

CDSn4001: Conflict Analysis

Conflict resolution

December 4, 2023

Miriam Matejova, PhD

Agenda

- How do we end wars? How *should* we end wars?
- What is the future of war and war prevention?

Conflict resolution

- Why do we study causes of conflict?
- How do we bring on peace?

Achieving negative peace

- **Peacemaking**

- Efforts to bring the conflict parties to a peace settlement – through negotiations, mediation, etc.

- **Peacekeeping**

- Deployment of peacekeeping forces to separate and monitor the conflict parties

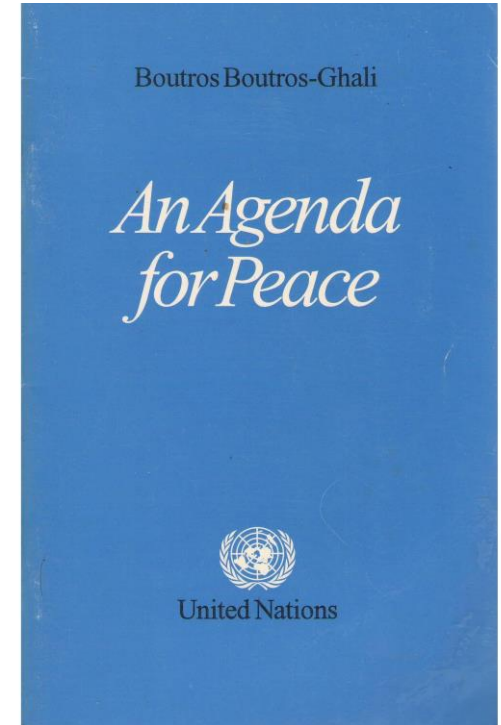
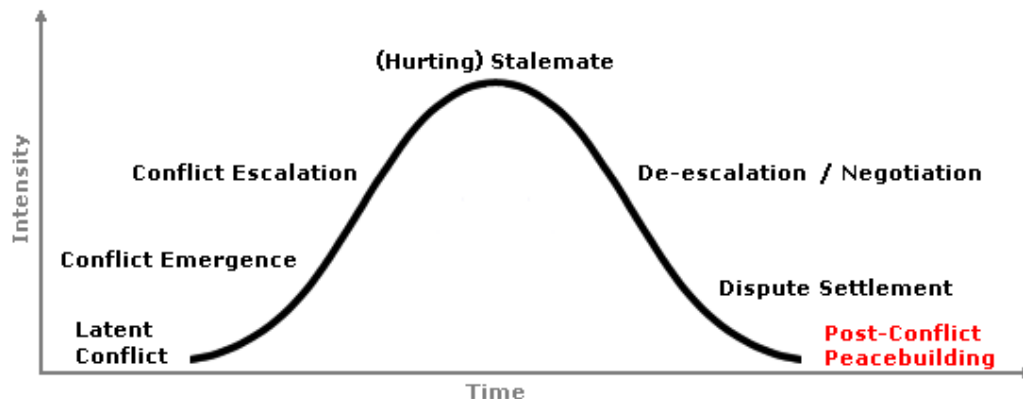
- **Peace enforcement**

- The use of force or threat of force, which will force the states or groups to stop fighting.

Achieving positive peace

- **Peacebuilding**

- Focus on social, political and economic structures that cause conflict
- Goal is to build a constructive relationship between conflict parties to prevent the return of violence.
- Many different strategies: partition, powersharing, cooptation, atd'.



Credible commitment theory

- Parties don't reach cooperative solutions, because they can't commit themselves credibly to act (in advance) in agreed ways.
 - Actor's promise to behave cooperatively might not be believed by others if promises cannot be enforced.
 - Actors make promises but have no intention of upholding them, or
 - An actor may sincerely want to promise to cooperate, but in the future, it may be rational to break a promise if an opportunity arises.

How to make commitments credible?

- Make renegeing on the agreement costly by raising the political costs of defection
 - Audience costs – sovereign states raise their audience costs if they want to increase the credibility of their commitments

Debate

- What is the predictive power of “old” theories?