IRE223: NATIONS IN CONFLICT

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Session 5: Conflict Management & Prevention

On the Agenda for Today

- **Does Fighting resolve Conflicts?**
  - Contemporary conflicts
  - Collective security

- **Conflict De-escalation**
  - Conflict Management
  - Conflict Transformation
  - Conflict Resolution

- **The Irresolvable Conflicts**

- **Conflict Prevention**

Does Fighting Resolve Conflicts?

Fighting may be **necessary** for:

- Self-defense
- Defend the weak/R2P

- Fighting does **not** resolve conflicts

- Defeating an enemy does **not** resolve **grievances** or end **hatred** => **repeated conflict**/revenge
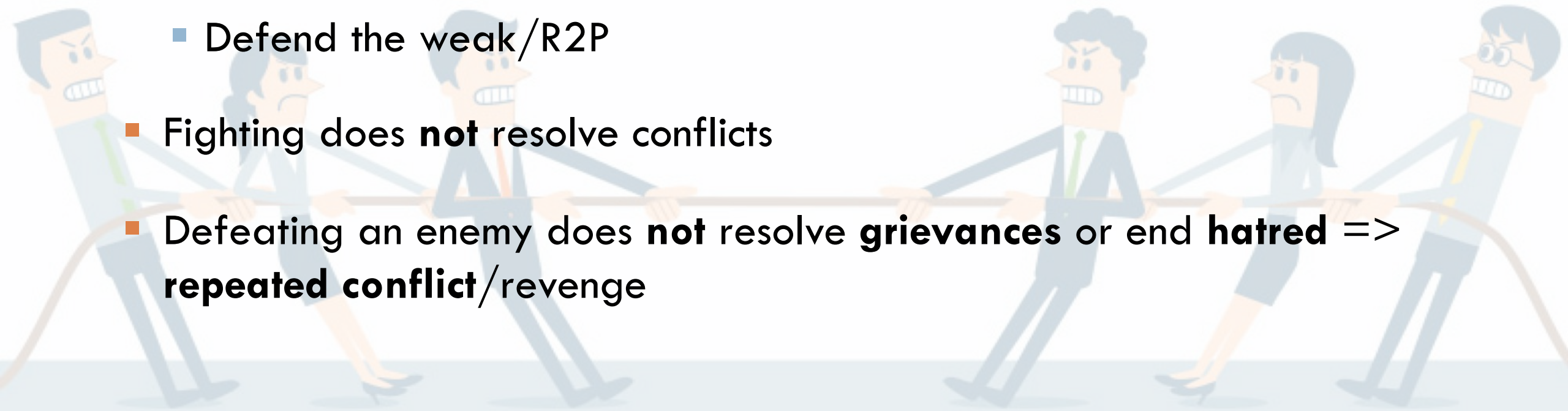
Contemporary Conflicts

- The Next 2 slides give you an overview of **contemporary conflicts worldwide** (not a full list)

- They are meant to illustrate that **conflicts are found almost everywhere** (not just in one specific region or continent), **they vary in type** (war, clashes, coup d'etat, etc.), are **fought between discrepant parties** (rebels, militants, armies, narco-traffic groups, etc.) and **for various reasons** (ethnicity, religion etc.)

Contemporary Conflicts

- **AFRICA** => 30 Countries + 267 militias-guerrillas/separatist/anarchic groups

  - **Hot Spots**: Burkina Faso (ethnic clashes), Central African Republic (often there are armed clashes between Muslims and Christians), Democratic Republic of Congo (war against rebel groups), Egypt (war against Islamic militants of Islamic State branch), Libya (civil war), Mali (clashes between army and rebel groups), Mozambique (clashes with RENAMO rebels), Nigeria (war against Islamism militants), Somalia (war against al-Shabaab Islamism militants), Sudan (war against rebel groups in Darfur), South Sudan (clashes with rebel groups)

- **ASIA** => 16 Countries + 181 militias-guerrillas/separatist/anarchic groups

  - **Hot Spots**: Afghanistan (war against Islamist militants), Burma-Myanmar (war against rebel groups), Pakistan (war against Islamist militants), Philippines (war against Islamist militants), Thailand (coup d'etat by army May 2014)

Contemporary Conflicts

- **EUROPE** => 10 Countries + 82 militias-guerrillas/separatist/anarchic groups

  - **Hot Spots**: Chechnya (war against Islamist militants), Dagestan (war against Islamist militants), Ukraine (Secession of self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic), Artsakh ex Nagorno-Karabakh (clashes between Azerbaijan army against Armenian army and Nagorno-Karabakh army)

- **MIDDLE EAST** => 7 Countries + 261 militias-guerrillas/separatist/anarchic groups

  - **Hot Spots**: Iraq (war against Islamic State Islamist militants), Israel (war against Islamist militants in Gaza Strip), Syria (civil war), Yemen (war against and between Islamist militants)

- **AMERICAS**: 7 Countries and 30 drug cartels, terrorist-separatist-anarchic groups

 - **Hot Spots**: Colombia (war against rebel groups), Mexico (war against narco-traffic groups)

Collective Security

- Millions of $$$ were spent on **crisis management** (military forces, humanitarian aid, recovery programs)

- **Why should we want to manage conflicts?**

  - To promote **Regional/overall stability in a** 'Closed' international system

  - **Collective Security** => A system by which states have attempted to **prevent** or **stop** wars/terrorism
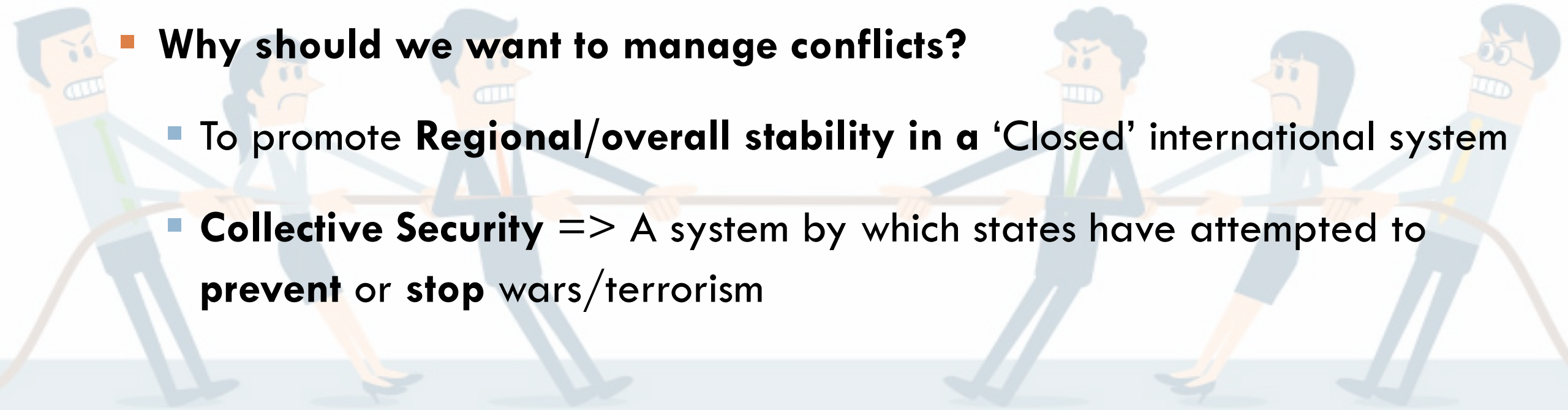
Collective Security

- Under a **collective security arrangement**, an aggressor against **ANY** one state is considered an aggressor against all other states, which act **together** to repel it

- **Collective security** arrangements have always been conceived as being **global** in scope (unlike regional alliances, e.g. NATO)

- Both the **League of Nations** and the **United Nations** were founded on the principle of **collective security** => Difficult to operate successfully
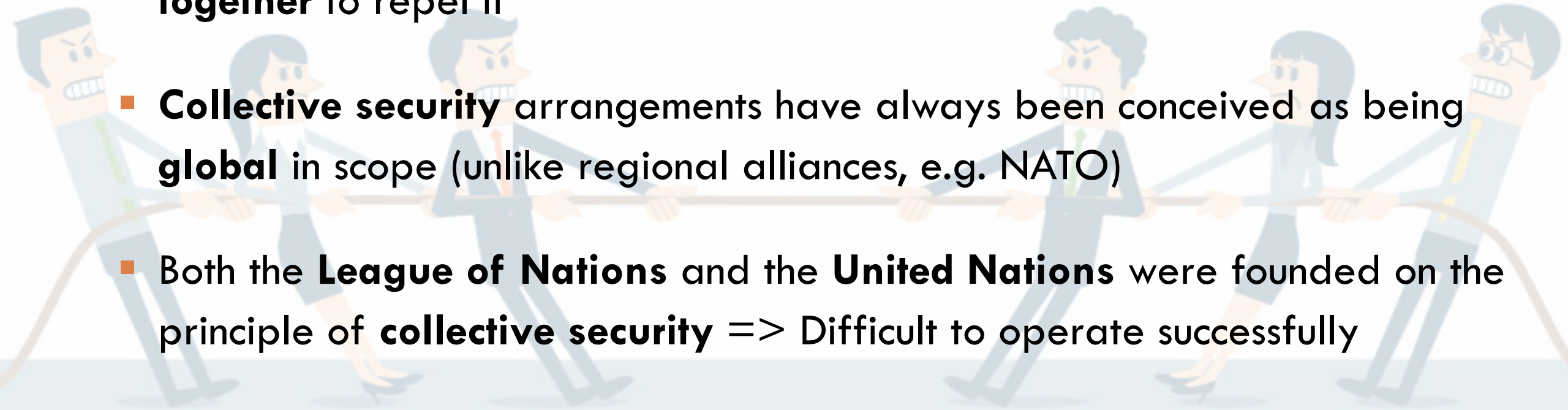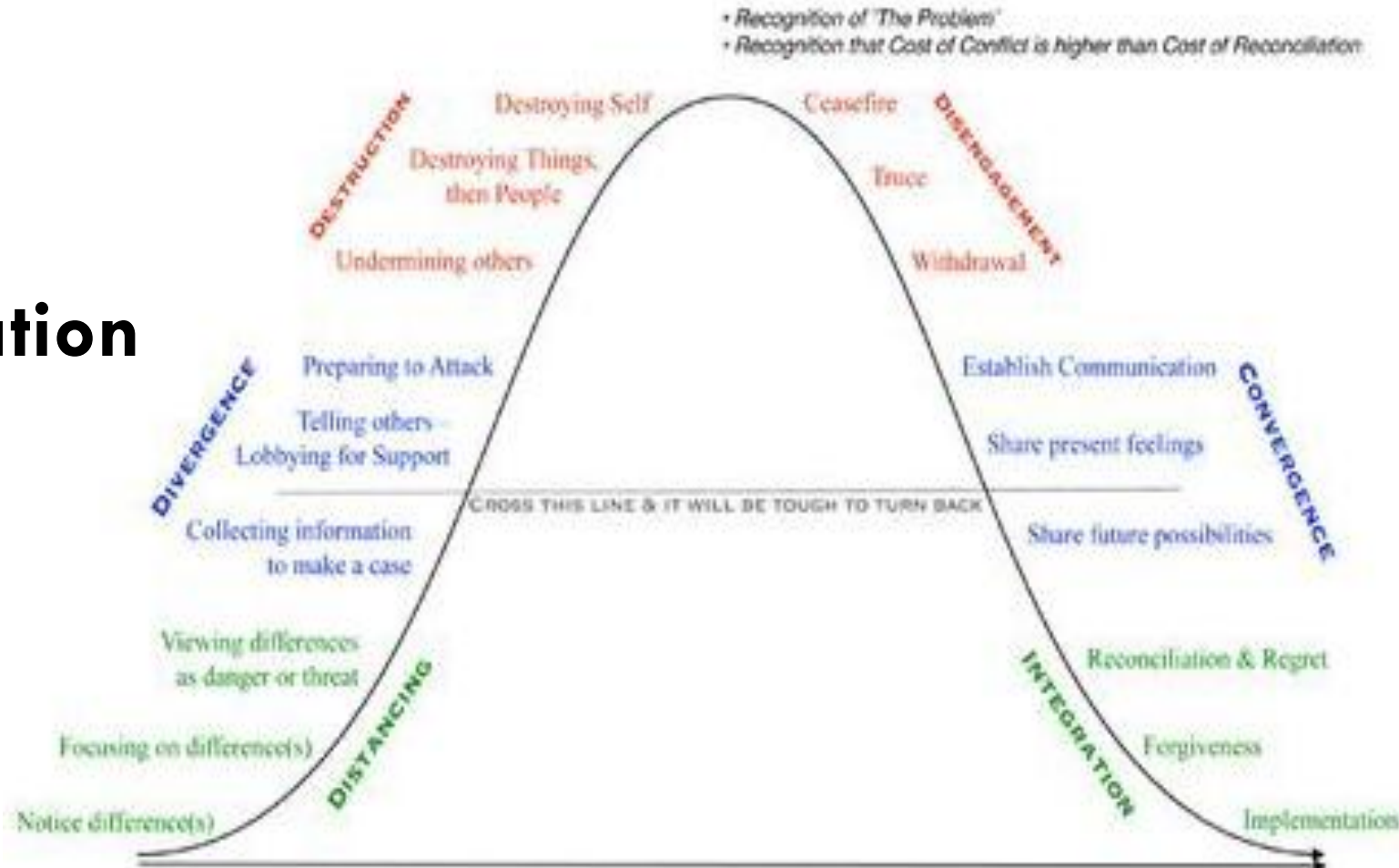
Conflict De-escalation

1. **Conflict Management**

2. **Conflict Resolution**

3. **Conflict Transformation**

4. **Conflict Prevention**

CONFLICT ESCALATION & DE-ESCALATION CURVE

- Recognition of 'The Problem'
- Recognition that Cost of Conflict is higher than Cost of Reconciliation

DESTRUCTION
- Destroying Self
- Destroying Things, then People
- Undermining others

DISENGAGEMENT
- Ceasefire
- Truce
- Withdrawal

DIVERGENCE
- Preparing to Attack
- Telling others Lobbying for Support
- Collecting information to make a case

CONVERGENCE
- Establish Communication
- Share present feelings
- Share future possibilities

CROSS THIS LINE & IT WILL BE TOUGH TO TURN BACK

DISTANCING
- Viewing differences as danger or threat
- Focusing on difference(s)
- Notice difference(s)

INTEGRATION
- Reconciliation & Regret
- Forgiveness
- Implementation

Conflict Management

- Activities aimed at **stopping active combat, containing crisis spillover** and **minimizing destructive impacts**

- Implying the ability to **control** the **intensity** of an active conflict & its effects via:

  - Negotiation
  - Intervention
  - Institutional mechanisms
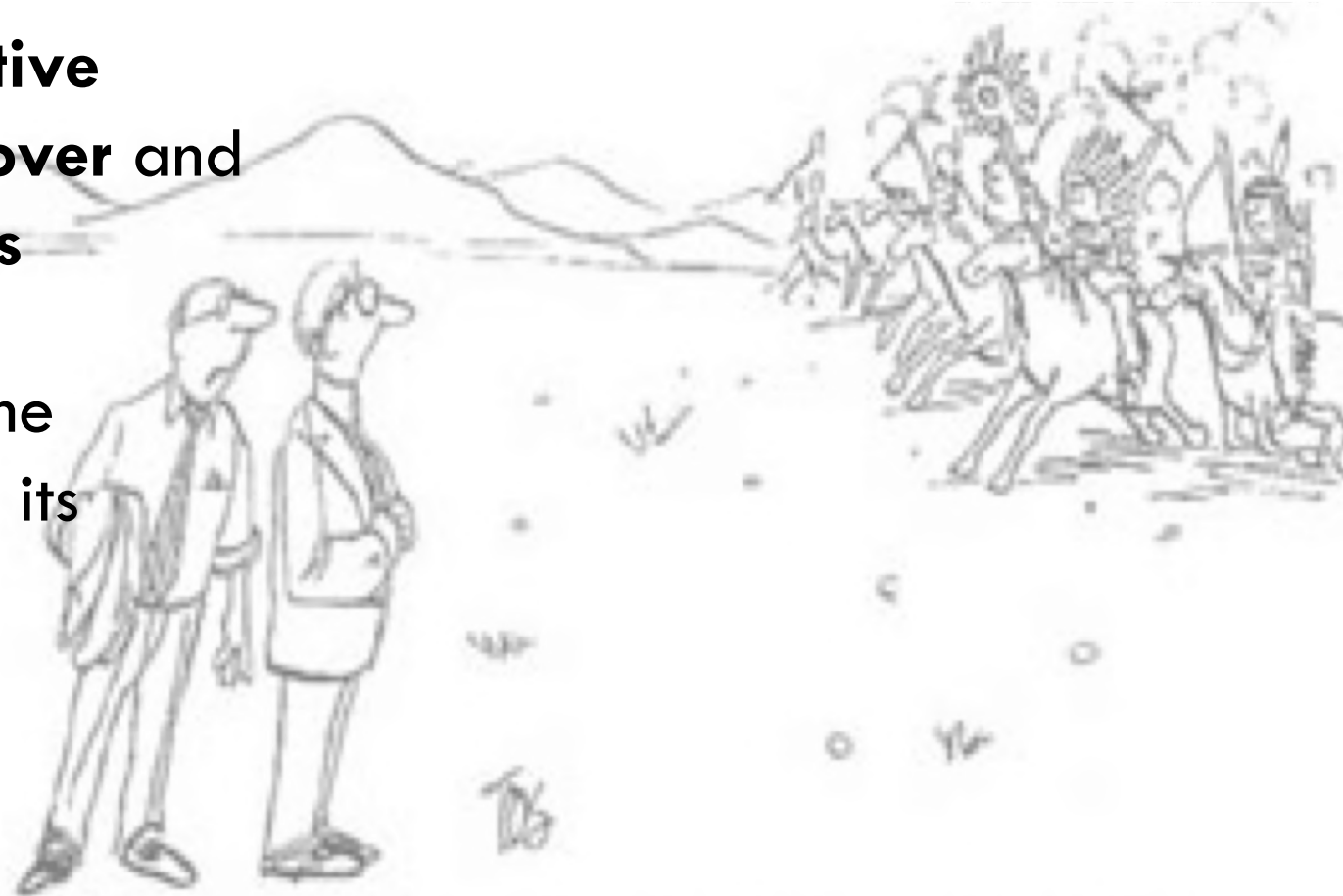
"Now's a good time to get a feel for your negotiating skills."

Conflict Management

- **Aimed at an ongoing conflict,** preferably prior of escalating into a total war

- **Core idea** =>
  - Creating a situation in which neither side tries to destroy the other
  - "**Live and let live**" attitude, where people interact by managing the factors that cause threat (coexistence)

- **Strategy**
  - **Appeal to self-interest:** One's own existence/security/well-being is dependent upon the existence of the other
  - Create **moral anchors** that allow parties to see the **human face of the other**
  - Encourage **alignment** based upon **interests,** not sectarian identity
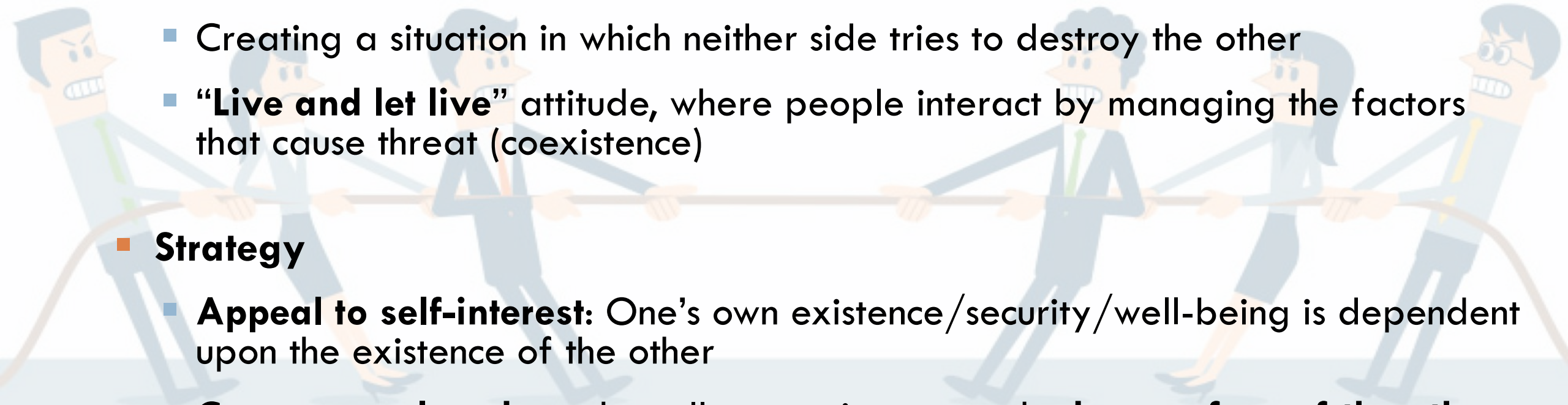
Military Conflict Management

- **Type of conflict management, a military Intervention,** usually of a **multinational force** (UN)

- Activities aimed at creating/maintaining a **secure environment** in order to **end a crisis** and/or **enable peace** to be established/maintained

- MCM includes:

  - **Peacekeeping** missions
  - **Conflict prevention** missions
  - **Humanitarian** missions
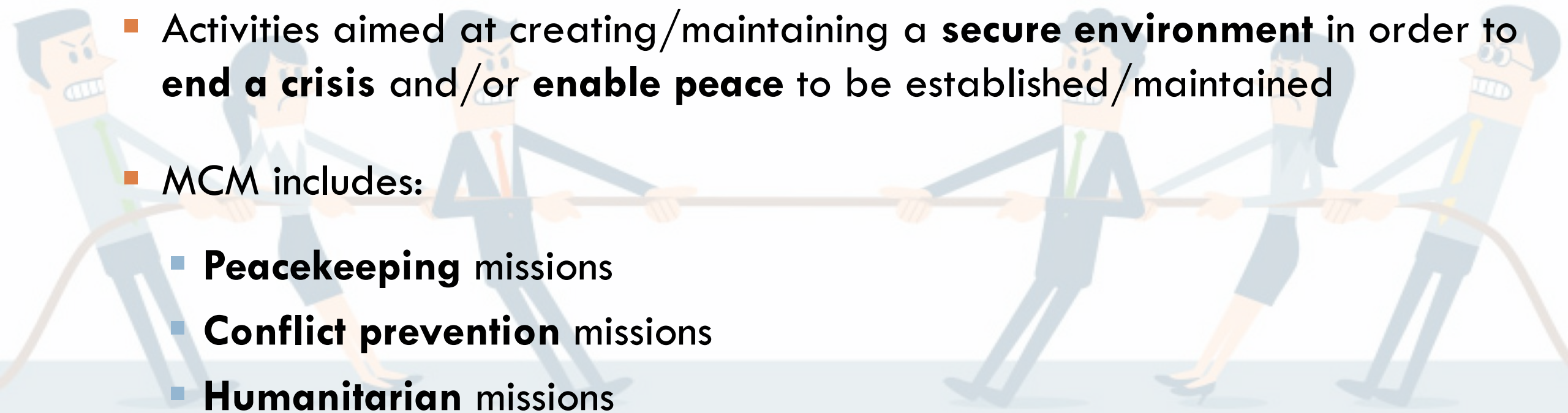
The Prisoner's Dilemma

Problem =>

- Conflicting parties see their interests as **diametrically opposing**

- The Prisoner's dilemma illustrates why two completely **rational individuals** may choose **NOT to cooperate**, even if it is in their best interests to cooperate

The prisoner's dilemma

		Prisoner B	
		Confess	Keep quiet
Prisoner A	Confess	Both go to jail for ten years	Prisoner B gets life imprisonment, A goes free
	Keep quiet	Prisoner A gets life imprisonment, B goes free	Both go to jail for one year

Economist.com

For a clear and well illustrated explanation of the prisoner's dilemma, see:
https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/prisoners-dilemma.asp
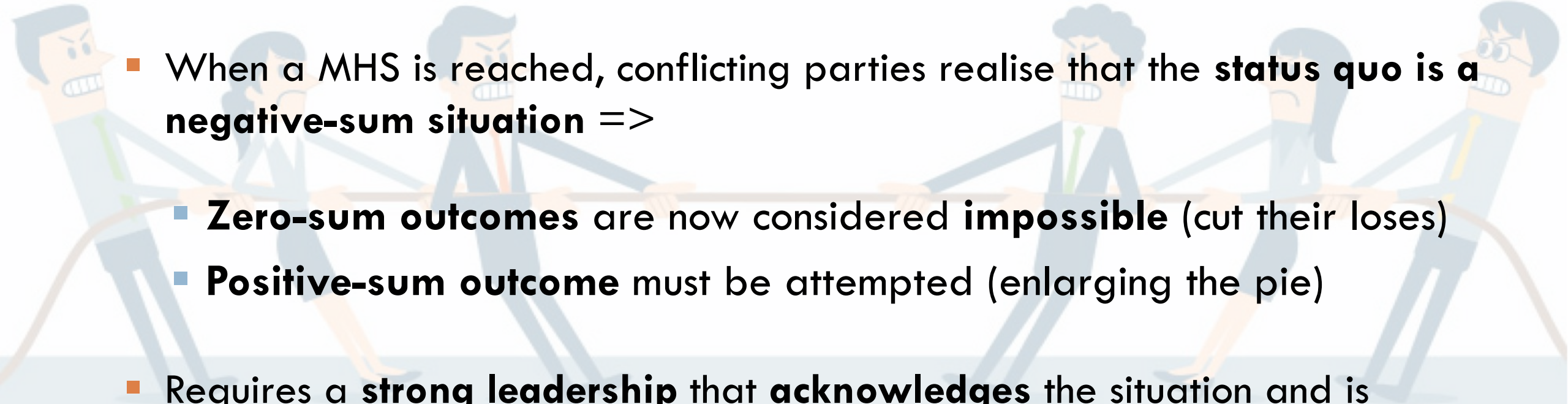
Question of 'Ripeness'

- Some **rare** political, social, economic moments are "**ripe**" for **negotiation** and **dialogue,** and a move from violence to non-violence

- Zartman => *"Parties resolve their conflict only when they are **ready to do so** – when **alternative means** of achieving a satisfactory result are **blocked,** and the parties feel that they are in an **uncomfortable** and **costly** predicament. At that **ripe** moment, they grab onto proposals that usually have been in the air for a long time and that only now appear attractive"*

- This moment of 'ripeness' is determined by the contending parties' **perception** of a **mutually hurting stalemate (MHS)- objective** + **subjective**
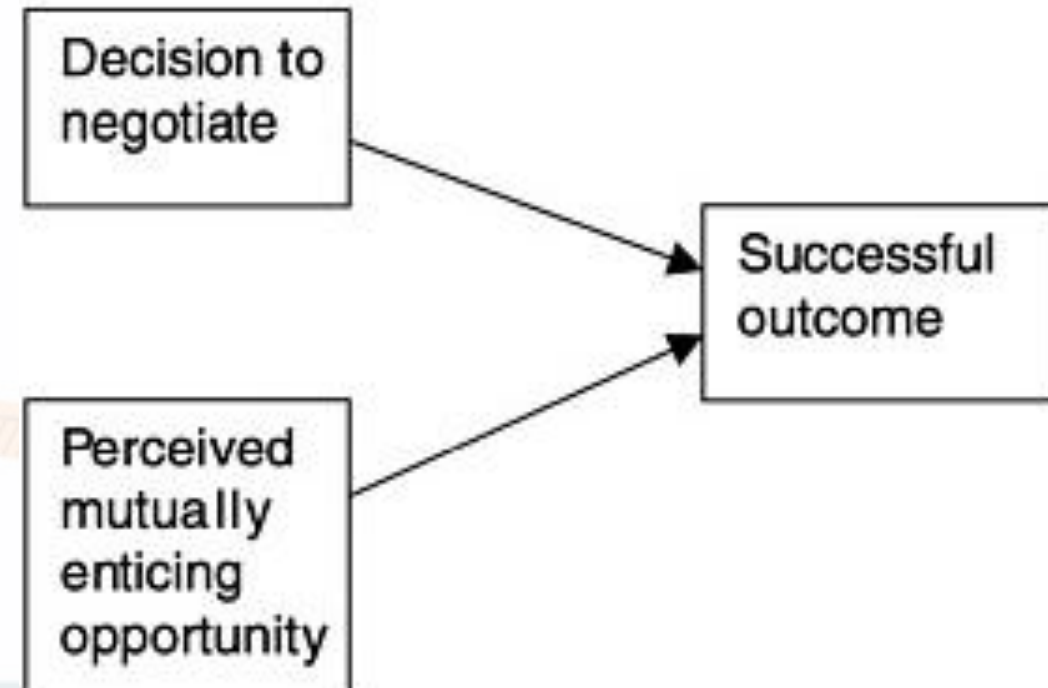
Question of 'Ripeness'

- **MHS** => A **perceived state** in which the parties "*find themselves **locked in a conflict** from which they **cannot escalate to victory** and this **deadlock** is painful to both of them […] then they **seek an alternative** policy or way out*"

- When a MHS is reached, conflicting parties realise that the **status quo is a negative-sum situation** =>

  - **Zero-sum outcomes** are now considered **impossible** (cut their loses)
  - **Positive-sum outcome** must be attempted (enlarging the pie)

- Requires a **strong leadership** that **acknowledges** the situation and is **willing/able to act**

Question of 'Ripeness'

- May be aided by **Mutually Enticing Opportunities =>** Prospects that can **benefit both parties,** thus encouraging them to join the negotiation table

- Such **opportunities** are less likely to emerge spontaneously-

 - They mostly involve **third-party/s/mediator** that **create/present** them

```
Decision to
negotiate  ─────────┐
                     ▼
                  Successful
                  outcome
                     ▲
Perceived   ─────────┘
mutually
enticing
opportunity
```
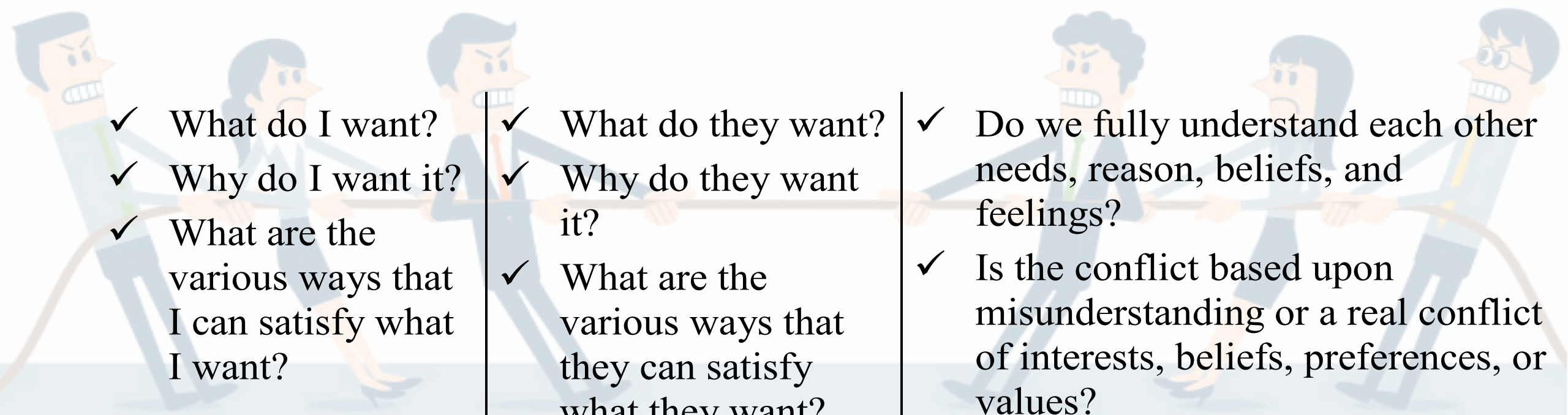
Conflict Transformation

- A **process** that aims at **creating new solutions** that go beyond the scope of what seems immediately possible

  - It has the potential of producing the best (most rewarding, efficient, enduring) solutions

  - Part of all de-escalation processes

- **Method** =>

  - The **conflict** should be viewed as a **problem** that both parties try to **solve together** ('we are not fighting each other, but on the 'same side' trying to fight/solve the problem')
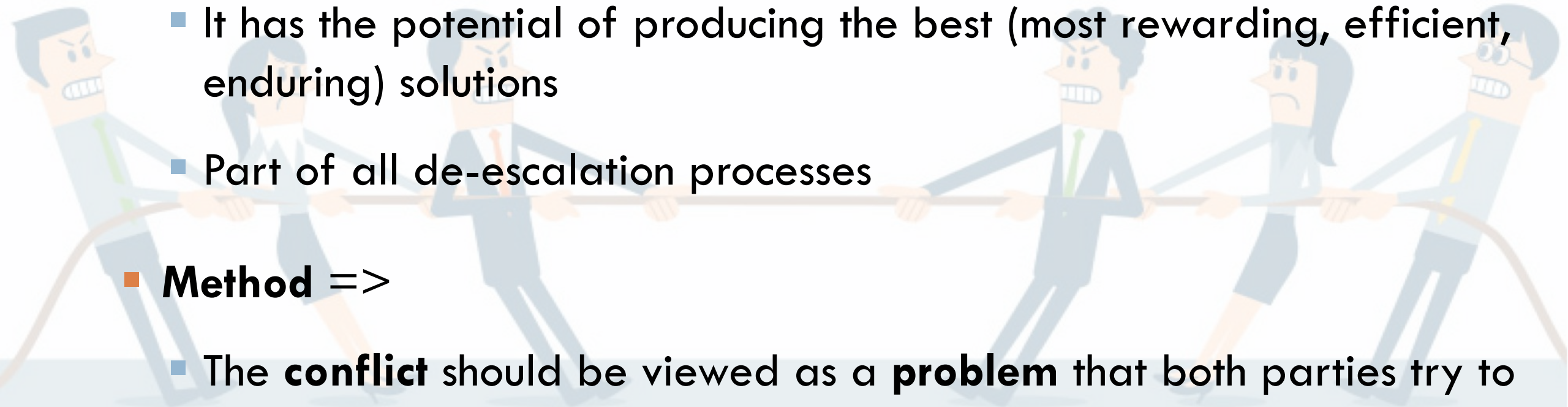
Conflict Transformation

- **Diagnosing the conflict**: Sorting out the various interests, values, preferences, realities, emotional investments, etc.

✓ What do I want?

✓ Why do I want it?

✓ What are the various ways that I can satisfy what I want?

✓ What do they want?

✓ Why do they want it?

✓ What are the various ways that they can satisfy what they want?

✓ Do we fully understand each other needs, reason, beliefs, and feelings?

✓ Is the conflict based upon misunderstanding or a real conflict of interests, beliefs, preferences, or values?

✓ What is the conflict really about?

Conflict Transformation

- **Possible Strategy**

  - Moving the discussion from **positions** to **interests**

  - **Bridging** => Identifying interests that can be satisfied

  - **Expanding the Pie** => Creating value, finding new ways to compensate a party for yielding on an issue, thus **creating new compensation frameworks**
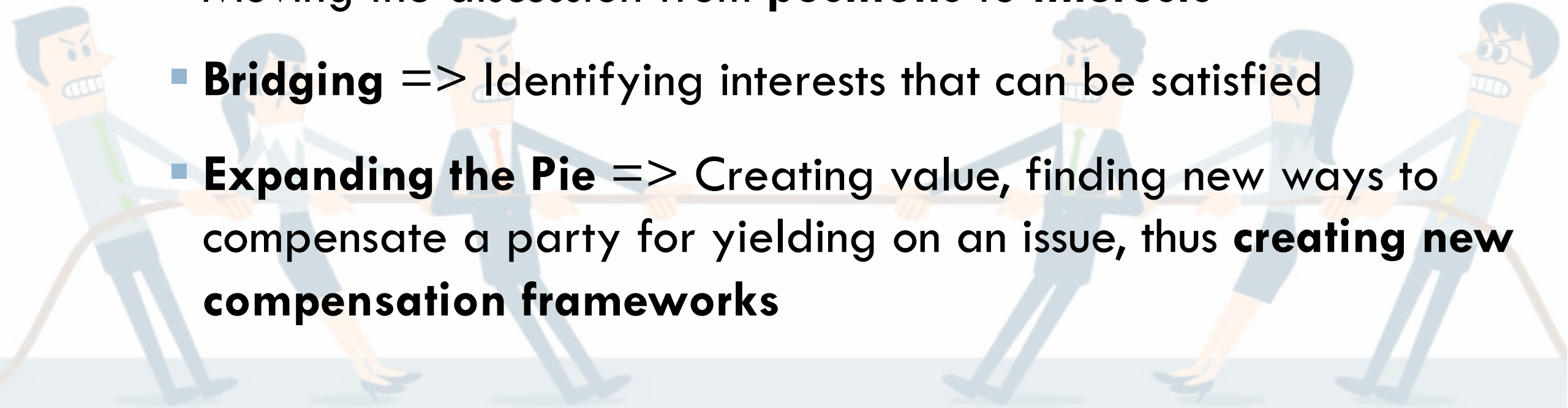
Conflict Resolution

- Activities aimed at achieving a **voluntary mutual peaceful solution** to common incompatibilities, and a **cessation of hostilities**

- By looking at the conflict as **non zero-sum** (positive-sum), the gap between the parties may be reduced (the orange story)

- **Goal** => To remove the resistances/obstacles to an overall resolution or settlement, by creating a 'win-win' solution which is both **fair** and **effective**

The Orange Story => https://www.thechiefstoryteller.com/2016/07/12/the-last-orange-a-story-of-conflict-resolution-guest-jamie-notter/
And/or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8hR7ZFAAmA

Conflict Resolution

Method:

- Establishing **preconditions** for effective intergroup **dialogue** & negotiation (using Track 1/2 diplomacy) => **Trust building**

- **Negotiating specific arrangements** to reach a **settlement**

  - Identifying the **underlying issues**

  - Discussing the party's **interests,** not **positions**

  - Fractionating the conflict into **resolvable issues** based on the various **interests** involved

  - Establishing relatively harmonious **relationships** (hopefully…)
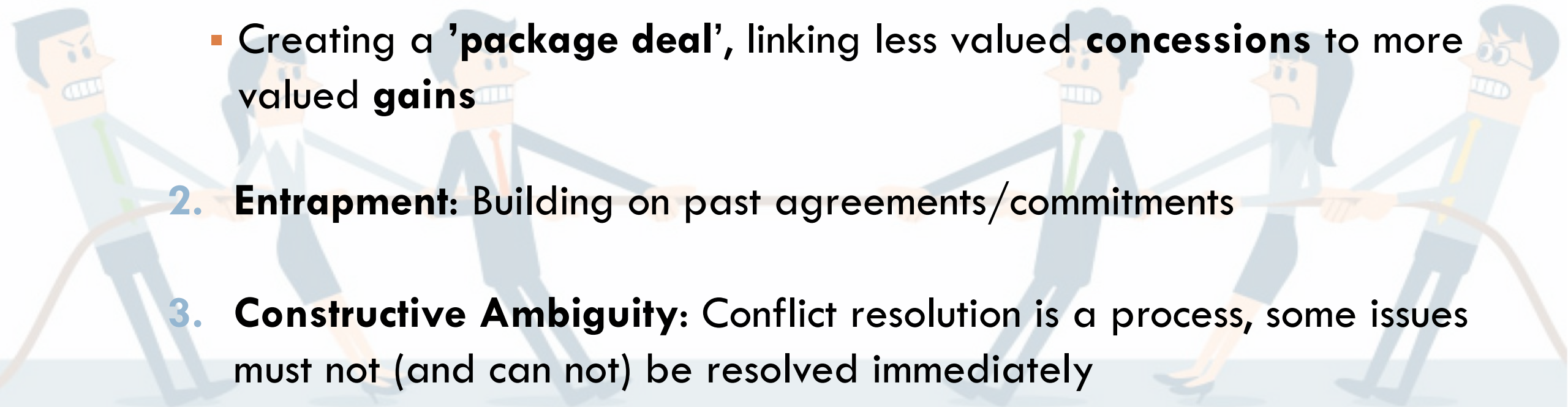
Conflict Resolution

- **Possible Strategy** (there are many...)

    1. **Logrolling:**

        - Creating a **'package deal',** linking less valued **concessions** to more valued **gains**

    2. **Entrapment:** Building on past agreements/commitments

    3. **Constructive Ambiguity:** Conflict resolution is a process, some issues must not (and can not) be resolved immediately

Conflict Resolution via Mediation

- While external actors may play varied roles in a conflict, the role of **mediator** engages **third parties** to **help resolve the conflict**

- **Mediation is thus a conflict resolution process**, in which parties are **assisted** by a neutral 3rd party; a **mediator**

  - Aka 'Assisted Negotiation'
  - The mediator is **not a judge** and **doesn't decide** who is right
  - Conducted through **constructive discussions/negotiation** of pending issues in order to reach a **mutually acceptable resolution**

"A mediator hasn't worked, so I brought in everyone's moms."

Conflict Resolution via Mediation

- Mediation is one of the **most used techniques for resolving issues among state actors**

  - E.g. diplomatic efforts by **American President** Jimmy **Carter** that resulted in a long-standing **peace between Egypt and Israel** (Camp David, 1978)

- While **mediators** are not required to be **neutral**/unallied with a disputant (practically impossible in IR), they should **NOT join the conflict on the side of a disputant**
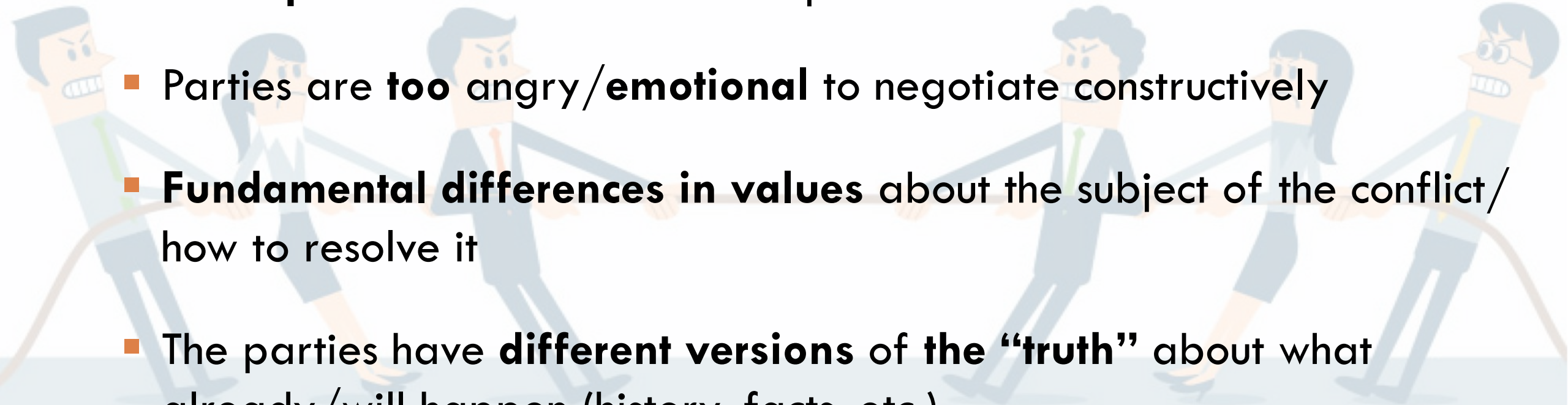
The Irresolvable Conflicts

## What Makes a conflict Irresolvable?

- **Incompatible interests** – real or perceived

- Parties are **too** angry/**emotional** to negotiate constructively

- **Fundamental differences in values** about the subject of the conflict/how to resolve it

- The parties have **different versions** of **the "truth"** about what already/will happen (history, facts, etc.)

The Irresolvable Conflicts

What makes a conflict irresolvable?

- The parties have **differing views of what their relationship** is/ should be

- Due to the existence of some **misunderstandings** that are hard to sort out
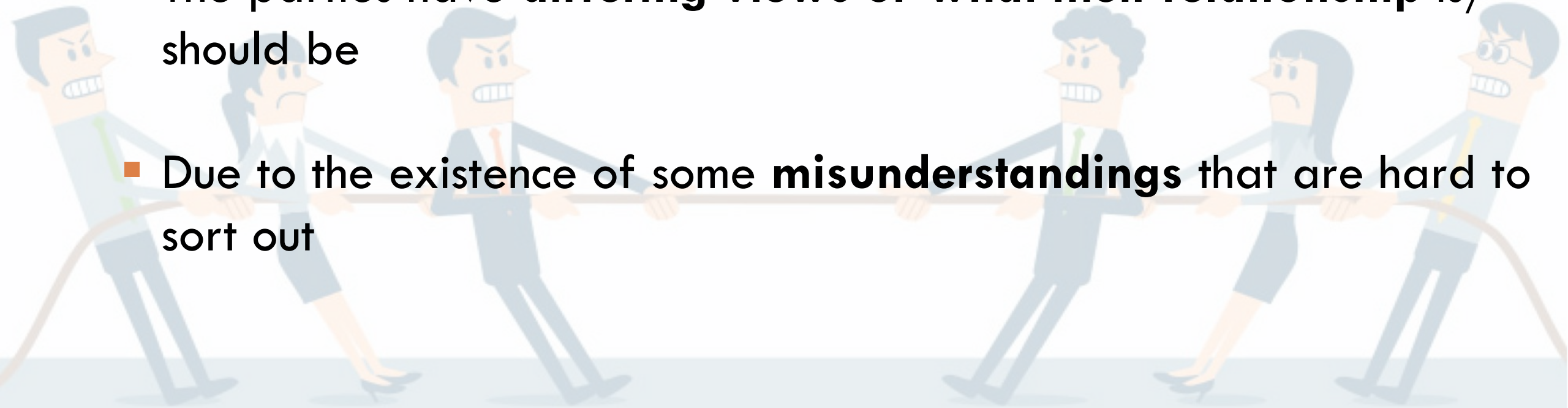
Conflict Resolution vs. Conflict Management

- **Conflict management** & **conflict resolution** are often used **synonymously**. But are they really the same?

- **Conflict management** involves taking **action (often military)** to keep a conflict **from escalating** further

  - **Managing conflict** implies that the conflict exists, but is controlled to an extent

- Conflict **resolution** seeks to **resolve the incompatibilities of interests** & behaviours that constitute the conflict

  - **Resolving conflict** means seeking an end or solution to the conflict
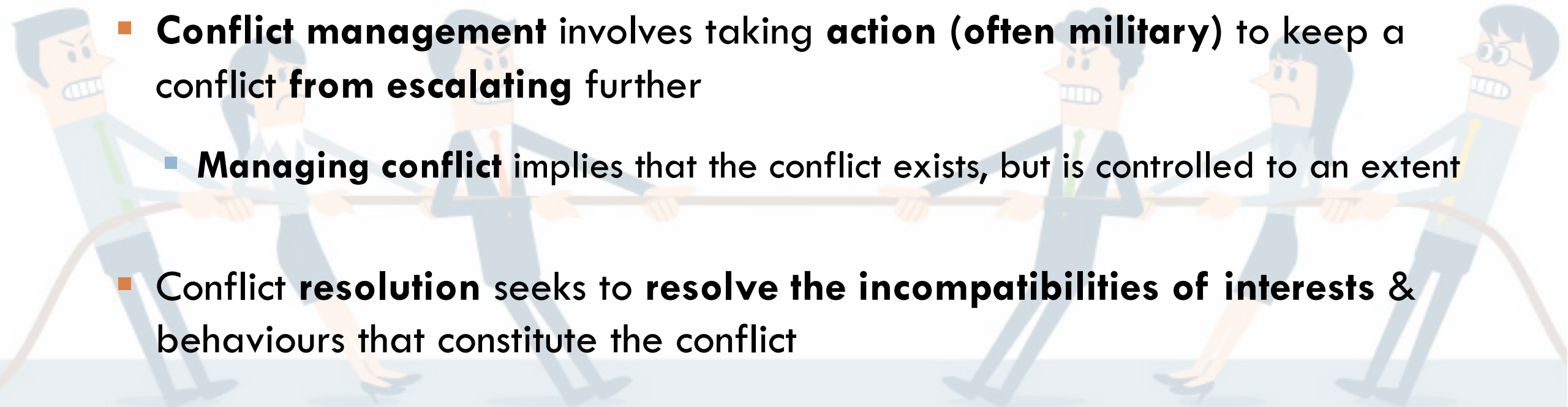
Conflict Prevention

- **Before** a **violent conflict** had commenced

- **Conflict Preventions** includes **action** taken in **vulnerable situations, places and times,** in order to **avoid the threat/use of armed force** by states or groups, in order to settle political disputes

  - Such disputed may arise from the destabilizing effects of economic, social, political, and international change

- Involves the **application of structural** and/or **diplomatic measures** to keep intra-state or inter-state **tensions low,** and **disputes** from **escalating** into violent conflict
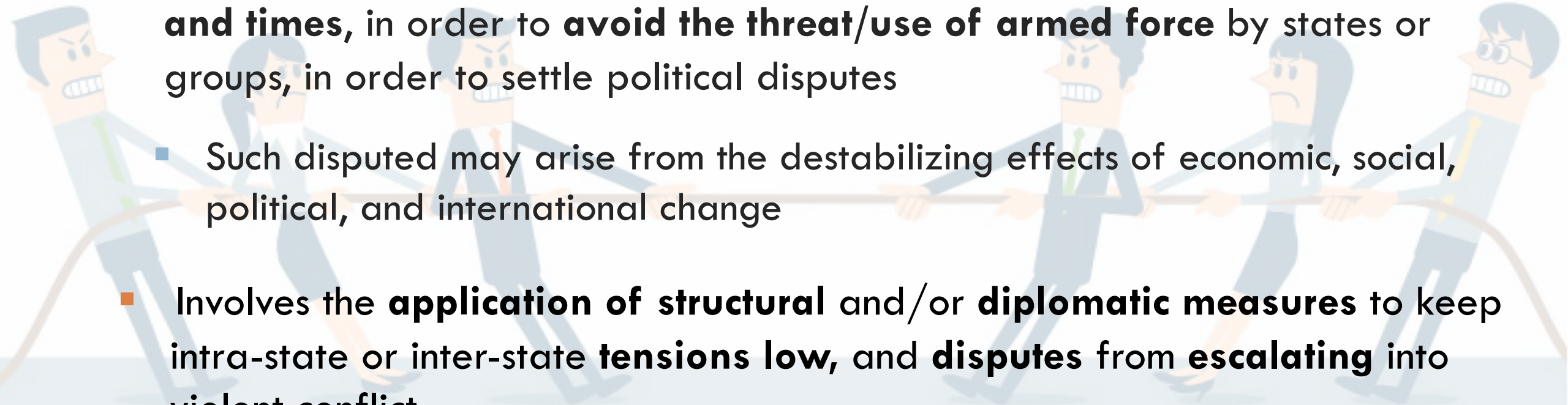
Conflict Prevention

Direct prevention =>

- **Immediate efforts** during initial crisis phases

- **Early warning,** mediation and shuttle diplomacy

NO coercive measures

Means/instruments

- International appeals, Fact-finding missions, on-site monitoring, official diplomacy, two-track diplomacy, conciliatory gestures, incentive offerings, negotiation forums
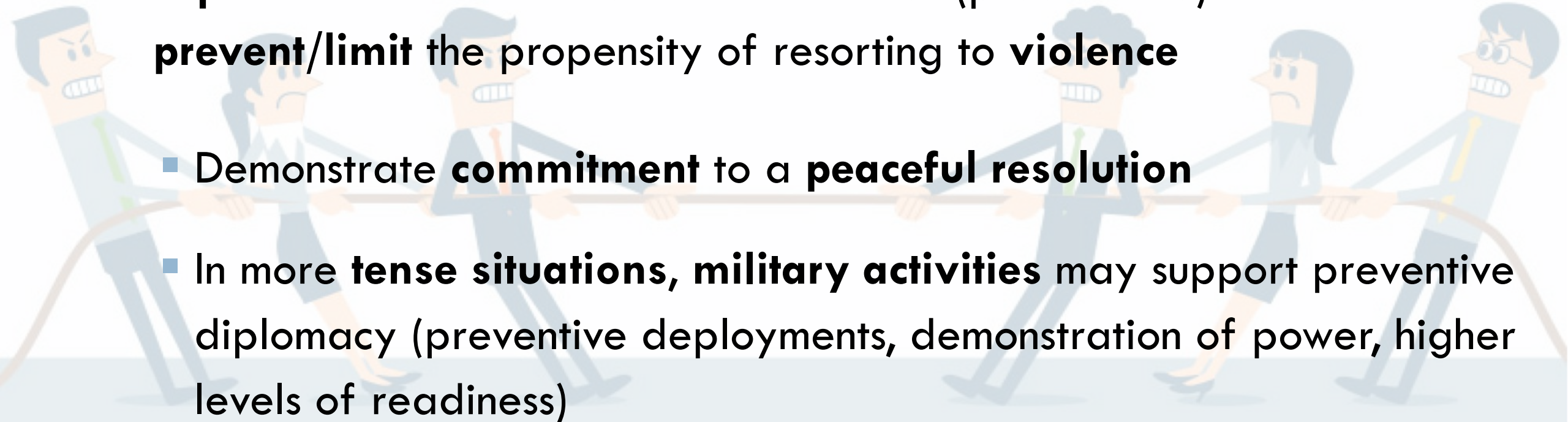
Conflict Prevention

Preventive Diplomacy =>

- **Diplomatic actions** taken **in advance** of (predictable) **crisis** to **prevent**/**limit** the propensity of resorting to **violence**

  - Demonstrate **commitment** to a **peaceful resolution**

  - In more **tense situations, military activities** may support preventive diplomacy (preventive deployments, demonstration of power, higher levels of readiness)

Conflict Prevention

Structural Prevention =>

- **Long-term efforts** concerning political, economic, developmental and cultural levels + civil society to prevent a conflict from occurring/reoccurring

  - Emphasis on **collective security** => Domestic/regional/global security are linked

  - Examples: Membership in IOs, association agreements, co-operation, development programs

Conflict Prevention

- Indicators to examine when trying to successfully **prevent the next conflict:**

  - **History** => Past conflicts, relationships between the parties

  - **Economic factors** => Low income, high export dependence …

  - **Domestic issues** => Political instability, human rights (violations?), militarization, ethnic dominance, unemployment rate among young adults, distribution of access to natural resources …

  - **Regional issues** => Regional conflicts, spillover effect?

Next Session...

- **Introduction to Diplomacy**
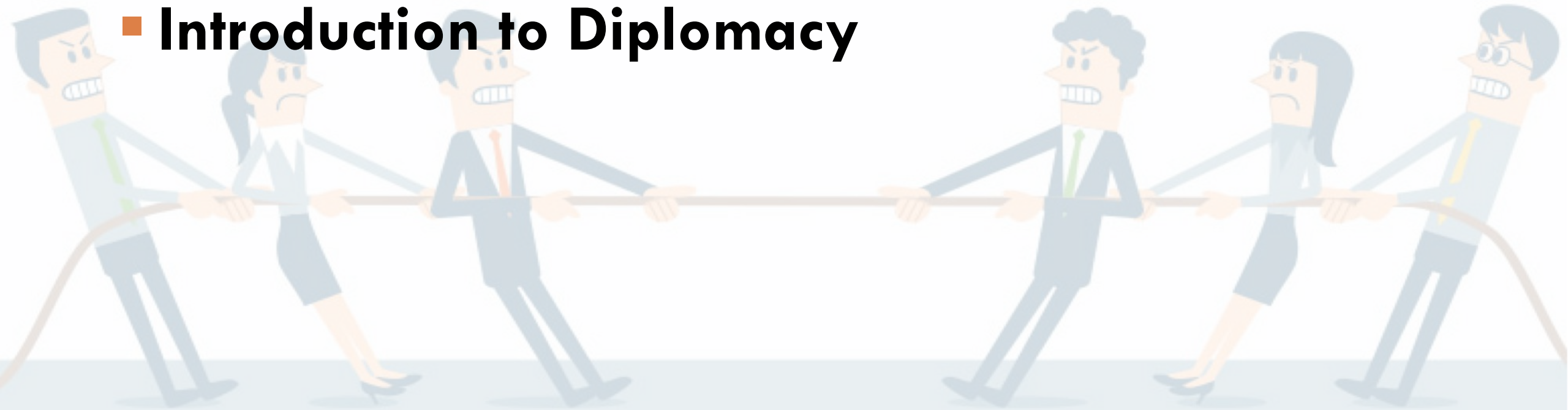
Questions? Feel free to email me =>

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"Relax, it's just a negotiating tactic."