Conflict & Peacemaking

Psych280
April 4th, 2005

Overview

1. Conflict: What is it and why does it happen?
2. Social dilemmas & Competition
3. Strategies used for peacekeeping

Some Statistics

- 14,500 wars in the last 5,600 years of human history
- In 1994 alone, 31 waged in 27 locations
- Between 1945 and 1989 there have been 21.8 million war-deaths

Doucet, 1996

Conflict

- Perception that one’s actions or goals are incompatible with the actions and goals of others.
  - Interpersonal
  - Intergroup
  - International
Prisoner’s Dilemma

- 2 suspects separately questioned
- DA has limited evidence
- DA gives incentive for prisoner’s to confess
- Outcomes dependent on each prisoner’s choice

Rapoport, 1960

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Prisoner’s Dilemma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Confession</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prisoner A</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>B gets 1 y</td>
<td>A gets 1 y</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confession</td>
<td>A gets 10 y</td>
<td>B gets 0 y</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>B gets 0 y</td>
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Prisoner A

- Confess = 5 years or no prison time
- Don’t Confess = 1 year or 10 years

Individual vs Group Outcome

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Threat to Each Country

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<td>Develops Weapons</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Moderate</td>
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Rapoport, 1960
Strategies
- Cooperate, Individual, Tit-for-tat

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Social Dilemma
- A conflict in which the most beneficial action for an individual will, if chosen by most people, have harmful effects on everyone.
- Individual Self-Interest vs Common Good

“Tragedy of the Commons”
- Overgrazing of shared pasture lands.
- Shared resources are wasted as a result of individual self-interest.

Alaska King Crab
- Harvest 1980
- Harvest 1981
- Harvest 1982
- Harvest 1983
- Harvest 1984

If fishermen harvest over 25%, population will start to plummet & finally begin to disappear.

Hardin, 1968
Social Traps

- Situations where people are drawn toward immediate rewards that later have negative consequences
- Hidden costs
  - Difference between short & long-term consequences
  - Ignorance of long-term consequences
  - Sliding reinforcers

Conflict & Use of Threats

- Communication does not always help solve dilemmas
- Deutsch and Krauss (1962) trucking game

Results of Trucking Study

- Deutsch & Krauss, 1962
Conflict Summary

- Social Dilemmas
  - Prisoner’s Dilemma, Tragedy of the Commons
- Competition
  - People competing for same resources believe their individual self-interests are not compatible.
- Communication
  - Doesn’t always decrease conflict but can helped if used wisely

Peacemaking

- Negotiation
  - Both sides make offers and counter-offers as a means of coming to an agreement.
    - Employees vs Employers
      - 10% salary increase vs 2% salary increase
      - 8% salary increase vs 5% salary increase
      - 6% salary increase vs 6% salary increase
    - Win-Win vs Win-Lose

Peacemaking

- Integrative Solution
  - Most/Least important issues for each side
    - Employee vs Employer
  - Salary Increase vs Reduction in Vacation Time
- How good are people at this?
  - Not Very
  - Trust
  - Mediators

Peacemaking

- Common External Threats
- Naval ROTC Study
  - "I couldn’t help but to say to Mr. Gorbachev, just think how easy his task and mine might be...if suddenly there was a threat from another planet." Ronald Regan, 1983

Lanzetta, 1955
Peacemaking

- Graduated & Reciprocated Initiatives in Tension Reduction (GRIT) - designed to de-escalate international tensions.
  - Announcing a conciliatory intent
  - Conciliatory acts
  - Maintaining retaliatory capability
  - Reciprocates any conciliatory act

Summary

- Peacemaking
  - Negotiation
  - Integrative Solution
  - Common External Threat
  - GRIT