

## War (Peace) related norms and values

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**Abstract.** My field of investigation is hypotheses concerning norms and values that influence conflict management with respect to the frequency and intensity of violence that can be tested cross-culturally. Among variables I discuss here are "Acceptability of violence", "Prestige for being a warrior", and "Norms for taking revenge".

Within the research project my field of investigation is norms and values that influence conflict management with respect to the frequency and intensity of violence.

Hypotheses will be formulated and later tested, using the already selected sample. The quality of the data at hand imposes certain restrictions on the construction of the variables.

Cross-cultural studies of conflict management form an important basis for the selection of hypotheses and variables that can be tested cross-culturally. The most exhaustive list of variables describing norms and values are contained in a study by Ross (1983).

I have tested these and several other variables available (e. g. from Nammour 1975) for the SCCS. Those with high effects I have selected for further refinement. In addition to using the SCCS-codes and for an illustration of how norms and values effect conflict management, I turned to ethnographic studies with a special focus on conflict management. A good example is Boehm's 'Blood Revenge' (1984), describing and analyzing the phenomenon, based on field research in Montenegro. The analysis of these case studies yielded two more variables (7, 8).

I will now discuss the variables selected (cf. Fig. 1.). Variables 1 to 5 are based on Ross 1983. The first three variables measure a general attitude towards the use of physical force. They form the 'cognitive framework' for the way conflicts are managed and refer to the norms and attitudes of members of an ethnic group towards using violence as a means to solve conflicts. The first hypothesis can be formulated:

The more the use of physical force is valued by an ethnic group, the higher the frequency of violent conflict management. The opposite should apply as well: The more the use of physical force is rejected by an ethnic group, the lower the frequency of violent conflict management.

This hypothesis might appear selfevident. However there are cultures which do not value violence and still have a high frequency of violent conflict management. An example of such a culture are the Tausug (Philippines). Its ethnographer, Kiefer,