

# The Role and Challenges of Public Policy in Resolving International Conflicts

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**Abstract.** In the context of globalization, the connections between countries are increasingly close, and international conflicts display characteristics of complexity and variability. Due to the deepening development of globalization, intertwined factors such as national interests, cultural differences, and competition for resources have led to increasingly complex situations and content in international conflicts. Such prominence directly threatens the security and stability of nations, as well as poses threats to the global order and people's lives. In the management of national and societal affairs, public policy serves as an important tool and plays a significant role in resolving international conflicts. Based on actual development, the formulation and implementation of reasonable public policies provide frameworks and mechanisms for international cooperation and necessary resource support for conflict resolution. However, influenced by objective factors, public policy faces numerous challenges in resolving international conflicts. This paper will delve into the roles and challenges of public policy in resolving international conflicts and propose corresponding strategies to provide useful references for resolving such conflicts.

**Keywords:** Public Policy, International Conflicts, Response Measures.

## 1. Introduction

In the era of globalization, international conflicts occur frequently and in various forms, bringing new challenges to international peace and stability. Public policy, as a crucial tool for government management of national and international affairs, can effectively address international conflict issues. This paper first analyzes the multiple roles of public policy in resolving international conflicts, such as providing frameworks for international cooperation, guiding international public opinion, and providing resources and support. However, influenced by objective factors, public policy faces challenges such as information asymmetry, conflicting interests, and difficulties in policy implementation and oversight<sup>[1-3]</sup>. Addressing these issues through enhanced international cooperation and coordination, improving policy formulation and implementation capabilities, and strengthening public participation and guidance of public opinion can effectively address the challenges faced by public policy in resolving international conflicts and provide strong support for maintaining world peace and stability.

## 2. The Role of Public Policy in Resolving International Conflicts

### 2.1. Providing a Framework for International Cooperation

Public policy's key contribution in resolving international conflicts lies in the formulation of national laws and international treaties, providing a solid framework for international cooperation. These international laws and treaties not only represent the collective will of various countries but also serve as the foundation of international order and the rule of international law. They specify the rights and obligations of countries in international affairs, offering clear legal bases and guidelines for handling international conflicts. The United Nations, as the most representative international organization, and its Security Council play irreplaceable roles in international security affairs<sup>[4-5]</sup>. Through deliberation and decision-making on major issues related to international peace and security, the Security Council develops and implements policies and measures such as sanctions and peacekeeping, effectively promoting the peaceful resolution of international conflicts. These policies

and measures demonstrate the collective will and determination of the international community, providing strong support and assurance for resolving international conflicts. Despite the significant framework and mechanisms provided by international law and treaties, there are still many challenges in their practical implementation, necessitating further cooperation and communication among countries to maintain and improve this international legal system better to address the challenges brought by international conflicts.

## **2.2. Guiding International Public Opinion**

In the process of resolving international conflicts, public policy provides substantial legal frameworks and mechanisms for cooperation and plays a crucial role in guiding public opinion. As representatives of their countries, governments issue policy statements and host international conferences, serving as important channels to convey information and express positions to the international community. Through well-planned and implemented public policies, governments can clearly demonstrate their determination and stance in resolving international conflicts. This firm and clear position can earn the respect and support of the international community, creating a favorable environment for conflict resolution. Moreover, government-guided public opinion can also influence the direction of international public opinion, boosting the international community's confidence and motivation to resolve conflicts. In guiding public opinion, governments must ensure the accuracy and fairness of information to avoid misleading the public or causing unnecessary misunderstandings. Additionally, governments need to enhance communication and interaction with the international community, listen to the voices and demands of various parties, and ensure that policies truly align with the common interests of the international community<sup>[6-7]</sup>. By doing so, governments can effectively leverage public policy to guide public opinion, injecting more positive energy into the resolution of international conflicts.

## **2.3. Providing Resources**

Public policy not only provides theoretical guidance for resolving international conflicts but also offers solid resources for practical operations. Given the relative complexity of international relations, the existence of conflicts can lead to economic stagnation and social turmoil. To break this vicious cycle, governments can use public resources and adopt diversified measures to provide aid for conflict resolution, helping post-conflict countries rebuild infrastructure, restore economic vitality, and promote comprehensive social development (Figure 1). For example, in post-war reconstruction, governments quickly intervene after conflicts end, providing aid and loans to affected countries for necessary rebuilding resources. This helps restore national economic order and lays the foundation for social stability and harmony. Governments also actively promote international cooperation, encouraging countries to participate in reconstruction efforts together, forming a united front to promote the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.



**Figure 1:** Methods of Providing Aid

### **3. Challenges Faced by Public Policy in Resolving International Conflicts**

#### **3.1. Information Asymmetry**

Information asymmetry and misunderstandings are significant issues that public policy must address in resolving international conflicts. With the acceleration of globalization and the rapid dissemination of information, although people have more diverse ways to access information, this has also led to varying quality and accuracy of information<sup>[8]</sup>. In the complex context of international conflicts, governments, media, and the public often have significant differences and biases in their understanding of conflicts. Information asymmetry and misunderstandings primarily stem from different countries' interpretations of the causes and nature of conflicts. Due to historical, cultural, political, and economic differences, countries may have different interpretations and views on the same conflict, leading to misunderstandings and biases in resolving conflict solutions. Additionally, media reporting is often influenced by the positions and interests of the countries they represent, potentially leading to biased and misleading information. If the public lacks independent thinking and judgment skills, they may easily form inaccurate perceptions of conflicts. These misunderstandings and biases not only affect the international community's confidence and motivation to resolve conflicts but also increase the difficulty of formulating and implementing policies.

#### **3.2. Conflicting Interests**

The essence of international conflicts is the concentrated manifestation of the conflicting interests and strategic games among countries. As globalization deepens, the fates of countries are increasingly interconnected, and any international conflict can have profound impacts on global stability and prosperity. When resolving these conflicts, governments must carefully consider both their national interests and the common interests of the international community (Table 1). However, differences in interests among countries are objectively present. Some countries may prioritize economic interests, while others may focus on geopolitical stability; some may prefer peaceful negotiations, while others might opt for military action to defend their rights. These differences make policy formulation exceptionally complex, requiring deep communication and negotiation among countries to find a

balanced solution that meets all parties' interests. Additionally, the strategic nature of international conflicts adds to the difficulty of formulating and implementing policies. Various strategic maneuvers during negotiations may aim to secure more favorable conditions. These maneuvers can make the negotiation process lengthy and challenging, potentially leading to negotiation breakdowns and further escalating conflicts.

**Table 1:** Challenges Faced by Public Policy in the Process of Resolving International Conflicts

Challenges	Detailed description
Information asymmetry and misunderstanding	The imbalance and one-sidedness of information dissemination make the international community have a deviation in the perception of conflicts, which affects the confidence and motivation for solutions.
Conflicts of interest and gaming	Governments need to consider their own interests and the common interests of the international community when resolving conflicts, which increases the complexity and difficulty of policy-making.
Complexity of Games	This kind of game may lead to a long and difficult negotiation process, and may even lead to a breakdown of the negotiations and further escalation of the conflict.

### 3.3. Difficulties in Policy Implementation

During the execution and oversight of public policies, objective factors directly influence the progress of work. On the one hand, the harshness of war environments often poses a major obstacle to policy implementation. In peacekeeping operations, severe weather, challenging terrain, and resistance from hostile forces can severely threaten the smooth execution of policies. These factors not only increase the risks associated with policy implementation but also test the will and capability of the implementers. On the other hand, ineffective oversight of policies is also a major reason for deviations and errors in policy implementation. In the international arena, due to the lack of unified regulatory mechanisms and standards, different countries might implement the same policy differently, affecting the effectiveness of the policy and potentially leading to new contradictions and conflicts. Therefore, strengthening the execution and oversight of public policies, and improving regulatory mechanisms and standards, is crucial for ensuring the effectiveness of policies and promoting the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

## 4. Strategies for Public Policy in Resolving International Conflicts

### 4.1. Strengthen International Cooperation

In the face of international conflicts, enhancing the role of multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, international organizations, and regional organizations is particularly important. These institutions provide a platform for dialogue, consultation, and negotiation, helping to promote the resolution of disputes through peaceful means<sup>[9-10]</sup>. In resolving international conflicts, information sharing is also crucial. Establishing an effective information-sharing mechanism can ensure that national governments and international organizations are promptly informed about the latest developments in conflict areas, enabling rapid responses and decision-making. This helps to increase the efficiency of conflict resolution and reduce the risks of misunderstandings and biases. Additionally, policy coordination is key to resolving international conflicts. Governments should strengthen policy coordination to ensure consistent and coordinated actions in resolving international conflicts, avoiding policy conflicts and contradictions, and collectively promoting peace and stability in the international community.

### 4.2. Enhance Policy Implementation Capacity

As globalization deepens, the causes, nature, and impacts of international conflicts become increasingly complex and varied, posing new challenges to understanding and addressing conflicts.

Only through in-depth research can we truly understand the root causes, nature, and potential impacts of conflicts, thereby providing a scientific basis for formulating effective policies. This research needs to focus on the manifestations of conflicts and delve into their historical, cultural, economic, and political factors. Given the rapidly changing international situation, conflict development is often unpredictable. Therefore, it is necessary to adjust policy directions and measures timely according to changes in the international situation and conflict development, ensuring that policies keep pace with the times and play their intended roles. The vitality of a policy lies in its implementation; only by strengthening implementation can we ensure that policies are effectively applied and achieve their intended goals. Additionally, strengthening the supervision and evaluation of policy implementation, promptly identifying and correcting problems, is also an essential means of ensuring policy effectiveness.

#### **4.3. Strengthen Public Participation**

With the advent of the information age, public interest in policy-making has increased, and people want to understand the reasons, objectives, and effects behind policies. Enhancing public participation and guiding public opinion has become key to improving the quality and effectiveness of policy implementation. By making the policy-making process and outcomes public, the public can better understand the rationale behind policies, thereby enhancing trust and support for the policies, which helps to reduce misunderstandings and doubts and can stimulate public enthusiasm and participation in policy implementation. Policymakers should actively listen to the public's voices, understand their needs and concerns, and ensure that policies better reflect public opinion and needs. This two-way communication mechanism helps build trust and interaction between policymakers and the public, promoting the smooth implementation of policies. Moreover, through media and social networks, the correct information and values can be conveyed, guiding the public to form a correct opinion atmosphere. This helps avoid misinformation and biases and maintain social stability.

#### **4.4. Strengthen the Rule of Law**

In today's increasingly globalized world, it is important to strengthen the rule of law, which is not only the foundation of domestic governance but also an important safeguard for the stability of the international order. As international interactions become more frequent, various international conflicts and disputes also emerge. Strengthening and improving international law can provide a solid legal basis for resolving these conflicts, ensuring that countries follow common rules and standards in international affairs. Governments should strictly adhere to international law and norms, avoiding actions that violate international law. This helps maintain the stability of the international order and enhances the trust and cooperation among countries. Strengthening judicial cooperation is an important means of combating transnational crimes and terrorism, which threaten international peace and security. By enhancing international judicial cooperation, countries can jointly combat these criminal activities, maintaining peace and security in the international community.

#### **4.5. Develop Professional Talent**

In the context of rapid development in globalization and information technology, the fields of public policy and international relations are undergoing changes to varying degrees, requiring policymakers to have profound professional knowledge and keen insight, as well as excellent decision-making and implementation skills. Strengthening the training of talent in public policy and international relations is particularly important<sup>[11]</sup>. Talent development is key to enhancing the professionalism and effectiveness of policy formulation and implementation. Through systematic academic education and professional training, professionals with solid theoretical foundations and practical experience can be cultivated. These professionals can deeply analyze problems, offer scientifically sound policy recommendations, effectively implement policies, and ensure the achievement of policy goals. Additionally, as the international situation continuously changes, the fields of public policy and international relations also face new challenges. Strengthening the training

in these fields helps develop professionals with international perspectives and innovative spirits, providing a strong talent base to meet these challenges<sup>[12]</sup>.

## 5. Conclusion

In conclusion, resolving international conflicts has become an urgent and complex issue, with various layers and factors involved due to intertwined interests and cultural differences among countries. In this context, the role of public policy is highlighted, serving as an essential tool for government management of national and public affairs and as a key to resolving international conflicts and maintaining world peace. A comprehensive analysis of the role of public policy in resolving international conflicts shows that strengthening cooperation among countries, gradually improving the capability and coordination of policy formulation, and effectively addressing challenges to peacefully resolve conflicts are crucial. In the future, with the joint efforts of all countries, we can build a peaceful and stable world, leading humanity toward a better future.

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