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**Title**

Existential conflictology

**Abstract for**

Long Presentation

**Abstract**

1. I knew a lot of conflictologists. One of them, Viktor Popkov stood out. During the war in Chechnya, it was through him that negotiations were held on the battalion and field commanders' level. He was from a many generations family of Leo Tolstoy's followers. His only motivation was to reduce the intensity of the confrontation. For him, this activity was a praxis of his Tolstoyan worldview.
2. In my life, among the people close to me, there were always people belonging to rival groups. One can say that not I was looking for conflictology, but it chose me.
3. In the 90s, after the collapse of the USSR, I used to consult various high-ranking officials. They often wanted to discuss their bureaucratic games with other officials. They seemed to live in a game.
4. In 1994, I was invited to London to the Congress of the World Association of Integral Psychoanalysis, led by the Brazilian psychotherapist Norberto Keppe. There I heard a story about how Keppe was an analyst of an American professor Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was obsessed with the idea of creating a powerful and unpublic organization. Keppe diagnosed him with theomania and megalomania.  
At the time I consulted some high-ranked Russian officials. All of them seemed to believe that after the world of two systems collapsed, there were no more obstacles towards building a single civilization. Then, Brzezinski's book "The Grand Chessboard" appeared where he represented the world as a session of simultaneous chess play on many boards. At the same time, his student Madeleine Albright who became Secretary of State, promoted the idea of expanding NATO to the East. The Russian ruling elites accepted Brzezinski's challenge and began their own chess game. Moreover, this caused a change of elites in Russia and those who wanted to confront America came to power.
5. Meanwhile, the Institute for training Existential Therapists (MIEK), which I created in 1999, worked in both Russia and Ukraine. In 2014, many our students from Donetsk branch became refugees. They ran in different directions, mostly to where they had some support. Thus, some of our students became a support for others.
6. It was clear that Ukrainian politicians did not understand that they were caught between two sides in a new global cold war.
7. In 2019, I wrote a metaphorical essay warning about unfolding events. I realized that politicians would draw masses into their games, provoke them, and pit them against each other. What can we oppose to this?
8. When the military engagement of February 2022 began, MIEK continued to exist. We helped people solve the problems that fate brought down on them. Usually they needed to make very specific decisions against the backdrop of war.
9. Is it possible to stop the world's unfolding slide towards a World War? I don't know. But the conflictology that is present in my life now is not to allow politicians and ideologists to pit people against each other, at least within MIEK.

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