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**THE LAW OF DEFEAT IN A CONFLICT IN WHICH BOTH SIDES WILL
CONTINUE TO EXIST AFTER THE END OF THE STRUGGLE**

Abstract. A fundamental ratio for winning a conflict (not going to the maximum possible level) based on the level of pain from the confrontation and the amount of hope for a successful conclusion to the struggle is derived in the law.

Keywords: *philosophy, metaphysics, competitive struggle, conflict, conflictology, success, war, fear*

Basis. Limitations.

In general, conflict, pain and hope in the context of this article describe an active struggle between individual freely moving living beings (people, animals, birds, reptiles, insects, fish, and so on) and (or) unions of homogeneous or heterogeneous freely moving living beings, and the struggling living beings can both belong to the same species, and not belong.

During the conflict, one of the parties (or both sides together) may decide to transfer the conflict from the struggle for advantage to the struggle behind the physical destruction of their opponent. This aspect of the struggle requires the usage of additional resources (for example, weapons in a hand - to - hand fight, physical violence in an economic conflict, and so on), which is beyond the scope of this study.

Conflict. The conflict in the text of this article should be understood as such a confrontation, as a result of which both sides retain a certain ability to continue the struggle, that is, the losing side will continue to exist, having suffered damage, but preserving its integrality. It often happens that the winner of such a conflict is clear, but there are also frequent cases when there is no winner in alike conflict – it ended, in fact, in a draw.

Examples of these types of conflicts are: fights (no killing), normal family and industrial conflicts, competition between businesses (no bankruptcies or hostile takeovers), non-lethal individual conflicts in the wild over food, females and territories, and conflicts with the death of individual participants opposing groups: wars (without unconditional surrender), fights between organized criminal groups (without total defeat), struggle between packs (groups of individuals) of predators and herds (shoals, colonies) of their victims, clashes between symbiotic organisms with their opponents, and so on.

Any sports competitions do not fall under the category of conflicts in this article, because sport presupposes the existence of formal rules and a judge who monitors the implementation of these rules. The conflict considered in this study is in fact a struggle without rules, without restrictions on the level of damage caused and the methods of struggle used (although people have morality, culture, the Criminal Code and international law can, in a certain form, affect people participating in the conflict, but this the impact is not as decisive as the verdict of a referee in sports).

Pain. Pain in the text of this article should be understood as the physical pain of an individual or a number of individuals from a given group; heartache from loss, from the collapse of plans, from the inability to do something that you really want to do; fear from causing possible mental or physical pain in the future, discomfort from being in certain circumstances, and so on.

Examples of pain: fear of death, the physical suffering of a fighter; fear and experiences of the one who supports the fighter (fighters), but himself does not physically participate in the struggle; hunger, fear of losing food as a result of defeat; rage and anger from unsatisfied sex drive and envy to that who has satisfied or will satisfy his sex drive in the near future; hatred and sadness from the loss (death or injury) of citizens of their state, representatives of their ethnic group, their loved ones; the bitterness of losing the territories of their country, homes, historically significant places or people as a result of hostilities, and so on.

Hope. The hope in the text of this article is the understanding that there are still chances for real success - victory is still possible and quite feasible.

Examples of hope in the minds of an individual or a group: the fight is not over yet - I (we) can still win, the war can still be won (we must to be patient, the allies will help us), the business can still suffer losses - perhaps better times will come soon, predators will retreat soon, and so on.

Confession of defeat. Acceptance of defeat should be understood as a refusal to continue the struggle, expressed in formal, clearly visible ways. Confession of defeat is limited character and is not total, as the losing side continues to exist after the end of the conflict.

Examples of admitting defeat: the losing animal leaving the fight (leaving territory, prey or female to the winner), signing a peace treaty between states, leaving a company from part of its market, dismissing or transferring a losing employee to another job, ignoring calls for help to group member who has get in mortal danger (packs, herds, colonies, gangs, divisions) and so on.

The law of defeat in a conflict in which both sides will continue to exist after the end of the struggle

The side of the conflict admits defeat when the level of its pain exceeds the size of hope it has left.

Additional restrictions.

Remark. Pain and hope are not mathematical, but subjective categories, therefore, in advance, before the start of the fight, it is impossible to accurately calculate the moment in time when one of the parties to the conflict will surrender and admit defeat; this can only be approximated.

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