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THE CONCEPT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONFLICTOGENITY OF SOCIETY

The article presents the concept of tension in society; it gives the definitions of public conflictogene and conflictogenity of society. The article focuses on socio-economic conflicts. It reveals the elements of socio-economic conflictogenity: conflictogenic environment, subjects of the formation of tension, groups of objective and subjective signs, causes (factors) strengthening conflictogenity of society.

Keywords: tension in society, public conflictogene, socio-economic conflictogenity, signs.

Introduction

The state is the institution maintaining the stability and integrity of society. The establishment of a socially stable society is one of the overriding priorities of the country's leadership and it meets primary social needs. Emerging and intensifying social tensions should be identified and resolved as early as possible, preventing the escalation of tension in society and the development of destructive conflicts. Sustained high levels of tension create more problems than short-term outbursts caused, for example, by a terrorist act. Efficient governance allows eliminating the causes of intensifying tension in society.

It is impossible to completely resolve differences and tensions in society, but it is quite possible to reduce the level of tension through regulation.

Society is balanced, when the expectations of large population groups (majority of the population) are met. The level of tension can be regulated, provided that the existing social tensions are identified and acknowledged by the government agencies that are able to influence the causes of their increase.

The process of managing social tension, first of all, comprises its diagnostics, which involves the description of tension using standard terminology, the detection of signs, the assessment of the level of tension and the analysis of the reasons counteracting the realization of the interests of the current and future development of society, social security of people. In compliance with the stated objective, the formation of the concept of socio-economic conflictogenity of society is a rather urgent issue.

Tension in society

Society is represented as an interaction between individuals and population groups involved in the system of social relations. This interaction can be initiated by different motives. Tension emerges between members of society, when a considerable part of the population starts experiencing multifaceted stress (state of uncertainty, inquietude). More often tension in society emerges out of simultaneous stress in various spheres of life. The intensification of socio-psychological tension results in an increase in the amount of strength and energy aimed at maintaining internal balance.

In addition, tension in society represents an indicator of a steady social discrepancy between expectations and reality, between value orientations of society, aims, motives of certain strata or significant part of the population and the degree of their actual satisfaction, the facts of life, the existing state of affairs. The population becomes aware of the violation of the principle of social justice; there appear subjective discrepancies between the adaptation to the changing living conditions and the realities of the processes occurring in society. Life experience causes the change of interests and value orientations.

The adaptation to the new socio-economic conditions results in the change in personality traits of a considerable part of the population for a greater correspondence to a new socio-cultural environment. Tensions in society inevitably arise, when all members of society undergo changes in value orientations and motivation. The reasons for social tensions lie in unstable economic, political and other situations.

Stereotypical perception of the population contributes to the intensification of tension in society. Stereotypical perception comprises two components: emotional (distrust, anxiety, suspicion) and cognitive (selective perception, i.e. the perception of only that information that is consistent with the existing stereotypes). At the level of mass consciousness stereotypes are created and promoted by the mass media. The making of “enemy-image” contributes to the reinforcement of stereotypes [11].

Tension is not a totally negative characteristic of society; it can be constructive as well. Socio-psychological tension encourages people to adapt to the situation or change it, thus reducing the level of tension; it helps to unite like-minded people and promotes the adoption of measures preventing destructive conflicts, i.e. for example, the development of own business in order to increase family income.

The concept of public conflictogene

When satisfying their needs, certain individuals form their behaviour in accordance with their internal structures of consciousness, which act as a subjective product. The subjective image of reality represents for an individual the same objective reality. These structures are formed under the influence of the social environment, population mentality and the accepted rules of communication. Therefore, it is assumed that the tension between individuals and small social groups manifests itself in a certain environment through stimuli (actions) and responses. All these actions provoking conflicts and various responses are united by the term of conflictogenes. *Conflictogene*

literally means “generating conflict”. This term was introduced by A.P. Yegides [9], and at present it is widely used in academic practice. Dictionaries give the following definitions of conflictogene:

“words (symbols), actions (or inaction) that generate or may lead to a conflict” (Wikipedia [7]);

“communicative (less frequently behavioural) element (word, phrase, gesture, intonation) that may cause tension and provoke a conflict in a relationship” (Psychologos [12]);

“any object, idea, opinion, behavioural element, detecting the difference between the assessments of the conflicting parties” (A.Ya. Antsupov, A. I. Shipilov. Dictionary for conflictologist [6]);

“action that generates destructive conflict” (M.M. Kashapov. Theory and Practice of Conflict Resolution: Concise Dictionary. [10]).

Therefore, a conflictogene is something that induces rejection, irritation, aggression. When overreacting to insults, an individual displays reactive aggression, which is, as a rule, more intensive (the escalation of conflictogenes), i.e. any provoking conflictogene elicits a reciprocal conflictogene in the form of tension, aggression, negative reaction. This might be explained by the individual’s desire to feel safe, comfortable.

Conflictogenes at the level of a small group or at the level of society as a whole in all variety of its social groups, sectors, social types of personalities have slightly different emphases. Conflictogenes at the level of small groups comprise words, gestures, views, and actions of certain individuals. At the level of society conflictogenes are defined to a greater extent as events and actions of large population groups, social strata, the authorities, political leaders, which cause various kinds of tensions in society and result in the formation of intergroup tension (between social groups pursuing different goals).

Tensions emerging in society are expressed in the form of a negative socio-psychological reaction (emotional and mental or behavioural). Emotional and mental reaction represents an individual's stereotype-driven emotional response of body and soul to an external influence. Emotional and mental reactions of large social groups form prevailing moods of society, the systems of expectations, aspirations, attitudes. Prevailing social moods invoke certain actions (behavioural response) aimed at reducing the intensity of the emerging tensions. Death is the extreme form of behavioural response, when it is impossible to change the situation or to adapt to it.

In this regard, *conflictogenes at the level of society as a whole (public conflictogenes)* are defined as the actions of separate sectors and groups of the population, the authorities, political leaders, the entrepreneurship, etc., and also as the subjective image of these actions or situation (*provoking conflictogenes*) that result in tension, aggression, negative reaction of the significant part of society, as well as the response to them, reducing this tension (*reciprocal conflictogenes*).

A conflictogene or a combination of conflictogenes can lead to a conflict and its further escalation into a destructive conflict. Conflictogenes are emotions or actions that *may* lead to conflict or to provoke it, but are not the conflict in themselves.

Tension in society may emerge in the process of the formation of a negative image in mass consciousness. A negative image can be conditioned by the situation, social circumstances and position of certain social groups in society; for example, the majority of the population experience stress and irritation in case of the criminalization of economic activities and falling living standards.

The combinations of various conflictogenes (provoking and reciprocal) provoke different types of tension in society. Dissatisfaction and socio-psychological tension in society increases when provoking conflictogenes are

superposed in various social spheres (overall crime rate and terrorist activity along with the incompetence of the authorities and the distrust of the President, etc.). The accumulation of public conflictogenes facilitates the escalation of various types of tension in society.

The concept of conflictogenity of society

Society is a dynamic socio-economic system, in which there constantly appear new kinds of social relations and the old ones change, particularly in the period of the transformation of society. In the result of economic reforms such phenomena as speculation, commercial mediation, private enterprise, etc. no longer pose social danger. Yet other dangers emerge, provoking new tensions in society that generate conflictogenity of society.

The term “conflictogenity” has different definitions depending on the research field. Conflictogenity of society is defined in the Dictionary for conflictologist (A.Ya. Antsupov, A.I.Shipilov) as the following: “*Conflictogenity of society* is the destructive potential of society, associated with the breaking of established ties and relations, exacerbation of social tension, growing contradictions in the economic and political spheres, degradation of social relations. Conflictogenity of society manifests itself as the inward and outward aggression of society” [6].

Yu.G. Gryaznova defines conflictogenity of society, as “the process of growing contradictions in views, interests and values under the influence of endogenous and exogenous factors, leading to collision between the parties and to the worsening of the interaction between them” [8].

The authors of the given article define *conflictogenity of society* as the sum total of tensions of economic, political, ethnic and other nature that under certain conditions lead to the evolvment of conflict. Conflictogenity of society characterizes the state of the whole public life with the disagreements and contradictions of objective and subjective character.

Conflictogenity of society is a socio-economic phenomenon, the system of objective circumstances and subjective images that form various kinds of tensions resulting from the interaction between large social groups with their own system of relations and group interests. Large social groups comprise social classes, strata, ethnic groups, political parties that are formed on the basis of common features (economic, ethnic, political, etc). Conflictogenity is inherent in any society; it is the ability of society to generate conflict.

Conflictogenity reflects the presence of a threat to society, and is an intermediate link from a stable state of social structure to evolving social conflicts. In contrast to conflict, which is an extreme case of the aggravation of contradictions, conflictogenity is the sum total of tensions in various spheres of life, which, under certain conditions, *may* lead to conflict. Conflictogenity is not so much contradictions as disagreements, discord, unfulfilled expectations, tensions caused by the actions of various social communities or political leaders. In contrast to conflict, which represents *the sum total of contradictions and the process*, conflictogenity is *the sum total of tensions and the state of society at a specific point in time*.

Conflictogenity of society represented as the sum total of tensions may be of different *intensity*:

- undetected discontent with no obvious signs, vague senses in mass consciousness in the context of the formation of conflictogenic environment;
- tension, when a considerable part of the population realizes that the satisfaction of their social, economic, political, national, cultural, etc. needs, interests and rights is under threat;
- the existence of flashpoints of tension in certain regions, accompanied by active behavioural response; it is a threshold of tension in society, when the level of tension can be still reduced through effective management decisions;

- numerous flashpoints of tension across the country, accompanied by uncontrollable negative actions. In this case, a decrease in the level of tension is achieved due to destructive conflict.

Conflictogenity manifests itself in different spheres of life-sustaining activities of society, therefore, for the aim of the research it is possible to distinguish its separate components, various types of conflictogenity: social, economic (socio-economic), political, ethnic, legal, spiritual, etc.

Certain independence is inherent in each sphere of society. At the same time, they are closely interconnected in the context of real public relations; the elements of each sphere are present in all the others. During specific periods of social life one of the spheres can play a decisive role. The emphasis on certain areas when studying conflictogenity is related to the fact that each sphere has its own special characteristics, principles of relations and development.

Socio-economic conflictogenity of society

The analytical complexity of the socio-economic conflictogenity of society is caused by a number of peculiarities inherent in the socio-economic system.

The social sphere of life is the sum total of stable social relations between social groups and ethnic communities with regard to their living conditions and activities. It is connected with the satisfaction of social needs, the degree of which determines the living standards of a social group, family, individual.

The economic sphere involves the relations concerning production, distribution, exchange and consumption of economic goods. It comprises the whole range of production relations, including ownership relations and the institutions of economic activity management.

Business relations are formed under the influence of economic requirements and interests, associated with production and consumption processes. Economic relations are inherent in all members of society and in

society as a whole. In this regard, a great number of different kinds of tensions arise in the economic sphere of social life.

Economic tension in Russian society naturally emerged during the formation of the market relations. The property was mainly concentrated in the hands of the nomenklatura elite that wielded the real power. The specific kinds of tensions, related to the difficulties of operating business, are characteristic of budding entrepreneurs. Economic tension in their environment is formed as a result of the mismatch between the requirements and the opportunities of conducting successful business activities. The relations between businessmen of small, medium business and the authorities are tense due to the inconsistency of legislation, corruption, high tax burden, which prevent not only the development, but the break-even existence of business. The complexities concerning the registration of business activities, large number of registration documents provoke businessmen to conduct illegal (informal) business activities, above all, in small business. The difficulties of doing business in the economic conditions established in society initiate businessmen to find roundabout ways, to work “on the verge of law” or even to break the law. The withdrawal of a part or even all business in the shadow sector of economy, tax evasion through concealing a part of incomes, partial payment of salary bypassing taxation are commonly used. All this contributes to the growth of shadow economy in the country.

According to F. Schneider [5], increased tax burden and social security payments, along with labour market regulation are the driving forces behind the shadow economy all over the world. The conclusion is based on the analysis of the shadow economies of 145 countries: the level of shadow economy is higher in the countries with higher pressure of taxation and a large number of regulatory documents. This opinion is shared by many other authors [1, 2, 3, 4, etc.].

In Russia, the transition from one economic system to another necessitates a sharp increase in the number of regulatory documents (laws, legislative acts, decrees, etc.). New rules of economic activities are being formed; the regulation of economic activities in the new economic conditions is required.

Moreover, as follows from the polls of businessmen, doing business without bribes and commercial payoff is almost impossible in Russia. Corruption (bribery, commercial payoff) in the economic sphere causes irritation among businessmen even to a greater degree, than among the general population. This makes businessmen dissatisfied with the socio-economic policy of the government in the centre and in regions, with the activities of the head of state, and causes irritation and aggression.

Along with the shadow economy in society, there are many tensions in the economic sphere related to the life activities of the members of society. These are the tensions caused by income differentiation, low income of a considerable part of the population, contradictions between the rich and the poor, etc. The tension in the economic sphere increases when social tension rises in society, and on the contrary, social stability of society to a large extent depends on the economic state of the country and intensifies along with the disagreements in the economic sphere. Socio-economic tension reflects the state of the whole social life, characterized by the contradictions of objective and subjective character. Socio-economic tension reflects the state of the whole public life, which is characterized by the aggravation of contradictions of objective and subjective nature.

Social and economic conflictogenity of society is the state of interrelations in social and economic spheres, which is characterized as restless and fraught with danger, reflecting economic and social contradictions, disagreements and negative socio-psychological state in large social groups and in society as a whole.

With the transformation of all spheres of social life, the dissatisfaction with the existing state of affairs is accumulating, claims are increasing, stereotypes of mass consciousness drastically change; the population has to refuse from the usual norms of behaviour and those kinds of activities, which completely satisfied them in the past. The discontent caused by low incomes, inflation, unemployment, lack of personal security, etc. results in mistrust to the authorities, social tension at behavioural level – conflicts, rallies, demonstrations, strikes, migration to other regions or countries. Objective disagreements bring stronger emotional response from the population under the conditions of economic crisis and production decline. Socio-economic conflictogenity of society is closely connected with intrapersonal contradictions; therefore, it is difficult to figure out the causes of emerging tensions without studying the processes that take place at the level of personality psychology and contribute to the intensification of tensions in society. Hence, socio-economic conflictogenity comprises tensions of economic and socio-psychological nature.

Elements of socio-economic conflictogenity

It is possible to distinguish the conflictogenity of the whole society or separate social groups (e.g. ethnic conflictogenity). In any case, the diagnostics of the conflictogenity of society assumes the analysis of the conflictogenic environment (conditions), signs of conflictogenity and causes (factors) affecting the level of tension in society.

When analyzing the conflictogenity of society, it is necessary to make a conditional distinction between the population and the social environment, in which it lives. It is the social environment that shapes the mentality of people, their attitudes towards life, behaviour motivation. The social environment depends on the peculiarities of the historical development of the state. The social environment comprises the whole variety of social, economic and

political relations generating tensions in society; it represents the conflictogenic environment of society.

The conflictogenic environment is understood as the *objective conditions* of tension emerging between large social groups. The conflictogenic environment is the basis for the formation of contradictions in society. It affects the force of the population reaction to the same conflictogenes. The conflictogenic environment is the sum total of social conditions comprising socio-economic living conditions, socio-political structure of society, socio-cultural reality. Extremist and nationalist groups, unstable political environment, environmental disasters, etc. lead to further aggravation of tensions at certain periods of time and in certain regions of the country.

Any society has a certain potential of conflictogenity. Even in one country the conflictogenic environment can be various in different regions; this is vividly exemplified by the North Caucasus. Common territory unites many aspects of the joint activities of citizens. Socio-economic phenomena and processes are the determining differences between territories.

The analysis of the conflictogenic environment allows determining the conditions, under which the tension in a society becomes dangerous. It should be noted that the behaviour of the population changes more slowly than the characteristics of the social environment that generate tension in society.

Separate strata and groups of the population are the *subjects of the formation of tension*. Additionally to certain objective reality, tension in society is generated by the subjective images of reality. The negative reaction of the population is formed by subjective notions about reality rather than by reality itself. The wider the discrepancy between the expected and the real result, the stronger the tension in the social group.

Conflictogenity of society reflects the sum total of tensions existing in society, and the overall threat to society posed by ongoing negative socio-economic processes. It is a socio-economic phenomenon, which is

determined by economic, political, ideological, and other conditions prevailing in society. Class relations make a profound impact on the socio-economic life of society; class community forms the most important economic interests and contradictions. Conflictogenity is formed due to the inconsistency of the objective laws of the functioning of society, imbalance in public relations, breach of value orientations and of the positive behaviour motivation of the population.

Socio-economic conflictogenity of society is revealed through objective and subjective characteristics, which provoke negative reaction in the socio-economic system of society. Public reaction to tension arising from the existing disagreements in the socio-economic system is manifested through socio-psychological reaction of the population and business reaction.

The signs of conflictogenity, specifying the kinds of socio-economic tensions in society, are revealed on the basis of the sociological polls of the population, i.e. the signs that are interpreted by the significant part of the population as the existing (present) phenomena, as disagreements in society provoking negative reaction. It is related to the fact that socio-economic conflictogenity is formed by various kinds of tensions in society: objective tensions existing in the subconscious before being recognized by people, and subjective tensions attributed either to the awareness of the objective contradictions, or directly to the consciousness, psychology, emotions of people. A priori all *signs of socio-economic conflictogenity* can be grouped in four blocks, each being described by the corresponding signs of conflictogenity:

1. *Objective tensions, officially registered*, are defined as the objective reality, the phenomena and the processes existing in the country and registered by official statistics, which evoke negative emotions from the significant part of the population (*objective signs*). The objective signs include crime, terrorism, socially-dangerous acts (drug addiction and alcoholism),

economic contradictions between the rich and the poor (income differentiation), etc. Each of the objective signs is characterized by one or several quantitative indicators available in statistics reporting. For example, the income differentiation of population is characterized by four indicators (R/P 10% ratio, R/P 20% ratio, the coefficient of income concentration, income deficit), while bribery is characterized by one indicator (number of the registered cases of bribery).

2. The *subjective image of the objective reality* is the reflection of the objective reality in mass consciousness, the population estimation of objectively existing phenomena and processes forming negative reaction of society (*objectively-subjective signs*). Objectively-subjective signs include the assessment, disapproval of the activities of the head of state and government structures, public organizations, nationalist organizations, the assessment of the political situation in the country, reaction to criminal acts and activities in the economic sphere, the assessment of the family's economic adversity, interethnic disagreements, mentality differences, subjective reaction of the population to disagreements between business and population, between employees and businessmen, etc. The indicators of objectively-subjective signs represent the population subjective assessments and are revealed in the course of sociological polls.

3. *Subjective emotional reaction of the population* is subjective negative emotionally-mental reaction of the population to tensions existing in society and to the subjective image of these tensions, as well as the physiological consequences of such reaction (*subjective signs*). Subjective signs of conflictogenity reflect the sum total of depressed moods, feelings and negative emotions of the population, tension, aggression, fear; awareness of personal and family distress; level of personal protest potential; willingness to take up arms; morbidity and mortality rate increase, etc. Emotionally-mental reaction of the population is determined on the basis of the results of sociological polls,

and physiological response is reflected by statistical rates of morbidity and mortality.

4. *Behavioural reaction of the population and business* is the response of the population and business, aimed at reducing socio-economic tension in society (*subjectively-objective signs*). The attempt to reduce subjective emotional tension underlies the population behavioural reaction. It is realized in such actions as protest movements, search for additional job in the formal or the shadow sector of economy for increasing the income level, cultivation of food products at personal subsidiary plots to support family, etc. This makes it possible to raise the level of the population well-being and to reduce the level of tension in society. The behavioural reaction of the population and business is oriented at reducing the level of socio-economic tension, but these kinds of reaction have their own specifics. In this connection, the reaction of business and the behavioural reaction of the population as a whole require different approaches to the study and different methods of research. These signs are reflected by statistical indicators (that, for example, characterize the shadow economy), as well as by population assessments obtained from the results of sociological polls (secondary employment, cultivation of food products to support family, etc).

The level of conflictogenity of society characterizes the intensity of tension (the amount of invested energy), acuteness of negative reaction and irritation in society; it reflects the degree of social danger. The rise in conflictogenity of society may provoke destructive conflicts; it leads to decrease in the safety and security of society. An increase in the level of tension threatens the social system, which provides stability; it impedes changes, may provoke negative actions, and tends to deepen and expand. The intensification of the conflictogenity of society can cause destructive conflicts; it leads to a decrease in the safety and security of society.

The conflictogenity of society may be of different acuteness, magnitude in various years and in different regions of the country. It increases during transition periods in the development of society, particularly when the country's leadership has no strategic development programme, and decreases with the strengthening of the institutional system. The conflictogenity of society intensifies in the presence of illegitimate economic differentiation of society. Social interests of various strata of society are also differentiated. The system of values, intellectual culture change; different cultural stereotypes are formed. Exacerbating divergence of the interests of various social strata contributes to the intensification of tension in society.

The boundaries, within which the conflictogenity level of a given society can change, are determined on the basis of historical retrospective. In the short term, it is reasonable to use relative estimates. Spatial boundaries are defined by the territory that is subject to study, or by the detection of zones of increased conflictogenity, so it is rational to consider the conflictogenity of the country and of its particular regions.

The level of conflictogenity is determined on the basis of the specific information about the behaviour of social groups and is characterized by the system of indicators reflecting the signs of conflictogenity. *The system of conflictogenity indicators* characterizes the sphere of the objective and the sphere of the subjective in dynamics. The set of specific indicators allows constructing overall, aggregate indicators for each group of signs and for the sum total of signs in general. This provides an opportunity to determine the level of socio-economic conflictogenity of society and to monitor its dynamics. Overall indicators of conflictogenity represent relative values. They reflect the relative level of conflictogenity within the specified limits (for example, from 0 to 1), and show reduction, increase or stabilization of the conflictogenity in society, in comparison with the retrospective dynamics or with other regions. They reflect the degree of tension in society, as compared to the level adopted

as a comparison base (initial, final or intermediate level in the analyzed period, the levels of other regions or countries).

Quantitative studies showed that the objective signs turned out to be insignificant in the formation of the overall indicator of conflictogenity, the response of the population and business is provoked by objectively-subjective signs of conflictogenity, i.e. it depends on the subjective image of the objective reality in mass consciousness. This is relevant, as it proves that the population and business react not to the events of objective reality, but to the image of reality in mass consciousness. Nevertheless, the objective signs of conflictogenity should not be ignored, as they underlie the formation of the subjective image.

Conflictogenity of society is formed in the conditions of impact and interconnection between various reasons. To determine the ways of reducing conflictogenity, it is necessary to identify the reasons and regularities, which determine conflictogenity of society and its dynamics, to ascertain significant factors of tension variability in society, above all, socio-economic factors. The *factors* are the indicators, which reflect the reasons intensifying contradictions and disagreements in society. For example, the signs of economic contradictions between the rich and the poor are the indicators of income differentiation, which characterize the degree of income stratification of society; while the *factors* are the indicators of income level. The lower the level of the population well-being, the higher is the possibility of the intensification of tension in society, provided that the income differentiation remains unchanged.

The indicators that are expressed quantitatively and reflect population life quality (i.e. the indicators characterizing the level of the consumption of material goods and services, the satisfaction of spiritual needs, the state of health, life expectancy, environmental conditions, moral and psychological climate, spiritual comfort, as well as the situation in the labour market,

migration processes, etc.) serve as the factors of social and economic conflictogenity. The knowledge about the causes intensifying tension in society enables us to form the mechanisms regulating the socio-economic conflictogenity of society.

It is possible to distinguish common and specific causes of the intensification of conflictogenity. Common causes affect the interests of the majority of the population, society as a whole. Specific causes are local in nature and may emerge in particular regions, in certain social or ethnic groups. They may not affect the majority of the population, but they can be very important from the perspective of their impact on society (for example, events in the North Caucasus).

A special place is held by the mass media. The information source for the mass media is the events and phenomena of objective reality. However, the media coverage of the reality can vary, eliciting different emotional response from the population. The focus on negative information reinforces negative emotional state of society.

Conclusion

The absence of the methods of early diagnostics of conflictogenity significantly contributes to the aggravation of socio-economic tension in society. The diagnostics of conflictogenity allows identifying the negative phenomena and processes in the socio-economic sphere, and population response to them. The dynamics of the most probable and serious threats and the causes of intensifying tension in society is observed in the course of the monitoring.

The study of conflictogenity serves practical purposes of managing tension in society. The understanding of the objective causes of increasing tension, the detection and monitoring of factors that have a profound effect on the conflicts in society underlies the formation of measures aimed at reducing the level of tension in society. As a rule, in the context of increasing

conflictogenity the population takes real actions with some delay, therefore, it is possible to prevent the intensification of conflictogenity, avoiding the threshold, at which it begins to evolve into a destructive conflict.

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