

CONFLICT as a SOCIAL FORM

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CONFLICT

- **Conflict instinctual for humans**
- **Unique feature of conflict for humans: it is goal oriented**
 - **Opens up opportunities for negotiation and different types and levels of conflict**

VARIABILITY OF VIOLENCE

- **Clearly expressed with rational goals → less violence**
- **Higher emotional involvement → increased violence**
- **Transcendent goals → greatly increased violence**

FUNCTIONS OF CONFLICT

- **For society at large—low-level/less violent, more frequent conflict**
 - **Releases hostilities**
 - **Creates norms for dealing with conflict**
 - **Develops lines of authority and judiciary systems**
- **For individual groups—more violent**
 - **Strengthens the boundaries surrounding the group**
 - **Increases social solidarity**
 - **Centralizes power**
 - **Fosters coalition formation**