase lacks time, resources, and information to address the issue. Crisis management uses more harsh methods to contain militarized conflict. Such measures include NATO or UN action. Some scholars consider preventative strikes conflict and crisis management. War prevents, prevention and management. Even if political, economic, and social instruments are also used, military means are employed to reduce the opponent's willingness and ability to fight. At this stage, the actors must either fight until they reach a "hurting stalemate" when both sides realize they must cease the dispute, or external actors must enforce peace.

**Conflict Settlement**

Conflict settlement encompasses all tactics that try to cease direct violence without addressing the underlying causes. Incompatible interests or a competition for finite resources or power cause conflict. Conflicts are zero-sum games. Neo-realistic works indicate that this zero-sum game can be broken depending on the parties' interests and conflict escalation. Most methods combine peaceful measures like discussions, mediation, or facilitation with forceful measures like military, political, or economic punishment. Peaceful methods constitute the cornerstone for a long-term conflict settlement, while violent ones are short-term.

**Conflict Resolution**

The conflict resolution approaches also include strategies to escape the conflict's destructive dynamic and achieve a satisfying outcome for all parties. Effective conflict resolution begins with conflict management. The notions of conflict management and resolution are often misconstrued or combined. Conflict management refers to measures that limit, alleviate, and/or contain a conflict without necessarily solving it.

Disputes can be settled without fighting. Cuban missile crisis, Cyprus dispute, and China-Kyrgyzstan border conflicts are examples of crises that were handled or resolved before war.

**Conflict Transformation**

Peace studies rarely discuss conflict change. It's founded on the idea that disputes shouldn't be managed or resolved individually. It's vital to any society's growth and evolution. Women's voting rights arose from a nonviolent battle that drove society to change. Conflict isn't always bad. It's also positive. Nonviolence is key. Dispute transformation aims to change the core cause of a conflict, not just contain

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or manage it. This strategy is useful for intractable situations with deep-rooted causes that feed violence. It targets structural, behavioral, and attitude-based conflict. It emphasizes interconnectedness and human compatibility. For conflict transformation to occur, fighting parties must overcome tension and violence by recognizing that violence serves no one's interests. They should also agree on how to transform. When structural and/or cultural violence occurs, a third party must help the players overcome their hostilities and change their emotional and cognitive viewpoints. Every peace process that stops direct violence without addressing social, economic, and cultural institutions is short-sighted. The process structure gap is elaborated. Peace is neither a process nor a structure; both must be considered. In conflict resolution, peace is typically viewed as a process. The "peace alliance" concept is essential to transformation research.

##### **Peace Building**

First, separate the actors and prevent additional mistakes or escalation (peacekeeping). This stage is similar to the crisis stage in the escalation phase and typically involves peace keeping or monitoring by third parties. Escalation is possible, but conflict is not imminent. After the conflict de-escalates, peace-building allows for long-term measures. If the peace-building efforts succeed, the dispute advances to the peace consolidation phase, where the goal is to foster more cooperation and create an inclusive peace.

De-escalation measures are generally more expensive and political than escalation efforts. After a war, third parties like the UN or stronger military forces are often needed to assure security for all parties, which is not the case during escalation.

##### **CONFLICT CATEGORIES**

Conflict research focuses on two approaches: subjectivism and objectivism. The objectivist method looks for conflict in society's social and political make-up and structure, assuming the aims are compatible. Subjectivism emphasizes incompatibility. Incompatibility between parties is the most critical characteristic affecting dispute severity and conflict phase dynamics. Once a conflict arises, its course and intensity change dynamically. Understanding conflict development and categorization is key. It can predict what will happen next and help handle conflicts.

Conflicts can be categorized into non-violent and violent categories. Most conflict literature focuses on violent conflicts, especially wars. Thus, non-violent

conflict research is lacking. For sake of clarity, we will attempt to classify the two as follows:

##### **Non-Violent Conflicts**

Violence-free does not equal conflict-free. Unarmed conflict can be resolved. Parties in conflict don't necessarily employ or start with force. Non-violent disputes must be noticed by the outside world and at least one of the parties. Every fight begins nonviolently and then escalates violently. Manifest conflict is non-violent confrontation. It's when two people try to reach goals that aren't compatible with each other by making it harder for each other to reach their own goals.

Without visual indicators indicating position differences or opposing interests over a product, a conflict cannot be identified. Different actors may have contradictory aims but no overt technique for obtaining them. At least one side must have stated its positional differences as demanded, and the other party must be aware of them. Latent conflict is a stage of conflict development in which one or more groups, parties, or states challenge national values, issues, or objectives. These must also have visible indications. Latent conflicts must articulate positional disparities and opposing interests as demands or claims. In an evident conflict, tensions are present but not violent. Tense relations between the parties can develop into violence. Economic penalties can manifest a latent conflict.

##### **Violent Conflicts**

Conflicts become violent when parties stop pursuing their own interests peacefully and strive to damage or destroy the opposing party's ability to do so. Unmet substantive or implemental needs are required for a non-violent disagreement to turn violent. Violence results from frustrated natural wants or desires. In political conflict analysis, violent conflicts are characterized by force, destruction, and casualties. Human casualty thresholds are used to define war and violent conflict.

War can't be fully described by its destruction and casualties. Territorial, power, or ethnopolitical conflict are examples of war causes and commodities at risk. War is complex and changeable, making it difficult to create a unifying theoretical idea. Before and after the Cold War, the structure of violent conflicts changed and wars' intensity grew. This affected conflict research theory. Some scholars proposed structurally transforming conflict in this context. Authors defined post-Cold War armed confrontations with terms like