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## **SOCIAL CONFLICT THEORY: SOCIAL CONFLICT IN MODERN SOCIETY**

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This article examines the theories of social conflict and their role in modern society. The varieties of social conflicts are given and the reasons for their occurrence are explained. Examples of interethnic conflicts are given, the importance of socio-economic conflicts and other classifications of social conflicts are explained.

**Key words:** social conflict , interethnic conflict, socio-economic conflict

Social conflict is an integral part of the life of people, peoples and countries. This problem has been gaining color for a long time and many historians have paid attention to this phenomenon. There are many theories about social conflict, some argue that social conflict is not only negative, but also brings positive aspects to society, such as strengthening social systems and a certain stability. Some say that the social conflict lies in the fact that one group in society has power and it is exercised at the expense of another group that does not have this power.

Starting from the XIX century, this problem began to interest not only historians, but also became the subject of study by sociologists. In this regard, it is called "the sociology of conflict".

Few people approve of such conflicts, but at the same time people participate in them. A social conflict is an activity where an opponent is imposed his opinion, trying to change his behavior or even eliminate it.

Usually, in conflicts with a less violent form, the main goal of the warring parties is to exclude opponents from competition by limiting their resources, reducing their status or prestige. For example, a conflict between a manager and an ordinary employee is usually started by employees and when they win, the manager is lowered in status, or in many cases they require removal and replacement.

Sometimes conflicts are very difficult to stop, because most often they are aggressive in nature. It means that every aggressive action leads to a response, and the conflict escalates further.

Thus, conflicts need a thorough analysis, a list of causes and their consequences in order to solve them.

The disclosure of the topic and theories of social conflict has a wide range at the moment of our life. This article will take place several theories of sociologists in this topic and their examples with solutions to these problems.

Conflict is a clash of opposing views, positions, goals. It is also all connected with society and is an important aspect of the interaction of people in society. It is conditioned by interests, values and needs. The conflict is connected with people's awareness of the contradictions of their interests (as members of certain social groups) with the interests of other subjects.

Many sociologists argue that the emergence of conflict in society is an important aspect in people's lives. Conflict makes social relations more mobile, that is, the population perceives changes in behavior faster and abandons the usual norms if they are not satisfied with it, even if these things used to satisfy them completely. In accordance, the stronger the conflict, the more noticeable its impact on social processes is and they begin to implement them or solve problems faster.

The cause of social conflicts is the confrontation of individuals or groups that pursue a socially significant goal. Such reasons include: social inequality, mismatch of values of individuals in society, religious differences, income inequality, and others.

In the special literature, when describing the causes of social conflicts, it is noted that the causes are usually divided into subjective and objective. If we start with subjective reasons, then this implies certain properties of the psyche, character, level of intelligence of the subjects of society. In practice, the relevant characteristics manifest themselves in certain feelings, interests and beliefs that encourage people to act in a certain way, leading to a conflict situation.

Objective causes of social conflicts are the causes of social confrontations that do not concern the spheres of individual individuals, but already consisting of social groups, communities and institutions. That is, the situation in which traditional public spheres are affected, including the economy, political and ideological institutions, and they find themselves outside the existing social norms, for example, as a result of abrupt revolutionary changes or deep crisis processes, which turns out to threaten the interests of individuals, social groups or public organizations.

It is also possible to notice the objective inequality of opportunities of social actors in everyday, economic, political and other spheres important for the life of individuals and society. Basically, this applies to statuses and other values.

The theory of social conflict is an independent direction that stands out from the general conflictology, according to the provisions of which conflict is recognized as one of the most important factors of social development.

One of the representatives and the founder of the theory of social conflict in the specialized literature is Lewis Cozer, a German and American sociologist, whose scientific interests were based on the sociology of conflict.

Analyzing the works of L. Cozer, it can be noted that he recognized conflicts as key elements of the social structure, since any human society is fraught with social conflict. Moreover, the scientist developed a point of view about the social usefulness of conflicts, since under certain conditions, even open confrontation can act as a mechanism for integrating society as a whole.

L. Cozer proposed a definition of social conflict, and its definition implies that social conflict is a form of social interaction, which is a struggle of opposing subjects for certain material and spiritual values, social status, power, and other limited resources, which, in addition to its own desire to possess the subject of social conflict, may be accompanied by a desire to neutralize or eliminate the opposite side, or damage caused to it.

This definition is one of the most popular definitions of social conflict used in conflictology, and is equally true both for interpersonal conflicts and for conflicts that develop between large social groups.

Continuing the consideration of the question of the theory of social conflict, it is worth dwelling on the features of social conflict and also highlighted in the works of L. Coser, as well as R. Dahrendorf:

1. The root of social conflicts lies in the fact that social inequality is objectively inherent in any society, leading to psychological dissatisfaction of its members with their own position and tension in the interaction of individuals and social groups;

2. Any social conflict ultimately boils down to the sum of contradictions between what is in reality and how it should be in the opinion of certain subjects of society;

3. Each society is characterized by the existence of coercion of some of its members by others. At the same time, the degree of social tension and the potential danger of future social conflicts depends on the legitimacy and legality of the appropriate coercion. In this regard, the most preferred form of social structure from the point of view of the theory of social conflict is democracy.

There is no single point of view among researchers regarding the classification of social conflicts. The types of conflicts are determined depending on what is taken as the basis of the classification. So, if the basis is the characteristics of the parties, then we can distinguish interpersonal conflicts, conflicts between an individual and a group, intra-group conflicts, conflicts between small and large social communities, interethnic and interstate conflicts, and if the spheres of public life in which the conflict manifests itself, then we can talk about political, economic, ideological, social, legal, family, sociocultural, etc. conflicts.

Researchers distinguish three blocks of social conflicts:

- 1) about the distribution of power and positions available in the hierarchy of power or management structures;

- 2) about material resources;

- 3) about values, the most important life attitudes.

In the same type of conflict, parties can be involved in confrontation at various levels. For example, conflicts over authority, material resources, or value orientations can be at the level of interpersonal, intergroup, and interstate interaction of people. In the process of its emergence and development, one type of conflict can overlap with another, while forming complex conflicts that consist of several of their types.

In modern conditions, in fact, each sphere of public life gives rise to its own specific types of social conflicts. Therefore, we can talk about political, national-ethnic, economic, cultural and other types of conflicts.

A political conflict is a conflict over the distribution of power, dominance, influence, and authority. This conflict may be hidden or open in nature. One of the most striking forms of its manifestation in modern Russia is the conflict between the executive and legislative authorities in the country that has been going on for the entire time since the collapse of the USSR. The objective causes of the conflict have not been eliminated, and it has moved to a new stage of its development. From now on, it is implemented in new forms of confrontation between the President and the Federal Assembly, as well as the executive and legislative authorities in the regions.

A prominent place in modern life is occupied by national-ethnic conflicts - conflicts based on the struggle for the rights and interests of ethnic and national groups. Most often these are conflicts related to status or territorial claims. The problem of cultural self-determination of certain national communities also plays a significant role.

Socio-economic conflicts play an important role in the modern life of Kazakhstan, that is, conflicts over the means of life support, the level of wages, the use of professional and intellectual potential, the level of prices for various goods, about real access to these goods and other resources.

Social conflicts in various spheres of public life can take place in the form of internal institutional and organizational norms and procedures: discussions, requests, adoption of declarations, laws, etc. Mass actions are the most vivid form of conflict expression. These mass actions are implemented in the form of demands to the authorities from discontented social groups, in the mobilization of public opinion in support of their demands or alternative programs, in direct actions of social protest.

Mass protest is an active form of conflict behavior. It can be expressed in various forms: organized and spontaneous, direct or indirect, taking the nature of violence or a system of nonviolent actions. The organizers of mass protests are political organizations and so-called "pressure groups" that unite people according to economic goals, professional, religious and cultural interests. Forms of expression of mass protests can be such as: rallies, demonstrations, picketing, civil disobedience campaigns, strikes. Each of these forms is used for specific purposes, is an effective means of solving very specific tasks. Therefore, when choosing the form of a social protest, its organizers should clearly understand what specific goals are set for this action and what public support for certain requirements is.

Proceeding from the fact that the class paradigm is historically the first in conflictology, consideration of conflicts in the modern world should begin with conflicts of social classes.

"Even in a prosperous society, the unequal position of people remains an important and enduring phenomenon... Of course, these differences are no longer based on direct violence and legislative norms on which the system of privileges in a caste or class society was based. Nevertheless, in addition to the coarser divisions in terms of property and income, prestige and power, our society is characterized by a multitude of rank differences - so subtle and at the same time so deeply rooted that statements about the disappearance of all forms of inequality as a result of equalizing processes can be perceived at least skeptically" [1]

The class conflict reaches its highest point in the revolutionary crisis. However, in practice, this happened extremely rarely, in the same place where there have been fundamental crises recently, there was no struggle of one class against another, since unions and coalitions of various class groupings participated (for example, students and workers in France in 1968, groups of a similar situation in Eastern Europe in 1989 and 1990), which had a diverse basis ("power

relations", "exclusion" or "inclusion"), along with ownership and deprivation of ownership of capital.

The class conflict is considered as a result of resistance to the domination–subordination relations existing in any society, therefore, as irremediable. It is believed that the conflict performs a positive function, contributing to the stabilization of society and the preservation of the existing order. In complex pluralistic societies, it is not reduced to the confrontation of two classes, but has a "cross" character, when opponents in one issue are supporters in another. The decrease in the severity and number of class Conflicts, which were threatening at the early stage of capitalist industrialization, is explained by the institutionalization of the conflict.

Classes as large social communities of people are the most representative link of the social structure. Each type of society, depending on the mode of production, has its own specific classes. The reason for the emergence of classes was the objective process of division of labor, during which the attitude of certain groups of people to property was formed and consolidated, their position and social status were determined. The main criterion for differentiating class communities is their attitude to property (ownership, use, disposal), acting as a "fundamental reference point for the analysis of social structure." In every society, classes are "the product of the relations of production and exchange, the word of the economic relations of their epoch."

In the 20th century, the process of establishing new nation-states was marked by an almost universal revival of ethnic consciousness and the growth of nationalism. The origin and nature of ethnicity are controversial, but its importance as an organizing principle of political life and an emotionally mobilizing force are increasingly recognized. It is also important that, unlike in the past, ethnic divisions reveal an extremely high degree of conflictogenicity today. In the mid-90s, more than 40 armed conflicts took place in the world: in Yugoslavia, Angola, Somalia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, the North Caucasus region of Russia and others. The absolute majority of conflicts were interethnic, intertribal in nature. They were deployed on the territory of one or several countries, often turning into full-scale modern wars. Many of them were complicated by religious and clan contradictions. Some last for centuries, such as the Middle East conflict between Jews and Arabs, the Transcaucasian conflict between Armenians and Turks (Azerbaijanis).

The cause of national conflicts are national values, such as language, religion, history, traditions, symbols, etc., the desire of peoples to preserve and develop their natural and cultural identity in the struggle with other peoples claiming the same national values. In national conflicts, national values acquire a self-sufficient value. The essence of patriotism is the desire to preserve the spiritual, cultural and natural basis of the existence of this ethnic group. The essence of nationalism is to promote the superiority of one nation over others . This aspiration often takes the form of outward expansion and encounters resistance from other nations. Nationalism is the natural basis of many interethnic conflicts, regardless of which subjects are involved in them - individuals, ethnic groups and nations, social institutions or social organizations. Nationalism manifests itself in the ideological, political, economic, and military struggle for national values. These conflicts are called national, since their main need and interest is the national need and interest.

The real significance and place of the conflict in public life can be determined on the basis of clarifying the consequences or the direction of its impact on society as a whole or on certain spheres of its life in a certain time frame.

Any social conflict, one way or another, affects many social processes and especially mass consciousness. It does not leave even passive observers indifferent, because it is perceived most

often, if not as a threat, then at least as a warning, as a signal of possible danger. A social conflict arouses the sympathy of some and the censure of others even when it does not directly affect the interests of groups not involved in it. In a society where conflicts are not hidden, not obscured, they are perceived as something quite natural (unless, of course, the conflict threatens the existence of the system itself, does not undermine its foundations).

But even in this case, the fact of the conflict itself acts as a kind of evidence of social disadvantage on one or another scale, at one or another level of public organization. Therefore, it also acts as a certain incentive for making changes to the policy, legislation, management decisions, etc.

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### **WATER DIPLOMACY IN CENTRAL ASIA**

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To begin with, I would like to note that water is one of the most important resources on our earth. Life and development would not be possible without it. If you can live without oil, metal or other minerals on your territory, but can't without water and air.

There is also a water deficit in the world and even about two billion people do not have direct access to water. The water factor plays a big role in world diplomacy. Water does not subject to state borders, thus making states interdependent in their use.

I'm writing about the problem of water use specifically in the Central Asian region. The water issue is very acute here, because the geographical position of some countries gives an opportunity to control resources and use them as a political tool.

After independence and disintegration of the USSR, the unified water use complex in the region collapsed. When the borders were divided Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan gained advantages. Because the region's two largest rivers, the SyrDarya and the Amu Darya, form in the mountains on their territory and are transboundary. They thus flow down into the so-called downstream countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. This makes the latter countries dependent on the former.

The first impulse for geopolitical diplomacy came with the 1991 Tashkent Declaration. It talked about water sharing, considering the interests of each state. And measures were taken to prevent the Aral Sea drought.