Title of Article: Conflict Handling Techniques

Author(s): Chidozie, F.C

Outlet: Readings in Peace and Conflict Studies, Ota: Covenant University. 2013

Date: 2014

Abstract: The knowledge of peace and conflict is arguably the prime value in contemporary societies today but the most elusive. This irony is further reflected and indeed, reinforced by the pervasive nature of conflict in every strata of human society. By this it is implied that conflict is a multi-dimensional social phenomenon which is an integral feature of human existence and a natural part of our daily lives. This understanding is critical to the study of conflict since it can address the general misconceptions common in related literatures. These general misconceptions have remained the dominant issues in the study of conflict over the decades. In all appearances, there are no universally adopted procedures for dealing with conflicts. But, since conflicts cannot be avoided, the question therefore, is what strategies are employed in the management of conflict when they occur. In essence, how do people respond to conflicts when they occur? Are there individual and/or cultural differences in the way people deal with conflict situations? What are the factors or forces that condition such differences? The intention is therefore, to identify the spectrum of options that are available to parties in conflict as they try to grasp and cope with the situation. These are the questions and issues that will be addressed in this chapter. The discussion in the chapter is divided into four sections. Following the introduction is a brief conceptualization of conflict with a view to further deepening the theoretical base of the subject of conflict. The third section addresses the strategies for handling conflict, while the final section will have the concluding remarks.