

# The Psychology of Conflict

How does development survive in areas of military conflict, humanitarian and social crisis, and natural disaster?

-- the conflict between North and South --

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# Structure of talk

- ▶ Anatomy of the N-S conflict
  - Environmental collapse
  - Security/terror
- ▶ How does development interact with this conflict?
  - What is the nature & function of development?
- ▶ What are the implications for action?

# Questions

- ▶ How and why can/do people live with conflict, perhaps without even noticing it?
- ▶ How are they implicated in exacerbating conflict through their psychological processes of denial?

# The North-South conflict

- ▶ End of Cold War – market configuration drew frontline between rich and poor
- ▶ Convergence of development and security agendas in aid from Northern countries
- ▶ Shifts in threats and meanings of security – threat of environmental collapse and dominance of terror in Northern definition of security

# Conflict: pursuit of incompatible goals

## Development priorities

- pursuit of forms of development that compromise development elsewhere

## Security agenda

- pursuit of forms of security that compromise the security of people elsewhere

# Department for International Development, UK

Decades of misrule and two civil wars have devastated the country and most of the people are desperately poor. As many as five million are thought to have died unnecessarily since the start of the civil wars in the late 1990s. The country also suffers acutely from a lack of infrastructure, with just 1,431 km - or 1% of the national priority road network - tar sealed. Yet there is hope. Following the 2006 democratic elections, the first for 40 years, the DRC now has the opportunity to escape the cycle of conflict and suffering and realise its potential.

DFID's main objectives in the Democratic Republic of Congo are:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/where-we-work/africa-west--central/congo-democratic-republic/>

# DFID's DRC Country Plan 2008-2010

DRC's 60 million people have suffered from decades of misrule and two devastating civil wars which were finally brought to an end with peace agreements in 1999 and 2003. Peace and poverty reduction in DRC are critical both to stability in central Africa and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

[http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/DRC-countryplan08-10\[1\].pdf](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/DRC-countryplan08-10[1].pdf)

# Peter Tosh



Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die