Regional and Local Conflicts in the Modern World Political Map

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Abstract

The paper explores main theoretical and practical aspects related to the conflicts in different Regions of the World. Particularly, first chapter presents opinions of different scientists about main economic, political, ideological and social reasons of emerging conflicts within and between states. The second part of the research is dedicated to the analysis of different conflicts, particularly - the number of conflicts, causes of conflicts, statuses of different disputed territories etc. Main characters of the conflicts in Balkans, Middle East, Africa, Europe etc. are discussed.

Keywords: conflict, confrontation, genocide, resolution, separatism, territory

Introduction

In the era of the bipolar world and the "cold war", one of the main sources of instability in the world were numerous regional and local conflicts, which the communist and capitalist systems tried to use to their interests. These conflicts were causing enormous damage to the economy, social and political development of many countries, and led to the deaths of millions of people - especially in the developing countries. Study of such conflicts became possible through the establishment of a special section of Political Science - Conflict Studies and the system of political geography acquired a new direction - geography of conflicts.

After the end of the confrontation between the two systems and the ending of "cold war", the number of conflicts has decreased. For example, through negotiations it became possible to find a solution of conflicts in South-east Asia (Cambodia), in Africa (Namibia, Angola), Latin America (Nicaragua, El Salvador) etc. Nevertheless, regional and local conflicts in the beginning of the XXI century continue to threaten the international security. In addition, many of them have the ability to generate a kind of terrorist waves and spread them sometimes far beyond the conflict zones. Shortly we can assume, that without understanding the nature of the conflict it is impossible to fully understand the modern political map of the world. Therefore, we consistently consider several related issues.

Theoretical Aspects of the Conflict

Social fluctuations, wars and conflicts have important role in the history of humanity. Unfortunately, nowadays, our existence is full of such cataclysms which influence mostly social and ethnic spheres. The last twenty years in international relations is characterized by the aggravation of dispute space.

Till the end of 80s of 20th century, Soviet scientific literature assumed that they had created conflict-free model of the society development. And the studies of ethno-political conflicts were realized at the examples of historical material and other processes that occurred in the western countries. At this time western scholars afforded to store huge scientific-practical experience which was the basement of the following formation - school of conflict studies. The main object of the conflict studies is to study the nature, reasons and mechanisms of existing conflicts.

In contemporary literature and another means of information, including spoken language we come across many explanations of the conflict. Even, the specialists do not have a common opinion about the concept of the conflict. Very often, there are used terminology such as "fight", "argument", "tension in relations", "incident" and etc. as the synonyms of the conflict. All scholars agree that the conflict arises between two or more sides, which are in themselves the main participants of the conflict. In international relations such subjects are states or state groups, and in domestic conflicts official government, different political movements, ethnic or religious groups. Recently, in inter state domestic conflicts, there are so called non state participants who play very active role. And there are indirect participants, who possibly do not participate in the conflict, but support this or that force through economic methods or by realizations of open or secret delivering of arm.

Well-known scientist Johan Galtung had an opinion that social structures have not only integrative but violent character for social groups and individuals. At this time Galtung brought in science the concept of "structural violence". Structural violence is the result of unrecognized political decisions. Galtung is also associated with "negative and positive peace". According to this conception "positive peace" is much more, than simply violent conflict nonexistence ("negative peace") (Galtung J. 1978. p. 565.).

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American political scientist Philip Wright characterizes the conflict as the confrontation of social units. They address all their strength to reach distinct aim, despite being this aim satisfactory for all or not (Wright Q. 1955. P. 241). In Wright's opinion conflict can be divided into four stages: 1) considering incompatibility; 2) growing tension; 3) pressure without using the force; 4) military intervention or/ and war with the purpose to dictate one's decision. Each stage represents the means of pressure for changing the existing political course. Each stage gives additional impulse to confronted sides to realize clearly their own interests (Wright Q. 1965. P. 435).

Conflict showing forms can be divided by two main signs: in fight using armed forces or not. Which form should be used in the concrete occasion depends on political culture of society, common condition of the social-economic system, relationship between mass and elite and etc. Once more, this speaks about the fact that solving the conflict is impossible without showing the real reasons and foreseeing them. One of the varieties of the political conflict is ethno-political conflict. Its main point is that some nation sees the best guarantee in creating its own state to protect culture, independence or spiritual unity. And this is the whole problem because to create separate state for each nation is an absolute utopia.

After the World War II colonial system collapsed and hundreds of African, Asian or Latin American ethno-national groups gained state independence, and created such illusions that the world once and forever was divided with the state borders. 15 independent states emerged on the territory of former USSR. Former Yugoslavia destroyed with bloody battles, Kosovo - the province of Serbia gained independence and etc. the process has not finished yet. In Turkey Kurds are fighting more and more actively for self-determination, such as Chechens in Russia, Abkhazians and Ossetians in Georgia, Karabakh Armenians in Azerbaijan and etc.

The world practice shows that higher the economic or cultural level of the country is, less reason exists for confrontations between nations. Relationsamong nations in themselves are selected with high sense of conflict. And when there are political mistakes too, their explosive potential is growing more and more. There is a clear example of such conflicts is South Caucasus. If not the position of Soviet authority and then independent Russia, we could avoid bloody struggles in Abkhazia and then in Tskhinvali region. In other words ethnic sign was not the defining factor but the result of Kremlin's imperial policy.

The only way to solve the conflict is bilateral steps from confronted sides. Nowadays, there is no universal mean of regulating the conflict. The modern theory is mostly built on case studies, opinions of sociologists, political scientists, and politicians. Solving the conflict can be put of or prolonged in time. But it would not eradicate the conflict. On the contrary, it would deepen and strain more.

American scholar I. William Zartman thinks that the important problematic character of the conflict is its asymmetry. Such asymmetrical relations are rarely subordinated to regulations, because the strong side has fewer stimuli to talk with weak side on equal initials. And the weak side does its best to change undesirable correlation of forces (Zartman I. 1995. p. 36).The opponent sides which seek to regulate the conflict by joint decisions recognize that the problem is solved only when both sides reach an agreement. In spite of the positive side of the joint decision making process, opposite interests and demands are not eradicated. That is why it is necessary to seek the result, which establishes balance. To reach the aim is connected with "bargaining" element, which means the development of negotiation process.

The standard definition of bargaining was given by American scientists J. Rubin and B. Brown. In their opinion bargaining process must be in accordance with the cases: 1) at least two sides must interrelate to each other; 2) between these sides there is conflict of interests on several issues; 3) from time to time the sides go in the voluntary bilateral negotiations; 4) the most complicated steps in these bilateral relations is connected with the exchanging the recourses between conflict subjects, solving some (or several) questionable issues; 5) these steps are more consecutive, than simultaneous in the means, that one side offers its own suggestions and demands and then follows counter-offer from another side. And this process continues till the outlet is not found or the sides are in the alley (Rubin J.Z., Brown B.R. 1975. p. 5).

In ethno-political conflict sphere is one acknowledged truth: to foresee the conflict in promptly and to avoid it is easier than to arrange it later. The most important problem of the ethno-political conflict is the so called right of nation to self-determination, though the wrong interpretation and support of the self-determination concept can cause the formation of hundreds of new sovereign states in perspectives. And accompanying this event there will be permanently eternal wars. The world already has such examples like South Caucasian "frozen" conflicts. If we look around the world conflicts, it becomes clear that practically each of them is related to the wrong interpretation of self-determination by the national minorities.

Types of the Conflict

The first question - about the number of conflicts. These figures are found in the literature, but they often not coincide with each other. If you trust the most authoritative data special institute for the study of conflict, which is located in Heidelberg (Germany), in 2013 the total number of conflicts reached 414! (Conflict Barometer 2013). Two World Wars, about 200 wars, local armed conflicts, terror, armed fighting for the power, all those types of conflicts, killed within the previous Century about 300 million people (Antsupov. A., Shipolov, 2008. p.11). The second question - about the extent of conflict. Conflict studies are not designed well enough, but in principle it is obvious, that all conflicts can be divided into the regional and local.

Regional conflicts, which in the modern World are quite a lot, of course, represent the greatest threat to the international security. Not being able to consider all of them, we restrict ourselves with the few examples of such conflicts.

You've probably already thought about the Middle East region, which throughout the postwar period, plays the role of "powder keg", which is ready at any moment to undermine the entire system of the international security. In fact, it is - a sensitive nerve center of the planet, where historically formed a very complex interweaving of cultures and religions and face not only the interests of the countries in the region, but also many other countries in Europe, Asia and America. At the heart of this regional conflict is as you know, the Israeli- Palestinian (and wider - the Israeli- Arab) conflict, which already have the history of more than half a century , remaining throughout this time perhaps the most complex, attracting the world's attention, problem (Mayers, D. 1998. p. 14). More than one generation of Israelis and Arabs has grown in an atmosphere of mutual hatred and incessant sharp confrontations, including six wars between Israel and its Arab neighbors, which lasted with several years of intifada (Arabic rebel). Some changes for the better situation came only in the early 90s., when the Palestinian Autonomy was founded (Figure 1). But many controversial issues still remain, so that a sovereign Palestinian state on the political map of the world does not exists (Gachechiladze R., 2008. P. 462). This conflict deteriorated even more in the beginning of 2006 after victory at the parliamentary elections in the Palestinian autonomy by the radical Islamist group Hamas.

Figure 1. *The State of Israel and the Palestinian Autonomy*
Source: *Springtime of Nations, 2012*

During the analysis of the roots of this conflict, it should be mentioned that it has its origin in the issue of the status of Palestine, which till the 1947 represented the territory under the UK Mandate, which was granted to this country by the League of Nations. After the World War 2, new established super-powers – USA and USSR were interested in the abolishment of the British mandate and creation of the Arab and Jewish states, with Jerusalem under the International Status. Both powers were interested in the increasing their spheres of influences in the Middle East. However, the plan was rejected by the Palestinian Arabs and other Arab states, who were against of the establishment the independent Jewish state. So, this confrontation was followed by Israeli- Arab wars in 1948, 1967 and 1973. During the whole period of the confrontation (within the "cold war" period), State of Israel was supported by USA and Palestine by USSR. After the "cold war" period, when Russia has lost its sphere of influence in the Middle East, position of the West toward the conflict resolution process has been gradually changed. By the support from the western side, within the 1994-1995 years period, it was created the convenient base for the establishment Palestine Autonomy. In 1995, an agreement about Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank was signed.

Taking into account to establish close relations with the Arabic and in general with Islamic World and somehow compensate the threats and challenges, which are coming from the Middle East, democratic west is more and more interested in the peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by the establishment of the independent Palestine instead of recognition of Israel State by the Palestine and Arabic countries. The result was the adoption of the Road Map in the beginning of the XXI century, which envisages a comprehensive settlement of the Middle east conflict, including the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks – based on Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1397 (2002), the Madrid Peace Conference, the principles of land for peace etc.

Besides this basic conflict in this region there were others, for example between Iraq and Iran, which led to a bloody long war between them in the 80s., It this regard it is important to point out, that one of the reasons of the starting of this war was rich by oil dispute territory. Second reason could be considered the fact, that the power in Iraq was in the hand of Sunni leaders (headed by Saddam Hussein), who started the war against the Sheet Iran. Both superpowers, USA and USSR were interested in the prolongation of war because of several reasons: Official Washington was interested in the weakening of Iran, where 1979 as a result of Islamic Revolution, anti-American forces came to the power. At the same time, official Washington had a deal with Tehran by the agency of secret negotiations to supply Iran with military weapons instead of releasing American hostages – former employees of USA Embassy in Iran, who were captured after the Revolution by local radicals. Rich by oil USSR was interested in the war between two oil producer states. As a result of the starting the war, the prices on oil in 1980 jumped up from 15 to 30 US Dollars per barrel. Within the 8 years of war, Americans and Soviets were supplying both countries by military weapons and during this period, no sanctions neither against Iran nor Iraq were adopted by the UN Security Council. The results of Iran-Iraq war later caused Iraq's aggression against Kuwait in 1990. During the war with Iran, official Baghdad gained the credits from Kuwait and later by the intension to establish control over the oil fields in Kuwait, implemented aggres-sion against former creditor. The involvement in this war the International Coalition, de-facto headed by USA, promoted the establishment of "New World Order", under the US leadership. In other parts of Asia there are a number of regional conflicts, here we can also include a long-term conflict in Afghanistan, the standoff between India and Pakistan in Kashmir and in Europe - conflicts related to political reconstruction of the former Yugoslavia. As to local conflicts, i.e. a relatively smaller-scale conflicts, they are majority in the modern world.

But you have to take into account the fact, that very often it is difficult to make a clear distinction between regional and local conflicts. The third question - the political status of the conflicts that can be subdivided into external (international) and internal (domestic).Obvious examples of major international conflicts can serve already mentioned the Israeli - Arab conflict, the conflict between India and Pakistan in Kashmir, conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, the former Yugoslavia. But the conflicts on ethnic grounds, for example, in Belgium or Canada, can be attributed to a number of domestic. In the beginning of the XXI Century, 71 were interstate, and 178 intrastate conflicts (Maksakovsky, 2009. P. 85). Question four - to categorize the nature of the conflict. With this approach, usually are determined the violent (armed) and non-violent conflict. You understand that the first of them pose the greatest threat and international organizations monitor them carefully (Robert J. Art. 2005. P. 412-413). Let`s firstly consider the armed (violence) conflicts i.e. the actual "hot spots" of our planet. Although the large-scale armed conflict officially are considered in which the loss exceeds one thousand persons, during the conflicts in Afghanistan and Rwanda, there were a millions of victims, during the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1996) - Hundreds of thousands people were killed. In Africa, already in the post-colonial period, 35 armed conflicts were fixed, which killed a total of about 10 million people (Kegley C.W., Shannon L., Blanton. 2010-2011. pp. 237-238). According to the Institute in Heidelberg, in 2013 the world had 45 highly violated conflicts, which were di-vided into two categories.

To the first of them actually were attributed mainly domestic wars. Outbreaks of the serious crises violently conflicting parties, or at least the threat of its use have been attributed to the second category, including one international (between India and Pakistan), and the other domestic. From the 45 armed conflicts most of them were going on in Africa and Asia, including the Middle East (Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (Germany). 2013. Pp. 14-16).

The crucial role in the prevention and peaceful settlement of the armed conflict, plays the United Nations, whose main goal is to maintain peace on our planet. UN operations include peacekeeping and diplomatic measures and the direct intervention of peacekeeping forces of the organization in the cases of the military conflicts. During the existence of the UN, such "peace enforcement" action has been carried out in several dozen countries. However, experience in the 90s showed that the mere presence of the "blue helmets" in the conflict zone is not enough to stop the hostilities. Nevertheless, in since 1948 till April 2004, UN has established a total 56 operations, 43 of these since 1988. As of April 2004, there were 14 active peacekeeping operations (Basic Facts about the United Nations, 2004. p. 72) (in the Sudan and Rwanda, Israel and Palestine, India and Pakistan, Cyprus, Sierra Leone, etc.). At the same time, it has been reduced the military- police forces and now their 90% are composed of soldiers and officers not from the Western countries, but from such states as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal.
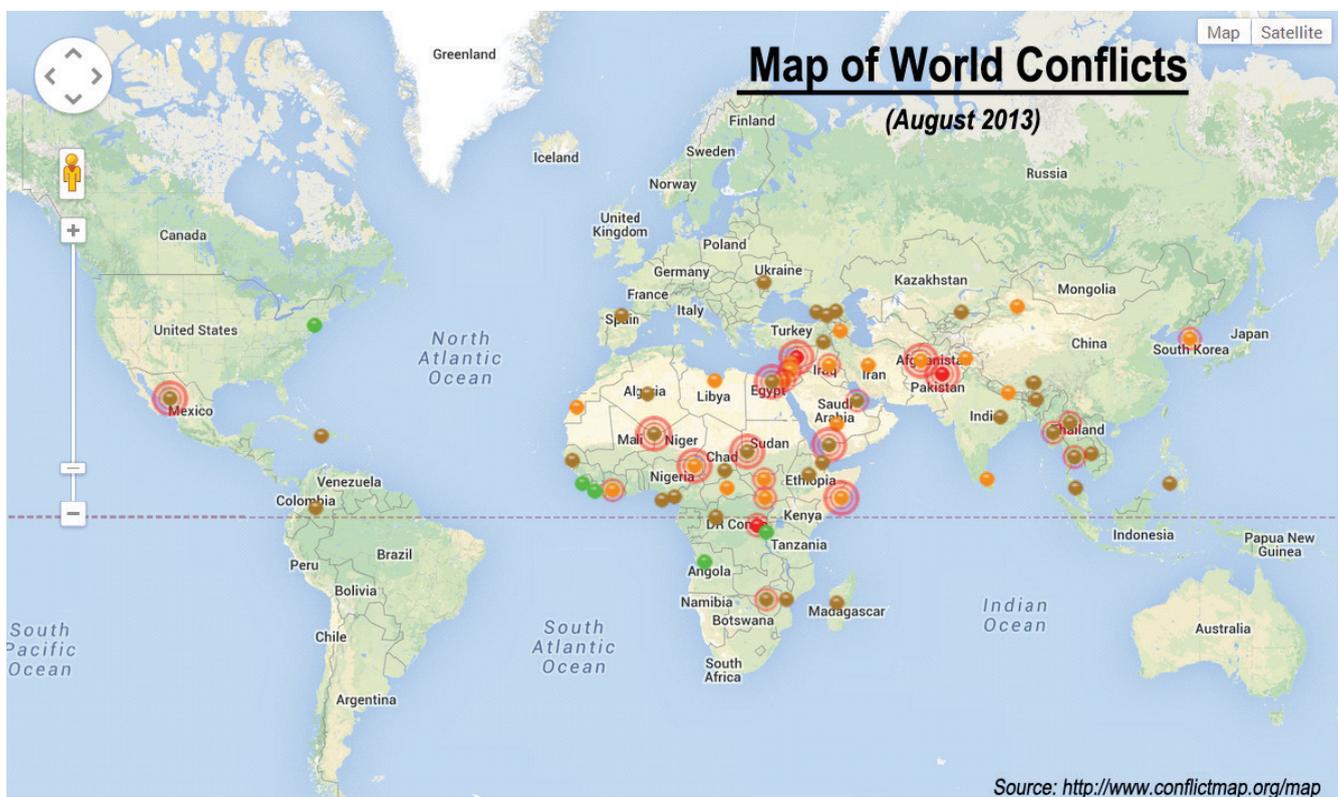
Figure 2. *Violence Conflicts in the Modern World*
Source: *Map of World Conflicts, 2013.*

But, at the same time the UN Security Council approved the concept of active peacekeeping actions, even allowing peacekeepers to use heavy military equipment. The most ambitious and hard of such operations recently have been carried out by them against the rebels in DR of Congo. It should be taken into consideration the fact, that in the post-cold war period in the peacemaking and peacekeeping operations were engaged NATO and European Union. As the examples of this kind of actions can be considered the direct involvement of NATO in the armed conflicts in the former Yugoslavia (1992-1995 in Bosnia, 1999 in Kosovo) (NATO Handbook. 2006. Pp. 167-179). Two leading countries of the organization (USA and UK) have overthrown the ruling Afghan movement "Taliban" in 2001-2002. But, of course, the biggest U.S. and U.K. military action was held in 2003, in Iraq to overthrow the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein. We should add that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which also has several missions in the areas of European and non-European conflicts, where the military operations were conducted more recently. The same we should say about EU, which is nowadays involved in the peacekeeping actions in Bosnia, Macedonia, Georgia etc. With regard to the non-violent conflicts, they are in majority in our World, but this situation is to some extent misleading. Indeed, many of these conflicts are not so long ago were also "hot spots", with the examples of the civil war and terrorism. That is why they are sometimes called hidden or smoldering conflicts, that are dangerous because here at any time of the accidental spark can again kindle the flames of war. Notable examples of this kind - self-proclaimed but unrecognized territories (quasi-). According to some estimates the total number of them exceeds 120 and even 160, but these figures are highly exaggerated. The formation of such states is often associated with the military conflicts, civil wars and occupations, which was then reached a temporary, but not a final political settlement (Maksakovsky. 2009. P.87).

Fifth question - about the causes of conflict. Essentially it is a matter of their typology, which from the standpoint of social and economic geography, perhaps are the most interesting. In the literature you can find different opinions on this issue. But if you consider it with the most generalized positions, then it would be right to think, to talk about the three main causes of the conflict: first, territorial disputes, secondly, about all sorts of internal political differences and thirdly, the ethno-religious nature of the conflicts.

Conflicts related to the territorial disputes, exist in all parts of the world. In Europe, an example of this is the Rock of Gibraltar - the only one remaining the region of the colonial possessions, because of a long-time dispute between the UK and Spain. In Asia, there are more than 30 such disputes. There are long-standing territorial disputes between Israel and Palestine, Turkey and Greece (over Cyprus and the Aegean islands), Iraq and Kuwait, Iran, Saudi Arabia with several neighboring countries, India and Pakistan over Kashmir, China, India, Vietnam, DPRK and Japan over several islands in the South-East Asia, Russia and Japan because of the Northern Territories (Southern Kuril Islands) etc.

No less territorial disputes are in Africa, where in the colonial era metropolis conducted so-called bordering of their colonies without regard of the ethnic boundaries. It is estimated that on the present political map of Africa 44% of the entire length of the state border runs along with the meridians and parallels, 30 % - on a geometrically correct lines (Political Map of Africa. 2013). This applies especially to the West Africa, where Fulani people, for example, in the XIX century was divided between the 12 British and French colonies. But territorial disputes have often lead to the military conflicts, which are in North Africa (e.g. between Morocco and Western Sahara, Mauritania), and in East Africa (e.g. between Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea), and in South Africa (e.g. between Namibia and South Africa). In Latin America, there are about 20 territorial disputes (Jorge I. Domínguez. 2003. Pp. 3-7), and they also repeatedly led to the military action. It is enough to recall the conflicts between UK with Argentina over the disputed Falkland Islands, which Argentina tried to annex in 1982. Territorial disputes also take place in Australia and Oceania.

Let`s now turn to internal political conflicts, which are mostly associated with the acute confrontation between political parties and groups, which causes disruptions not only in the political, but also in the economic and social spheres of life. On the political map of the modern World, there are the countries with similar political instability and armed conflict fraught can be attributed primarily to many African countries - such as Algeria, where local Islamists are fighting with the secular state, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Somalia, Uganda. Political map of Asia in this group of countries torn by internal contradictions includes Afghanistan, Nepal, Laos, and in Latin America - Colombia, Guatemala.

At the same time, many conflicts in the modern World political map take place on the ethno-religious ground. They are based, as a rule, on militant nationalism, which finds expression in the increasing trend towards creation sovereignty of the large and small ethnic communities in order to create their own independent states, the growing intolerance towards minorities. These centrifugal tendencies can be expressed using the concept of separatism (from Lat. Separatus - separate), meaning the desire for isolation, separation, i.e. obtaining by the some part of the country full political independence or at least autonomy. It would be more correct to call such conflicts separatist on ethnic-national-religious basis (Nye. Jr. S. 2007. Pp. 157-165).

Nowadays separatism has a great destabilizing effect on the entire World`s geopolitical order. This is not surprising. In the book, "Geographic picture of the world" you can see a map of the main sources of separatism, which are only 53 which together occupy an area of 12.7 million km2 with the population of 220 million people (Maksakovsky V., 2009. p.89). Some scientists without some reasons connect those conflicts with a so-called "geopolitical fault" or "buffer zones" that are characteristic of the borderland between the world's ethnic and cultural civilizations. If we talk about specific countries, then you obviously have guessed that the centers of militant nationalism, separatism and accordingly, ethno-religious conflicts are primarily multinational states, which are about 60 in the world (Maksakovsky V., 2009. p. 89) and the states with more or less significant number of national minorities.

Conflicts in these countries are mostly complex, contradictory, and with long-term nature, and they are based on territorial disputes and historically accumulating grievances related to national oppression, continuous mutual alienation and hostility (Jervis R., 2005. Pp. 399-415). As it is oddly at the first glance, but the separatist conflicts in the national and religious divisions exist in many Western States – with the economically advanced and democratic regimes. A striking example of this is Europe, where for many decades, despite all efforts, it failed to achieve the complete elimination of conflict in Northern Ireland (Ulster), where at least until mid-2005 remained confrontation between Catholics and Protestants, also in Basque Country, where extreme nationalists and separatists are fighting for an independent Basque state - territory between the Spain and France, or Belgium between Flemish and Walloons. But, of course, a special place in this region occupy the separatist conflicts on the national-religious grounds, which are caused by the decay in the former Yugoslavia. Among the main ones we should include two. First, it is already mentioned by us the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, whose population are Serbs, Croats and Muslims and who did not want to live in one state and after the bloody war finally the Muslim - Croat Federation and the Republika Serpska were proclaimed, which created the two subjects of federation within the one State – Bosnia and Herzegovina. By the UN mandate, stabilization forces – about 32 thousand people, with a core of NATO troops were deployed in this country (NATO Handbook. 2006. p.173). Secondly, it is an autonomous province of Kosovo and Metohija in the south of Serbia, where 90% of the population are Muslim Albanians. When Yugoslavia began to disintegrate, the Albanians of Kosovo proclaimed the establishment of the independent Republic of Kosovo, which led to a civil war between the separatist forces and Central government of Serbia and then establishment of the control on the breakaway republic by NATO peacekeeping force - KFOR (Fig. 3). (NATO Handbook. 2006. Pp.174-179).

With regard to the conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia, it should be mentioned the increasing role of NATO (and later EU) and decreasing the role of UN in the conflict resolution process. After the "cold war" period, the starting of the military confrontation among of the three ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, NATO did its best for the peaceful resolution of the conflict, due to it, the involvement of NATO for the first time in the history of Alliance in the conflict was gradual and long process. It is necessary to point out, that negotiations, which were going on during the three years period, where NATO members states and different International Organizations were engaged, also different peaceful initiatives did not bring any positive results. Almost after the 40 years of the ending the WW2, for the first time in the middle of Europe, the brutal violence against the peaceful population was going on, which was transferred into the ethnic cleansings. During the war in Bosnia it was clearly shown, that UN which according the principles of International Law had the responsibility to stop the conflict, was not able to implement the decisive steps for the providing peace. Due to it, NATO was before the choice, whether leave the popula-

tion of Bosnia, or to adopt the strict measures for the conflict resolution, otherwise, no action from NATO`s side would be negatively affected on the authority of NATO.

Figure 3. *Autonomous Province of Kosovo*
Source: *Maps on the Web, Occupation Zones in Kosovo, 2015.*

The same should be mentioned about the conflict in Kosovo, when under the condition, that there was no resolution of the UN Security Council related to the military involvement to the conflict resolution process, NATO was before the dilemma, whether to obey before the principles of International Law and respect the position of UN Security Council, but at the same time to give an opportunity to Authoritarian Regime of Yugoslavia – headed by dictator Slobodan Miloshevich to continue the genocide of the peaceful population of Kosovo, or to prevent the violence and brutality by the putting moral values and protection of justice above the existed principles of International Law. So, by the involvement to the conflict and prevention of war, NATO become one of the main guarantee of peace and security.

We can say that in Bosnia and Kosovo a "old peace" is established. Another striking example of this kind of conflict in the West is a Canadian province with a predominantly French-speaking Quebec population. This is also a long-standing conflict in which the most radical forces are in favor of the separation of the French-speaking Quebec from the federal Canada.But the main arena of the conflicts are developing countries with their often particularly complex ethnic and religious composition. This primarily relates to the Asia and Africa.

In Asia such conflicts are common to all four of its subregions. In Southwest Asia, this conflict over Kurdistan, which is divided by political borders between Turkey, Iraq, Syria and Iran, around Cyprus, around Afghanistan.

In the South Asia - a whole series of conflicts in the most multi-ethnic country in the world - India. The conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, we have discussed in connection with the territorial disputes, but it is equally separatist conflict too on the basis of ethno-religious confrontation with the old Hindus and Muslims. And to the next Kashmir is another "conflict" state of India – Punjab, which is settled by Sikhs.

Cultural, religious and then political isolation of the Sikh community from Hinduism began in the first half of the twentieth century. When in the middle of the century, independent states India and Pakistan were founded and Punjab became part of India, at the same time put forward the idea of a sovereign state Khalistan, which could become a kind of buffer between India and Pakistan. Even though this plan could not be implemented, Sikh separatists continue to insist on it, that makes discord in their relationship with the state. It is not superfluous to recall in this connection that in 1984 two Sikh bodyguards killed Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (Heywood. 1998. P. 314).

Armed separatist conflicts on the basis of ethno- religious factors, characterize many other parts of India as well as for Sri Lanka. From the Countries of Southeast Asia in the same list are fallen Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, from East Asia - China (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Tibet). On the political map of Africa there is not even one sub-region without such conflicts. In North Africa, a dangerous source of such conflicts has already become Sudan, which is based on the contradiction between the Nilotic peoples of the south of the country professing Christianity and the peoples of northern Sudan, who accepted Islam. In the West Africa, distinguished by a special ethnic diversity, conflicts on the ethno - religious ba-sis is common for many countries, but especially to Nigeria, which is characterized by the same highly unstable political situation. In the East Africa, in this list can be considered Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Central Africa - DR Congo, Angola and in the Southern part of Africa - South Africa. But it certainly deserves the strong emphasis on the ethnic conflict in Rwanda, which began in 1994 and led to the genocide, which is comparable to the actions of Nazi Germany in the occupied countries or "Khmer Rouge" in Cambodia.

The former Belgian colony of Rwanda gained the independence in 1962, however, this did not lead to the reconciliation between the warring ethnic groups - Tutsi pastoralists and Hutu farmers. Although Tutsis include only 15% of the population, they took practically all leadership positions in the Government. This long-running feud escalated into civil war, at the end of which the Tutsis killed in 1994, 500 thousand Hutu and forced more than 2 million people to flee from the country. The entire civilized world was literally shaken by the violence, which was accompanied by the conflict (Basic Facts about the United Nations. 2004. P. 84).

As a result, we can say that it is Africa, where firmly the name "continent of the conflicts" is established. As for the most radical solutions to this complex problem, we did not have time to put forward proposals to reshape inherited from the colonial era of the political map of Africa, by the creating on the continent possible uni-ethnic states. But in practice it is quite impossible to implement. Ethnographers have calculated that in this case the number of states on the continent would have to increase to 200-300! (Maksakovsky V., 2009. P. 92).

In conclusion, we can add that most of the conflicts in the post-soviet space, which as we have already mentioned, are also categorized on the separatist ethnic basis. In most of the cases, Abkhazia and Tskhinvali District (Georgia), Transdnestria (Moldova), they were and are existed because of the illegal involvement of Russia in those conflicts. As for Russia itself, the main area of such conflicts has been and remains the North Caucasus. Hopefully, now we have the basic approaches to such a complex problem as the regional and local conflicts in the modern world political map.

Conclusion

All conflicts in the world both – internal and interstates have their historic, political, economic, social, geographical and etc. reasons which sometimes had its roots long time before the starting military confrontation. In the most of the conflicts, there are several external actors, including the state and non-state actors, and each of them has its own interests. In this regard it is important to mention the role of International Organizations in the involvement in the conflicts resolution process. Taking into consideration that in many cases those external actors failed to resolve the problem – for example, in case of Georgia, there were deployed OSCE observers in the conflict zone in the Northern part of Georgia - former South Ossetia Autonomous District or UN Observers in Abkhazian Autonomous Republic (UNOMIG Mission), it did not hamper Russia to implement military aggression against Georgia and occupy two historic parts of this South Caucasus State in August of 2008.

So, taking into account the above-mentioned facts, it can be concluded, that despite of the partial involvement of several external actors in the conflict, anyway, the biggest part in the resolving the problem depends on the will of the direct participants of the conflicts which should finally understand that in the modern World there is no alternative to the peaceful resolution of the conflicts based on the principle - win-win situation.

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