



# CONFLICT

## What is Conflict?

A serious disagreement, incompatibility or clash

Conflicts arise between individuals or groups who need to communicate but have some obstacle that makes this difficult.

**Greed** is often a feature of conflict.

There are three main areas of conflict:-

1. **Power** – taking control or asserting influence over others
2. **Economic** – allocation of limited resources
3. **Values / Beliefs** - a difference of ideas or opinions

## Why Does Conflict Exist?

Where there are people, conflict is inevitable because of differences and is neither a positive or negative thing, in and of itself.

## Positive Conflict

Conflict can encourage creative solutions to problems and generate innovation and increased communication, thus improving relationships. This makes conflict a positive force.

## Negative Conflict

Conflict where differences are not addressed, expectations are not controlled, the disagreement focuses on assumptions rather than facts, or the individuals involved have no desire to find a solution is negative conflict. When most of us think about conflict, we automatically think of negative conflict.

## Why is it a World Issue?

Poverty and political, social, and economic inequalities between groups predispose them to conflict. Eight out of 10 of the world's poorest countries are suffering, or have recently suffered, from large scale violent conflict. Wars in developing countries have heavy human, economic, and social costs and are a major cause of poverty and underdevelopment. This creates a cycle of conflict that needs to be broken.

Understanding world history would be impossible without understanding the conflicts that have shaped it.

Children need to learn how to handle disagreements constructively and resolve their differences without yelling and screaming, ignoring and sulking, whining and moaning or resorting to violence.

Conflict can be seen as an opportunity for learning about and understanding our differences. We can all live harmoniously, despite conflicts, as long as we know how to responsibly manage these struggles.

## World Issue Link

Culture

Communication



**Issues**

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