



INDIAN INTERNATIONAL MODEL UN

STUDY GUIDE

COMMITTEE: UNSC

AGENDA: Dealing with the Protracted conflicts and their implications on international peace, security, and development

INTRODUCTION

Protracted social conflicts occur when communities are deprived of satisfaction of their basic needs on the basis of the communal identity. However, the deprivation is the result of a complex causal chain involving the role of the state and the pattern of international linkages. Furthermore, initial conditions (colonial legacy, domestic historical setting, and the multi-communal nature of the society) play important roles in shaping the genesis of protracted social conflict. In those countries that are experiencing protracted social conflict, political power tends to be dominated by one identity group that uses its resources to maintain power over the other. In turn, to ensure that the group in power remains so, PSC (protracted social conflicts)-affected countries will often see attempts by the dominant group to resist participation of minority groups. The most significant of all factors that lead towards the formation of PSC are societies that can be characterized as having a 'multi-communal' composition. Multi-communal societies, whether formed as a result of divide-and-rule policies of former colonial powers or whether through historical rivalries often resulted in the dominance of one group over the other. The process of protracted social conflict deforms and retards the effective operation of political institutions. It reinforces and strengthens pessimism throughout the society, demoralizes leaders and immobilizes the search for peaceful solutions. It is observed that societies undergoing protracted social conflict find it difficult to initiate the search for answers to their problems and grievances. As the protracted social conflict becomes part of the culture of the ravaged nation, it builds a sense of paralysis which afflicts the collective consciousness of the population. An environment of hopelessness permeates all strata of society, and a siege mentality develops which inhibits constructive negotiation for any resolution of society.

The approach emphasizing issues focuses on whether the participants are willing to accept a compromise settlement, or if their aims are mutually exclusive. Rationalist argumentation suggests that the value of the issue at stake will determine the willingness of the parties to pay the costs of warfare and the reluctance to cede control to the competitors. This line of thought suggests that conflicts over, for example, resource-rich or geostrategically important territories will become protracted, as the parties will be unwilling to back down.

Most conflicts that last for many years are characterized by significant fragmentation and mutation. This involves the rise of new armed groups, splintering armed forces and recurring political factionalism. Sources of conflict also change over time. New goals and ideologies emerge, which disrupt and reframe the previous structure of conflict.

As some conflicts escalate, there occur changes in key psychological, social, and community-based factors, and changes in the way in which these factors are inter-linked, resulting in dramatic, qualitative changes in the character of the conflicts.⁵

In other words, as the forces promoting conflict grow, the intensity of the conflict increases at a gradual, incremental rate until it reaches a threshold, after which the intensity shows a catastrophic increase. For example, this type of qualitative shift was observed in the dramatic outbreak of genocidal violence that occurred in Rwanda in the 1990s which followed years of more gradual increases in inter-ethnic hostilities between Tutsis and Hutus.

HISTORY

Protracted conflicts have been long drawn. The end of the Cold War in the early 1990s had a profound effect on the global prevalence of armed conflict. Even though many observers were shocked by the new conflicts that erupted during this process, including in Europe, they were relatively quickly settled. The peacemaking did not end there. 19 of the 50 longest lasting conflicts since World War II ended between 1988 and 1998. In comparison, only one ended before this decade (Portugal/Angola), and six other conflicts have ended since then. A few being Israel-Palestine, Burma – Karen, Philippines, Colombia, Philippines, Chad, Guatemala, Uganda, Iraq, India-Pakistan and a lot more.

The Soviet Union, the US and China became less willing to support governments and rebels involved in conflict, making them less able to continue warfare. One example of this is the conflict in Guatemala that was settled in the mid-1990s after more than three decades of fighting. The rebel movement URNG (Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity) was a coalition of leftist guerrillas with a strong indigenous Mayan support base. As external support dwindled, the move towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict progressed through talks on human rights, indigenous rights, and socio-economic and agrarian reforms. As the US, having been the main

supporter of the government, provided support for the negotiations together with the UN and several European and American states, the peace process gained the necessary momentum to overcome minor setbacks. A UN mission helped observe the demobilization of the former guerrillas during the implementation of the settlement in the late 1990s.

The conflict over the territory of Palestine has involved active combat in 58 of the 61 years since the state of Israel was proclaimed in 1948. The two sides are divided along ethnic, religious, linguistic and economic lines, while the scarcity of water in the region adds an additional geostrategic challenge for peacemaking. Violence from both sides has targeted the civilian population, creating hundreds of thousands of refugees, with generations of Palestinians growing up in refugee camps as stateless citizens. Another effect of the violence has been the perception of security between the two sides as a zero sum game, with Israeli and Arab communities currently physically divided by the Israeli-constructed security wall. The Palestine situation, most will say, is the archetypical protracted conflict.

The **Afghanistan War**, international conflict in Afghanistan beginning in 2001 that was triggered by the September 11 attacks and consisted of three phases. The first **phase - toppling the Taliban** . The second phase, from 2002 until 2008, was marked by a U.S. strategy of **defeating the Taliban militarily and rebuilding core institutions of the Afghan state**. The **third phase, a turn to classic** counterinsurgency doctrine, began in 2008 and accelerated with U.S. Pres. Barack Obama's 2009 decision to temporarily increase the U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan. The larger force was used to implement a strategy of protecting the population from Taliban attacks and supporting efforts to reintegrate insurgents into Afghan society. The strategy came coupled with a timetable for the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Afghanistan; beginning in 2011, security responsibilities would be gradually handed over to the Afghan military and police. The new approach largely failed to achieve its aims. Insurgent attacks and civilian casualties remained stubbornly high, while many of the Afghan military and police units taking over security duties appeared to be ill-prepared to hold off the Taliban. By the time the U.S. and NATO combat mission, backed up by UN resolution

S/RES/2405, S/RES/2344, S/RES/2274, formally ended in December 2014, the 13-year Afghanistan War had become the longest war ever fought by the United States.

CURRENT SCENARIO

The protracted conflicts in the GUAM have affected the lives of more than 16 million people for more than 15 years, threatening the international peace and security, jeopardizing the sovereignty and territorial unity of Georgia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan making them lose control on a large part of their sovereign territories and leading to a permanent occupation of a big region of a sovereign state, causing an inflow of millions of refugees and internally displaced persons, obstructing the social-economic development of nations from that region. Regretfully, the international negotiations on settlement of the conflicts have failed. They have only prolonged the conflicts. The protracted conflicts defy the security; encourage the riots, aggressive separatism, organized crime, trafficking in human beings, trafficking in drugs, proliferation of light arms in territories uncontrolled by legitimate authorities. In Georgia, the painful truth based on deeds is that the northern neighbor, Russia, is annexing the regions concerned. Though, Georgia has inherited the peacekeeping framework and the negotiation format along with separatist conflicts, and they do not function any longer. Considering Ukraine, the U.N. is in charge with dealing with the ethnic conflict in Kosovo with much ability and efficiency, given the extremely fragile situation in the region. Any decision aimed to modify the internationally recognized borders by neglecting the interests of the sides will destabilize the Balkans for sure, creating dangerous precedents for Europe in the entire world.

There are two problems of main disagreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia - the definition of the self-governing status for population of the occupied region Nagorno-Karabakh and the withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The status of the region cannot be established at present, it must be elaborated on a peaceful, democratic way, through legal procedures with participation and consent of both communities — the Azerbaijani and the Armenian communities from the region. For this purpose, the occupation forces must be pulled out from the occupied territories and conditions for comeback of internally displaced people to their residences in Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijani neighboring territories. GUAM

states call on international institutions to facilitate the process of settlement of conflicts in this area in the limits of their competences. a more active and systematic cooperation is needed with regional organizations qualified to deal with the conflicts in Republic of Moldova, which are not part of concerns of the Security Council on basis of Chapter VIII of the U.N. statute, especially in case of “protracted conflicts”, frozen conflicts, which have worsened rather than have been settled. The introduction of “protracted conflicts” on agenda of the U.N. General Assembly means reaching the limit of “internationalization” of conflicts and unquestionable defamation of Russia’s “peacekeeping” claims. This could mean that GUAM members and their supporters will treat Russia at international level as part of the problem of frozen conflicts, not as part of their solution from now on. However, the settlement of frozen conflicts without Russia’s contribution will be impossible.

SUGGESTED MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS

- 1) Reasons for protracted conflicts
- 2) Ways to maintain peace in such areas
- 3) Future prevention of protracted conflicts
- 4) Stakeholders of such conflicts
- 5) Past conflicts and their consequences
- 6) Role of international organizations

RESEARCH LINKS

- 1) https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/document/file_list/protracted_conflict_and_humanitarian_action_icrc_report_lr_29.08.16.pdf
- 2) <https://www.cfr.org/interactives/global-conflict-tracker#!/conflict/israeli-palestinian-conflict>
- 3) <https://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.co.in/&httpsredir=1&article=1413&context=cilj>
- 4) <https://www.fpri.org/article/2002/04/the-new-protracted-conflict/>
- 5) <http://www.un.org/en/ga/62/plenary/guam/bkg.shtml>
- 6) http://www.life-peace.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/nr_2011_03.pdf
- 7) <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R42084.pdf>

- 8) <https://www.rferl.org/a/1071669.html>
- 9) <http://www.e-democracy.md/en/monitoring/politics/comments/200609301/>
- 10) <https://in.reuters.com/article/philippines-militants/militants-in-philippines-city-dug-in-for-protracted-battle-idINL3N1J22O3>
- 11) <https://www.aljazeera.com/topics/subjects/israelipalestinian-conflict.html>
- 12) https://www.worldvision.com.au/docs/default-source/policies/wva_protracted-conflicts-policy---july-2017.pdf?sfvrsn=2