



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



- **Strengthening of National Research Capacity on Policy, Conflict Resolution, and Reconciliation (PEACE)-598787**

Student's Training

Dr. Nahed Habiballah

• 2021

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE FIELD OF CR



CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Developed through 5 stages of intergenerational development & practices:

1. 1st Generation 1918-1945
2. 2nd Generation: 1945-1965 (Foundations)
3. 3rd Generation 1965-1985 (Consolidation)
4. 4th Generation: 1985-2005 (reconstruction)
5. 5th generation – the C21st (the cosmopolitans)

IST GENERATION 1918-1945

- Failure to prevent the outbreak of WWI
- Motivated scholars and activist to promote a “science” of peace
- For a firmer basis for preventing future wars
- Roots of thinking about conflict/peace after 1918 war which led to the establishment of International Relations as an academic discipline
- Advocates from the natural sciences (critical of the contribution of science) & medical professional (understood physical & Mental costs of war)
- Many promoted a multidisciplinary approach

2ND GENERATION: 1945-1965 (FOUNDATIONS)

- Institutional growth post 1945 (threat of nuclear weapons)
- First institutions appeared between 1945-1965 (Post Hiroshima)
- War as an inherent in the sovereign state system should be prevented
- Through reform of international organizations, data collection and analysis to advance **scientific knowledge** (Bouldings in N.America – social data stations [network of weather stations] – gather political, social, economic data to produce indicators) – **Conflict research**
- Galtung in Europe (distinction between more limited agenda of conflict research and the more overarching **peace research**. Made Distinctions between direct violence, structural violence and cultural violence, as well as positive (overcoming structural and cultural violence) & Negative peace(conflict resolution agenda))

2ND GENERATION: 1945-1965 (FOUNDATIONS) MOVE TO MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES (INSPIRED BY)

- **systems theory**: new lingo and set of explanations for the cooperative and competitive behavior of social beings.
- **Games theory**: means of analyzing the variety of options and orientations available to conflict parties,
- **Organizational theory**: promoted mutual gain and alternative dispute resolution
- Drawing on multidisciplinary (Georg Simmel 1922 Conflict and the Web of Group affiliations) – conflict as intrinsic in human nature

1ST & 2ND

- State centric approaches

3RD GENERATION 1965-1985
(CONSOLIDATION)
CR DEFINED DRAWING ON A WIDE
RANGE OF DISCIPLINES

Defined its specific subject area in relation to:

1. Avoiding nuclear war
2. Removing glaring inequalities & injustices in the global system
3. Achieving ecological balance and control

ELABORATED A THEORETICAL UNDERSTANDING OF DESTRUCTIVE CONFLICT AT 3 LEVELS

1. The interstate level: main effort to ease tension between the superpowers into win-win agreements (result 1963 Limited Test Ban treaty ...)
2. Domestic politics: building expertise in family conciliation, labor & community mediation & alternative dispute resolution
3. Between the two (internal/external): most significant developments in the 70s and 80s thinking about deep rooted conflicts [intractable conflicts] (international and domestic causes of conflict erased) **emphasis on good governance (constitutional level) & intergroup relations (community level)**

3RD GENERATION OF CR

- Looked at Civil Society and used a less state-centric lens

4TH GENERATION: 1985-2005 (RECONSTRUCTION)

- End of the Cold War
- CR central to redefining the New World Order & confront the new challenges which arose with this
- Development of professional quantitative & qualitative methodologies for conflict analysis & interpretation (multi method lens)
- Focus on internal conflicts, small wars, civil wars, ethnic conflicts, and conflict in postcolonial states

ISSUES 4TH GENERATION HAD TO GRAPPLE WITH

I. Conflict complexity:

- a) Dynamic complexity: cause and effect are non-linear and are unpredictable (need for systemic approach)
- b) Social complexity: presence of conflicting views about the problem (participative approach)
- c) Generative complexity: former solutions no longer working (creative approach)

Conclusion: acknowledging the complex web of interactions (Lederach)

ISSUES 4TH GENERATION HAD TO GRAPPLE WITH

2. Conflict asymmetry:

- Parties are unequal in power
- Traditional mediation, dialogue, and problem solving approaches are inadequate
- Emphasis on works on ethics (Habermas) and a transformative approach that addresses asymmetry. (communication free from coercion)

ISSUES 4TH GENERATION HAD TO GRAPPLE WITH

3. Cultural Diversity

- Controversy about 'religious wars', 'global Jihad' and 'global war on terror,' (A Clash of Civilization?)
- Utilizing intercultural dialogue to manage conflict between and across cultural divides (dialogues as a mutual interpretation of texts)

ISSUES 4TH GENERATION HAD TO GRAPPLE WITH

4. Conflict Intractability:

- Conflicts which defy all efforts at settlement
- Need to determine the invisible dynamics of those conflicts which do not end in settlements or reconciliation

4TH GENERATION

- Combined and linked both state centric (top down) and civil society (bottom up) approaches as well as local, regional and international

THROUGH THE 4 GENERATIONS: CONSTANT EFFORTS TO DEFINE METHODS & CONCEPTS OF CR

Two main concerns predominate:

1. Identify the conditions for a new world order based on conflict analysis, conflict prevention and problem solving
2. To mobilize and inspire stakeholders through the promotion of a non-violent peacemaking culture.

WITH THOSE TWO CONCERNS IN MIND

5th generation: CR emerged as a discipline associated with the promotion of peace on three levels

1. Radical reformation of world political systems
2. Promotion of anti-war and pro-peace politics
3. Fashioning methodologies and processes that aspires to proactive peacemaking projects

5TH GENERATION – THE C21ST (THE COSMOPOLITANS)

- Is it possible to find a unified theory of CR?
- Since the systematic study of CR as a discipline; today there are discrepancies between the different schools have been reduced.

CONTEXT TODAY

Wars today are about:

- Statehood
- Governance
- Role & status of nations and communities
- Communities within states

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PATTERNS OF CONFLICT

Wars of a third kind

- Political goals: consolidation of new forms of power based on ethnic homogeneity
- Ideologies: tribalist and communalist identity politics
- Forms of mobilization: fear, corruption, religion, media
- Mode of warfare: fragmented and dispersed, paramilitary and criminal groups, child soldiers, light weapons...
- War economy: external assistance, parallel economy (trafficking, drugs...)

WAYS OF RESOLVING CONFLICT

- Problem Solving approach (looks beyond frames)
- "imaging the future" (we live in a social space that moves from the past to the future)
- Global civic culture

HOW TO RESOLVE CONFLICT TODAY?

- Hybrid local-global responses to tackle the new reality of transnational conflict
- A push for intercultural and transcultural efforts
- Emphasis on expanding alliances with new 'clusters' of expertise and enterprises
- Making use of the new opened 'cosmopolitan space' disclosed by the internet and the current reality of globalization