

INTRODUCTORY NOTE¹

This thematic issue of Janus.net is dedicated to the Management and Resolution of Conflicts, and is part of the more general framework of a project on this subject in the OBSERVARE's course. With this initiative, we intend to contribute to the study of the Management and Resolution of Conflicts in a systematic and coordinated manner, fully convinced of its importance and the need for academia in Portugal devoted to it. The OBSERVARE is to be congratulated for the courage to promote this endeavour.

The conflicts of the twentieth/twenty-first century have shown a special capacity to threaten stability and peace on a global scale. Their complexity cannot sympathise with simplistic approaches. This special issue seeks to contribute reflections on these issues, both theoretically and practically, aware that efforts to inhibit the potential of aggression organised by and in States, or at least reduce it significantly, requires thorough analysis.

This exercise will be done by adopting a constructive approach to conflicts, seeking to minimise violence, overcome antagonism between opponents, persuade them to accept proposed political solutions and make them produce stable and lasting results.

Since the Management and Resolution of Conflicts is a complex domain with many interdependencies, in this edition we tried to explore the convergence and complementarity of knowledge in Conflict Resolution and International Relations, which have led scholars and practitioners of these disciplines to build links in communication between both communities.

Specifically, this special issue presents a range of approaches to the management and resolution of intra-state conflicts based on non-violent and violent methods used in times of war, negative peace and transition to positive peace.

The article by Gilberto Oliveira presents the theme of pragmatic pacifism, which conceptualises the strategic/pragmatic aspects of non-violent action. It is distinct from other non-violent approaches for its non-institutional agency and its "direct action" as a means of pressure and resistance. Pragmatism is based on the fact that political power and hierarchies depend, ultimately, on consent and cooperation. Through non-violent action, it is possible to deny or block this source of power and thus strengthen the power of resisting groups. Strategy is a requirement for success of non-violent actions of protest, persuasion, non-cooperation and non-violent intervention. Despite periods of negative peace being a more common method, such as in the recent "Arab Spring", it is also used in times of war, as was the case in the 1990s in the wars in the Balkans or in the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace movement in 2003.

The article by Alexandre de Sousa Carvalho discusses the institutional solutions of power-sharing as a way to avoid violence, which are often applied in multi-ethnic

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societies. Being closely related to democratic peace theory and avoiding zero-sum games, it is also found as a governmental solution in autocratic states. However, the frequent use of power-sharing models as mechanisms for conflict resolution in post-election or conflict escalation periods puts forward specific questions about power undermining the democratic model.

António Oliveira's article focuses on the transformation of conflict resolution goals with recourse to the use of force, an exclusively military intervention in war, but that also understands social and civil security. In the context of increasingly complex and multidimensional interventions, the article discusses the principles of the use of force, its challenges and effectiveness.

The article by Madalena Moita focuses on the evolution of the concept of peace in the United Nations, where ideas of peacekeeping and the concept of building peace are seen together in the spirit of Galtung's concept of positive peace. Through an analysis of United Nations interventions in Guatemala and Haiti, it is noted that the concept of positive peace has not been attained. Moreover, the evaluation processes used in the United Nations should be focused not only on results, but also on the processes through which mandates are implemented.

Ricardo Sousa's article seeks to identify the mechanisms of the genesis of the transition of negative peace into civil war as a way to better identify ways of resolving conflict. The paper tests the model of "greed" and "claims" together with the role of leadership and external interventions in four initiation and intensification periods of conflict in Angola between 1961 and 2002. The results suggest the saliences of external intervention during the Cold War, economic "greed" (associated with oil, diamonds, poverty and war capital) and leadership in the post-Cold War period to be important factors. The case study also identifies that "greed" and "complaints" may be interconnected and are not independent mechanisms.

The edition also includes notes and reflections from José Milhazes on the meeting of Francis I and Kirill I, head of the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church respectively, on 12 February 2016. The meeting is framed in its political aspects, and it also reflects on the role of the two churches in the "war between Christians" in the Ukraine.

Carlos Branco and Ricardo de Sousa

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