

CONFLICT SENSITIVE JOURNALISM

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Good journalism is difficult work at the best of times. There is never enough information and not enough time. Reporters rely on their training and standards to overcome these difficulties and deliver news which is accurate and impartial. That is the traditional role of journalism – to enable the public to make well-informed decisions.

Professional news reporters, whether being aware of it or not, are specialists in conflict. For reporters, change is news. And when there is change, there often is disagreement or conflict. There is conflict among those who like the change and those who do not, or those who want more change and those who oppose change. So journalists deal with conflict very often in their work. But many journalists know little about the idea of conflict. They do not know the root causes of conflict, or how conflicts end. They do not know the different kinds of conflict.

Conflict is a situation where two or more individuals or groups try to pursue goals or ambitions which they believe they cannot share.

What causes conflict?

Almost world-wide, it is predictable that conflict will arise where:

- Resources are scarce and not shared fairly, as in food, housing, jobs or land
- There is little or no communication between the two groups
- The groups have incorrect ideas and beliefs about each other
- Unresolved grievances exist from the past
- Power is unevenly distributed

These are several elements of conflict resolution that good journalism can deliver, automatically, as part of its daily work:

- Channeling communication
- Educating
- Confidence-building
- Correcting misperceptions
- Making them human
- Identifying underlying interests
- Emotional outlet
- Framing the conflict
- Face-saving, consensus-building
- Solution-building
- Encouraging a balance of power

It is important to know that there is more than one way to end conflict. There are at least four ways for this conflict to end.

- One party prevails
- Withdrawal
- Compromise. A more useful way
- Transcendence. Real resolution of conflict

One way of achieving more alternatives in a dispute is by bringing more people into the conflict. It produces more ideas for seeing the conflict differently. It helps discover different solutions to be shared. When two sides are deadlocked, other members of the community, such as religious leaders, the business community, the civil society, a friendly neighboring country, or international organisations, can bring different visions and alternative solutions.

What does conflict analysis mean for journalists?

1. Journalists should seek out other parties and other points of view. They should not only repeat old grievances by the old elites.

2. Journalists should examine what the parties are seeking and the possibility for withdrawal, compromise or transcendence. Journalists should write about these possibilities.

3. With conflict analysis, journalists can understand what diplomats and negotiators are trying to do, and can report it more reliably.

4. With conflict analysis, journalists can identify more sources to go to for information.

For citizens in a conflict to make well-informed decisions and perhaps resolve their conflict, they must have good journalism. This profession includes great number of different knowledge.

Библиографический список

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FEUDALISM IN MODERN RUSSIAN AND BRITISH HISTORIOGRAPHY

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Main purpose of this report is compare conceptions of feudalism in Russian and in British historiography. If we talk about Middle ages, we certainly associate it with feudalism. But often we have not got enough evidence in sources, that shows us features of feudalism. But according the model we must