

Conflict & Dispute Resolution

Structural Change in Groups & Communities

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the reading:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.

Reading

- Dean G. Pruitt & Sung Hee Kim, *Social Conflict*, chapter 2 (only pages 27–35), chapter 6 (only pages 113–119) & chapter 8 (only pages 161–164).

Questions

1. How do group identity and the frustration of group aspirations tend to encourage conflict? What is conflict group mobilization, and what conditions encourages it?
2. What are the various forms of structural change that occur in groups and within the broader community during escalation?
3. For each structural change in groups and communities, to what extent does it tend to persist and protract escalation?

When responding to 2 and 3, fill out the table posted on the website. I've already done the first row for you. Please print out and bring this table to class, so we can go over it together as a group.