INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES BULLETIN
ISSN: (E) 3007-1917 (P) 3007-1909
Volume 4, Issue 3, 2026

THEORY OF CONFLICT: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF PAKISTAN

Taimoor Kamal Malik

University of Sargodha

taimoorkamal@hotmail.com

Corresponding Author: *
Taimoor Kamal Malik
DOI: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21492935

Received	Accepted	Published
26 January 2026	11 March 2026	25 March 2026

ABSTRACT

It has been a hot bed of controversy that what political system is the best suited to Pakistan. The politicians and the political analyst tried their best to untie the entwined skein of this dialectic issue of a suitable system. The present article is an attempt in this regard. The Article can easily be segregated into two parts viz-a-viz., the part-1 and the part-2. The part -1 dilates upon the history of the term Conflict and its various dimensions by enumerating the factors of creation of a conflict. This part also highlights various Conflicts that changes the course of history. It also dwells upon the origin of the term Theory and also enumerates various types of theories and how an idea becomes a theory; what are the evolutionary stages of a theory. Once that theoretical framework passes, the Article then focuses upon the political system of Pakistan and the nature of conflict that has bedraggled this political system of Pakistan. It helps in distinguishing various types of political conflicts trends and nature of conflicts. It spells the factors that caused creation of conflicts and the above all, it also highlights the latest type and dimension of conflict i.e., the Constitutional Conflict under the present hybrid regime. The Article tries to envisage the entire gamut of concept of conflict from a different angle and tried to put it across to the readers for a comprehension with historical backdrop.

INTRODUCTION

The genesis of conflict can be traced back from the Heaven when the Satan refused to kowtow before Adam and showed disobedience to the command of Allah Almighty. That was the debutante conflict ever reported. In the words of John Milton in the Paradise Lost;

"Fruit of that forbidden tree
That brought death to this World".

This Fortune Fall-the Felix Culpa resulted in first conflict between two sons of Adam i.e., Abel and Cain which resulted into murder of one brother in the hands of the other brother. This jealousy or lust in inhabited in the nature of human being. It is one of the basic instincts that could not stop or hold at bay the element of conflict amongst the people at large. As the society grew into and evolved, the types and patterns of conflict also metamorphosed, changed and became protean. A conflict assumed many forms from social to political to economical to ideological to philosophical; in short, conflict bedraggled the entire gamut of life. In recent times, many theories and many forms of conflict popped up. Conflict is always a mean to an end and not the end itself. In Karl Marx's philosophy, conflict is the epitome of thesis and ant-thesis and the moral of this is to find the synthesis. At the very outset, this paper tries to trace back the nuances and implication of the term Theory, its'

types and then moves forward to the concept of theory of Conflict, its purposes and the necessity in evolution of human being especially when he has become a gregarious and political animal. The present paper also tries to ferret out the origin of conflicts, its ramifications, approaches to discern to solve a conflict and types and various manifestation of conflict with special reference to political polity of Pakistan.

Statement of Problem

In every walk of life, there exists a theory and with the evolution of human being the concept of conflict emerges. Conflict is an all-embracing phenomenon and the question arises that can there be any facet of life free of conflict and does conflict really aids in development and evolution? Is the political system of Pakistan marred by the concept of conflict?

Research Methodology

The research revolves around tracing the origin of the word theory, then it lays bare its types and find the origin of theory of conflict, its evolution and types. The research paper is descriptive in nature and mainly secondary sources have been relied upon for this Paper. The Paper is divided into two parts viz-a-viz., the first part dilates upon the theoretical side of theory and theory of conflict highlighting its coinage of terms , types, approaches and significance whereas the second part dwells upon the various nature of conflicts that have infested the body-politic of Pakistan.

Significance of Research

The topic is much sought after thing that actually tries to find why conflict arose and what have been its causes and can conflict be avoided. Moreover, it lays bare but advances the argument that conflict helps is arriving at a solution or synthesis of any hypothesis. Conflicts are essential for growth of human being.

Part-01 Theory and Evolution of Conflict

What is Theory?

The term theory is defined as "A theory is a systematic and rational form of abstract thinking about a phenomenon, or the conclusions derived from such thinking". The term "theory" originated from the Greek word "theoria" It signifies a sort of rational thinking which may be pre-judged or even based upon certain set of speculations. Gradually, the meaning encompassed all sorts of disciplines ranging from pure science to social science to applied mathematics to fine arts. In nutshell, theory started theorizing each and every aspect of life.

A theory actually refers to and highlights a determined set of agreed norms, beliefs and settled cannons of a life- whether urban or rustic- ratios to explicate and clarify the issues and leitmotifs. Whereas, a conflict actually aims at arriving at a conclusion by resolving the issue which may have different dimensions and consequences. A conflict can be either of the following- scientific, philosophical, social, personal, sectoral or emotional-depending upon the issue in hand. Sometimes, the conflict may be outcome of any experience, creativity, observations, whims or eccentricities.

Types of Theory:-

1. **Scientific Theory**: It refers to that part of theory which is more structured, defined, tested articulated and based upon repeated successful testing of hypothesis. It takes stock of natural world, various facets of life and even life hereinafter while theorizing about metaphysical world. It is fortified by experiments and deductive methods of learning.
2. **Philosophical Theory**: It signifies and articulates that part of life which ate discrete, qualitative and not quantitative and based upon narrative and descriptive side of life. It largely discusses attitudes, behaviors, norms and life patterns. Its subject matter is ideas and not any numerical data. It rests upon certain primary ideas, statements whose truth cannot necessarily be scientifically tested. Its' more of subjective than objective type.
3. **Mathematical Theory**: It is a new concept in theorizing which is based upon figures, numerals and data which ideally is supported by certain idea. It may be called that type of theory which has both the discrete data

and numerical data like attributes, probability theory etc.

Features of a Theory:

a. **Explanatory**: The first and foremost feature of every theory is its explanation. A theory has to be fully explainable otherwise anything based upon whims can't test the times and shall falter or fizzle out sooner or later.

b. **Testability**: As delineated supra, a theory which is desirous to be qualified as legitimate theory ought to be testable and verifiable-able. Mere surmises and conjectures cannot be called a theory.

c. **Abstractions**: Abstraction are recent innovations where only assumptions are framed and then through deductive reasoning, its logical is discernable.

Landmark Theories:

Big Bang Theory: It explicates the origin and evolution of the universe as invented by famous scientist and astrologer namely Georges Lemaître, in 1927 which was afterwards supported by Edwin Hubble's observations of receding galaxies.

Theory of Evolution: It gives forth that how life came into being and how did it evolve in the universe. It is a travelogue from animal life to human life as given by Charles Darwin.

Theory of Relativity: This theory was propounded by Newton on the principles of law of nature and movement of time and space.

Any theory passes through various phases before it can be qualified as a theory:- Observation, collect of data and information, identification of relationships and trends, formulation of a hypothesis, its testing and repeated experimentations coupled with data analysis and finally conclusion.

THEORY OF CONFLICT

The term Conflict is defined as "a disagreement or antagonistic state or action (as of divergent ideas, interests, or persons) and can also mean a mental struggle from incompatible needs or desires". The question arises that how and why any conflict arises? Different political thinkers have ascribed divergent reasons to rise of conflict. John Locke called it Preservation of Property; Rousseau named it exercise of general will or as Karl Marx labeled it class conscious ness But conflict or difference of opinion has been the basic root cause in evolution of human being since the exodus from the blissful seat of the Heaven. There are certain commonly found reasons behind cropping up of conflicts:-

a. **Ideological Differences**: the very first cause is the ever-widening yawning gap of thought amongst generations of mankind. It is generally believed as stated by Ibn-e-Khuldun in his famous The Muqaddima (Introduction) that after forty years, the generation, life style and ideology transform and for this reason, he has given enumerated four generations, each of forty years when the generation changes altogether. Conflict theory started with Marx, expanded through Weber, and evolved into multiple types and dimensions. It helps explain inequality, change, and power dynamics in society and politics.

b. **Cultural dimensions**: The second reason of rise of conflict is the cultural differences amongst the people. It may be of various types, from heroes, to architecture, to leaders and ideals to living and eating habits to fins arts etc. It takes into stock that how does cultural trends, like music, fashion, and art, evolve and change over decades.

c. **Economic upheavals:** The present generation is an age of economic life cycle which goes on changing every day. Conflict arises over import, export, tariff, inflation, monetary and fiscal policies and in-equilibrium in international trade. All these cause creation of conflict as one recession or boom can make or mar the economy of the other. Due to interdependence syndrome, the countries have to rely on each other as it had happened during Great Depression of 1930s.

d. **Technological advancements**: With the advent of Al, computer technology and latest gadgets of communications have totally transformed the lifestyle. The distances have shrunk and with every day, E-commerce goes up

with advancement in ICT. It is the vitality of E-trade that is now sowing the seeds of conflict.

e. **Constitutional or legislative Issues**: The modern world is also undergoing rapid alterations in their legislative patters, political polities' statecraft, and art of governance, human rights, freedom of speech and the written constitution. In short, the entire social science especially the political philosophy is creating conflicts which are resulting in border skirmishes, political ideologues, clashes of civilization and of thoughts.

History of Conflict Theory;

1. Ancient and Medieval Period: In olden days, the conflicts were in the forms of skirmishes, squabbles and babblings. The people were used to fight internecine warfare over petty feuds of life, honour and property. Even tribes used to indulge in incessant warfare not knowing about the reason. War once ensued kept continuous till the annexation of specific area or the death of either of the antagonist. It was not as refined form of conflict as it is today**.**

2. **Rise of ideologies especially the Socialism:** Since 15th century, political thinkers have been expostulating different political philosophies. This trend was not restricted to statecraft only but in every walk of life, the scientists invented different new grounds which gave rise to conflict as these new theories broke away from the traditional and uncouth superstitious ideas and beliefs. It was in the 19th Century which gave a fatal fillip in all types of theorizing; the cornerstone was rise of Karl Marx. He opined that the society is bifurcated into two classes i.e., Bourgeoisie (entrepreneurs) and Proletariat (workers). It was basically a conflict over the access and utilization of all types of material resources. This iniquitous division has caused the social fragmentation and class warfare and class struggle since ages. His precepts were followed by Lenin, Mao and even Max Weber to the extent of sociology by saying that conflict is not restricted to resources only but it encompasses other aspects of life like political and social status etc. After Karl Marx, many modern scholars like Ralf Dahrendorf, C. Wright Mills and David Daiches etc., tried to find new dimensions of conflict in constitution, societal changes etc.

3. **Modern Extensions:** With the advancement of technology, nature of offences also changed and in the backdrop of latest advancements, nature of conflicts has also altered drastically. Lewis Coser laid bare a new type of conflict called functional conflict. It threw light on positive bonding and changes in human relationship. Whereas, Randall Collins who discerned conflicts even in micro-level interactions amongst business stakeholders, then violent ideologies and legitimization of de-jure governments.

Types of Conflict: There are various types of conflict from social conflict, to political to economic to domestic to ideological. In short, there can be a conflict in every step of life.

Basis	Type	Example of Conflict
Social	Class Conflict	Workers Vs Capitalists
Political	Power Conflict	State Vs Opposition Parties
Economic	Resource Conflict	Oil-Rich Nations Vs Global Demand
Cultural	Identity Conflict	Ethnic Or Religious Tensions
International Relations	Geopolitical Conflict	NATO Vs Russia (Post-Cold War)
Constitutional	Ideological Conflict	Executive Vs Judiciary Vs People
Genetic	Ideas	Family issues

Important Conflicts in Modern World:

1. Karl Marx's new concept of Socialism based on class struggle and class consciousness re-erecting a new social superstructure based upon economic equalities.

2. Max Weber's sociology hinging upon multi-polar and multi-dimensional power of the

state consisted of various pillars of the State and the role of human beings are important.

3. Coser furnished a new type of functional view of conflict which is integrative instead of disintegrative. He talks about oneness of the society

4. Post-structuralists philosophers find conflict as a discourse which aims at resolution of the issue. The issues may encompass identity crisis of the modern world, political issue, administrative issues and inter-sectoral conflicts.

5. Post-Modernism Globalization, Standardization and Globalization which may or may not be related to economic, cultural, political or digitalization.

Benefits of Conflict Theory:

✓ Highlights Power Cauldron: It actually differentiates rulers and the ruled, master and slave through their functions and roles.

✓ Differentiates Social Upheavals: It helps in studies of three (Rs)Revolutions, Reforms, Redressals- highlighting their genesis, evolution and remedial role.

✓ Awakens the Masses: It helps in promotion and awakening of deprived people. Above all, it tries to disseminate the information to the people about their fundamental rights and how can the people keep check on the administration.

✓ Helps in formulating of Policy instruments and policy formulation. The basic function to develop a participatory approach in the society by evolving a consensus system, This participatory approach works at the lower level and then the people themselves through their representatives proposed certain development schemes beneficial for a particular area.

Dimensions of Theory of Conflict;

i. **Social Sciences**: These help and aid in understanding how conflicts affect societal trends and business as usual.

ii. **Business Sciences**: It helps in knowing the role of conflicts in business performances and amongst the interaction of business stake-holders for a collective betterment.

iii. **Constitutional/ legislative conflict**: It signifies different mores and predilections in legislature and constitutional amendments.

Challenges to the Theory of Conflict:

a. De-Stable Democracy,
b. Rising Financial woes and slough of despondency,
c. Rampant institutional Corruption,
d. Widespread Regional Disparities,
e. Ethnic scourge,
f. Political bipolarization and partisanship,
g. Youth Bulge which is 62% of the total population,
h. Unacceptability by the people at large,
i. Issue of legitimacy-issue of electioneering,
j. Terrorism and rising vociferous centrifugal tendencies in provinces,
k. Myopic distribution of national economic resources.

PART-02 Dimensions of Conflict in Political System of Pakistan

In Pakistan, conflicts in politics are a common phenomenon, which has had profound effects on the country's governance and social structure. Pakistan's history is marked by political instability, military coups, corruption, and power struggles between political parties. Pakistan's politics is a delicate balancing act and any sudden untoward happening has been turning upside down the political structure and system.

Dimensions of Conflict in Pakistan; Since its creation in 1947, Pakistan has been engulfed by myriad conflicts. The roots of these conflicts partly are inherent and partly developed due to pedantic leadership. The distance between two wings of Pakistan, cultural and linguistic diversities, style of leadership, parochialism and untimely death of the Founding Fathers all exacerbated these conflicts which ultimately resulted in Dacca Fall.

Some key reasons for conflicts in Pakistan include:

1. **Military Intervention**: It has been hall-mark of Pakistan political System that the army has repeatedly been butting into the political

issues by undermining the political authority, expediency and democratic processes.

2. **Political Polarization**: As delineated supra, severe nature of parochial differences between two wings of Pakistan, amongst major political parties wrecked colossal damages to the already week fledgling political stability.

3. **Constitutional Crises**: Pakistan has been labelled as a laboratory of constitution-making. It took 09 years to formulate and promulgate its First Constitution which could not last long. Secondly, the decision by Justice Muhammad Munir in Maulvi Tamizzuddin Khan case on dissolution of Assembly kept on hovering around the independence of judiciary which slowly but surely becoming a lackey to the executive of this country.

4. **Economic Quagmire**: In the economic history of Pakistan, there have been only three years when Balance of Payment became positive otherwise it kept on incurring losses or titled in favour of foreign payments. As a result, the government always remained forced to look for foreign aid, from IMF, from the World Bank and other donor agencies to run the affairs of state. In addition, issues like unemployment, poverty and population explosion have exacerbated political tensions.

5. **Nationalist and Sub-nationalist Movements**: Since, 1947, there have been nationalist, sib-nationalist and separatist movements in Baluchistan, in KPK, in Sindh on one pretext or the other. The role in India in increasing these fissiparous tendencies cannot be ignored. Linguistic predilection has been a bane of this fledgling state. Earlier, the denizen of East Pakistan yelled for imposition of Bengali as a national or second national language and afterwards, many smaller linguistic clans cropped up like Brahavi, Potohari, Seraiki. These were champion of a dialectic limited to a geographical boundary but the uproar of this spoiled the entire body-politics of that era. These are still simmering here and there.

6. **Emergent Middle class with new political partisan-ism**: Pakistan has the largest percentage of youth bulge and mostly, they belong to middle or lower middle class. They constitute 62% of the total population. They have their own political affiliations and they are key board warriors and their ideology runs counter to that of traditional approach of the establishment. This has given rise to modern but deeply entrenched form of conflict.

To resolve conflicts in Pakistan, it is essential for political parties to work together, ensure judicial independence, and take steps towards economic stability.

Key Players

1. Political Parties: PPP, PML-N, PTI, MQM, PML(Q), JUI (F) and etc.
2. Military: Since 1947, the role has been increasing. Now, it has become a hybrid plus political and administrative system.
3. Judiciary: A decadent institution-played havoc-irredeemable as people at large think.

Current Dynamics

A. Weak Coalition Government:

B. Repression Vs Tenacity of one political party slogan;

C. "Menace" of Digital and Social-Media: A powerful tool for shaping public opinion and mobilizing support.

D. Constitutional conflicts: Pakistan have been a significant issue, affecting the country's political and legal system. The promulgation of 26th and 27th amendment to the Constitution 1973 are the recent examples of rising conflict.

Some key reasons for these conflicts include:

1. Era of suppression,
2. Issue of political and popular legitimacy,
3. Hybrid plus system of government,
4. Popular narrative Vs Poor Narrative
5. Poor Economic performance,
6. Hopelessness amongst the masses,
7. Sense of deprivation or hatred

A new Dimension- Constitutional Conflict: Controversies surrounding amendments, particularly the 18th and 27th Amendments have led to constitutional crises.

a. **Supreme Court VS the Constitutional Court**: Supreme Court is no more autonomous,

judges are transferable, even one High Court can oust its own judge, no need of Supreme Judicial Council.

b. **Military interference (Hybrid plus) system**: The military's interference in constitutional and political matters has exacerbated conflicts.

c. **Provincial Nationalist or sub-nationalist movements**: Conflicts over provincial autonomy, particularly after the 18th Amendment, sore point in Baluchistan and KPK.

d. **Economic Disparities**: Disputes over allocation of funds, provincial and division of Divisional budgets, fiscal and monetary policies.

To resolve these conflicts, it's essential for constitutional institutions and political parties to work together, respect constitutional traditions, and ensure the protection of minority rights.

CONCLUSION

There is no denying the fact that conflicts always have their birth side by side with Adam. As the people procreate, society was created and evolved gradually; similarly, the conflict also grew in numbers and in dimensions. There are both negative and positive aspects of a conflicts. It saps both positive and negative energies. The annals of history are testimony to this concept or rather theory of Conflict. This theory does not have any pre-determined hypothesis yet, it can be tested and verified on all accounts and on all parameters. It has seen a tedious voyage of Pakistan up-till now. It is admitted fact that now the nature, dimension, volume and pros and cons of a conflict not only have increased but also got diversified rather at some places, they have become un-controllable phenomenon as in the case of political mongering and ranting going on in Pakistan.

Pakistan political system is no exception or not immune from the theory of conflicts and its dimensions coupled with challenges. The political system has been undauntingly facing these grave challenges since 1947; though earlier they were restricted to economic disparities or petty linguistic issues but now a wholesome set of conflicts are facing Pakistan. The present-day constitutional conflict has engulfed the three pillars of the state and the Executive is all set to devour the Judiciary. The traces of history will bear it out that absence of viable judiciary with inaccessibility to justice has always cankered away the fiber of any social and political system as it fosters negative energies which thus, becomes the besetting sin for any Political System. This is the high time to review these legal and constitutional issues.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ICT	Information communication Technology
HQ	Headquarter
KPK	Khyber Pakthun Khawa
PML(N)	Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz
PML(Q)	Pakistan Muslim League Quaid-e -Azam
PPP	Pakistan People's Party
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf
USA	United States of America

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