



## Report of the APSA Task Force on Difference, Inequality, and Developing Societies

### SECTIONS V and VI FACT SHEET: Confronting Social Difference; Conflict & Economic Development

<p><b>Social Difference and Development (Section V)</b></p> <p>Ethnic Conflict</p> <p>Democracy &amp; Violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>social diversity</b> of developing countries creates a formidable challenge as they try to consolidate their democracies.</li> <li>▪ In contrast to most advanced industrial countries that became nations before they democratized, many developing countries must democratize as they build their nations.</li> <li>▪ <b>When social difference overlaps with hierarchies of power, it can lead to discrimination, marginalization, and conflict.</b></li> <li>▪ In much of the developing world, the predominant lines of tension and conflict after independence were between different ethnic groups as they competed for political power.</li> <li>▪ Despite a widespread perception of ethnic conflict as “primordial,” political scientists have learned much about such conflicts.</li> <li>▪ While it is true that violence often arises in societies with ethnic differences, <b>peaceful relations are in fact more characteristic</b> of societies with ethnic diversity.</li> <li>▪ It makes a big difference whether the government is strong and intent on preventing conflict or weak and controlled by leaders who intend to stir up ethnic violence for their political advantage.</li> <li>▪ Ethnic conflicts are in fact not primordial, unchanging, and impervious to political interventions.</li> <li>▪ The <b>presence and quality of democracy</b> is a key factor affecting conflict between ethnic and religious groups.</li> <li>▪ Emerging democracies tend to see <b>higher levels of conflict</b> than authoritarian regimes.</li> <li>▪ <b>The odds of the onset of civil war in a given year increase by 67%</b> if there was instability in the governing arrangements in the previous three years.</li> <li>▪ The rapid change that accompanies democratization may lead to a gap between the capacity of fledgling political institutions and the demands of a highly mobilized public.</li> <li>▪ Social scientists agree that the number of existing <b>violent conflicts peaked in 1992</b> and has since declined.</li> <li>▪ <b>95% of all armed conflict is now within countries.</b></li> <li>▪ Violent conflict has been increasingly concentrated in poor countries, which are <b>15 times more likely</b> to experience internal conflicts.</li> <li>▪ A <b>significant positive relationship</b> has been shown to exist between income inequality and violent crime.</li> <li>▪ Democratic politics encourages the articulation of distinct identities and interests,</li> <li>▪ Liberal democracy provides associational space for groups to organize in an attempt to realize their interests,</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">--more--</p>
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<p>Marginalization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Across the developing world, the demands of marginalized citizens for group rights have <b>challenged liberal premises</b>.</li><li>▪ A number of developing countries have attempted to accommodate social diversity by recognizing social difference.</li><li>▪ Recent studies have found that countries with <b>truth commissions</b> are more likely to achieve political stability, improve human rights, and enhance the quality of their democracy.</li><li>▪ Other studies have found that <b>without widespread political support</b>, transitional justice investigations may be destabilizing.</li><li>▪ Truth commissions in several countries identified <b>economic inequality and political exclusion as major factors</b> contributing to cycles of political violence and repression.</li><li>▪ Scholars have found that <b>absolute poverty and inequality are correlated with high levels of repression</b>.</li><li>▪ <b>Persistent structural inequalities</b> are likely to undermine the contributions of human rights investigations to reconciliation.</li></ul>
<p><b>Conflict &amp; Economic Development (Section VI)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The <b>incidence of war and civil strife is much greater in the world's 58 poorest countries</b> than in other countries.</li><li>▪ <b>73% of the population in these 58 countries have recently experienced a civil war</b>.</li><li>▪ This violence <b>reduced their average per capita growth rate by 2.3% per year</b>.</li><li>▪ Violent conflict:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ decimates the economic infrastructure</li><li>○ disrupts production</li><li>○ destroys productive facilities</li><li>○ discourages investment, both foreign and domestic</li><li>○ Redistributes investment from the production of goods and services to the production of violence</li><li>○ Diverts entrepreneurial skills to increasing destruction</li></ul></li><li>▪ Political instability <b>prevents long-term planning</b>.</li><li>▪ Violence makes <b>the collective action necessary to provide public goods difficult</b> if not impossible to accomplish.</li><li>▪ Recent research offers a more sophisticated understanding of <b>the links between ethnically diverse societies and economic development</b>.</li><li>▪ The nature of institutions is an important variable affecting the impact of social divisions.</li><li>▪ Economic performance is much better when variables for economic inequality and ethnic diversity are combined with high quality governmental institutions.</li><li>▪ "Sound institutional arrangements" curtail the negative impact of ethnic diversity on economic development.</li></ul>

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