The Displacement of Conflicts

- What happens in politics depends on the way in which people are divided into factions, parties, groups, etc.

- The outcome of the political process depends on which of a multitude of possible conflicts gains the dominant position.

- What people can do and what they cannot do depends on how they are divided.

- This is the process by which majorities and minorities are made. Every change in the direction and location of the line of cleavage produces a new majority and a new allocation of power.

- The evolution of a major conflict involves an effort to consolidate people on both sides.

- Conflict thus divides people and unites them at the same time.

- Conflicts compete with one another.

- There are billions of potential conflicts in any modern society, but only a few become significant. The reduction of the number of conflicts is an essential part of politics.

- A democratic society is able to survive because it manages conflict by establishing priorities among a multitude of potential conflicts.

- Since politics has its origin in strife, political strategy deals with the exploitation, use and suppression of conflict.