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CONFLICT AND PEACE

BUILDING

ABSTRACT

Ethnic conflicts were the main forms of political instability in the multi ethnic societies during second half of twenty century and beginning of new century. The goal of this study determinates social context of ethnic conflict in multi ethnic societies. The methodology was comparative study. Data gathering by documents and secondary data. Data and documents show that 'Ethnic differences' and discrimination were the main cause of ethnic violence. The results indicated that much country in the world encounter with ethnic conflict during decades. But incidence of ethnic violence was different in varying country. In developing country incidence were low and in the developing series. Developing country management ethnic conflict by participation and justice policy. that the equality is the best way for resolve this problem.

ETHNIC CONFLICT

An ethnic conflict is a conflict between two or more contending ethnic groups. While the source of the conflict may be political, social, economic or religious, the individuals in conflict must expressly fight for their ethnic group's position within society. This final criterion differentiates ethnic conflict from other forms of struggle.

Academic explanations of ethnic conflict generally fall into one of three schools of thought: primordialist, instrumentalist or constructivist. Recently, several political scientists have argued for either top-down or bottom-up explanation for ethnic conflict. Intellectual debate has also focused on whether ethnic conflict has become more prevalent since the end of the Cold War, and on devising ways of managing conflicts, through instruments of such as consociationalism and federalisation.

However, it is apparent that certain places and states are more prone to ethnic conflict while others experience essentially none.

What makes ethnic conflict more likely within a nation-state? The inquiry will look at ethnic conflicts that have occurred in different nation-states across the globe; specifically, I will examine the conditions that contribute to an increased likelihood of ethnic conflict within multi-ethnic societies and the ways in which ethnic problems in the multi-ethnic societies are resolved.

Even though ethnicity constitutes one of the most dynamic and troublesome issues in society, theorization in this domain still leaves much to be desired. The established academic models on ethnic issues have also been shown to be insufficient. The functionalist and conflict schools of sociology, which were the dominant views at the macro-structural level up to the so-called "paradigmatic crisis" in the social sciences, continue to be reductionist in their approach to ethnic phenomena.

Ethnicity was nearly a forgotten dimension in functionalist analysis. Even when dealing with a related phenomenon such as migration, traditional functionalist demographic analysis emphasized the "function" or mutual advantage to both the sending and recipient countries.

Sources of Conflict

It is important to note that any ethno-national conflict cannot be attributed to a single cause. Rather there is a combination of factors which are responsible for rise of ethno-national conflicts.

These can be ethnically defined grievances, demographic threats, histories of ethnic domination, reciprocal fears of group extinction, defects political anarchy etc.

The certain causes responsible for rise of ethnic conflicts can be discussed as:-

1. Economic :- Perhaps the most important source of ethno-national conflict is related to the economic conditions. Two main factors can be identified - first, uneven development of the regions of a state and second, the economic discrimination perpetuated by the state itself.

For instance, the economic development policies of the Iraqi government~~s~~ have adversely affected affected the economic interests of Kurds. The Mosul oil fields are located predominantly in the Kurdish region but Iraq's governments have consistently refused to consider demands that a share of oil revenues be devoted to Kurdish

region development. Moreover during 1980's the Iraqi government devastated the rural Kurdish economy, by destroying thousands of villages and forcibly relocating their residents. The policy was a response to Kurdish rebellions.

2. Political Discrimination Most states have ethnically interspersed populations and discriminatory policies have often provoked ethnic unrest and inter-state conflict. Ethnic grievances can emerge if the ethnic groups are denied political access the right to exercise political control over the international affairs of their own region and communities.

3. Forced Assimilation:- The assimilationist policies of the state constitute a direct threat to the ethnic identity of the group and develops resentment among the latter, which sooner or later may lead to an ethnic uprising. By 'assimilation' we mean when minorities are made to forsake their old communal identities and adopt the language, value and behaviours of the dominant society see, for example, the Kurds in Turkey, who are repeatedly encouraged to assimilate into Turkish society. Kurds were officially referred to as mountain Turks and were prohibited from teaching, writing, or publishing in Kurdish.

4. Historical:- The sense of a separate identity and grievances that result from imperial conquest and colonial rule can persist for many generations and provide the fuel for contemporary ethno-national movements. For instance, Myanmar, an ex-British colony, has been locked in ethnic conflict since its independence. A group belonging to the majority attacked the British colonial army, which was recruited largely from ethnic minorities such as Karens, Chins and Kachins. Thousands had died in the ensuing struggle and the conflicts between minority people and Burma state have yet to be resolved.

5. Population Pressures:- It refers to ethnic location, territory and environment which shape inter-group perceptions, competition and conflict. It is related to the settlement pattern of the groups, groups' attachment to the land and the relationship between ethnic groups and their physical settings respectively.

In Bosnia, for example, where before the collapse of Yugoslavia, all people identified themselves as Bosnian on census and survey forms. But after Bosnia attained statehood, there was a change in population settlement, the minority ethnic groups clung to boundaries that were ethnically exclusive and seemed to protect their ethnic identity. This formed the basis for further ethnic conflict in independent Bosnia itself, between Serbs and other minority ethnic groups.