

①
Course - BBA/BCA sub-OB

Topic - Nature & Process of conflict

→ The idea of conflict is basic to our understanding and appreciation of our exchange with reality - of human action. Conflict can be treated broadly as a philosophical category denoting the clash of power against power in the striving of all things to become manifest.

The concept of conflict is multidimensional, it envelops a family of forms. We select one depending on our analytical purposes and practical problem, because my concern is to understand conflict as a social field phenomena.

Reality comprises multiform and interwoven potentialities, dispositions and powers. What aspect becomes manifest depends on the dialectical confrontation between this reality and our perspective, which is a power, an outward directed vector. What we perceive is the result of the conflict b/w this vector and reality's inward bearing vector of power. (e.g. b/w a baby's cry and what we are focusing on at the moment.)

Such is the view of reality provided by the field approach. Conflict is not a balance, an equilibrium of powers. It is not a stable resultant. Conflict is the pushing and pulling, the giving and

(?)

taking, the process of finding the balance b/w powers. Most fundamentally, therefore conflict is correlative to power. Power, is the capability to produce efforts, effects, process of powers meeting and balancing. Conflict is therefore universal, as our very experience presupposes conflict in its generation, and our knowledge.

Levels: As a balancing of powers, conflict embodies the levels of potentiality, dispositions or manifestations.

Potentiality, is what may become, it is the space of possibilities, as the space of a blackboard, is the realm of all the two-dimensional figures and forms that may be drawn on it.

Potentiality is only one level of reality. A second is that of dispositions and powers of potentialities transformed into tendencies towards specificity & their strength to be so manifest. At this level we can discriminate b/w two facets of conflict.

Reality is a multidimensional space of potentialities and multifold, divergent, congruent, intersecting, and opposing dispositions. Eg - Two such dispositions are oxygen and hydrogen, which have the tendency to form a dynamic balance called water.

(3)

The final level of reality is of manifestations; the level of manifest conflict, of conflict behaviour, where the opposition of powers is specific. Eg; for water enclosed in a pipe, the simultaneous heating and freezing of the two ends; the situation of conflict - manifests a rapid circulation of water; that reflects the balancing of powers - the struggle of the opposite tendencies within the water.

Consequently, the balancing process occurs both at the level of dispositions and powers and of manifest effects.

finally, there is the balance of powers, the momentary equilibrium established b/w the opposing powers. This balance is manifest, determinate. A balance of powers is no longer a conflict. It is a system of manifest effects.