Chapter 4

A Semantico–Deconstructive Approach

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ABSTRACT

The year 1957 witnessed the ‘space race’ between the USA and the USSR through the launch of ‘SPUTNIK’ in the Earth’s orbit on October 4. The chapter surveys the entire period of the last 62 years from 1957-2019 that has witnessed various types of national/international group/intergroup conflicts and researches pertaining to different resolution strategies as suggested by the international journals of repute. The chapter inter alia deals with 11 foci of international journals of the period in question. The chapter has used semantico-deconstructive methodology for content analysis and interpretation.

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INTRODUCTION

“I would say to the House… ‘I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat’… Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival”.

(Source: Churchill’s first speech as Prime Minister, House of Commons, 13 May 1940)

The above quoted excerpt from Winston Churchill’s speech might have shared Charles Darwin’s famous key word ‘survival’ (The Origin of the Species, 1859) to highlight British policy of ‘adaptability during warring situation’ (Bartlett, C.J. 1989: British Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century) The 20th century saw a deep upsurge of military and civil conflicts across the globe. World War II is considered as high watermark of such conflicts because several nations were brought into the world= wide bloody military parade. The belligerent Power Blocks called the Allies (UK, France and USSR) and the Axis (Italy, Germany and Japan) proclaimed them as agents of change.

After the Second World War, Germany was divided into East Germany and West Germany, two spheres of military influence under USSR and USA respectively. During the 1950s, both the United States and the Soviet Union were working to develop new technology under the shade of Cold War. Nazi Germany had been close to developing the world’s first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) at the fag end of the Second World War.

USA and USSR were also engaged in developing satellites as a part of a goal set by the International Council of Scientific Unions, which had called for the launch of satellite technology during late 1957 and early 1958. Over the course of the decade, the United States tested several varieties of rockets and missiles, but all of these tests were of no avail.

On September 9, 1957, American President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1957. The Act marked the first occasion since Reconstruction that the federal government undertook significant legislative action to protect civil rights of the American citizenry. Although President Dwight Eisenhower had tried his best to downplay the importance of the Sputnik launched by USSR to the American people, he pumped in additional funds and human resources into the NASA – operated American space program in an effort to catch up with Soviet Space Research. The U.S. Government suffered a severe setback in December of 1957 when its first artificial satellite, named Vanguard, exploded on the launch pad. This failure served as a visible reminder of how much the US had yet to accomplish to be able to compete militarily with the Soviet Republic. It was on January 31, 1958, the United States succeeded in launching its first satellite, the
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