

Concepts and Terms

Conflict Resolution

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Definition

The concept "conflict resolution" refers to striving towards ending a conflict situation between the parties, by means of settling all the disputes between them.

Background

Parties to a conflict work to resolve it due to either (1) their lack of ability to win the conflict, or (2) their recognition that the damage entailed by the prolongation of the conflict is larger than the price entailed in solving it.

Conflict resolution requires the existence of a partnership between the parties for settling the outstanding issues, and agreeing on finality of claims (see Partner, Carrying Capacity, Delivery Capability). In other words, conflict resolution cannot be achieved unilaterally (see Off-the-Table Strategy).

There is a distinction between conflict resolution and conflict management, which is a process aimed at reducing the intensity of a conflict by controlling its generators, in light of a party's lack of will or ability either to overcome its opponent or to resolve the conflict.

Sources

Zartman and Rasmussen, (ed.), **Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods & Techniques**, Washington, United States Institute of Peace, 2001.

Sher, **Just Beyond Reach: the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Negotiations 1999- 2001**, Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2001 (in Hebrew).

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