Epilogue

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The study of conflict has attracted thinkers and researchers from Antiquity. The works of Thucydides, Sun Tzu, Kautilya, Ibn Khaldum are good examples. Therefore, not surprisingly, this has been a prominent and fertile field of study in both natural as well as social sciences.

This having been said, in the current international context, characterized by growing flows of people (migrations, refugees flows and so on) as well as the gradual transformation of societies into multicultural ones, the cultural dimension becomes a crucial issue, to the point most of conflicts may involve this kind of aspects at some point and to some extent. In this sense, we have to recall how, as a consequence of the flows of people we have just mentioned, host societies may feel certain anxiety and perceive their identity and features as threatened in some cases, whether that perception is accurate or not. Likewise, immigrants, refugees and, more generally, incoming groups of people may feel unwelcomed in their new societies and, in turn, develop hostile sentiments towards them.

Thus, this work has tried to contribute to the knowledge regarding the role played by cultural aspects nowadays, paying special attention to the relevance of cultural elements in current conflicts. In this sense, the book has shown the importance of this kind of aspects not only as factors which may lead to conflict, but also, more importantly, as part of conflict solving strategies. In this sense, it is evident the relevance of better cross-cultural understanding if conflict prevention and solving and, in turn, security, are to be strengthened.