

CONFLICT BETWEEN BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE: SOME PERSPECTIVES FROM FOREIGN SCHOLARS

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Abstract: *Research on conflicts from the perspective of foreign scholars provides a profound insight into the nature and consequences of conflicts worldwide. By approaching the issue from various angles, specifically economic, cultural, social, and environmental, and employing different research methods, scholars have offered multifaceted analyses of the causes and geographical, cultural, and political factors that create and sustain conflicts. The research conducted by foreign scholars lays the foundation for developing effective strategies and policies to address and prevent conflicts in the future. Moreover, it helps generate essential and extensive understanding for building a stable and peaceful world.*

Keywords: *Conflict, businesses, industrial park residents, foreign scholars.*

1. Introduction

Conflict is one of the most common and inevitable phenomena throughout world history, from national to social and personal conflicts (Kriesberg, 2007). Research to understand the origins, nature, and consequences of conflict is extremely important, helping us to effectively prevent and resolve problems (Fisher, 2000). In the current context, when the world is facing many complex challenges and changes, studying conflict has become more necessary than ever. Only by understanding the nature and workings of conflict can we find appropriate solutions and build a peaceful, just, and sustainable future.

This research employs a combination of approaches to gain a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of conflicts between businesses and people. The systems approach helps to view conflict as a complex system with multiple interacting factors (Churchman 1968). The holistic approach focuses on analyzing conflict from different perspectives, including economic, political, cultural, and social aspects (Dahrendorf, 1958). The functional approach examines the role of conflict in promoting social development and change (Coser, 1957). The social conflict approach emphasizes the differences in interests and power between social groups (Chafetz, 1990). Finally, the interdisciplinary approach combines knowledge from various fields to address the issue comprehensively (Kriesberg, 2007).

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This research is conducted based on qualitative and quantitative methods to collect and analyze real-world data from stakeholders such as residents, businesses, and local authorities. Additionally, secondary information is gathered from documents, reports, and previous studies to establish the theoretical foundation of the research. The combination of these research methods ensures the objectivity and reliability of the research findings, contributing to a multi-faceted and comprehensive view of the conflict between businesses and local people.

2. Content

2.1. Economic-social conflicts

The study by Moges Gobena (2010) pointed out the consequences of land acquisition on the livelihoods of Ethiopian farmers, including impacts on livelihoods, food security, and sustainable management of natural resources. The study concluded that to create a situation that benefits both parties, it is necessary to ensure the participation of all stakeholders, assess environmental impacts, and implement policies to support livelihoods and job creation (Haslam & Ary Tanimoune, 2016). However, in reality, the implementation of land acquisition projects has not met the necessary conditions, causing conflicts between the people and businesses when people are not involved in the process and there are no livelihood support policies.

In China, Kathy Le Mons Walker also paints a similar picture. According to him, between 1986 and 1995, 27.5 million hectares of land were acquired. The total cultivated land area decreased by 120 million hectares in the following eight years, from 1996 to 2004. By 2005, over 40 million Chinese farmers had lost their agricultural land, and the number of farmers losing their land continued to increase at a rate of two million per year. Land acquisition has disrupted traditional livelihoods and survival foundations, leading to resistance and conflict between farmers and businesses, although they have ultimately been unsuccessful (Bui Quang Dung, 2007). These reactions stem from the farmers' concerns about their livelihoods when they no longer have production land, becoming a new population class with “three no's”: no land, no employment, and no social security (as cited in Bui Quang Dung, 2007).

In developing countries, land is vital for the survival of farmers. Separating them from the land would cause many difficulties in their livelihoods and their spiritual values. For example, Indian farmers do not truly bond and express their full potential in agricultural production because they have to submit a large amount of their harvest each season. In contrast, farmers in Yotwary keep the entire agricultural product they make, so they are very productive. When land is taken away from farmers, they are forced to change their livelihoods, become self-employed laborers, work in factories, or become farm laborers on their land (as cited in Bui Quang Dung, 2007).

2.2. Cultural conflicts

Nguyen Chi Tinh (2011) presents a cultural conflict related to cultural identity in certain national and ethnic environments, such as modern-day Russia. The author describes a

clear division in present-day Russia: some openly support and benefit from the Westernization of Russia, while many strongly oppose cultural trends they perceive as going against the development of the Russian people. The author also notes that cultural conflict and struggle here are very difficult because it not only touches upon the perceptions, habits, and lifestyles of some people but also affects the interests of those who are not truly Russian, who benefit from cultural assimilation and have no concept of their own cultural identity - those who wield significant physical and spiritual influence on Russia.

Nguyen Chi Tinh (2012) analyzed the conflict in China between traditional culture and Western influences. While recognizing the benefits of cultural exchange, the Chinese emphasize the need to protect and enrich their own culture by adapting foreign elements to suit their unique context and traditions. This approach benefits both Chinese culture and foreign brands.

2.3. Environmental conflicts
Currently, there are two different perspectives on environmental conflicts. The first perspective is from the ENCOP (The Environment and Conflicts Project) group, led by Gunther Baechler and Libiszewski (cited in Thang & Ha, 2014), who believe that environmental conflict is a political, social, economic, religious, territorial, ethnic, or any other form of conflict. These are traditional conflicts caused by environmental degradation.

The second research group, led by Thomas Homer-Dixon, proposes that environmental conflicts are intense conflicts driven by environmental scarcity, which can arise from increased demand, resource depletion, or unequal distribution.

In the Philippines, only about 3% of the population occupies around 25% of the agricultural land in the country, while 60% of rural households have very little land to support their families. Deforestation has exacerbated soil erosion in lowland areas, reducing agricultural productivity, and forcing farmers to migrate to higher regions to make a living (Bob & Bronkhorst, 2011).

Famine ravaged Ethiopia in the 1980s, in the context of Afar pastoralists migrating to traditional agricultural areas, leading to conflicts between farming and livestock herding groups. The famine was primarily caused by drought, in addition to other factors such as population growth, soil degradation, and crop destruction. About 50% of the highlands were severely eroded, and 4% exceeded their capacity for recovery. The migration of pastoralists to traditional farming areas increased demands on already scarce resources and led to prolonged conflicts (Bob & Bronkhorst, 2011).

One key environmental factor has combined with increasing drought and famine, to provoke the increasing migration of the Ishaq people into the Ogaden Area: desertification of the land and overgrazing. The conflict between the Ishaq and the Ogaden (two Somali herding groups) has been ongoing for decades (Bob & Bronkhorst, 2011).

Environmental factors, particularly water scarcity due to uneven distribution and pollution, have significantly impacted both the Palestinian internal conflict and the Palestine-Israel conflict. The economic decline in Gaza resulting from water scarcity has created opportunities for support from groups like Hamas, further fueling conflict.

In 1967, Israel engaged in a war against Arab countries in part because the Arabs attempted to redirect the headwaters of the Jordan River that provided water to Israel. Since the 1967 war, water has remained a priority in Israel's security strategy. Water is intimately tied to the political and cultural fabric of Israel, and the West Bank aquifers provide 25-40% of Israel's water supply. The state of Israel, however, has not been able to adequately address the issue of water scarcity in the West Bank. Consequently, water scarcity could hinder relations between Israel and the Arab (Bob & Bronkhorst, 2011).

The Stanford Environmental Assessment Project suggests climate change will heighten the risk of international conflict. Climate-related disasters are creating resource scarcity, potentially leading to internal conflicts and even genocide. Unresolved internal conflicts can destabilize entire regions, as evidenced by historical examples (Vu Cao Dam, 2002).

Climate change has significant impacts on social, economic, and ecological systems and processes, leading to increasing economic and social inequality at both local and global levels (IPCC, 2007). Human activities related to climate change include deforestation/natural ecosystem destruction and land cover transformation, introduction of invasive species, agriculture production, fossil fuel burning, and inefficient resource management and utilization.

2.4. The results of conflicts

As Coser (1957) mentioned, conflict in a social system can impact the functions of that society, particularly leading to destruction or positive change such as the emergence of innovation and creativity (Kriesberg, 2007). Historical processes have also recognized that conflict not only creates new norms and institutions but also directly stimulates economic and technological development.

Conflicts between businesses and local communities are a prime example of such social tensions. These conflicts often arise due to competing interests over resources, land use, and environmental impact. While they can lead to negative consequences like protests, violence, and economic disruption, they can also stimulate positive change.

3. Conclusion

We have introduced an overview of some studies on conflicts by foreign scholars in the fields of economics, culture, society, and environment. These studies have provided a comprehensive view of the challenges and opportunities in cooperation and exchange between countries and peoples. The results of the research make an important contribution to building and maintaining peace and global stability. By analyzing the causes and consequences of conflicts, researchers can propose policy solutions and conflict resolution methods more effectively. It can be said that research by foreign scholars on conflict issues plays an important role in improving understanding and creating understanding strategies for resolving conflicts between objects in society. The dedication of researchers in this field makes an important contribution to building a peaceful and cooperative world.

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