



Nature Of Armed Conflict In Contemporary World

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Abstract

The conflict values are the source of many conflicts and problems in contemporary world. In contrast to the traditional conflict of values, the contemporary conflict is distinguished by extensiveness, complicatedness, profoundness and continuousness. Traditionally, war has been understood as evolving state pitted against each other in armed combat over conflicting interests with the state resorting to violence. The changing nature of armed conflict explains how since the end of Cold War, the nature of warfare and its conduct had been challenged by various notable developments. This paper of mine will focus on the changing contour of armed conflict and its results in contemporary politics

Keywords---- conflict, traditional war, combat, armed conflict

The conflict values are the source of many conflicts and problems today. In contrast to the traditional conflict of values, the contemporary is distinguished by extensiveness, complicatedness, continuousness. Warfare is constantly evolving and so are the weapons used in conflict. International humanitarian law forbids the use of weapons that are indiscriminate in nature. Religion, governance and politics are the issues and their allied topics of human rights, justice and their historical background are the most significant cause of armed conflict as their overlying issues are the most fundamental in the structure of the society. Conflict can be broken into four types-interpersonal, intrapersonal, intergroup and intragroup. These four types of conflict fit into general fields -internal and external. In contemporary politics, it is recognized that conflicts between human beings are unavoidable. They emerge as a natural result of change and can be beneficial to the organization if it is effectively managed. The characteristics of conflict include as a person trying to overcome an obstacle, two individuals competing for the same desire or two individuals seeking to achieve a similar outcome. Traditionally, war has been understood as involving state pitted against each other in armed combat over conflicting interests with the states resort to violence Generally viewed as legitimate and legal in contrast to the violence of other groups often regarded as illegitimate and criminal. The changing nature of armed conflict explains how since the end of Cold War the nature of warfare and its conduct has been challenged by three notable developments like the apparent decline in the prevalence of inter-state warfare in comparison to the

proliferation of intra-state conflicts, the impact of technological developments on Western approaches to warfare and the increasing reliance on private security.

Ideology lacks relevance to contemporary armed conflict, especially when economic factors play an important role. But no one can ignore the role of ideology as an important element of contemporary armed conflict. While ideology, defined as a minimally structured set of beliefs, was a primary explanation of armed conflict during the Cold War, its relevance to the study of conflict but its relevance to the study of conflict have been diminished in recent decades. Contemporary armed conflicts have been characterized as transnational, resource-driven private ventures with diminished political agendas. The importance of insurgencies and other forms of organized violence expands its relevance. Literature on armed conflict today favors data rich analysis that focus on variables that are more naturally quantifiable. As a result of which greed and grievance based on explanations of armed conflict continue to predominate. This led to multi-dimensionality of conflict. The literature on armed conflict experienced a change in the late 1990s, when rationalist explanations began to overshadow the ethnic and religious perspective on the subject. Economic explanations of conflict became dominant. Rationalist approaches gave three explanations for contemporary armed conflicts. First, security dilemmas created by commitment, information problems push civilians to take up arms or avoid peaceful settlements to existing conflicts. Secondly, socio-economic and political grievances such as marginalization, repression, unemployment and under-development drive individual towards violent action. Thirdly, armed combatants pursue war out of greed for power or for control of natural resources, illegal industries and public finances.

Thus, the dominant paradigm of rationalist approach is greed vs grievance. But there are other factors which too influence the nature of contemporary armed conflict. There are anthropologists and psychological feature of organized violence. In this context, the conflict is explained by the ideological and identity-based mobilization of groups that compete violently against each other. According to social psychology ideological indoctrination proves to be an efficient tool in fostering the creation of militias, as it helps to develop mechanism of coercion and domination, to push people towards violent action and to establish an ally-enemy mentality. Many advocates also argued that ideology is crucial for the survival of social structures as it provide tactical and strategic advantages for the insurgent action. Many sociologists used the term ideology in neutral as well as negative connotations. They argued ideology as an elite mechanism used to control and manage society which is undesired in contemporary societies. But after 1960s political scientists used the term to refer two sets of ideas with a particular degree of coherence and consistency. According to John Gerring, ideology is a set of political beliefs that promotes a particular way of understanding the world and shapes relations between members of a group and outsiders and among the members themselves. Ideology to be a corpus of thought that incorporates and arranges a series of more specific elements usually present in armed conflict. The nature of conflict and violence has transformed. Conflicts now tend to be less deadly and often waged between domestic groups rather than states. Homicides are becoming more frequent in some parts of the world, while gender-based attacks are increasing globally. The long-term impact on development of inter-personal violence including violence against. This is widely recognized. Technological advances have raised concerns about lethal autonomous weapons and cyber-attacks, weaponization and drones and live streaming of extremist attacks. There has been a rise in criminal activities including data hacks and ransomware. Meanwhile international cooperation is under strain, diminishing global potential for the prevention and resolution of conflict and violence.

Globally the absolute number of war deaths had been declining since 1946. And yet conflict and violence are currently on the rise with many conflicts are waged between non-state actors such as political, militia, criminal and international terrorist groups. Unresolved regional tensions, a breakdown in the rule of law, absent or coop led state institutions, illicit economic gain and the scarcity of resources exacerbated by climate change have become dominant drivers of conflict.

In contemporary era, conflicts are becoming more fragmented for e.g. the number of armed groups involved in the Syrian Civil war has increased from eight to several thousands. Furthermore, the regionalization of the conflict which interlinks political, socio-economic and military issues across borders, has seen many conflicts longer and less responsive to traditional forms of resolution. Conflict remains the primary driver of terrorism with increasing the number of violent terror attack. The majority of deadly terror attacks are taking place in the Middle-east, North Africa, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia. But in countries with high levels of economic development, social alienation, lack of economic opportunity. Extremists' groups today have unprecedented access to general public through the internet. The most prevalent modern-day conflict is cyber-attacks. Most of the targeted infrastructures are the manufacturing, oil and gas companies and educational institutions, critical infrastructures like airport control towers, nuclear power plants, hospitals and dams. These cyber incidents have the potential to undermine international peace and security and can cause substantive damage and casualties. On the flip side, advances in technology also provide new tools and preventive strategies to better prevent attacks and identify perpetrators. New more complex and more sophisticated threat require imaginative and bold responses and strengthened collaboration between states as well as the private sector and civil society.

Acknowledgement—

I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to the editorial team of this esteemed peer reviewed journal International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT) for such great endeavor. I would like to work with your journal for upcoming issues.

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