

SOCIAL CONFLICT IN PETER TIERYAS'S THE MECHA SAMURAI EMPIRE SERIES

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Social Conflict in Peter Tieryas's the Mecha Samurai Empire Series

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Abstract, This study discusses the social conflict in Peter Tieryas's Mecha Samurai Empire Series. The aim of the study is to find out the reason for the causes of social conflict and their effect in the three novels and to find out the categories and types of social conflicts that appear in the story. The writer chooses the novel series because of the depiction of social conflict in the post-World War two settings where Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan win the second world war. In this study, the writer uses the qualitative descriptive method and sociological literature approach. To analyse the social conflicts of the novel series, the writer uses Ralf Dahrendorf's social conflict theory. The writer finds that there are two factors why social conflict appears in the novel, the background of the conflict and the attempt of each group in each novel to become the conflict group. Aside from that, the writer finds that the categories of conflict in the United States of Japan and Mecha Samurai Empire novel are exogenous conflict while Cyber Shogun Empire is endogenous conflict. There are four types of social conflict in the story. In the United States of Japan, the type of conflict is George Washingtons against the Empire of Japan. In Mecha Samurai Empire, the type of conflict is the National Revolutionaries of America against the Empire of Japan. In Cyber Shogun Revolution, there are two types of conflict, the Sons of War against the Empire of Japan and the Bloody Mary Group against the Empire of Japan.

Keywords/Kata Kunci: ralf dahrendorf, social conflict, america

Introduction

Throughout human history, conflict is a phenomenon that will happen daily, whether in the form of a quarrel or violence between two or more people. The definition of conflict varies. According to Al-Rawashdeh (2019), conflict is a competitive circumstance involving two or more conflicting goals. Al-Rawashdeh remarks that the major component regarding the definition of conflict is that it includes not less than two or more parties with opposing objectives. In comparison, White et al. (2014:193) explain that conflict is prevalent in social groups and is bound to happen between social groups. The influence of conflict in society between two individuals or more can be seen as a social conflict. Social conflict, according

to Oberschall (1978) refers to conflict where the parties are a collection of individuals, such as groups, organisations, communities, and crowds, rather than lone individuals, as in role conflict which covers a wide range of social phenomena such as class, religion, communal conflicts, strikes and civil disorder, etc. Examples of social conflict can be seen between the IRA and the British during The Troubles and civilian opposition against the Vietnam war during the cold war.

The influence of Social conflict can be seen in the literature. An example of social conflict in literature can be seen in Alan Drew's novel, Gardens of Water, which depicts a social conflict between an American and Kurdish family. Another example can be seen in some dystopia novels, such as George Orwell's

dystopia novel *The Animal Farm*. According to Merriam Webster, dystopia is a fictional world or society in which people lead bleak, inhuman and fearful lives. *The Animal Farms* tells about an injustice, revolution and betrayal faced by the animals.

A theory to analyse this social conflict begins to emerge in sociology. This theory is called social conflict theory, also known as the conflict theory. According to Blake (2001, as cited in Campbell, 2021), conflict theory describes human behaviour as seeking dominance. According to Collins (1990, as cited in Wallis, 2015), the origins of social conflict theory might have come indirectly from Thucydides. However, according to Bekelcha (2019), Social Conflict theory originates from Karl Marx's works in the mid-1800s. Marx's conflict theory focused on the conflict between two classes, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat (Magalla, 2018). His theory has influenced several sociologists, such as George Simmel, Irving Louis Horowitz, Mitchel, Wright Mills, Randal Collins, Lewis Coser, and Ralf Dahrendorf (Garada, 2015). In this study, the writer uses Ralf Dahrendorf's social conflict theory. A modern adaptation of Karl Marx's theory that focuses on the rise of conflicting groups in the structure of society, the forms of struggles between the conflicting groups, and how the conflict groups affect a change in the social structures of society.

The writer chooses Tieryas's Mecha Samurai Empire series as the object of the writer's research. The *Mecha Samurai Empire* novel series is a novel series created by Peter Tieryas, who is an award-winning international writer for the *Mecha Samurai Empire* Series, which received a lot of praise and two Seiun awards. He claims to have worked in films, games and also writings. His *Mecha Samurai Empire*

novel series consists of three novels: the *United States of Japan*, *Mecha Samurai Empire*, and *Cyber Shogun Empire*. Each novel has a different story and character, but some characters also reappear in the story. The first novel, *the United States of Japan*, released in 2016, tells a story about Beniko Ishimura and Akiko Tsukino, a soldier and secret police living in the post-United States of America, now named the United States of Japan, in 1988. Because of Beniko's superior, General Mutsuraga, involvement with an American terrorist organisation, the George Washingtons, Akiko Tsukino forces Beniko to participate with her to find out General Mutsuraga's whereabouts and to stop his plan. The second novel, *Mecha Samurai Empire*, released in 2018, tells about Makoto Fujimoto, a war orphan living in Berkeley who wants to enter a prestigious military school, Berkley Military Academy, to become a mecha pilot. However, when his friend, Hideki, plans to cheat on an exam fails, Makoto is thrown out of the exam because of his relationship with him. During an attack by an American terrorist who calls themselves National Revolutionaries of America, Makoto manages to beat them, causing him to be promoted into a mecha pilot and enter the world where he has to face National Revolutionaries of America and Nazi Germany. The third novel, *Cyber Shogun Empire*, released in 2020, tells about Reiko Morikawa, a member of Sons of War, a group that wants to overthrow the current government of the United States of Japan with their group. After overthrowing the government, a member of Sons of War who calls herself Bloody Mary betrays the group by killing some members of Sons of War except Reiko to send her a message to Sons of War that Bloody Mary wants to plan her revolution. This incident has caused the Sons of War to

ask for help from the Empire of Japan secret police, Tokko. Tokko sends Bishop Wakana, a former member of the police, to help the investigation. Reiko Morikawa and Bishop Wakan then work together to stop Bloody Mary's plans.

The writer chooses the three novels as the topic of the study because of the depiction of social conflict in the post-World War two settings where Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan win the second world war. The writer uses Ralf Dahrendorf's conflict theory to analyse the novels in this study.

METHOD

In order to describe the social conflicts in the United States of Japan, the social conflicts in the Mecha Samurai Empire, the social conflicts in the Cyber Shogun Revolution, and the categories and types of social conflict that appear in the novel series, the writer choose descriptive qualitative as its research design. According to Kumar (2019:588), qualitative descriptive is a study that focuses on explanation rather than analysing relationships or associations, which is classified as a descriptive study. Kumar further explains that descriptive qualitative seeks to systematically describe situations, problems, phenomena, services or programmes, or information.

The data source is the *Mecha Samurai Empire* novel series: *United States of Japan* (2016), *Mecha Samurai Empire* (2018) and *Cyber Shogun Revolution* (2020). The three novels are written by Peter Tieryas. The data source of this study is obtained in the form of quotations contained in the novel series. The references in the form of books, online articles, and journals are used to support the analysis of the study.

The instrument of research in this qualitative study is the researcher himself. Peredaryenko and Krauss

(2013) explain that Lincoln and Guba introduce the concept of a human being as a research instrument to highlight the researcher's unique role in their scientific investigation process. This unique role lies in the notion that only humans construct and bring several purposes to the world with their qualities of sensitivity, responsiveness and flexibility, which make them the appropriate instrument for inquiry that aims to achieve meaning, understanding, the promotion of critical awareness, liberation, and movement toward deconstruction or decolonization.

To conduct the data collection of this research, the writer uses document analysis as its method of data collection. The researcher collects the data with several steps: the writer reads all of the *Mecha Samurai Empire* novel series; the writer reads and double check the relevant data from the library or internet; The writer takes notes of the data that is related with the research problem; The writer evaluates the data in order to analyse the data.

Aside from data collection procedure, to analyse the data of this research the writer uses content analysis as a method to analyse the data of the study. After gathering the data, the writer analyses the data with several steps: the writer evaluates and identifies the gathered data that are related with the research problems; the writer analyses the data by using Ralf Dahrendorf theory; the writer concludes the data that has been analysed by using Ralf Dahrendorf theory of social conflict.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. *Social Conflicts in United States of Japan*

a. *Causes of Social Conflicts in United States of Japan*

The writer finds that there are two causes of social conflicts in the

story. The background of the social conflicts in the story and how the George Washington attempt to rise as a conflict group.

a.1 Background of Social Conflicts

In the novel, the story begins with the invasion of United States of America by the Empire of Japan and Nazi Germany in 1948. During the invasion, Ezikel and Ruth are trying to find Ezikel's uncle, Henry Song, in Los Angeles. During their meeting, Henry mentions that the Empire of Japan is brutal as we can see from the statement below.

“My family fought for America in the Great War,” Ruth stated angrily. “Two of my uncles died in Germany fighting for our country. I was born here and have never even been to Japan, but it didn't matter when it came time to sending us to those prisons.” “You know what the Japs are doing to their prisoners? Butchering them and feeding them to their dogs because it's cheaper than getting them dog food.” (Tieryas, 2016:21)

From the quotation above, this brutality causes some Americans to rise up against the Empire of Japan and Nazi Germany even after the defeat and the surrender of United States of America to the Empire of Japan and Nazi Germany on 4 July 1948. This resistance by some Americans causes them to form several resistance groups with the goal to be independent from the occupation of Empire of Japan and Nazi Germany. One of these resistance groups is George Washingtons (GWs). The George Washingtons has fixation with the United States of America leader. Although the George Washingtons has a fixation with the United States of America, in reality, they have a different ideology. During Beniko Ishimura

meeting with the leaders of George Washingtons inside of a four-story building in San Diego. One of the George Washingtons leader, Abraham Lincoln, preaches toward the people regarding religion as we can see below.

“And almost two thousand years later, Yillah, the daughter of Christ, came to rescue us from our iniquities. The promised rapture happened. Jesus came back and saved those who trusted in Him. The world fell into despair without God. The Axis exploited the world God had abandoned. Billions were murdered. Looting was rampant. We were fallen. But because He was merciful, because He did not want those left behind to be given so hopelessly to the enemy, He sent Yillah to lead us back, to give us a chance at a second salvation.” (Tieryas, 2016:232)

The quotations above explains that the George Washingtons doesn't follow the United States of America ideology but rather, they want to restore the United States of America from the occupation of Empire of Japan and Nazi Germany by combining their ideology with their own version of Christianity. The writers deduces that the religious preach causes the member of George Washingtons to devout their cause with the George Washingtons ideology which intensifies their conflict with the Empire of Japan.

a.2 George Washingtons's Attempt to Rise as a Conflict Group

Aside from the background of the conflict in the *United States of Japan*, the attempt by the George Washingtons to rise a conflict group is also the cause of social conflict in the United States of Japan. According to the story in the novel, the defeat of the United States of America has caused the emergence of a

resistance group against the invader. One of these resistance groups that is resisting the Empire of Japan's occupation of the United States of America, which is now called the United States of Japan, is George Washingtons. It is unknown when George Washingtons rise in the story, as the story never mentions any of it. However, the writer deduces that George Washingtons might have appeared after the surrender of the United States of America, as can be seen from the quotation below.

Groups of Americans planned rebellion and dissent. They believed the real fighting would commence after the faux surrender. The Japanese knew better. They were ready for resistance. (Tieryas, 2016:23)

These groups of Americans that are planning rebellion and dissent against the Empire of Japan and their puppet government from the perspective of Dahrendorf can be considered quasi-groups because they hold particular positions which share a similar latent interest. These groups of Americans that are planning rebellion and dissent against the Empire of Japan and their puppet government from the perspective of Dahrendorf can be considered quasi-groups because they hold particular positions which share a similar latent interest. These particular positions are resistance groups or rebels, and a similar latent interest is fighting against the Empire of Japan in order to achieve independence from the occupation of the Empire of Japan in the United States of America. These quasi-groups then become George Washingtons or the interest group. According to Dahrendorf, in order for the quasi-groups to form an interest group, quasi-groups must fulfil technical, political and social conditions. In the story, the writer considers that the George Washingtons has fulfilled the

technical conditions because George Washingtons has members, ideology and leaders, which can be seen in the story, fulfilled the social conditions because their method of recruiting quasi-groups is structurally determined and fulfilled the political conditions because they manage to emerge as a conflict group even though they are being suppressed by the Empire of Japan.

b. Effect of Social Conflicts in United States of Japan

The conflict between the Empire of Japan against the United States of America has caused a massive change in the social structure of the United States of America which affects its remnants or resistance groups, in this case, the George Washingtons. The Empire of Japan has replaced the United States of America's social structure with their own social structure. These changes can be seen in the successor states of the United States of America, which is the United States of Japan. Unlike the United States of America, the United States of Japan does not have freedom of speech and freedom of thought. Every action is monitored by the Empire of Japan's secret police or Tokko. A person that might offend the Emperor and the Empire of Japan might get arrested or killed by the secret police.

Apart from the change in the social structure of the United States of America, the conflict between the George Washingtons and the Empire of Japan has affected the George Washingtons. The George Washingtons, rather than restoring the United States of America to its past, wants to restore the United States of America with its ideological version of America. Because of this, the George Washingtons engages the United States of Japan through violent means and propaganda in order for them to change the social structure of United States of Japan.

2. Social Conflicts in Mecha Samurai Empire

a. Causes of Social Conflicts in United States of Japan

The writer finds that there are two causes of social conflicts in the Mecha Samurai Empire. The background of the social conflicts in the novel and how the National Revolutionaries of America attempt to rise as a conflict group.

a.1 Background of the Social Conflicts

In the story, the Empire of Japan faces a resistance group who call themselves National Revolutionaries of America (NARA) that resists the Empire of Japan. They have a similar goal, just like the other resistance groups. However, the reason why they appear is different. During an escort mission to protect a train from the United States of Japan to the German Americas at the Texas border, members of the Rapid Mobile Defense Team discuss about the National Revolutionaries of America. Olympia, a member of Makoto's Rapid Mobile Defense Team, reveals that the founder of National Revolutionaries of America claims that other religious resistance groups are false. She says that the founder has a vision that the United States of America win the war. She explains this is the reason why National Revolutionaries of America resists the Empire of Japan because they want to cause a war between the Empire of Japan and Nazi Germany in order for them to take over the United States of Japan and German Americas after both factions destroy themselves. During the escort mission, the National Revolutionaries of America ambushes the Rapid Mobile Defense Team, which causes the majority of Makoto's Rapid Mobile Defense Team to die. Makoto manages to survive the encounter. Yamaoka, a war hero, tells him that Nazi Germany is collaborating with the National

Revolutionaries of America. This revelation gives the writer an insight that Nazi Germany is another reason why social conflicts appear in the story.

The National Revolutionaries of America's Attempt to Rise as a Conflict Group

Similar to George Washingtons in the first novel. National Revolutionaries of America has the same quasi-groups. The quasi-group members are resistance groups or rebels, and their similar latent interest is fighting against the Empire of Japan in order to achieve independence from the occupation of the Empire of Japan in the United States of America. These quasi-groups are then recruited into an interest group. However, in order to become an interest group, the National Revolutionaries of America's quasi-groups must fulfil technical, political, and social conditions. In the story, the writer considers that the National Revolutionaries of America has fulfilled the technical conditions because National Revolutionaries of America has members, founder, ideology, and leader; fulfilled the social conditions because the National Revolutionaries of America recruits members that have an apparent dislike against the Empire of Japan, and fulfilled the political conditions because that National Revolutionaries of America is attempting to influence the social structure of the United States of Japan through propaganda, even though they don't fulfil the political condition according to Dahrendorf.

a.2 Effect of Social Conflicts in Mecha Samurai Empire

The effect of social conflicts can be seen in the form of violent act and propaganda against the Empire of Japan by the National Revolutionaries of America. The National Revolutionaries of America attempts to change the social structure of the United States of Japan

through violent means and propaganda. This can be seen during Makoto's school test.

I've never actually thought to question the official casualty rate on the American side in San Diego. I pick D. as it's the only one that isn't rounded up. I'm surprised when the next screen is green and tells me I've chosen correctly. More than 740,000 innocent civilians were mercilessly massacred by United States of Japan forces without provocation, the text reads. (Tieryas, 2018:40)

Aside from propaganda, the National Revolutionaries of America attempts to use violence in order to change the social structure of United of Japan. This can be seen during the capture of the survivor of the National Revolutionaries of America ambush attacks where the leader attempts to convince the survivor to renounce their allegiance to the Empire of Japan.

"I am a loyal servant of the Emperor!" a woman shouts. "Congratulations." There is a loud gunshot. "You idiots!" Clarence yells. "Don't shoot them before you take off their clothes or you'll get blood all over them. See, it's a mess, and we can't use her clothes anymore. Take this man. He looks like he has good sense. What'll it be?" (Tieryas, 2018:157)

From the quote above, the National Revolutionaries of America uses violence. The writer assumes that this tactic is to convince the citizens of the United States of Japan to change the social structure of the United States of Japan.

3. Social Conflicts in Cyber Shogun Revolution

a. Causes of Social Conflicts in Cyber Shogun Revolution

The writer finds that there are two causes of social conflicts in *Cyber Shogun Revolution*. The background of the social conflicts in the novel and how the Sons of War and Bloody Mary Group attempt to rise as a conflict group.

a.1 Background of Conflict

In *Cyber Shogun Empire*, at the beginning of the story, the Sons of War arise because of the displeasure with Governor Daigo Tamura, as we can see from General Yamaoka's statement regarding Governor Daigo Tamura.

"We are patriots. We are here because we love our country. Our governor bribed his way into power by feeding lies to Tokyo Command. He has never served in the military. He is a liar, a conceited buffoon who has no regard for life. It is because of his lack of leadership that the Kansas Massacre was allowed to happen. And worse, in his attempt to save face, he tried to blame others, including our esteemed intelligence community. (Tieryas, 2020:16)

He goes on to say that during his campaign against Nazi Germany, Daigo Tamura has caused a lot of problems against Yamaoka in the previous novel, *Mecha Samurai Empire*. Daigo Tamura's actions have caused discontent among the member of the Sons of War. His actions have caused the Sons of War to plan an assassination against him and to overthrow his government. After the overthrow of his government, Daniella, Reiko's friend, realise that the Sons of War's members have abused their power and tells Reiko about this during their Sons of War's meeting to celebrate their victory against Governor Daigo Tamura and his government.

Daniela nodded. "Did you know four members of the corps were executed last week after being accused of treason?" "I did not," Reiko said, as she'd been so busy with her duties. "One of them was a student of mine," Daniela said. "Her crime was that she didn't bow to one of the ministers in the Sons of War. He interpreted that as treason." (Tieryas, 2020:189)

During their meeting, a person who wears a George Washington mask laughs at the Sons of War and mocks them. The person reveals herself to be Bloody Mary, a legendary Nazi killer and the person who has killed Daigo Tamura. She kills most of the members of Sons of War who participate in the meeting except Reiko. She tells Reiko that General Yamaoka is not that different from Daigo Tamura. Bloody Mary says that she keeps Reiko alive in order to give a warning to the Sons of War that she is planning a revolution in order to show the hypocrisy of the Sons of War. After capturing General Yamaoka during the revolution in Los Angeles, Bloody Mary forces General Yamaoka to tell his real reason why he overthrows Daigo Tamura and his government.

"I killed Governor Tamura so I could seize power for myself, then take the seat of a shogun like my hero, Ieyasu, and declare the Americas independent of the Empire," Yamaoka said weakly, a broken man barely staying conscious. (Tieryas, 2020:274)

His statements reveal that the reason Sons of War arise against the Daigo Tamura government in the United States of Japan is that General Yamaoka wants to have more power. Bloody Mary then kills General Yamaoka and declares that the United States of Japan is dead.

During the revolution in the United States of Japan by the Bloody Mary group, Bishop and Reiko manage to locate Bloody Mary in Naoya Nakahara Broadcast Unity in Hollywood. After finding Bloody Mary, Bishop and Reiko fight her. However, Bloody Mary defeats them and causes Reiko to blackout. Bloody Mary then reveals herself to Bishop that she is Akiko Tsukino. She explains her intention on why she has caused the revolution, as we can see from the quote below.

"I tried for years and toiled from my position to help bring change to the Empire," she replied. "But it was impossible with all the establishment figures wanting to maintain the status quo and their own power. You saw what happened to your father. I saw so many of my fellow agents arrested, or executed, simply because they stood up for what was right. The only way to bring about real change was with a revolution that would permanently wipe away the old in a baptism of violence." (Tieryas, 2020:294)

This quote above reveals that the power struggle, arrest, and the elimination of Akiko's friends is the reason why Bloody Mary group comes in conflict with the United States of Japan.

a.2 Sons of War's Attempt to Rise as a Conflict Group

According to the novel, Daigo Tamura and his government's actions have caused the emergence of the United States of Japan government members who hate Daigo Tamura and his government. These people who share similar interest are the military and politicians or the quasi-group as we can see at the end of the story.

A few hours after leaving Bishop, Reiko attended an emergency

meeting made up of the remaining members of the Sons of War. It had started to rain and the water was coming down hard, hammering the roof. Forty-seven of the senior members of the Sons of War were gathered. None of them were wearing masks. Reiko was not used to seeing all these high-ranking officials, generals, and politicians from the Empire present without a disguise. (Tieryas, 2020:298)

Because Daigo Tamura has disappointed them. They evolve into an interest group. Before forming an interest group and later the conflict group, they must fulfil the technical, social, and political conditions. In the story, the writer considers that the Sons of War has fulfilled the technical conditions because they have an ideology, members, a leader and a founder. The Sons of War also fulfilled the social conditions because the writer deduces that the Sons of War are mostly in the United States of Japan, and the method of recruitment of the Sons of War is structurally determined, as we can see this during Bloody Mary's captures of General Yamaoka where she reveals the data of the Sons of War's private message to everyone. The Sons of War does not fulfil the political conditions because they do not have freedom of organisation because of suppression in the United States of Japan. However, the Sons of War has managed to change the social structure of the United States of Japan.

a.3 Bloody Mary Group's Attempt to Rise as a Conflict Group

According to the novel, the writer believes that the Bloody Mary group appear because of the dismay with the Empire of Japan within the member of the government of the United States of Japan. This member of government

thinks that the United States of Japan is very corrupt. In order to make the Empire of Japan free from this corruption, they begin to form an interest group and then a conflict group. In the story, the writer considers that the Bloody Mary group has fulfilled the technical conditions because they have members, ideology, a leader and a founder, which is Akiko Tsukino. The Bloody Mary group also fulfilled the social conditions because the writer assumes that their location is within the United States of Japan and concludes that recruitment methods are structurally determined. The Bloody Mary group does not fulfil the political conditions because they cannot form an interest and conflict group for the reason that they do not have freedom of organisation, but Bloody Mary manages to arise as a conflict group even though they do not fulfil the political conditions. Bloody Mary group engages in changing the social structure of the United States of Japan.

a.4 Effect of Social Conflicts in Cyber Shogun Revolution

Social conflicts between the Sons of War against the Daigo Tamura government and the Bloody Mary Group against the Empire of Japan have caused changes in the social structure of the United States of Japan. In the story, Sons of War manages to eliminate Daigo Tamura. After killing him, the Empire of Japan chooses General Yamaoka as the temporary government. He then begins to investigate Daigo Tamura, which reveals Daigo Tamura's collaboration with Nazi Germany, as shown below.

Governor Yamaoka carried out an investigation that led to evidence of the previous governor's collusion with the Nazis. This included private bank statements and tax reports that

had, until now, all been hidden. There was a huge uproar among the public, shocked by the implications. At the same time, inexplicable acts began to make sense, like why the governor had ordered Yamaoka to cease his attack on Texarkana Fortress. (Tieryas, 2020:33)

This revelation has caused change within the social structure of the United States of Japan. The United States of Japan begins to arrest and eliminate the Daigo Tamura government's members, causing their position in the government to be replaced with the member Sons of War. Aside from the Sons of War against the Daigo Tamura Government, the social conflicts between the Empire of Japan and the Bloody Mary Group have managed to cause fast, violent changes within the social structure of the United States of Japan.

4. Categories and Types of Social Conflicts in the Novel Series

a. Categories and Types of Social Conflict in the United States of Japan and Mecha Samurai Empire

In this discussion, the writer concludes that the category of social conflict in the *United States of Japan* and the *Mecha Samurai Empire* is exogenous conflict instead of endogenous conflict. The reason being is that, in the story, the Empire of Japan and Nazi Germany have managed to make the United States of America surrender on 4 July 1948. They divide the United States of America into two regions, the United States of Japan and the German Americas. The Empire of Japan has replaced the United States of America's social structure with their own social structure. In both of the novels, the occupation of the United States of America has caused some resistance by

some Americans against the Empire of Japan. The social conflict between the Empire of Japan and the American resistance group members has affected the social structures of the American resistance groups in terms of ideology. The American resistance groups want independence from the occupation of the Empire of Japan. However, rather than fighting for the re-establishment of the United States of America to its former glory, they want to re-establish the United States of America with their own respective ideology. This can be seen in the ideological difference between George Washingtons and National Revolutionaries of America. In the story, when Griselda explains to Makoto in her room the difference between the National Revolutionaries of America and George Washingtons.

“The GWs despise the NARA because the NARA doesn't believe in a second coming and they think that Malek isn't the daughter of God. The True Believers believe that Jesus isn't real. The Realpolitik think all religions are false and that for America to arise again, they have to embrace the world for what it is. There are a lot of different factions vying for power, and they all disagree with each other.” (Tieryas, 2020:110)

From all of the explanations above, the writer concludes that the types of social conflict is the Empire of Japan against George Washingtons and the Empire of Japan against the National Revolutionaries of America. The category of social conflict in the *United States of Japan* and the *Mecha Samurai Empire* novel is an exogenous conflict because the Empire of Japan has replaced the social structure of the United States of America with their own social structure. The conflict between the

Empire of Japan against the George Washingtons and National Revolutionaries of America also influenced the social structure regarding the ideology of both factions.

b. *Categories and Types of Conflict in Cyber Shogun Revolution*

The writer finds that the category of conflict in the novel is endogenous conflict. There are two reasons why the categories of conflict are endogenous. The first reason is the conflict between the Sons of War against the Daigo Tamura government. The second is Bloody Mary against the Empire of Japan.

a.1 Sons of War against Daigo Tamura Government

It is noticeable that the conflict between Sons of Wars against the Daigo Tamura Government can be seemingly considered as an exogenous conflict rather than an endogenous conflict. This can be seen at the beginning of the story when the main character, Reiko Morikawa, is meeting with the member of the Sons of War in Taikko City during the winter of 2019. She arrives with other members and is driven into an unknown secret meeting place while wearing a mask to conceal the member's identity. After arriving at the secret unknown secret meeting place, she meets her friend, Daniela Takemi and forty-seven members of Sons of War. In the meeting, General Yamaoka starts lecturing about Daigo Tamura, as we can see from the quotation below.

"It is because of his lack of leadership that the Kansas Massacre was allowed to happen. And worse, in his attempt to save face, he tried to blame others, including our esteemed intelligence community. So many of our most respected

colleagues were unceremoniously dismissed or forced to commit seppuku for sins they did not commit. Now we have incontrovertible proof that he is collaborating with the Nazis. The Nazis, our sworn enemies! (Tieryas, 2020:16)

General Yamaoka continues to explain Daigo Tamura's crimes and how Tamura's handling of the conflict between German Americas and the United States of Japan has caused a political fallout. He tells the member of the Sons of War member that they are preparing to take over the Daigo Tamura government as the Nazi is mobilising against the United States of Japan with a government and political leaders that General Yamaoka considers weak. He orders the members of the Sons of War to prepare the assassination plan against the Daigo Tamura government. After assassinating the Daigo Tamura, General Yamaoka has been appointed a temporary government by the prime minister. Afterwards, he begins an investigation which reveals Daigo Tamura's cooperation with Nazi Germany, as shown below.

Governor Yamaoka carried out an investigation that led to evidence of the previous governor's collusion with the Nazis. This included private bank statements and tax reports that had, until now, all been hidden. There was a huge uproar among the public, shocked by the implications. At the same time, inexplicable acts began to make sense, like why the governor had ordered Yamaoka to cease his attack on Texarkana Fortress. (Tieryas, 2020:33)

This causes the arrest and elimination of the Daigo Tamura government's members, replacing their

position in the government with the member Sons of War. This causes the arrest and elimination of the Daigo Tamura government's members, replacing their position in the government with the member Sons of War. With this information, the writer concludes that the category of social conflict is endogenous conflict as the social conflict appears within the United States of Japan. The writer also concludes that the type of conflict is Sons of War against the Daigo Tamura government.

a.2 Bloody Mary Group against Empire of Japan

Similar to Sons of War, the conflict between Bloody Mary groups against the Empire of Japan is an endogenous conflict rather than an exogenous conflict. The reason being is that the conflict comes within the social structure of the United States of Japan precisely after the Sons of War has taken over the United States of Japan government. In the story, during the meeting to celebrate the success of the Sons of War against Daigo Tamura, Bloody Mary kills many members of the Sons of War except Reiko. Bloody Mary explains to her that she is going to show the hypocrisy of the Sons of War by preparing a revolution against them, as we can see from the quotes below.

"Why even leave a survivor?"

"So that you can escape to tell them." "Tell who what?" Reiko asked. "That I will show everyone the hypocrisy of these Sons of War. My revolution won't be one of peace, but death." (Tieryas, 2020: 45)

During Bishop and Reiko's journey to find out Bloody Mary's whereabouts. Bishop and Reiko manage to locate Bloody Mary members in a harbour in Long Beach. They realise that a lot of Blood Mary members are ex-

military members of the United States of Japan military. Bishop and Reiko try to stop them, but the Bloody Mary group captures them. They are then put in a machine that reveals their memories, emotions, and feelings in order to cause an uproar among the people of the United States of Japan. After managing to break out from the machine, Reiko informs Bishop that the Bloody Mary group is revolting in Los Angeles. During this revolution, Bloody Mary manages to capture General Yamaoka. She forces him to reveal why he overthrew Governor Daigo Tamura. He reveals that he wants to become the shogun of America and declare independence from the Empire of Japan. She then declares that the United States of Japan is independent of the Empire of Japan's control.

"Since Yamaoka was going to do it anyway, I'll declare that we are no longer under the control of the Empire," Bloody Mary continued. "We are fully independent. We are the true America. The German Americas will be my next target. For anyone who's concerned about the future, don't be. The Nazis will fall at our hands. They have more to fear than you. But in order to be victorious, we had to liberate ourselves first." (Tieryas, 2020: 275)

From the quote above, the Bloody Mary group has achieved their goal. Bloody Mary group has caused a revolution in the United States of Japan. With this information, the writer concludes that the category of social conflict is endogenous conflict, and the type of conflict is the Bloody Mary group against the Empire of Japan.

CONCLUSION

From the findings that the writer has gathered, the writer finds out the cause and effect of social conflicts in each novel and the categories and types of social conflicts in the *Mecha Samurai Empire* series.

There are two causes of conflict in each novel, the background of the social conflicts and the attempt to rise as a conflict group. In the *United States of Japan*, the brutality of the Empire of Japan and Nazi Germany and their occupation of the United States of America, which divides the United States of America into two regions, the United States of Japan and German Americas, has caused the George Washingtons to engage in social conflict against the Empire of Japan. The religious ideology of the George Washingtons is the primary cause of social conflicts in the novel. Another cause of social conflict is George Washingtons attempt to become a conflict group and their struggle to change the social structure of the United States of Japan is another reason for the cause of social conflicts in the novel. The effect of the social conflicts in the novel *United States of Japan*, has caused, the change of social structure of United States of America to be more align with the Empire of Japan. The social conflicts also cause the George Washingtons ideology to change.

In *Mecha Samurai Empire*, the vision of National Revolutionaries of America's founder has caused the social conflict. He sees that the United States of America win the war against the Empire of Japan and Nazi Germany, causing the National Revolutionaries of America to fight the United States of Japan for the restoration of the United States of America while being backed by Nazi Germany. The attempt of National Revolutionaries of America to become a conflict group and their fight to change

the social structure of United States of Japan is another reason for the cause of social conflicts in the novel. The effect of social conflicts in the novel, causes the National Revolutionaries of America to engage in social conflicts through violence and propaganda in order to change the social structure of United States of Japan.

In *Cyber Shogun Revolution*, the causes of social conflicts are because the General Yamaoka's hidden intention to become the Shogun of Japan in the United States of Japan by overthrowing the Daigo Tamura government. Furthermore, Akiko Tsukino's experience with the Empire of Japan where she sees the power struggle as General Yamaoka has done in the United States of Japan, the elimination and the arrest of Akiko's friends have caused her group to revolt within the United States of Japan. The attempt by Sons of War and Bloody Mary group to become a conflict group and their engagement to change the social structure of United States of Japan is another reason why social conflicts appear in the story. The effect of social conflicts has caused the change of social structure of United States of Japan.

In the novels *United States of Japan* and *Mecha Samurai Empire*, the writer finds that the category of social conflict in both novels is exogenous conflict. The reason is that the Empire of Japan has managed to change the social structure of the post-United States of America, causing changes in the social structure of George Washingtons and the National America of America. The writer finds that the types of conflict are National America of America against the Empire of Japan and George Washingtons against the Empire of Japan. In the novel, *Cyber Shogun Empire*, the category of conflicts is endogenous conflict. This is because

there are two types of conflict in the story, the Sons of War against the Daigo Tamura Government and the Bloody Mary group against the Empire of Japan. The Sons of War is in conflict with the Daigo Tamura government, causing the elimination of Daigo Tamura and replacement of the Daigo Tamura government in the United States of Japan with the members of Sons of War. Moreover, the Bloody Mary group emerges inside the United States of Japan's social structure.

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