SOCIAL CONFLICTS: ORIGIN AND THEORETICAL APPROACHES

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Abstract: This article studies and analyzes the specific aspects of social conflicts that negatively affect the formation of human relations in society. The article considers issues related to the causes, sources and typology of social conflicts and reveals mechanisms, methods and tools aimed at improving their management in modern practice.

Keywords: Social conflict, theories of social conflicts, source of conflict, causes of conflict, regulatory mechanism, management methods.

Introduction. As society develops, various phenomena and processes constantly occur on Earth. Among these processes, social conflicts stand out and differ in their specific severity, frequency of development and diversity. Social conflicts have always accompanied the entire history of mankind with varying degrees of consequences. In some historical periods of human history, these conflicts did not remain confined to only one sphere of society, but sometimes covered entire countries and peoples. Even now, conflicts have become an integral part of our everyday life. Sometimes, even in conditions of cooperation and agreement, the existence of a conflict situation is an undeniable fact.

In different historical periods, thinkers, in one way or another, touched upon the causes of conflicts, emphasizing such qualities as interests, desires, demands, needs, interests, envy, jealousy, etc. that are always present among individuals in society.

Understanding and interpreting the phenomenon of conflict initially began within the framework of philosophy, which served as the basis for all socio-political sciences, and was later developed in a deeper form and content by other disciplines. If we look at history, it becomes clear that attempts to systematically study conflicts date back to the first millennium BC. It was during this period that the accumulated experience began to be analyzed in a generalized manner.

In the early period, the study of conflicts was largely abstract. Initially, attempts were made to study conflicts mainly between individual social groups, state power and society. Later, this area covered the study of economic, socio-class, political, interethnic and intragroup conflicts.

Literature and materials analysis. In the philosophical study of conflicts, the works of ancient philosophers, such as the Greek thinkers Epicurus, Heraclitus, Plato, Democritus, Aristotle, the Chinese philosopher Confucius, and other ancient scholars, were of particular importance. The conceptual ideas developed by these thinkers, reflecting contradictions, as well as the teachings about the struggle between opposing sides, were very important. Their research continues to form the ethical basis of modern conflictology.

Among these philosophers, Aristotle, in his work "Politics", studied the main causes of conflicts in society, mainly associating them with the fact that members of society have different characteristics. [1, 25-p].

The socio-ethical and legal ideas of Democritus also aroused great interest. He argued that "envy leads to hostility, which results in harm to each other; laws, of course, put an end to such arbitrariness and do not allow everyone to live as they want." [2, 81-p].

The ancient Chinese thinker Confucius tried to prove with his ideas that hatred and stubbornness, as well as conflicts, mainly cause inequality and individuality in people. He saw the root of conflict in the fact that society consists of "noble people" and "ordinary people". In other words,

if for noble people the basis of society is certain rules and laws, then ordinary people seek this basis in their own interests [3, 25-p].

In later periods, Aurelius Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Niccolo Machiavelli, and Francis Bacon put forward valuable ideas about the nature of the contradictions that arise in society and the positive or negative impact of these contradictions on the life of society.

The process of active scientific research of conflicts was carried out within the framework of classical sociology, which, after separating from philosophy, became an independent scientific field. The role of the "pioneers" of this field was played mainly by brilliant thinkers - O. Comte, K. Marx, G. Simmel. [4, 24-p].

Marxism's position on social conflicts was closely connected with its worldview based on class societies and historical materialism. According to Marxism, social conflicts arise from the class structure of society and the inequality in the distribution of the means of production. [5, 22-p].

According to Marx, under certain conditions, hidden class interests become explicit interests, which leads to the division of society into two classes united in revolutionary conflict. [6, 240-p]

Marx's above-mentioned idea was the main basis for criticism of his concept of conflict. It would not be correct to say that conflicts consist only of class conflicts. This simplifies the true essence of the issue.

It should be noted that the term "sociology of conflict" was first introduced into scientific literature by G. Simmel. G. Simmel considered conflict as a form of socialization. In his work "Social Differentiation", he clarified the essence of conflict and presented it as a contradiction between the parties fighting each other. [7, 14-p].

G. Simmel considered every conflict within society to be inevitable. It was from this point of view that he emphasized that conflict is a universal phenomenon, that conflict is not just a clash of interests, but something more productive, that is, it arises on the basis of people's instincts. [8, 38-p]

K. Boulding "General Conflict Theory", R. Dahrendorf "Conflict Model of Society", L. Kozer "Positive Functional Conflict" created fundamental theories that gave a significant impetus to the development of the science of conflictology. [8, 45-p]

Along with Western countries, one of the countries where conflictology is very widely developed is Russia. The 90s of the 20th century are considered a period when conflictology, which was limited during the USSR, was formed as an independent scientific field in the post-Soviet space, including Russia, and developed rapidly. The political, social, and ethnic conflicts that emerged after the collapse of the USSR increased interest in this field and opened the way for new research directions. During the USSR, the study of conflicts was limited for ideological reasons. Conflict was presented as a phenomenon characteristic of capitalist societies. With the liberalization of the political system in the 1990s, a neutral and scientific approach to conflicts became possible. Conflictology was combined with psychology, sociology, political science, and law. Against the background of serious changes taking place in society, ethnic conflicts, political confrontations, and social changes increased interest in this field, and the study of conflicts emerged as a practical need [3, 46-p].

Since this period, Russian researchers have attached special importance to the problem of conflict and have conducted many studies. The contribution to science in this area of the famous Russian conflictologists A. Dmitriev and V. Kudryatsev, who are considered the founders of conflictology in Russia, as well as other researchers V. Shalenko, Y. Zaprudsky, A. Antsupov, M. Vasiliev, A. Dorynin and P. Tsygankov is undeniable.

The above-mentioned Russian conflictologists conducted research in the following areas: Ethnic and national conflicts (Chechnya, Dagestan, the Caucasus region); Political and ideological

conflicts (new ideological platforms that emerged after the collapse of the USSR); Social conflicts arising from economic interests; Organizational and corporate conflict management; Psychological aspects of personal and intergroup conflicts. [9, 87-p]

The analysis of the essence of the conflict and theoretical and methodological approaches shows that both European and American scholars, as well as Russian conflictologists, approached the concept of conflict from different angles, from different perspectives, and although in some cases there was agreement on some issues, in the end they did not show a common position on this issue. More precisely, one group of researchers considered social conflict as a psychological factor, and another group as a sociological factor, interpreting it as tension between individuals, small groups, as well as large social groups within any state.

The most important of the main points that attracted our attention when reviewing the research on social conflicts conducted to date is the lack of a single definition of this complex, multi-spectrum phenomenon. Thus, each researcher studying social conflicts tries to define it in terms of the subject of the field it represents (for example, a teacher considers its impact on the educational process, a psychologist its psychological characteristics, a lawyer its impact on the social structure of the state, the legal system, a political scientist its possibilities of influencing the political system of society, political power, and a sociologist its negative and positive role in governing society as a whole), as a result of which its other specific features are ignored and it is interpreted according to a certain parameter.

Psychological research conducted by the University of Oxford in the UK has shown that in recent times, individuals have become more and more attached to a certain group (identity congruence) that has great influence and a dominant position in the field in which they operate, which increases conflict-prone behavior in society. However, the tolerance shown by these individuals can reduce the likelihood of real conflict in this case. [10, 14-p]

Discussion and results. Social conflict is understood as the transformation of the discontent of opposing sides - people, social groups or social forces - into ideological confrontation, "cold" confrontation and physical clashes of interests [11, 90-p].

The main source of social conflict is the stratification of society, its division into various groups, layers and classes. The contradiction between the productive forces and production relations in society gives rise to social conflicts that manifest themselves in the struggle between social layers, groups, classes; in the conflict between generations (in the family, in the organization); in the struggle between ethnic groups; in the conflicting activities of different religious communities; in the struggle between the bearers of newly emerging customs and traditions and the supporters of old customs and traditions [10, 33-p].

People always react strongly to changes in socio-economic conditions, based on their own interests. Naturally, the inability to satisfy any demand leads to conflicts. Differences in income levels, the almost complete absence of a middle class, and instability in economic, social, and political development lead to the emergence of conflicts. This is manifested both between people and at the level of organizations and society.

Identifying the causes of conflicts is very important for identifying, preventing, and finding constructive solutions to conflicts. Without knowing the driving forces of the conflict, it is impossible to exert a regulatory influence on it. It is impossible to influence the natural course of the conflict based only on descriptive models.

The emergence and development of conflicts is associated with the influence of several factors. These include: objective, organizational management, and socio-psychological factors. The first two groups of factors are objective. The third and fourth factors are subjective factors [12, 161-p].

Understanding the objective-subjective causes of conflicts is very important in finding ways to prevent interpersonal conflicts, choosing the optimal strategy of people's behavior during typical conflicts.

An example of objective causes of conflicts is the conditions that lead to a clash of interests, ideas and views of people in their social relations. Objective causes lead to the emergence of pre-conflict conditions. It plays the role of an objective component of pre-conflict conditions [4, 24-p].

Subjective causes of conflicts are mainly associated with the individual psychological characteristics of opponents. They choose a solution to the conflict based on the objectively contradictory conditions that have arisen. A person in no way agrees to a compromise solution to the problem, does not go to court, does not try to avoid the conflict and does not try to resolve the emerging contradiction in conditions of mutual understanding. On the contrary, he prefers a strategy of resistance. In practice, in any pre-conflict situation, there are several conflict-related or non-conflict solutions and options for the conflict. The reasons for a person's choice of a conflict option are, in principle, subjective [12, 165-p].

The results of the conducted social and socio-psychological studies allow us to identify the following main causes of social conflicts:

- Socio-economic reasons - conflicts arise as a manifestation and product of objective socio-economic contradictions in modern society.

- Socio-psychological reasons are formed on the basis of the needs, goals of activity and actions of individual people.

- Socio-demographic reasons - the diversity of goals and motives of behavior of people depending on their age and gender. [3, 87-p]

Types of social conflicts. The main types of conflicts are determined depending on the criterion adopted as the basis for classification. When the characteristics of the parties are taken as the basis for social conflicts, the following conflicts can be distinguished:

- interpersonal conflicts;
- conflicts between an individual and a group;
- intragroup conflicts;
- interpersonal conflicts;
- conflicts between small and large social associations;
- ethnic-national conflicts;
- organizational conflicts;
- corporate conflicts. [6, 241-p]

The mechanism of conflict resolution includes a number of measures aimed at minimizing their destructive impact and resolving them constructively. The concepts formed in the field of conflict resolution in the modern era are based on more theoretical foundations and try to comprehensively explain the influence of various social, political, cultural and economic factors on this process. These concepts, in addition to assessing the effectiveness of traditional methods of conflict resolution, offer new methods and approaches aimed at adapting them to modern conditions. Accordingly, the multifaceted nature of conflicts requires a differentiation of approaches in the process of their resolution.

The process of conflict resolution is multifaceted and complex, and the goal of this process can be aimed at stopping, resolving or changing (transforming) the conflict. Different conceptual explanations of these goals lead to the consideration of the possibilities of applying several methodological approaches to conflict resolution. [11, 15-p]

Therefore, the concepts of modern conflict resolution are a dynamically developing field in both theoretical and practical terms. Globalization, the impact of information technologies, transnational security problems and new geopolitical realities change the nature of conflicts, as well as update the means and methods of their resolution. Therefore, specialists working in the field of conflict resolution need to master multidisciplinary approaches and develop complex analytical skills.

Conclusions and suggestions. Preliminary analyses show that conflict, in the broad sense of the word, acts as one of the possible consequences of human activity in one or another sphere. It is manifested in various aspects of society - in everyday life, from the family to the state, in international relations. It is impossible to completely resolve or eliminate conflicts. Since there are societies and human communities with different characteristics, the existence of contradictions from this point of view is inevitable. However, by managing conflicts with certain methods, means and tools, it is possible to weaken them, minimize their harmful consequences and have a positive impact on them. This idea is valid both in society and in the regulation of conflicts arising within a specific social institution and social group.

The following proposals have been put forward to regulate social conflicts that disrupt human relations in society:

1. Development of dialogue and opening channels of communication.
2. Expanding the possibilities of mediation.
3. Development of spiritual and educational and special educational programs.
4. Improving the legislative framework and legal mechanisms for ensuring social justice and preventing violations of the law.
5. Developing intercultural dialogue and intergroup cooperation.
6. Forming a base of educational modules aimed at developing problem-solving skills in higher education institutions.

These measures will help prevent the emergence of social conflicts and peacefully resolve existing problems. In addition, individual strategies should be developed that correspond to the specific nature of the conflict and society.

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