



## Using Conflict Theory

By Otomar J. Bartos, Paul Wehr



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Human conflict - from family feuds, to labor strikes, to national warfare - is an ever-present and universal social problem and the methods to manage it, a challenge for everyone, from average citizens to policymakers and social theorists. Using Conflict Theory will educate students about how, under what conditions, and why conflict erupts, and how it can be managed. It is a unique classroom book blending theory and practical application and the first to bridge for students the science of social theory and the art of practice. The authors extract from classical sociological theory (Marx, Dahrendorf, Weber, Durkheim, and Parsons), and interpret for the student how these theoretical perspectives have contributed to understanding social conflict (its sources, the causes of escalation and de-escalation of violence, the negotiations process). The perspectives of contemporary theorists (such as Randall Collins, James Coleman, Joseph Himes, Hubert Blalock) are also brought to bear on these questions.

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#### Review

"Particularly in light of recent developments in the war against terrorism, Bartos and Wehr's Using Conflict Theory constitutes a timely contribution and provides enjoyable topical reading for the general public as well as for its main intended audience, students of conflict resolution" *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, Silvia Dorina Mussano, University of Ulster

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