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DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CONFLICTS OF ENGLAND 1350 - 1950

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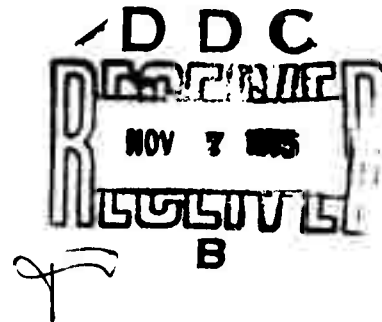


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ANALYSES
PROJECT TECHNICAL REPORT NO. I

WORKING PAPER NO. 4: DOMESTIC
AND FOREIGN CONFLICTS OF
ENGLAND, 1350 - 1950.

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DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CONFLICTS OF ENGLAND, 1350-1950

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Purpose of Project (in brief)

There is a reasonable possibility that any causal nexus between the internal conflicts and the external conflicts of a given nation-state may change--in degree and even in direction--with changes in its slower-moving social parameters: for instance, with changes in its basic social organization or in elite and popular beliefs about society. If so, an investigation of a long historical period for a single nation-state might help to explain anomalies cropping up in studies of shorter historical periods.

It was therefore proposed to study a spaced-out series of violent conflict episodes with "internal" and "external" components over a period of about six centuries, thus including some major changes in social organizations and in religious, political, and scientific beliefs. England was chosen as having a wealth of conflict episodes and a very accessible history over this long period.

In the absence of a usable prototype for this research, and in the presence of competing theories drawn from studies of shorter periods, the investigator chose to begin cautiously and allow leeway for a "proto-theory" to emerge from the historical flow of events before trying to formulate a testable hypothesis or set of hypotheses.

July - December, 1969

In the summer of 1969 a tentative and highly-generalized list of variables was worked out (see page 4 below). It was stated in terms of the conflict episodes to be used as case studies---before, during, and after. Toward the end of the six-month period, however, after the activities described below, the investigator saw reason to deal with the "before" and "after" (the 100 series and the 300 series on page 6 below) as a consecutive background against which the specific case-studies could be viewed. This

realization meant two major tasks for the second six months: (1) the collation and graphing of landmark events in English social organization and English belief systems for the whole 600-year period;* and the development of a sort of "proto-theory" which would allow the investigator to refine and make more operational the first listing of variables of interest.

A second aspect of the preparatory work in the first six months of the project was the final selection of a time-selected series of cases of more or less "violent" conflict involving (a) the English in England, (b) the English in America, and (c) the English in India. The trifurcation of the sequence after 1600 so as to include two contrasting English colonial experiences is believed to add an interesting depth to the "internality" and "externality" of English conflict experience. The final list of conflict episodes, spaced out at intervals of approximately 50 years and deliberately varied for "internality" and "externality," is given on page 4 below.

Surrounding the specific decisions outlined in the last two paragraphs was an extended process of historical review and seminar discussion. The investigator read a number of standard historical texts for the whole period and--to a lesser degree--for several earlier centuries of English development going back to the time of Alfred the Great. Concurrently, the Internal/External Conflict Seminar going on at the Center was regularly attended and served as a kind of intellectual crystalization of underlying problems for the investigator.

* For instance, in terms of changes in social organization, the English Parliament underwent substantial ups and downs in power relative to the Crown during the early part of the period under study, and these phases need to be marked in a political chronology. Again, the date of formation of the first English joint-stock company (the Muscovy Company) is a landmark in the chronology of social/economic organization. A number of major English institutions have to be tracked in this fashion and the landmark dates should be visually represented for later reference, even though the total number of important dates is on the order of a hundred for each major class of event during the whole period.

Although the historical period involved here is unusually long for a single research project, and although the "slower-moving social parameters" are not simple to trace, the first six months of the project have convinced the investigator that it is possible to trace the parametric movements in a reasonable fashion and to use the chronologies of these movements as an explanatory background for changes in the relationship between foreign and domestic conflict for the English nation-state. Some insights are already emerging which the investigator expects to use in a "proto-theory" to guide the second year of the work.

Tentative List of Variables, for Each Case Study:

100 Just Before the Conflict

- 110 General state of social organization and technology
- 120 Widely-held beliefs about the nature of man and society
- 130 The English power elite:
 - 131 Its economic and political base (control capabilities)
 - 132 Its internal conflicts of interest and belief
 - 133 Its habitual modes of resolving these internal conflicts
- 140 The other party (parties) to the specific conflict:
 - 141 Their economic and political base (control capabilities)
 - 142 Their internal conflicts of interest and belief
 - 143 Their habitual modes of resolving these internal conflicts

200 The Conflict Itself

- 210 The immediate issue(s) as seen by various historians
- 220 Contemporary popular beliefs, slogans, etc., about the issue(s)
- 230 The English power elite:
 - 231 Its mode of reaching a decision about the particular conflict
 - 232 Its official position and official justification
- 240 The other party or parties:
 - 241 Their modes of reaching a decision about the particular conflict
 - 242 Their official positions and official justifications
- 250 The course and immediate results of the confrontation
 - 251 Win-lose-draw outcome as seen by parties and by historians
 - 252 Degrees and kinds of destruction of persons and things

300 Just After the Conflict

- 310 Change if any in the state of social organization and technology
- 320 Changes if any in widely-held beliefs about man and society
- 330 The English power elite:
 - 331 Changes if any in its economic and political base
 - 332 Changes if any in its conflicts of interest and belief
 - 333 Changes if any in its habitual modes of resolving these conflicts
- 340 The other party or parties:
 - 341 Changes if any in their economic and political base
 - 342 Changes if any in their conflicts of interest and belief
 - 343 Changes if any in their habitual modes of resolving these conflicts
- 350 Changes if any in the relationships between the English power elite and the other party or parties

Cases to be Analyzed:

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Event Year</u>
<u>1. England in England</u>		
E 01	Wat Tyler's Rebellion (first English peasant revolt)	1381
E 02	Intra-English conflict re war in France (100 Years War)	1431
E 03	Buckingham's revolt against Richard III	1483
E 04	Church-related conflict leading to beheading of Boleyn	1536
E 05	English conflict re Drake's sack of the West Indies	1586
E 06	Beginning of ENGLISH CIVIL WAR	1642
E 07	Battle of Sedgemoor, involving Scotland	1685
E 08	South Sea Bubble disaster in England	1720
E 09	Lord George Gordon riots in London	1780
E 10	Peterloo Massacre in England, and Aftermath	1819
E 11	English conflict re the Fenian activities in Ireland	1881
<u>2. England in America</u>		
A 01	Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia	1676
A 02	British vs. Cherokees re founding of Georgia colony	1730
A 03	Beginning of AMERICAN REVOLUTION	1775
A 04	British burning of Washington, DC	1812
A 05	English involvement in AMERICAN CIVIL WAR	1861
<u>3. England in India</u>		
1 01	Aurangzeb vs. English re Surat concession	1685
1 02	Battle of Arcot (Clive)	1751
1 03	Fourth Mysore War	1799
1 04	Sepey Mutiny (Great Mutiny)	1857
1 05	Partition of Bengal	1905
1 06	India's PARTITION AND INDEPENDENCE	1947

Note: Intervals between conflict episodes for ¹some geographic area have a mean of 48+ years.