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## **CONFLICTNESS IN SOCIETY: SEARCH FOR A DEFINITION\***

The sociological literature is still missing a clear definition of the word “conflictness in society”. The social processes observed today in the Russian society, form an objective need to put the conflicts of relations in a certain framework. The urgent need for conflict research is determined by the dynamism and interdependence of social processes in the modern world and in the Russian society. In this study to relevant social processes of the modern Russian society, we turned to the concept of conflictness in society. The novelty of the research is to develop definition “conflictness in society”. This was the main purpose of the study. Thus, the research work focused on the social tension. As the objectives of the study were the following:

- to identify the basic characteristics of the concept of conflictness in society;
- to identify the basic indicators of conflictness in society.

Social tension in society is often manifested in connection with conflicts. Meanwhile, it accompanies conflicts but does not always turn into conflictness. The conflictness in society is a phenomenon which in one form or another always presents in the society. The certain elements of conflictness in society are considered in the works of a number of authors — T. Parsons, R. Merton, N. Smelser, Y. Galtung et al. [1, p. 20–22; 2, p. 25–38; 3; 4, p. 64–66]. In the scientific literature dedicated to the study of conflictness in society social tension a special attention is paid to the concept of social tension. The authors of this approach believe that a social order is stable when different layers of the society maintained a balance between the desired goals and means of its achieving. The current situation in Russia has posed the scientific community the task of studying its conflictness in society. It is known that the risk of conflict is that they can lead not only to positive but also to negative consequences, concerning both separate individuals and society as a whole. However, a escalation in the case of a conflict situation is not the only possible scenario.

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Conflicts should be prevented, i. e. to forestall it at the generation stage, which will allow avoiding of negative consequences and will reduce the cost of its management. Control over the conflict involves deliberate steps in this regard and includes a number of actions: prevention, or averting, forecasting, settlement, resolution. One of the key concepts used in the study of is the conflictness in society.

Today's Russia witnesses the formation of new and exacerbation of existing conflicts that permeate an entire society. Therefore, the study of conflictness in society performs a variety of tasks. On the one hand, it is development of the theory of conflict, analysis of determinants, stages of their development, and methods of management. On the other hand, the study of conflictness in society in Russia has a contribution of applied nature. Thus, it seems logical to study current Russian reality through the concept of conflictness in society. Today's crisis condition of the Russian society entails the necessity of a detailed study and description of the procedures for its measurement.

In classic sociological literature, the term "conflictness in society" is used in the analysis of the process of disintegration and anomie. The latter refers to the rupture of social ties, loss of values, increasing of social chaos. This condition is characterized by the buildup of mental fatigue and irritability, frustration and deprivation, aggression, and depression of a significant part of society. Lewis Coser noting that "social structures differ as to the degree of conflict which they tolerate" [5]. Conflictness in society is always, except complete rupture of relations, shows the existence of hidden positive aspects. It is important to realize that even a prosperous society is not devoid of conflictness — on the contrary, it is entirely stitched from the many intersecting conflicts between its component parts. A conflictness performs the function of society preservation to that extent as it regulates the systems of relations.

The main focus study is aimed at identification of the conditions under which the conflictness keeps or restores the integration of the system and its adaptability to changing circumstances. It is particularly important that in the theory of conflictness in society Lewis Coser was the first who pointed out the central role of the problems in the generally available public social institutions functioning that serve as "safety valves" — those that merely serve abreaction of feelings of hostility, thus leaving the terms of the relationship unchanged, may function as lightning rods but they cannot prevent a recurrent gathering of clouds, i. e., a new accumulation of conflictness [5]. Our analysis of modern scientific literature has shown that conflictness is addressed in different areas of scientific knowledge and at different levels of society. Conflictness in society linked to the

emergence of different conflicts, in fact contains the potential for conflict, which develops under certain conditions. Depending on the stage of development of the conflictness the form of its manifestation could become more aggressive. At the initial stage among certain groups dissatisfaction with the situation in important areas of life is formed, pessimism starts to spread. However, at this stage there is lack of active manifestations of discontent or protest. But already at the second stage the attempts are made to find someone to blame, the level of trust in the authorities is decreasing, discontent begins to have more acute form, manifesting itself in various protests, conflicts.

### References

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## **ОСНОВНЫЕ МЕТОДОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ ПОДХОДЫ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ МОЛОДЕЖНЫХ СУБКУЛЬТУР В СОВРЕМЕННОЙ СОЦИОЛОГИИ**

Некоторые исследователи считают, что категория «молодежная субкультура» исчерпала себя, так как в обществе постмодерна сложно провести четкие границы между господствующей культурой и альтернативными ей субкультурами. Поэтому в современной социологии внимание к молодежной культуре, или субкультуре несколько снизилось. Складывается мнение, что современная социальная структура представляет собой совокупность микрокультур, хотя говорить об отсутствии в сегодняшней России господствующей культуры, на наш взгляд, некорректно. Совершенно ясно, что в обществе, которое многие исследователи характеризуют как инерционно-сохранительное, доминирующей культурой является российская традиционная культура. Это отчетливо проявляется в культурной политике нашего государства.

В связи с этим социологам необходимо постоянно пристально наблюдать за изменяющимися формами субкультур, границами поня-