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Law

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Peace and conflict (gst201)

A violent conflict involves at least two parties using physical force to resolve competing claims or interest. Often the term is used as a synonym for war which involves at least one government. Violent conflict depends on which actors are involved in the conflict and where the conflict took place.These categories are however rather blurry as the distinction between national and international conflicts is difficult to establish due to the degree of international involvement

in internal conflicts. An example of this is the Congo wars in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) which, to a start was called a national war, but which transformed into an international war to the degree that it was named the ‘First African World War’ (Reyntjens, 2009). The distinctions remain however and internal violent conflicts are often defined as conflict that takes place within a state as opposed to between states (Kalyvas and Balcells, 2010). Similarly, inter-state conflicts are characterized by the official involvement of two or more governments. Violent conflicts are also differentiated by the balance of power between the opposing factions: a symmetrical conflict reflects an even balance of power where the factions involved have more or less similar material, financial and technical capacities whereas an asymmetrical conflict refers to a disequilibrium between the actors, where

one faction clearly has the upper hand in the balance of power. Similarly, violent conflicts are labelled according to what the topic of the conflict concerns, be that a political, ideological issue, a social, exclusionary or inclusionary topic, or a religious or ethnic focus. Most often however, conflicts are a mixture of several different topics that overlap each other. Ethnic conflicts are for example often more of social conflicts where parts of the population have been excluded from power or education, for political reasons, whereas ideological topics also may include religious questions.

In the south east the violent conflicts that have troubled Nigeria include ethnic conflicts, religious conflicts, political conflicts, terrorism, militancy, youth

restiveness, electoral violence, and the like. FromNigeria’s independence until now the country’s story is coloured by conflicts, violence, warfare, and turbulence.In the late 1960s there was the Nigerian civil war. Before the civil war there was the 1966 violent military coup with its attendant crisis and upheavals that led to another

counter coup. Other conflicts that have bedevilled the nation include the Warri city oil-ethnic conflicts, the Ife-Modakeke, the Aguleri-Umuleri, Igbide-Emede, the Tiv-

Jukun, the Kano Maitasaine conflicts, the youth restiveness and militancy in the Niger Delta, terror upsurge from Boko Haram, and many others. The followings are some more conflicts that have troubled Nigeria-the 1991 and 2000-2001 conflicts 8in Bauchi state, the 2000-2001 conflicts in Burutu LGA of Delta State, conflicts in Okitipupa area of Ondo State, the 1999-2000 conflicts in Kano State, the conflicts inGwatu, Kaduna state in 2001, the 2000 conflict in Kaduna metropolis, and many others. The cost, effects, impact, and consequences of violent conflicts and warfare on human persons, social life, political arena, and economy are well documented and accounted for. These as it were are the social, cultural, political, and economic environment. But the cost on the natural environment or ecosystems are often neglected or glossed over. There are very few works that examine the impact of conflicts on the natural environment in Nigeria. It is to fill this lacuna that this piece is written from and ecological philosophical perspective (ecophilosophy). The natural environment matters and should be taken into consideration in addressing the issue of the consequences and eradication of violent conflicts. In order to carry out the task that the paper sets for itself.