



CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES REFUGEE

Vol. 16 • No. 6

December 1997

CONFLICT, POPULATION DISPLACEMENT, AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Conflict and Conflict Resolution

Ogenga Otunnu

Human history has been punctuated by widespread and recurring violent conflicts. Attempts to explain the causes, utility and effects of the phenomenon have engaged the minds of scholars and other stakeholders for centuries. At the centre of the inquiry are questions about human nature: whether and to what extent violence is innately determined in humans or influenced by the external environment.

According to ethnology, aggression or violence is innate and essentially genetic, not learned or a response to environmental conditions. The role of the environment, K. Lorenz posits, is simply to provide stimuli that trigger or hinder intraspecific aggression. This view, which modifies and restates the Social Darwinian theory of natural selection, maintains that aggression is not dysfunctional. Rather, it serves a number of important functions: the preservation of species through natural selection; the creation of social ranks which imposes social order and stability, thus reducing intraspecific damage; defense of territory; protection of mate, siblings and community;

and the distribution of members over available habitat. What makes aggression dangerous, however, is the spontaneity of instinct. Thus, Lorenz concludes that it is important to provide channels into which aggressive instinct can be beneficially diverted or

redirected. Viewing aggressive sport, it is asserted, provides such an outlet.¹

However, this hydraulic model—which envisages a bottled up flow of aggression constantly seeking expression and overflowing into violence—has been severely challenged because

CONTENTS

Conflict and Conflict Resolution <i>Ogenga Otunnu</i>	1
International Humanitarian Law as a Source of Protection for Refugees from Areas of Armed Conflict <i>Karoline Kerber</i>	6
The Refugee-Security Dilemma in Europe <i>Joanne van Selm-Thorburn</i>	9
Cycle of Violence Theories and Conflict Resolution in the Post-Yugoslav States <i>Vanessa Pupavac</i>	16
Creating a Space for Peace-making: Burundi and Beyond <i>Tim Wichert</i> ...	20
Property Issues in Displacement and Conflict Resolution <i>Tim Wichert</i> ...	22
The Role of Land Conflict and Land Conflict Resolution in a Peace Process: Mozambique's Return to Agriculture <i>Jon D. Unruh</i>	28
Conflicts for Land and Territory: An Analysis of Internal Migration in the Rural Areas of Colombia <i>Flor Edilma Osorio Pérez</i>	34
Refugee Protection as Human Rights Protection: International Principles and Practice in India <i>Brian Gorlick and Sumbul Rizvi Khan</i>	39
Inland Refugee Claims in Canada, Immigration and Refugee Board Statistics, January 1989 – December 1997 <i>Compiled by Len Wong</i>	45

