

CONFLICTS AND DEVELOPMENT: SOCIO-PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS OF THE RATIO AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

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The purpose of this article is to offer a socio-philosophical analysis and methodology for studying the relationship between social conflict and development. Conflicts and development always accompany each other. However, not all development is accompanied by conflict. Therefore, we have to determine what kind of development we are dealing with, and what specific conflict it is accompanied by. In this regard, it should be emphasized that a number of conflicts lead to destructive consequences nullifying all development efforts. On the other hand, some conflicts can stimulate development and even determine what development is needed. Development is often caused by existing conflicts and contradictions that need to be resolved. To analyze the proposed topic of the article, the following tasks are considered: the links between conflict and development are analyzed, scenarios for the development of conflict using indicators are considered, and methodology for analyzing stable development is revealed. The application of developed methods is possible not only in the analysis of specific conflicts, but also in the diagnosis of conditions and factors in the development of specific regions and territories.

Key words: conflicts, institutions, resources, development, stability, development indicators, region, actors.

[А.М. Чеченов, З.А. Атабиева Конфликты и развитие: социально-философский анализ соотношения на региональном уровне]

Предложен социально – философский анализ и методология по изучению взаимосвязи социального конфликта и развития. Конфликты и развитие всегда сопровождают друг друга. Однако не всякое развитие сопровождается конфликтом. Поэтому приходится определять, с каким именно развитием мы имеем дело, и каким конкретным конфликтом оно сопровождается. Подчеркнуто, что ряд конфликтов приводит к деструктивным последствиям, сводящим к нулю все усилия по развитию. С другой стороны, некоторые конфликты могут стимулировать развитие и даже определять, какое развитие нужно. Развитие часто вызывается существующими конфликтами и противоречиями, которые нужно разрешить. Анализируются связи между конфликтом и развитием, рассматриваются сценарии развития конфликта с помощью индикаторов и раскрывается методология анализа стабильного развития. Подчеркнуто, что применение разработанных методов возможно не только при анализе конкретных конфликтов, но и при диагностике условий и факторов развития конкретных регионов и территорий.

Ключевые слова: конфликты, институты, ресурсы, развитие, стабильность, индикаторы развития, регион, акторы.

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The comparison of conflicts with development focuses on the consideration of conflict as one of the elements of social dynamics. After all, the prevention of economic stagnation and crises is based on institutions which flexibility and effectiveness prevent both costly social disasters and clashes. Good intentions in economics, politics or ecology almost always face resistance to the already established relationship between economics and politics, traditional and innovative institutions, the ruling elite and shady magnates.

To analyze the proposed topic of the article, it is necessary to solve the following problems:

1. To analyze the link between conflict and development.
2. To consider scenarios of conflict development with the help of indicators.
3. To reveal the methodology of stable development analysis.

1. The link between conflict and development. The desire to consider history, society from the point of view of social evolution, progress, directions and stages of development was shared by many well-known philosophers of Western Europe and Russia. A. Comte and K. Marx introduced opposing, but clearly justifying, provisions on the place of development in social knowledge and process, into the concept of social development. If their positions are generally indicated, then A. Comte connected procedurality with social statics and social dynamics. At the same time, the principle of development was in the center of social dynamics. K. Marx, developing the Hegelian principle of unity of logical and historical, introduced into social philosophy the principle of global change of society along the path of development and change of social formations [5, p. 63].

K. Popper worked on fundamental issues of social development. Based on the socio-philosophical perspective, he considered that social development is an unpredictable process, because it is influenced by the growth of knowledge, which is unpredictable itself. He considered that development is a unique social process. It can be described in various ways, but it cannot be approached from the point of view of any universal law, which explains the repetition of only identical, and not unique cases [6, pp. 42-43].

E. Gellner noted certain shortcomings of the evolutionary approach to the study of social change and historical development in many works and, especially, in the work "Conditions of Liberty: civil society and its rivals" [2].

The theoretical foundations explaining the fundamental connection between conflict and social development (in the broad sense of this concept) were laid by Ralf Dahrendorf in his fundamental work "Trails from Utopia." The Dahrendorf sociology of conflict considers conflict regulation as a social dynamic that cannot be functionally analyzed. It critically disassociates itself from systemic and structural social theory, focused on understanding the dynamics of society within the framework of an equilibrial and oscillatory concept [4, p. 57].

Conflicts often dictate which priority development activities is needed by the community. In this case, even methods of conflict management can "determine" a particular development:

1. Military coercion to peace and the import of institutions of the peaceful management of conflicts require large financial investments. Successful in the early

stages, this path can nullify all efforts if its own institutions, well rooted in local communities, do not appear (Afghanistan).

2. Support and encouragement of existing, to varying degrees, well-established institutional arrangements that initially focus on low levels of violence in conflict management (a widely used path in many conflict regions).

3. Demonstration of successful development through enhanced assistance and dissemination of information on the success of a region or a State.

Actions, aimed at changing the way conflicts are managed, are often referred to as **intervention**. This term, in fact, is more suited to more veiled actions in the form of transfer of knowledge and experience, humanitarian and economic assistance. Some researchers associate intervention with the non-colonial aspirations of rich states seeking to dictate their rules for conflict management and life organization [1]. However, development activities often lead to the conflict intensification. The example of this is the assistance to African States in the 1960-1970s, the purpose of which was economic support, but as a result a serious contribution was made to the strengthening of the local oligarchy and clans who began to use violence (in fact, with money supplied by donors).

The link between conflict and development can now be seen *in three strategies*:

1. *The conflict broke away from social development.* At the same time, own "economy" of violence, markets of violence, etc. can be formed. "Entrepreneurs" operating in the violence market are not interested in changes.

2. *Dynamic stability. Conflicts occur with development activities.* They are actively changing society, in the process of clashing interests, new, more advanced institutions are being developed. The level of violence is high, but does not lead to mass tragic processes. In the end, optimal conditions are developed for combining development and regulating existing conflict relations. The example is some states and autonomous republics of the Caucasus. However, not every conflict leads to the dynamic stability.

3. *All attention is paid to the conflict;* stability gives a certain legitimacy to the authorities. However, the one-sided emphasis on the neutralization of conflict factors leads to stagnation in all areas. The achieved temporary stability can be accompanied by the increase in dormant tension.

Development activities in the conflict region are accompanied by the provision of information on it and the development of related activities. Through a change in the external conditions of the conflict, there is an indirect influence on the dynamics of the conflict itself. Work in the conflict environment itself is often aimed at minimizing the adverse impact of the conflict (humanitarian assistance, improving the conditions of refugees, provision of essential life needs). Here it is important to observe the principle of "do no harm," that is, do not fuel the flame. For example, large amounts of aid and economic means can lead to conflict between local actors over control over access to them and distribution of those funds.

When working directly with a conflict, experts follow the following assumptions:

1. The rule-of-law states and the developed institutions of the civil community prevent the escalation of conflicts;

2. Conflicts are de-escalated if prejudices are destroyed and shared interests are identified.

The dynamics of conflict and its transformation should be distinguished from the development of society. The conflict development means reaching a new level of struggle, often for other values and between a large number of actors. Such a development is often called modernization (update). The conflict transformation is understood as a change in the interaction of the conflicting parties, resulting from external efforts, but not necessarily affecting the essence of the conflict process. Thus, transformation in this case can be comparable to those constantly

changing processes and phenomena in society that do not necessarily lead to the unidirectional trend.

For the analysis of regional conflicts development at the present stage, a scenario representation of ways to further development of the situation can be useful. Scenario development can be based on the use of retrospective data (analysis of past events in a given country or a region and identification of trends), as well as on the comparison of current processes taking place in neighbouring regions or countries. **The method of regional analogues** admits that regions close in conditions are very likely to experience similar scenarios and transformations. Therefore, attracting information on the dynamics of conflict in one region helps to predict the further development of the conflict in another.

2. Consideration of conflict development scenario using indicators. The search for possible scenarios of the conflict development requires, firstly, clearly *justified indicators*, and secondly, an assessment of the overall effect when several indicators are superimposed to identify changes and, for example, to calculate the likelihood of conflict institutionalization. It is important to identify which indicators reflect the process of institutionalization and regulation within a peaceful framework and which show a high risk of de-institutionalization and violence.

The use of "early warning of conflict" indicators is common in the practice of international non-governmental organizations. Such instruments, using a number of direct and indirect signs of economic condition, social well-being, etc., are very useful at certain stages of conflict research. However, the use of statistics alone is hardly sufficient to detect the dynamics of a conflict. Without empirical studies of actors and institutions, one can draw only superficial conclusions about the course of a conflict, without revealing the essence of conflict dynamics.

Indicators can be selected and evaluated using more or less matched quantitative data. The most important thing is how to aggregate (integrate into the system) various stability indicators. The following principles are important: avoid a one-sided approach to the assessment of various indicators, take into account the short-term and long-term perspective (characteristic time of the indicator) and take into account the inequality of indicators at the local and regional levels.

At the present stage, based on the working material, the methods have begun to be developed for specific regions, which can "measure" stability to one degree or another. These include simple summation and benchmarking of indicators, analysis of process relationships, and analysis of individual key indicators.

Comparative analysis of indicators is possible on the basis of the development of the assessment single scale of development various aspects with further assignment of assessment points. Using the methodology for other regions, a comparative analysis of the "sustainability" of different regions can be carried out.

The main disadvantage of this method is the "weight" inequality of variables. Therefore, an alternative method can be the analysis of selective, most explicit parameters. So, studying the dynamics of the population, you can draw important conclusions about the development of this region. For example, accelerated depopulation and departure from the region demonstrates the generally unsustainable nature of development. The same applies to the presence of violent conflicts that negate all other indicators of the region, such as good ecology, etc. [8, pp. 414-418].

Typically, the analysis of changes that occur begins with a comparison with available data, which is limited both in the time interval and according to the set of parameters. Most researchers study, in fact, only very short parts of the trajectories, which are incomplete links of various changes. This problem is referred to as the problem of choice (*substantiation of representativeness*) of the basic level (*baseline problem*). In local studies (at the local

community level), the choice of this baseline is often decided not by giving preference to a particular temporal juncture, but by a more detailed and comprehensive analysis of many processes at the current moment. In some cases, when it concerns peripheral areas that are not provided with socio-economic information in past years, the researcher, in fact, has no alternatives, except to study the current state in detail. Due to the "contact" and in-depth study of various processes and a reasonable choice of parameters, a diagnosis of the modern state of the studied object (specific region, territory, local community, etc.) is provided [7].

3. Methodology of stable development analysis. Stable development is differently understood and found in the relevant scientific literature. This concept is often used in research and scientific reports by sociologists, political scientists, economists, managers. Differences in the definition of stability have many grounds. Critical issues:

1. What indicators are used: is a very strict and defined set of indicators considered, or does the researcher remain at the level of subjective selection of individual indicators?

2. Are these indicators direct or indirect (when the connection with stability still needs to be proved)?

3. Do these indicators characterize the region as a whole, or does the researcher drop to a lower (local) level and then synthesize the indicators?

The working definition of stability includes the following indicators: actual security, management efficiency, economic growth and the ability to adapt to external changes [3, pp. 111-114].

The most common approach to assessing the stability of a region or a country is the integration of these indicators into relevant indicator clusters:

A) **Actual security** must be understood as the level of coercion and violence that a community allows. For some regions with traditional communities, bride theft and blood revenge are inherent, which are not considered abnormal, therefore, such a level of violence can be considered quite acceptable. Actual human security reflects the full security of everyone living in the region, their confidence in ensuring this security, by state and public institutions that maintain a monopoly on security. Direct indicators indicating actual security include: criminal statistics, lack of coercion on sexual or other grounds, uncertainty about social protection, preservation of the health of one's and his loved ones, the formation of local unofficial organizations that provide protection as an alternative form to official bodies (both legally registered and semi-criminal "authorities, senior"). Indirect indicators include migration processes of departure and arrival of new people, the number and duration of working night institutions, and their attendance.

B) **Effectiveness of governance** includes functioning institutions of governance (state and civil) that are able to reliably and predictably solve problems and conflicts and ensure the legitimacy of state and public order. As a rule, effectiveness of governance is characterized by such indicators as the level of corruption, the activity and openness of election campaigns, and freedom of information. Most data can only be obtained through interviews and surveys. Official statistics can hardly be used here.

C) The ability to **economic growth** implies the efficient use of domestic resources that provide an existential base for the population in response to growing needs. This block is the most extensive and relies on the use of various statistics on the level of poverty, unemployment, demographic growth, life expectancy, education, health care. It is believed that low rates of poverty, unemployment, as well as high levels of education, life expectancy, etc., indirectly indicate a certain high level of stability. However, this assumption can only be true at a certain, sufficiently high, level of indicators from other blocks.

D) The important aspect of stability is ***the ability of institutions to change*** and develop themselves without violating basic values. Even with externally prosperous indicators of security, governance and development, a society, a region may have a relatively low level of stability. The indicators of this block are usually indirect. These indicators include, for example, the use of the Internet, the number of local tourists, the diversification of the local economy and its use of the latest technologies [1].

Thus, in the current context, where the boundaries between different worlds and cultures, nations and economic systems are undergoing significant transformations, the diversity of conflict situations is increasing. Each conflict is unique in its own way.

At the same time, the question arises whether typical research steps in the study of the conflict are possible in different regions and different conditions. The general algorithm, which, in our opinion, can be universal for all regions, consists in three steps: 1) analysis "piece by piece," i.e. by the elementary units of all parties of the conflict situation (what, where, when); 2) synthesis of elementary units on an institutional basis and the establishment of the nature and tightness of dependencies between them to answer the questions of how and why a conflict occurs; 3) determining the patterns of institutional dynamics of conflict in order to predict the development of conflict in these or other conditions with some degree of probability.

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