

## **GST 222: PEACE STUDIES AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

### **THEME: A History of Conflicts in Nigeria and Processes to Restore Peace**

#### **Outline**

- What is Conflict
- Causes of Conflicts
- Examples of Conflicts from Pre-colonial Era till Present
- Means of Solving Conflicts

#### **What is Conflict?**

A conflict is a disagreement, clash of contending interests, beliefs, opinions, needs, rules or principles which is usually protracted.<sup>1</sup> In other words, conflict arise out of the difference in the matter of discussion which can be beliefs, thought, opinions, principles, and others. Conflict is as old as the history of mankind and because our needs are insatiable, when the means to meet them appear impossible we are compelled to resort to other means. Those in custody of the other means to achieving what you need will do everything possible to prevent access and the need to access it through force become inevitable. What this then means is that the one that desire access to what he or she does not have will have to confront the one in possession of the means to achieving the needs. The end result can only be conflict. It is must however, be noted that all conflicts are resolved through different means as the causes of the conflicts vary in pattern, dimension and location per time with different dramatis personae. Conflict can be local, zonal, national, regional, continental or global depending on the issues involved and the dimension of the issues that orchestrated the conflicts.

#### **Causes of Conflicts**

- Misinformation
- Environment
- Skills
- Values protection
- Identity<sup>2</sup>
- Propaganda
- Lack of trust
- Inherited histories of past bad deeds

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of *conflict* (Entry 1 of 2). Merriam Webster Dictionary <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conflict>

<sup>2</sup> Gihan Perera (22 May, 2021). The Five Main Causes of Conflict in Distributed Teams- and How to Manage Them. CMI. Accessed on November 6, 2022 at <https://www.managers.org.uk/2knowledge-and-insights/article/manage-five-causes-conflict-distributed-teams/> Also Vilendrrelaw Blog Posts. "The Five Main Causes of Conflict and How Mediation can Resolve Them" <https://www.vilendrrelaw.com/five-main-causes-conflict-mediation-can-resolve>

- Need for expansion
- Supremacy and vain glory
- Failed promises
- Betrayal
- Ideological differences
- Dispute over land
- Acquisition of weapons
- False alarm

### **Examples of Conflicts from Pre-colonial Era till Present**

- Yoruba Inter-State Wars (1793 - 1893)
- Sokoto Jihad (1804 - 1809)
- Battles in the Oguta/Owerri area (November 1901)
- Battles of Esu Itu (December 1901)
- Battles of Arochukwu (December 1901)<sup>i</sup>
- Battle of Edimma (January 1902)
- Battle of Ikotobo (January 1902)
- Battle of Ikorodaka (February 1902)
- Battle of Bende (March 1902)
- Ekumeku Movement (1883–1914)
- Anglo-Aro War (1901–1902)
- Aba Women Riot (1929)
- Ogun Okuta of 1931
- Jos Riot of 1948
- Tiv/Jukun conflict
- Kano Riot of 1953
- Congo Crisis (1960–1964)
- 1966 Nigerian coup d'état (1966)
- 1975 Nigerian coup d'état (1975)
- 1976 Nigerian coup d'état attempt (1976)
- Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970)
- 1983 Nigerian coup d'état (1983)
- Chadian–Nigerian War (1983)
- Ife/Modakeke wars
- Ijo/Ilaje war
- Conflict in the Niger Delta (2004–Present)
- Orlu Crisis (2021– Present)
- Farmers/Herders conflict
- Militancy in the Niger-Delta
- Kidnapping for ransom

## **Means of Solving Conflicts**

1. Mediation
2. Arbitration
3. Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism (ADR)
4. Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)
5. Alliance building
6. Concession
7. Compensation
8. Granting of independence
9. Peace pact
10. Make peace, build on the peace and keep the peace
11. War

THANK YOU.

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- i. NIGERIA: A History of Conflicts (31 March 2003) Conflict Analysis. The New Humanitarian Organization. Accessed on November 6, 2022 at <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2003/04/01>
  - ii. Norwich Edu. Academic Programs, Resources, Five Major African Wars and Conflicts of the Twentieth Century <https://online.norwich.edu/academic-programs/resources/five-major-african-wars-and-conflicts-of-the-twentieth-century>

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- iii. Eghosa E. Osaghae and Rotimi T. Suberu. "A History of Identities, Violence, and Stability in Nigeria" Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity, CRISECRISE WORKING PAPER No. 6 (January 2005).
  - iv. Francisca Akunna Ezenwoko, and Joseph Inegbenedbho Osagie, "Conflict and Conflict Resolution in Pre-Colonial Igbo Society of Nigeria". Journal of Studies in Social Sciences ISSN 2201-4624 Volume 9, Number 1, 2014, 135-158.
  - v. Ezeogidi, Cynado. (2019). Conflict Resolution in Traditional Pre-colonial Igbo Society. 1. 71.