

Salahaddin University-Erbil

College of Political Science

Department of International Relations and Diplomacy

Negotiations and Managing of the International Conflicts

Fourth stage - First course ; 2022 – 2023

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Meaning of International Conflict

- In our society, conflict is considered negatively, it is seen as something destructive and a failure. Conflict means collision or clash that can be defined or characterized as an expression of hostility, negative attitudes, antagonism, aggression, rivalry and misunderstanding. It also refers to situations that involve contradiction between two opposing groups. Conflict can be also understood as a disagreement between two or more individuals or groups, where each individual or group trying to gain acceptance of its own view from the others. Conflict is commonly recognized and understood as:

- – a form of opposition between parties,
- – a lack of agreement between parties,
- – a way to solve social contradictions,
- – a natural process in human social interaction.
- Definition, according to Mary Parker Follet: ‘the appearance of difference, difference of opinion, of interests.

The nature of International Conflict

- Sometimes it is not easy to work together, it is because of different opinions or simply because of someone's point of view on the same or a similar matter is not accepted, which creates a new conflict. Conflict can be described as disagreement or collusion that has a considerable impact on an individual's daily life, an employee's performance in an organization, dissatisfaction and behavioral change. The conflict, based on its nature and characteristics, might be characterized as follows:

- – conflict can be seen as a process,
- – conflict is inevitable, it is unavoidable in nature,
- – conflict is a normal part of everyday life,
- – different perceptions may lead to the conflict,
- – conflict must have an opposition,
- – independence and interaction,
- – everyone is exposed to conflict,
- – Conflict is not one-dimensional.

Defining the conflict according to the most prominent international political scientists

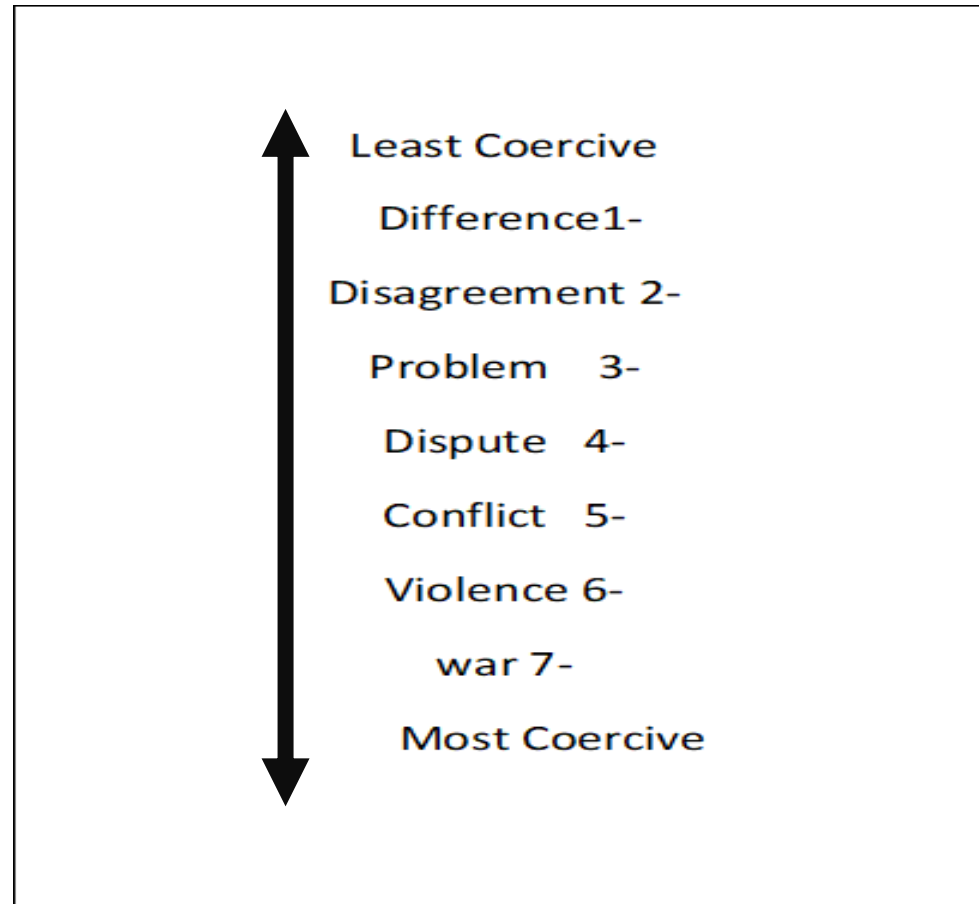
- **Johan Galtung** defines conflict as “a state of contradiction between the goals of states or the values of the actors in the social system, and this takes place within the framework of the concepts and beliefs of each party to the conflict, and it is a dynamic process in which structure, attitudes and behaviors are constantly changing and influencing one another”.
- **Quincy Wright** defines conflict in his book (The Nature of Conflict) as “a state of inconsistency or contradiction in principles, concepts, emotions, or goals, whether between individuals or groups or between two states or groups of states.”

- **(Peter Wallenstein)** defines conflict as “a social phenomenon in which at least two parties attempt to obtain a set of the same material or moral resources, at the same moment, or to achieve contradictory goals or interests at one moment, provided that these resources or objectives are not sufficient to satisfy all parties together.
- **(Joseph Frankel)** defined conflict as a situation resulting from differences in national goals and interests

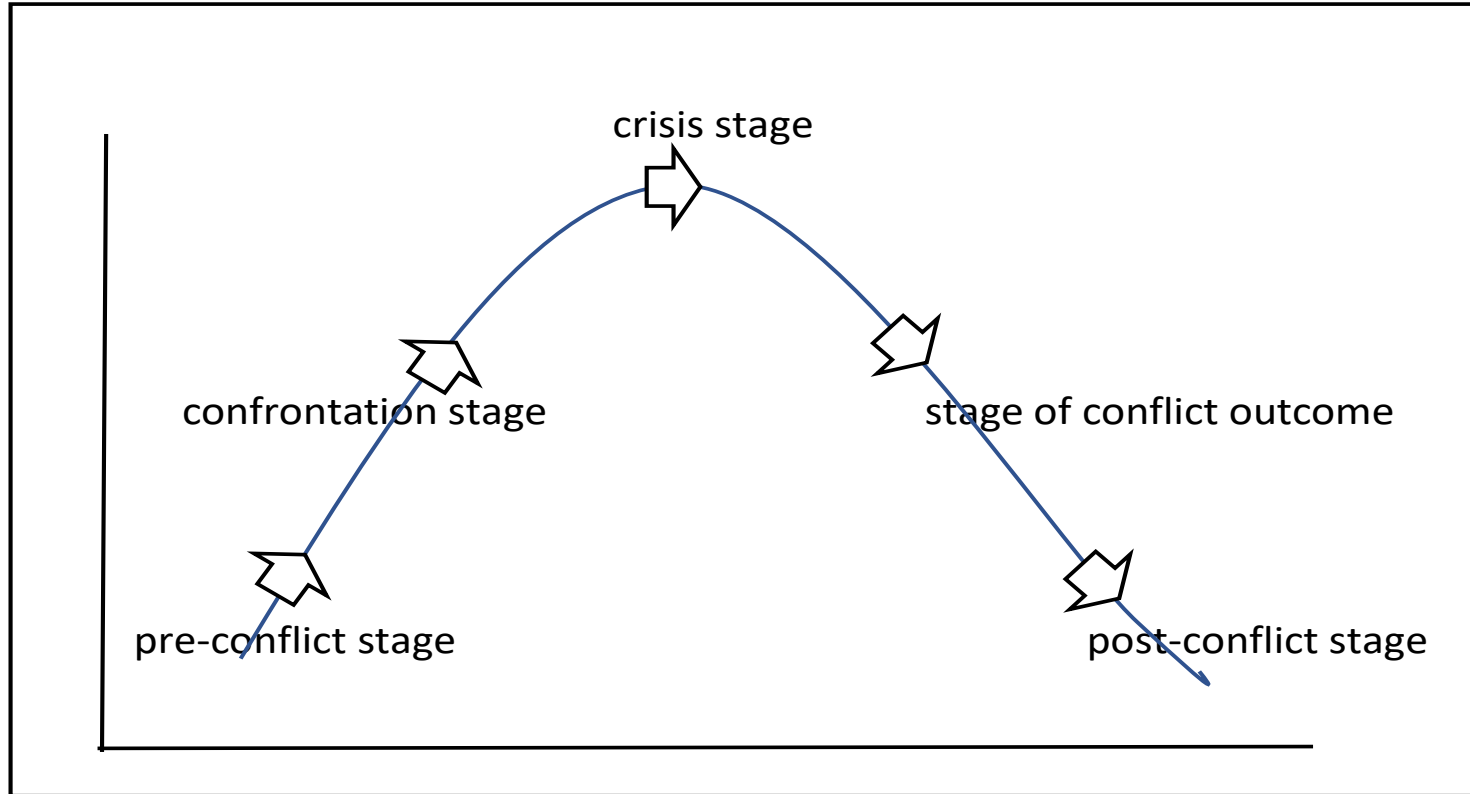
elements of International Conflict

- There are three elements of conflict:
 - 1. The existence of two or three parties or a group of parties in a conflictual relationship.
 - 2. The existence of a contradiction in opinions and a lack of agreement between the objectives or interests of the parties to the conflictual relationship.
 - 3. The presence of the relative scarcity of the cause of the conflict, in the sense of the lack of the size or amount of the goal or the disputed interest.

The development of international relations according to the level of violence



- In general, in the social sciences, and in particular in political science and international relations, conflict is not used as a constant label for all cases of contradiction between the parties to the conflictual relationship, but changes the label whenever it decreases or increases the percentage of violence used in it. If the contradiction is a difference of opinions, it is called a difference, and when the violence increases, it is called disagreement, and if it increases more, it is called a problem. Then it turns into a legal conflict if the problem is in the interpretation of certain texts and then turns into a power struggle, which may eventually turn into an armed war between the parties to the conflictual relationship



Stages Conflict Diagram

stages of International Conflict

- 1. pre-conflict stage: At this stage, the difference in interests and goals between countries appears, and the conflict is hidden and of low tension, while the desire of countries to communicate in order to solve problems and differences appears.
- 2. confrontation stage: At this stage, the conflict becomes more clear, as the state of tension between the two parties to the conflict increases, and unorganized acts of violence may occur with the aim of prompting one of the parties to move on the ground. During this stage, a state of international polarization occurs and the movement of international alliances begins.

- 3. crisis stage(the summit of the conflict):At this stage, the situation reaches a state of severe tension, and the conflict becomes open in all its forms, it may reach a comprehensive war between the two parties, and as a result of the severing of bilateral relations between the parties to the conflict, the efforts of the third party begin to calm down and prevent escalation, and often the third party is either a superpower such as the United States or an international organization such as the United Nations
- 4. stage of conflict outcome: In this stage, and as the conflicting countries measure their profit and loss balances, the process of strategic harvest begins, either by declaring war or truce in order to reach a comprehensive agreement that satisfies both parties. Here, tension begins to gradually recede between the two sides of the international conflict.

- 5. post-conflict stage: At this stage, the actual settlement of the conflict takes place, in which work is done to resolve the roots of the conflict, and to divide interests and goals between the state's parties to the conflict equally, or each according to its strength and position at the international or regional level. During this stage, the conflict turns into establishing a cooperative relationship between the two sides of the international conflict.

Theories explaining International Conflict (the psychological causes of conflict) (Just count , don't explain)

- 1. Psychological theory (the motives of the decision maker).
- 2. The theory of community relations.
- 3 . The theory of basic human needs.
- 4 . Relative deprivation theory.
- 5 . Marxist theory

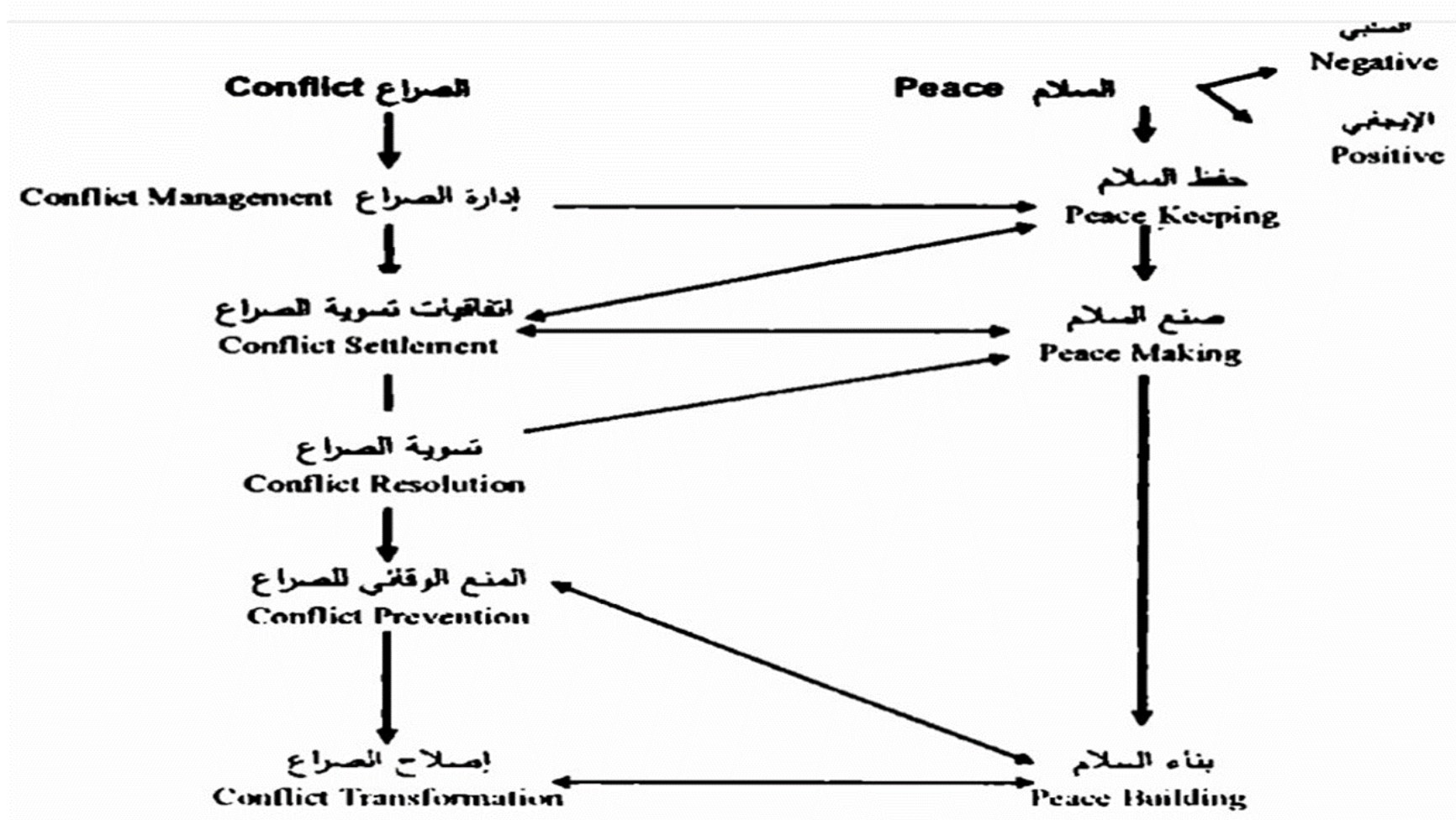
Causes of International Conflict

- 1. Political border struggles...
- This type of conflict usually occurs between countries with adjacent borders, where the dispute is over the demarcation of the border between them, such as the demarcation of the Russian-Georgian border.
- 2. Resource struggles (resource wars) ...
- Countries usually struggle over resources that exist between them, whether within land or sea borders, and resources that are of paramount importance to the national economy, such as oil, gas, coal, as well as water...etc.

- 3. National struggles (national liberation movements) ...
- Since most of the world's countries are multi-ethnic and multi-national, failure to resolve national issues may lead to long conflicts that may amount to wars, such as the conflict between the Irish Republican Army and the British government, as well as the struggle of the ETA movement in the Basque Country in northern Spain with the Spanish government.
- 4. religious struggles...
- Religion is one of the most prominent types of conflict at the internal and international levels. It is also considered one of the most dangerous causes of conflict due to its intensity and the large number of civilian victims. Such as the conflict between India and Pakistan since 1946.

- 5. Ideological struggles (domination struggles)...
- Despite the decline in the role of ideology as a cause of conflict after the end of the Cold War, it is still considered one of the most prominent types of conflict at the international level, especially within the great powers within what can be called the policy of imposing hegemony, and the most prominent example of this is the US-Russian conflict in Eastern Europe.

Diagram to illustrate the relationship between the phenomena of conflict and peace



- There is a strong relationship between levels of conflict and how it is managed on the one hand, and peace-making and sustaining processes on the other. Conflict management based on respect leads to peacekeeping, while the settlement of the conflict is in accordance with agreements to divide interests between the parties to the conflicting relationship, and this leads to making permanent and comprehensive peace between the conflicting states. In addition to the emotional relationship based on mutual love, common interests and respect for bilateral relations, it will inevitably lead to building a continuous and comprehensive peace, as is the case for European countries after World War II.

- typical questions
- Q1/ Define conflict according to (for example) Dr. Caltung? S/ 6-7
- Q2/Explain the elements of international conflict? S/ 8
- Q3/Explain the development of international relations according to the level of violence, then draw a diagram to show its content?
S/ 9-10
- Q4/Explain the stages of international conflict, and then draw an illustrative diagram to illustrate it? S/11-14
- Q5/Write in points only the analytical theories of international conflicts? S/15
- Q6/Explain, in detail, the causes of international conflicts? S/ 16-18
- Q7/Explain the nature of the conflict and peace relationship, explaining your answer with an illustrative diagram? S/ 19-20