CAUSES OF CONFLICT THEORIES
CUSTOMIZED FOR BUILDING OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES

- **Overview**
- **Summary**
- **Human Needs Theory**
- **Relational Theory**
- **Transformative Theory**
- **Political Theory**

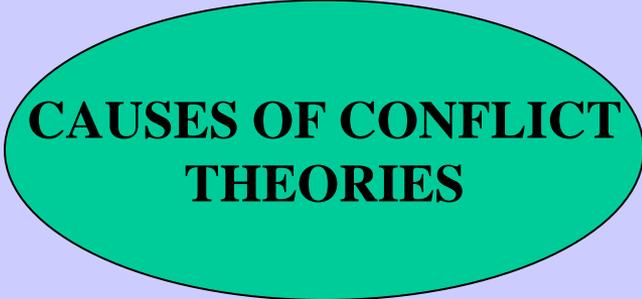# OVERVIEW

HUMAN NEEDS THEORY

Assumption

The deprivation of individuals and communities access to the means of satisfying their basic human needs is behind all violent conflict

RELATIONAL THEORY

Assumption

Conflict is a result of an interaction of different individual and/or groups with different cultural orientations, values and interests. Conflict is at the heart of all human relationships

CAUSES OF CONFLICT THEORIES

POLITICAL THEORY

Assumption

The State is the sole context where various groups or individuals are competing to take advantage of others they often believe that they will only gain access to the State when others are eliminated or disabled. Power is at the centre of all conflicts

TRANSFORMATIVE THEORY

Assumption

Conflict is caused by systemic and structural injustice and inequality expressed by competing social, cultural, economic, religious and political frameworks.

Transformative conflict is exacerbated by the tensions between the demand of change and the resistance of the structures and institutions to the demand for change

SUMMARY

- Structural Factors point to conflict-prone societies, but may not lead to violent outbreak of conflict, political instability, state collapse or civil war.

- They, however may lead to "human insecurity" true or perceived", the major concern of humanitarian and peacebuilding organizations and concerned governments.

- They may also lead to "Cultural Ghettos" and "Entrenchment" that will affect the harmony and integration of societies.

- Addressing manifested or latent conflicts under the Causes of Conflict Theories is a good starting point for addressing community-based conflicts.
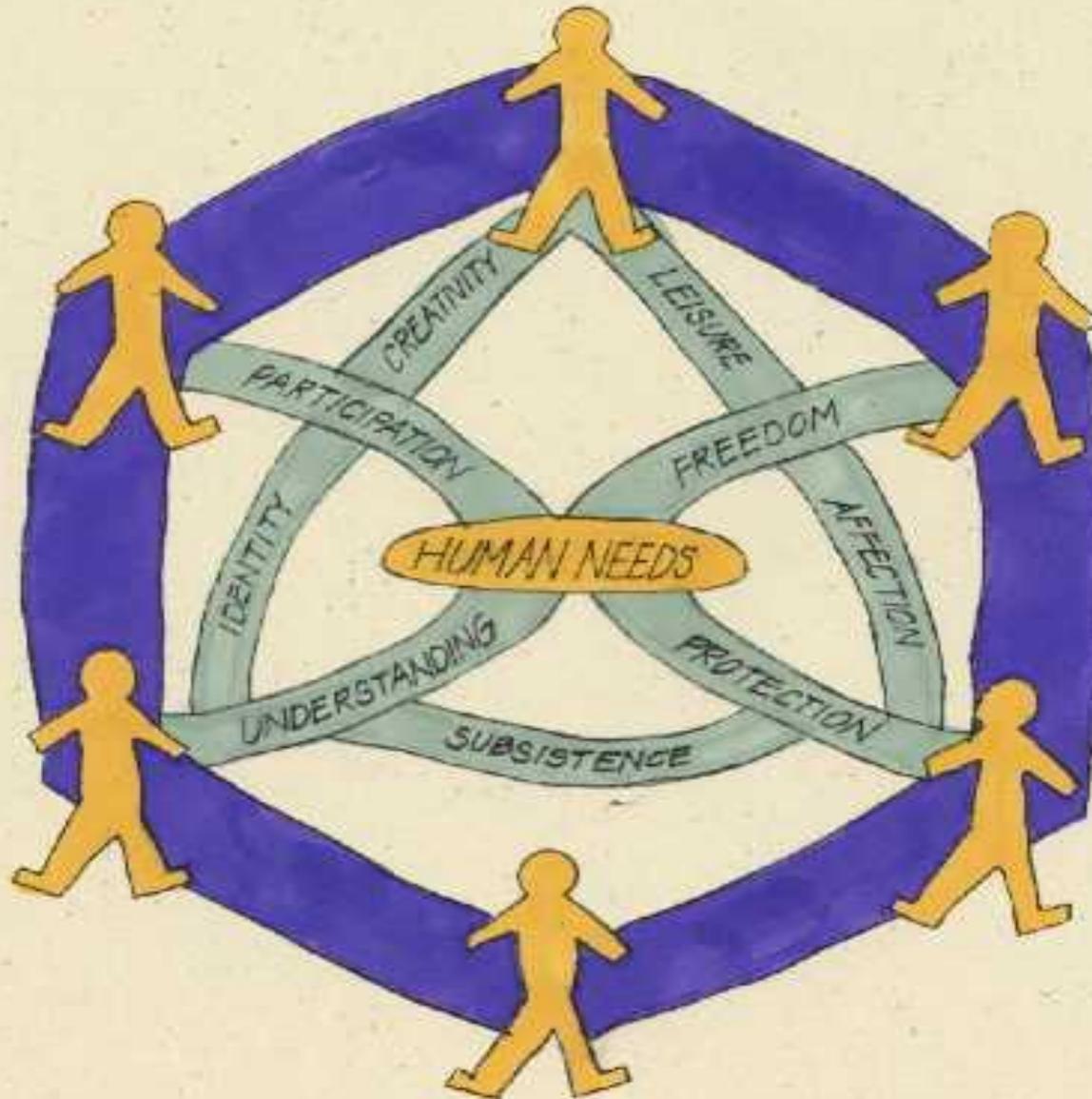
Basic Human Needs

- Freedom
- Identity
- Ability for Action and Creativity
- Privacy
- Meaning and Participation
- Recognition and Understanding
- Connectedness and Affection
- Security and Protection
- Subsistence

MAX NEEF'S HUMAN NEEDS

FREEDOM

IDENTITY

CREATIVITY

PRIVACY

PARTICIPATION

UNDERSTANDING

AFFECTION

PROTECTION

SUBSISTENCE

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Key Points of Human Needs Theory

Inadequate satisfaction of any of the fundamental human needs generates pathology. The pathology can be in economic and political terms. Economically the pathology is expressed as unemployment, under-employment, hyperinflation, and poor quality of life. Politically, the pathology can be expressed as fear or xenophobia, crime or violence, exile and marginalization. At the heart of the Needs Theory, is the tension between deprivation and potential. This tension drives needs-based conflicts.

- **Basic Human needs** are physical, Psychological, social and spiritual needs.
- **Non-Negotiable:** Recognition, identity, security, autonomy, bonding are non-negotiable
- **Universally expressed:** Human needs are not transmitted by a particular culture or implanted on taught by local institutions. They are universally expressed. Every man woman and child is aware of them.
- **Irrepressible:** Human needs are irrepressible, demanding satisfaction no matter how a society regime may seek to suppress or manipulate them. "Darfur" "Iraq" Palestine".
- **Satisfaction can be different**. Their satisfiers differ from community to community.
- **Lack of access:** "Lack of access" not necessarily "unavailability" of satisfiers of need is a major catalyst of violent expression. This is also called "Relative Deprivation".

MANIFESTATIONS AND SIGNS OF TENSION OF NEEDS BASED CONFLICTS

- Increase in organized crimes

- Increase in prostitution

- Proliferation of ethnic tension

- Xenophobia

- Scape-Goating

- Divided loyalty of immigrants

- Sinicism

CAUSAL LINKS BETWEEN NEEDS & CONFLICT

- Needs based conflict include scarcity and distributive conflicts

- Source of mobilization of needs based conflicts is ENTITLEMENT

- Lack of access to satisfiers of basic human needs leads to deprivation (or relative deprivation)

- Tension between deprivation and potential is an incentive for group mobilization

MAPPING NEEDS-BASED CONFLICT

Introduction: Identify the satisfiers for the needs in your selected case study. Gendered nature. Food, shelter, clothing, work may be common to all societies. Discuss whether these satisfiers are adequately available for men, women and children. Discuss whether the means of access (whether limited or not) are available to all members of society or controlled a privileged few (hence conflict generating)

NEED	SATISFIERS	AVAILABILITY	ACCESS & MEANS	C or P generating
Subsistence	Food, Shelter..			
Protection	Insurance, Health systems,SS,work			
Affection	Friendship, ,sex, family, relation with nature			
Understanding	Literature, communication policies			
Participation	Rights (women), duties, privileges			
Creativity	Abilities, skills, work			
Identity	Language, religion, customs, values, memory			
Freedom	Equal rights, expression			

KEY POINTS OF RELATIONAL THEORY

The theory assumes:

•**Interaction:** Differing cultural orientations, values and interests.

•**Innate in the nature:** Conflict is innate in nature of people, so characterizes behaviour/ interaction

•**Poor Communication:** Conflict is a consequence of poor communication, miscommunication and misperception.

•**Otherness:** Conflict resulting from natural discomfort from encountering people (different)

•**Boundaries:** Groups protect their boundaries (Physical and psychological) for fear of losing identity or being invaded (Changed).

•**Perception:** One group perceiving other/several groups' relations as illegitimate e.g. indigenous vs. new comers

•**Shared Memory:** History or shared memory influences the way people perceive and interact with others.

Summary

- The relational theory attempts to understand ethnic or identity-based conflicts: Why do people resent those who are different from them?

- Groups who share a common resource are likely to engage in violent conflict more than groups who do not.

- History of the groups and their relationships can also explain the way they interact.

- Considers the stress of contact or interaction

- Concept of 'otherness' born out of socialization

- Protection of group boundaries and entrenchment

SOME MANIFESTATIONS AND SIGNS OF TENSION

- Stereotype
- Prejudice
- Miscommunication
- Xenophobia
- Symbols
- Dehumanization
- Increasing extremist ethnic and religious tension
- Elites promote ethnic "myths"
- Demonise other as a common social construct
- Proliferation of ethnic militias and/or
- Xenophobia

CAUSAL LINKS BETWEEN RELATIONAL THEORY AND CONFLICT

- Perception of inter-relationships with others as illegitimate
- Competition over "Commons"
- Poor communication, miscommunication and misperception
- History and myth that exacerbate group intolerance
- Facts versus expectations (immigrants)

MAPPING RELATIONAL CONFLICT

Identifying groups in study:

•What their geographic proximity to each other? What is the history of their relationship?

•What resources do they share? How is access to resources controlled?

•Assess level of prejudice? The trend? Patter of communication?

Group	Proximity	History	Resources	Level of Prejudice	Trends in Prejudice Formation	Pattern of Communication
Who and who	Live where in relation to each other	Hostile? Friendly? Long?	Available? fair distribution	Intense? Dehumanize No inter-marriage?	History contributed to superiority and inferiority? Mutual violence?	Same/different langue? Characterized by fear? Resentment

KEY POINTS OF TRANSFORMATIVE THEORY

Transformative theory assumes:

- **Systemic and Structural Injustice:** Conflict is caused by systemic and structural injustice and inequality expressed by competing social, cultural, economic, religious and political frameworks

- **Structural Factors**: Structural factors also encompass tangible or symbolic resources such as traditional institutions, beliefs, practices, government institutions and laws.

- **Social structures:** Conflict is a consequence of the way some societies are structured; for example:

1. Economic and political systems tend to favour one group over the other

2. Cultures tend to be exclusive and unwelcoming to others and new ideas

3. Political and economic structures used to govern the society, or part of, are alien to it

- **Structures are slow to change:** Static structures while demographic, environmental, economic and political changes are taking place. The tension between static structures and dynamic change processes in people, perceptions, the environment..etc is a source of conflict. Africa producing primary goods: Disadvantageous to globalization.

- **Two sources of change**: Endogenous: Takes longer, more durable and acceptable. Exogenous: External agents. Quicker, fragile,

- **Attitudes** developed over a long period of time are resistant to change.

Summary

Transformation occurs at the:

- Personal level

- Relational level (relations between communities)

- Cultural level (within the group or cross)

- Structural level

- Institutional level

- Systemic level

- Endogenous is when communities change themselves through encounters (learning and growth)

- Exogenous is when external actors (NGOs), Governments, colonization, force people or induce them into change. External actor feels "obliged" to effect change

Causal links and signs of tension of Transformative Theory

- Exclusive Government elite

- Dominant control of the state and/or economy by one ethnic group or one or the groups are marginalized.

- Lack of trust in government among civil society

- Clear divide between haves and have nots

- Socio-economic inequalities along ethnic lines

- Some groups living in their world

- Social cracks among minorities who are not part of mainstream

- Heightened generation gap and resentment of traditions of origin

- Increased rates of divorce and siblings leaving home

Mapping Transformative Conflict

Discuss the role of change and structures in Ottawa using following questions

•**Identify the political, economic, social, religious and security structures of society**

•**Are the structures effective for peace generation? If not, what is leading to their weakness?**

• **Which of the structures are under pressure for change?**

•**Is there resistance to change? Is it in policy? Structures, beliefs, values?**

•**Where is pressure for change coming from? Is it Endogenous or Exogenous?**

Structures	Strong/Weak	Under Pressure for Change	Resistance to Change	Responsive to Change	Source for Change
Political	Legislative? Judiciary?	Political Institutions?	Aboriginals?	Youth?	Civil Society?
Economic	ITC strong?	New Immigrants?	Elders?	Women?	Legislation
Social	Beliefs and values?	Women and dress code?	Clerics? Men?	Young girls?	9/11 fallout?
Religious	Marriage institution	Dating?	First generation	……….	
Security			……		

KEY POINTS OF POLITICAL THEORY

Political Theory Assumes:

- The state is the sole context where various groups or individuals are competing to take advantage of each other

- Power which is perceived to be critical currency for the gratification of dignity, recognition, freedom..is often contested by groups

- Conflict is a sequence of

    weak or fragile state

    The absence of regime legitimacy

    Poor governance

- Competing national interests (international)

- Psychological misperceptions (Identity crisis of political leaders)

- Clash

- Clash of economic and political interests (Centre and peripheries)

- In case of Ottawa: Where the new immigrants are coming from.

THE POLITICAL THEORY ASSUMES THAT

Conflict is a consequence of:

- A failed or fragile state

- The scramble for the state

- The absence of regime legitimacy

- Poor governance

- Self-determination and/or

- Territorial claims

SIGNS OF TENSION AND MANIFESTATIONS

- Lack of government openness and accountability

- Impunity of security forces

- Government officials not subject to rule of law

- Wide-spread corruption

- Lack of independent judiciary

- Violations of civil and political rights

- Favouritism and clanships

- Self-proclaimed "Freedom Fighters" and military and political movements

- For Ottawa: Discuss relevance to New Immigrants

MAPPING POLITICAL CONFLICT

Introduction:

•Factors in previous slides manifest themselves in political, social, economic and security realm of society

•Identify the manifestations in the selected society

•There may be more than one manifestation in one category. Observe gender specifics.

Manifestation	Failed State	No Regime Legitimacy	Poor Governance	Inter-State Rivalry
Political		Repression	Corruption	
Social	Crime			
Economic	Unemployment		Inflation	
Security				