

# APPLICATION OF THEORY ON CONFLICTS

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## 1. Introduction

The paper is dealing with the issues related to the process of dealing with conflicts and the means to manage the same. In this field the paper has picked up the political issues of South Africa regarding the establishment of a new order against apartheid and discriminations. The process of establishing South Africa away from social and political conflicts for the attainment of a 'New Political Order'; underwent severe uproars. Management of these issues has been made a part of this paper to find out the relationship between the proceedings of change management on empirical cases. The approach has been structured to connect the theoretical aspects of dealing with conflicts in reference to the practical persuasion of the conflict in South Africa. It is through this case study that the conflict management added by the modes of conflict resolution have been analyzed and understood in this paper. The motive of this paper is to identify the conflicts and then to allow proper means to resolve them on social and political grounds.

## 2. The Case

The political conflicts that persisted in South Africa were related to the political and social discrimination within the society. The dealings between National Party and African National Congress were the foregrounds for all these conflicts. However South Africa took a new turn on 2<sup>nd</sup> of Feb. 1990. It is on this day that De Klerk in his opening address made to parliament announced that

- to repeal discriminatory laws. Through this provision there will be no discussion about the topics related to discriminations or the law that

exist.

- lift up 30 years ban on leading anti-apartheid groups. These groups are specifically mentioned as ANC (African National Congress), PAC (Pan Africanist Congress), SACP (South African Communist Party) and UDF.
- End to Land Act. This led to the provision of owning land to every citizen of South Africa irrespective of any kind of discrimination.
- releasing Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader
- press freedom. The media was given the independence to declare and to bring the actual role played by each of the political parties. This was made to avoid diplomatic proceedings among leaders that eventually used to lead to nothing.
- suspend death penalty. There won't be any death penalty but for some cases lifelong imprisonment was kept as an option.

The conflicts related to apartheid were occasionally dismantled under a series of political negotiations. These were the series initiated from 1990 to the year 1993. Eventually the approaches got culminated in the elections that took place in 1994. This was the first election organized in South Africa under the provision of with universal suffrage.

The period from 1990 to 1996, was all under legal apparatus for dealing with the issues of apartheid; in order to abolish it from the root. In 1990 there were negotiations that were earnestly begun. The initiations were led by two meetings between the then ruling government, NP and ANC. The basic purpose of these meetings is to bring on some static negotiations. The ideology behind these negotiations was structured to get a way for a peaceful transition of political power within the state. These meetings were considerably much successful in bringing down the points for the

preconditioning future negotiations.

In spite of the attempts of these negotiations, there were continuous fears related to the matter of change of power in South Africa. The fears created more possibilities for violent issues. The persistent violence grew and was much intense to the expected condition this was mostly in reference to the rivalry between IFP that is Inkatha Freedom Party and ANC. This was further increased by the eruption of some of the selected traditional tribal as well as preconceived local rivalries. These violent activities are mostly marked between the local tribes of Zulu and Xhosa; especially in the regions of Southern Natal provinces. Though under political agenda Mandela and Buthelezi have a summit to settle all their differences and proceed for negotiations, they too could not stem up with the uprising violence among the people of the state. The rivalry between ANC against IFP led to the Boipatong massacre on the 17th June 1992, where 200 IFP militants were vigorously attacked within the Gauteng township of Boipatong, and led to enormous killings of 45 people.

The uproars of Bisho massacre on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Sept. 1992 was an issue that brought matters to the ultimate head. This was an issue where the Ciskei Defence Force killed a total gamut of 29 people and also injured 200 localities. This was done under a case of open firing over ANC marchers; that was demanding ultimate reincorporation of the Ciskei homeland into the territories of South Africa. There was also the violence led by the right-wing; that added enormous hostilities to this particular period. It is during this session, on 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1993, that the assassination of famous Chris Hani threatened the country to devastating thrust of chaos.

### 3. Application of Conflict Management

Conflict management has been recognized under the influence of situations of actual conflicts. It is a process that adds negotiations to an existent or emerging conflict. The proceedings are always initiated through properly structured and planned expression of very determined and exclusive patterns. The applications also deal with the basic reasons behind a particular conflict. The reasons for conflict or the issues related to it are not just simple inaptness. They are bigger in size and are often connected to some kind of long term negotiations or discriminated issues. Conflict management leads to conflict resolution. This is a post-condition phase that refers to the activities of resolving various levels of disputes, in order to gain approval of the stronger party or both the participatory parties. An amalgamation of conflict management and conflict resolution leads to most effective kind of solutions and brings an end to any kind of conflict. If a particular issue gets handled by just one of them then it is really hard to predict the time when the conflict will be taken over by peace. Understanding the reasons for a conflict is conflict management and adding strategies through conflict management to resolve a conflict is conflict solution. This is the reason that is one of them gets removed from the duo then the issue may lead itself to nowhere.

The theoretical application of conflict management for the identification of diversified structural goals to resolve long-term conflicts is the core concern while dealing with a conflict. In this case study the approach has been forwarded look over the application of theoretical conflict management perspectives on practical ground. The basic approach has been initiated through the recognition of many specific situations for resolving conflicts. These can be marked as follows:

- the establishment of a conflict can be attained through the integration of politically divided groups. this can be made possible within the

context related to the unitary form of political system;

- specific establishment as well as maintenance of absolute pluralistic institutions. This is a theoretical application that can be made possible on practical ground by considering the conflict within the context of absolute single state characterization. In this structure there is the need for both shared public institutions added by the separate civil societies;
- there is the need for political separation made either to create two of more states, among former single unit. This can be further demarcated through the creation of strong regional autonomy, especially within the context of relatively weak central state.

The issues of post-apartheid South Africa are all dealt under these theoretical perspectives. As for instance, in order to avoid all kinds of violent issues, there was a peaceful resolution created between all parties. Keeping this in mark in December 1991, there was the settlement of CODESA that is '*Convention for a Democratic South Africa*' was formed. The basic purpose of this formation was to look into a multiracial transitional government added by the provision of new constitution in terms of extending political rights to all the political participators and groups. It is through CODESA that a *Declaration of Intent* along with the scope to get committed to itself for an "undivided South Africa" was initiated. Further, there was the addition to the aftermath of Bisho massacre. It is here that Mandela and NP leader, De Klerk agreed to have proper political meeting to find out strong and full proof ways to end up the violent uproars within the country. As a result there was the appropriate resumption of negotiations.

### 3.1. Crucial Assistance by Outsiders



This is a theoretical proceeding that considers that the outsiders can well provide crucial assistance in terms of transitional societies. This can be marked especially in reference to the process of building local capacities. This is an approach forwarded by Walter, Hampson and Page Fortna. These theorists consider that peace agreements can basically attain success when there is an intervention led by some third party or parties. If this third party or parties can have an active role in the process of implementing peace then the local parties can come under the same roof. However this was a theory that straightly failed in case of South Africa. It is in South Africa; where the participation of outsiders was considered as relatively unimportant. During the phase of transition that is in the period from 1990 to 1994, the most accepted general consensus was that any kind of outside facilitation within the state for reaching or implementing any kind of agreement can make the matter go more crucial and chaotic. The participation of civil society from South Africa had an effective role in prohibiting any kind of third party involvement in the process of summit negotiations. They never permitted rather stopped the scope for any third party to get into the negotiation table between the political leaders.

### **3.2. Transitional justice**

There are considerations that through various forms of transitional justice, conflicts within a state can be well sorted. For the establishment of peace, these transitional justices can all progressive elements through negotiating patters. In order to deal with violent conflict within the state; transitional justice provides tough issues related to the matter of dealing with perpetrators of violence. This further gets added by the scope where these perpetrators get charged with the absolute kind of responsibility. As initiated by Minow, Horne and Levi, this theoretical approach to deal with political conflict shows response to three predominant elements of judicial

proceedings. These can be marked as follows;

(1) the first element is that of being under 'trials'. This is an aspect that is inclusive of all those issues that are for war crimes. The application of this aspect was found among the Allies during World War II added by those who initiated UN through International War Crimes Tribunal.

(2) the next in the row in the persuasion of 'Truth and Reconciliation Commissions'. By the application of this theoretical formulation there is the provision for gross human rights violations. The participants were invited to deliver their verdicts and thereby on the basis of their declarations and experiences some of them were put to public hearings. This was a theoretical approach that was very effective in dealing with the violent situations of South Africa during 1990-1994. The people who were a part of the violent structure were called under gross violations of human rights and some of them whose cases are severe were presented under strict political oppression;

(3) the last point in the list is that of 'reparations intended to attain compensation for victims'. It is the approach where large scale of violence caused both from materialistic and symbolic approaches; are investigated from the point of view of estimated recoded as per the losses and total amount of mass suffering. It is a proceeding that is identified as reparations to victims under judicial as well as political demands.

### **3.3. Reconciliation of Demands**

The theoretical proceeding for the purpose of initiating the process of reconciliation of demands led by the prominent post-conflict societies; was a common means for resolving conflict. It is a proceeding that estimated that there is the scope for modest evidence that has been associated with the



structure of lower future violence followed by the instances of civil wars. It is here that the theme of reconciliation has not been accepted as a concept to meet the interest of the political scientists. It is not effective until a whole community agrees for the same.

However under the modern political influence conflict mitigation among political leaders is the root for resolving social as well as political conflicts. This theoretical aspects has been initiated by Abu-Nimer, Bar-Siman-Tov and Ross. The success of this particular theory on practical ground has been attained through the support and emphasis led by human rights and the participation of transitional justice made available in recent years. Its implementations are further influenced by highly publicized South African Truth along with the persuasion of Reconciliation Commission. In terms of the transition phase of South Africa the application of this theory prove to be very effective. There were the scopes for demands for apology added by enough room for reparations. This has been further facilitated by requests for forgiveness for all those who were involved in any violent event yet want to repent. This was a provision that was followed in South Africa for the purpose of establishing peace in the country through reconciliation and the mode of forgiveness. However the formulation developed further on international periphery and these days it is a common feature made applicable in the contemporary post-conflict peace-building society.

#### **4. Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa**

The application of 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission' that is TRC was a mode of peace building structure made available in Africa to deal with all kinds of violent cases in the transitional phase from 1990 to 1994. The basic

structure of 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission' was in the form of a court that is actually an assembly in South Africa created for the abolition of issues related to apartheid. This particular structure witnessed all those people who were basically identified as general victims of gross human rights violations. These people are well invited to face a group of judges. In front of this group they need to make some confessions. These victims give statements related to their experiences and participation in various violent acts. According to the severity of the declarations some of these people will be further summoned for public hearings. All the perpetrators of violence were independent enough to provide testimony along with request amnesty for the purpose of meeting both civil as well as criminal prosecution.

Application of TRC as a mode of meeting the needs for conflict resolution attained considerable success. People from all over the world appreciated and accepted this new mode of transitioning criminals into layman. Basically well followed in South Africa during the early part of 19th century, TRC has been recognized as the basic element to fight against any kind of civil war or violence within the state. It is noteworthy to consider the strength of TRC as it has been operated and supported by three very strong committees. These committees can be recognized as follows:

- Human Rights Violations Committee with the provision to investigate human rights abuses
- Reparation and Rehabilitation Committee with the charge of restoring victims' dignity and to channelize proposals to assist communal rehabilitation
- Amnesty Committee, that has been considered for the provision of providing applications from individuals for amnesty as per the Act

On theoretical ground the role initiated by TRC is more about truth and the

process of reconciliation with well structured analysis made through concepts of justice, appropriate accountability, and probable preventions from any harm and above all the mode of reconciliation. This further leads to the process of competing perceptions related to peaceful notions of surrendering to the political format that is very specific in terms of South African context.

## 5. Conclusion

Eventually it can be well concluded that the dealings led for the establishment of peace after the transition phase of South Africa are partially meant through the theoretical application of conflict management and resolutions. The proceedings are all done as per the demand of society and the political pressure. However there cannot be any ignorance to the fact that these applications are also integral to the theoretical declarations made earlier by political scientists. The ultimate use of TRC is considered to the best possible mode to deal with peace building motivations. All kinds of changes that were counted in South Africa can be mostly credited to the exclusive efforts led by TRC. Though the contributions led by the political and the judiciary are also very strong yet the activities of TRC are predominant. It is very appropriate to consider that the settlements of conflicts in South Africa were more convenient due to the application of TRC in the upfront module. Its activities, like those of land restitution, added by institutional reforms and all kind of social and cultural initiatives played a very vital role in managing with the structural peace building process of South Africa.

The application of theoretical aspects thus cannot be ignored for more effective solutions. Though there are possibilities for variations, yet in most cases the theoretical approaches add enough support for political and social

success in dealing with violent uproars. It has been well established through the case study related to the transition period of South Africa, from 1990-1994. The peace-building approaches are theoretical to a great extent, though practical variations are obvious and cannot be ignored on the same ground. The persuasion of right theory in over the political crisis can make the system run in a smoother way. However the amalgamation of conflict management and conflict resolution is very important. The structure must follow the process of understanding the reason of the crisis to get the appropriate solution.