

Anthropology of Social Conflicts

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Abstract

The work undertakes an analysis of the nature of social conflicts, their ancestral origins, their transcendence, and their impact on the living conditions of a community's inhabitants. It also examines the relations of a corporation with the community where it carries out its operations and the role of the state as a regulatory entity of economic activities, protector of the living conditions of vulnerable populations, and of the rule of law.

Keywords: Conflict; Community; Business; State and Society.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, humanity has been afflicted by a perpetual succession of internecine conflicts. From the Battle of Kadesh, regarded as the first large-scale human confrontation documented, between the Hittite Kingdom and the Egyptian Empire, to the war between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Hamas, humanity appears to exhibit a proclivity for self-destruction. This tendency has manifested in various forms, including slavery, genocide, deportations, and human trafficking, among other instances of exploitation and human degradation.

Conflicts between different entities, including but not limited to empires, leagues of nations, states, countries, villages, religious groups, political parties, and ideological sects, have often been rooted in disputes over territory, religious ideas, wealth, and political ideologies. These disputes have often led to conflicts on a greater or lesser scale. Nevertheless, a genuine basis for conflict has invariably existed, irrespective of the apparent cause or pretext.^{1,2}

An examination of human DNA reveals a proclivity for violence, which manifests in confrontations among individuals. This tendency can be traced to the genetic information inherited from our earliest hominid ancestors, who, according to archaeological evidence, engaged in disputes over territory, sustenance, and mating rights. These conflicts have evolved over time, transforming into more intricate and sophisticated forms. However, the fundamental nature of these conflicts remains constant, encompassing a range of factors, including the aspiration to possess others' possessions, ideological differences, religious doctrines, and a disregard for fundamental human values such as life, liberty, and respect for dignity.

Four years ago, Peru commemorated the bicentennial of its independence from Spanish domination. The Spanish conquest was predicated on the notion of evangelizing the New World; however, the Spanish established a system of cruel

¹ The mythical Trojan War was apparently caused by the abduction of the wife of the king of Sparta Menelaus, when a real cause that justified the mobilization and confrontation of military forces of such proportions could have been the expansionism of the league of Greek city-states led by Mycenae and who aspired to dominate the Mediterranean Sea and its trade routes to the East and that would have the legendary city of Troy as a lock located in present-day Turkey.

² The First World War whose apparent cause was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the crown of the decadent Austro-Hungarian Empire in the city of Sarajevo in Serbia, the real cause of the war being the expansionism of the main European colonial powers that grouped together in a series of coalitions and sought to extend and consolidate their hegemony in Europe.

slavery, which exploited the vast wealth of gold and silver within the ancient Inca Empire.

The Spanish conquistadors, with the support of the peoples subdued³ by the Tahuantinsuyo, with superior military technology and epidemics unleashed by unknown diseases that they brought to the New World, managed to subdue and reduce the ancient Incas to slavery in the mines, causing a terrible genocide in these populations⁴ throughout almost 400 years of domination.

The Andean peoples of Peru have a collective memory of centuries of domination, exploitation, and slavery in the mines. The inhabitants of a society primarily engaged in agriculture were subjected to these conditions.

This ancestral genetic inheritance may influence the natural animosity that current farmers experience towards mining activities. Farmers consider transnational corporations to be responsible for their dispossession of land, the consumption of their water sources, and the environmental impact that compromises their living conditions and the well-being of future generations.

It is imperative to acknowledge that the King of Spain regarded the lands and inhabitants of the New World as rightfully his by divine mandate, bestowing them upon his subjects in exchange for the payment of the Spanish Crown's Quinto Real. This arrangement can be likened to that of the contemporary government, which is democratically elected by the populace, and thus, the voice of the people is regarded as the voice of God. The government allocates lands for mining companies to exploit natural resources, in exchange for the imposition of the General Sales Tax (IGV) and royalty fees.

It is evident that a certain analogy is maintained between the origins of farmers' rejection of mining "in the context of great socio-environmental transformations promoted by governments and carried out to a large extent by transnational capitals, in political scenarios characterized by the lack of citizen participation" (Romero et al., 2016:5).

The Spanish conquest resulted in the decimation of the indigenous social and political structure. Consequently, the peasant communities, when confronted with the encroachment of external influences that jeopardize their ancestral values, have developed a sense of apprehension.

The present study will examine the social conflict between peasant communities and mining companies that exploit natural resources. This type of social conflict will be referred to henceforth as "socio-environmental conflict." It occurs between a population that has been settled in a certain territory for an extended period of time, and which contains mining deposits that large transnational companies, medium and small mining companies, and even artisanal and informal miners seek to exploit.

As stipulated in Article 16.1 of the 1979 Constitution of Peru, peasant and native communities are recognized as having legal existence and legal personality. These communities are granted autonomy in their organization, communal work, and land use. According to the 1979 constitution, the state assumed a protective role by establishing that the lands occupied by these communities were imprescriptible,

³ The Spanish conquistadors conquered the Tahuantinsuyo with the support of peoples subjected by the Incas such as the Huancas, Chancas, Chachapoyas, Huaylas, etc. who saw the Spaniards as liberators from the Inca yoke, however, when the conquistadors consolidated their dominion in the conquered territory they also subjected these peoples to slavery.

⁴ It is estimated that, in the Tahuantinsuyo throughout 400 years of Spanish domination, more than 10,000,000 indigenous people perished due to confrontations, diseases unknown in the New World (such as smallpox, measles against which they had no immunity) and the sufferings they suffered during slavery in the mines, a genocide only comparable to the Nazi holocaust.

inalienable, and unseizable, except by law founded for the benefit of the community and endorsed by two-thirds of the community plus one.

The 1993 constitution promulgated by the Constitutional President of Peru, Engineer Alberto Fujimori, in Article 89 eliminated the inalienability and non-seizability of communal lands. This constitution was in contradiction with the Law of Communities and the Law of Titling. Given the impossibility of repealing these laws, regulatory frameworks were created by enacting Law 26505 for the Promotion of Indigenous Lands. Private Investment in Peasant and Native Communities of the Andes and Law 26845 for the Promotion of Private Investment in Peasant Communities of the Coast were passed to make the concession of communal lands more flexible by allowing communities to put part of their territory up for sale with only 50% plus 1 of the vote of the majority of the associated community members. With fewer restrictions, it was possible to The initiative entails the initiation of a series of investments, with the objective of enhancing the value of mining deposits in mountainous regions. Prominent examples of such deposits include those found in Antamina, Yanacocha, Toromocho, and Quellaveco. The implementation of this initiative is concomitant with the development of companies specializing in the field of Agro Export along the coast, such as Camposol, Hortifrut Peru, and Agrovisión Peru.

At the time these laws were enacted, Peru was struggling to get out of the Hyperinflation in which the first government of the Constitutional President of Peru, Dr. Alan García Pérez, had left the country, in addition to the internal struggle it waged against the subversive movements Shining Path and the MRTA and the constant border conflicts with Ecuador⁵, due to the fact that there were no monetary reserves, the BCR urgently needed sources of financing to face the serious economic crisis suffered by the poorest classes of the country, so among the economic measures that were implemented after Fujishock⁶ was to establish a neoliberal economic policy promoting private investment, among which was to value important mining deposits such as Yanacocha, Antamina, Shougang, and within the field of Hydrocarbons, the Camisea Gas Pipeline, for which it was necessary to grant concession or expropriate lands where these important Natural Resources were located, in which there were often peasant and indigenous communities settled ancestrally which had to be relocated to other settlements.

Mining is of significant importance to the country due to its positive impact on the national economy. The mining sector contributes to the country's foreign exchange reserves and gross domestic product (GDP) through exports, which are a crucial source of revenue. Furthermore, mining-related activities generate employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly, and enhance the overall potential for economic growth and development. In addition to its capacity to attract substantial private investment, it has the potential to generate a multiplier effect in the various economic activities with which it is associated.

The mining canon constitutes 50% of the taxes collected by the state, derived from the profits generated by the mining sector. These funds are allocated for the development of the region where the mining company is situated. Additionally, royalties represent an additional tax on profits, which is earmarked for the region. The

⁵ Peru for years had maintained border conflicts with Ecuador since the war of 1942, through a confrontation in 1980 in the Cordillera del Cóndor to an undeclared war in 1994 in the Alto Cenepa that finally ended up sealing and delimiting the border with Ecuador, putting an end to decades of declared and undeclared armed confrontations.

⁶ Fujishock was part of the economic policy implemented by the constitutional president of Peru, Engineer Alberto Fujimori, to combat the hyperinflation of 7481% left by the first government of President Alan García Pérez, which consisted of eliminating most of the exemptions to IGV, ISC and Tariffs, in addition to the imposition of an extraordinary contribution of 1% of the patrimony to natural and legal persons.

municipality and the universities within the mining unit's sphere of influence benefit from these revenues.

Theoretically, this should prove advantageous for the nation and the regions and communities in which mining operations are conducted. However, the practical situation is quite divergent. The absence of effective management, the inefficacy of regional and municipal governments, and the pervasive corruption have led to a situation in which these authorities are unable to allocate capital toward social development projects for the communities. Rather than enhancing the quality of life for their constituents, these authorities have been found to invest in the quality of life of their own populations. This has resulted in the exacerbation of poverty and abandonment, which, in turn, has engendered heightened resentment and rejection of mining activities.

This phenomenon constitutes the genesis of socio-environmental conflicts that emerge from populations forcibly relocated against their will, resulting in the dispossession of their ancestral lands, which they have inhabited for extended periods, often spanning decades or even centuries. This dispossession not only entails the loss of physical territory but also encompasses the loss of cultural identity, memories, and the intricate web of social relationships and communal bonds that collectively define the very essence of a community.

The failure to implement the Law of Prior Consultation in peasant communities has been identified as a contributing factor to socio-environmental conflicts. Community members have expressed concerns that the State has allocated their ancestral land to companies for the purpose of exploiting natural resources, thereby impacting their way of life and cultural heritage. Conversely, the implementation of this legal framework becomes challenging when the communities in question are not formally recognized as indigenous peoples by the Ministry of Culture and lack documented proof of property rights to their territories.

Another cause of socio-environmental conflicts is the consumption of water sources by mining companies. These companies require this valuable natural resource for their operations, and communities depend on it for daily consumption and economic activities, such as agriculture and livestock.

The transportation of the concentrate, the emission of gases into the environment, and the disposal of toxic waste have been identified as significant contributors to environmental pollution, noise, and dust. These factors have been linked to adverse health effects among the population, as well as to socio-environmental conflicts involving crops and livestock. These conflicts have been characterized by protests, marches, and other forms of civil disobedience, including roadblocks and the occupation of mining facilities.

The mining companies have recognized that these conflicts have a detrimental impact on their productivity and engender a sense of rejection among the community members. In light of the evident failure and ineffectiveness of both regional and municipal authorities, these companies have identified the imperative to implement social rapprochement strategies with the communities, such as: The initiative has been demonstrated to be effective in the domains of works for taxes, corporate social responsibility, and the creation of shared value.

These strategies aim to establish connections and strengthen ties with the communities within the mining company's sphere of influence. The objective is to implement social development projects that not only facilitate closer interaction with the local population but also foster a sense of identity with the community. This fosters a sense of community cohesion, reinforcing the perception that the mining company is an integral part of the community.

In accordance with Law 29230, Works for Taxes constitutes a payment modality for the fulfillment of tax obligations by mining companies engaged in the execution of public works. This modality is predicated on the utilization of the companies' superior management capacity, which enables them to undertake projects such as the construction of schools, medical posts, hospitals, roads, pedestrian bridges, sanitation infrastructure, wastewater treatment facilities, prevention campaigns against childhood anemia, projects for rural electrification, sports facilities, and food markets, among others.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a private initiative by mining companies to execute social development projects for the benefit of the communities located within their area of influence. Through the establishment of a trust, a portfolio of projects is initiated with the objective of improving the quality of life of the population. The establishment of a Board of Directors is imperative for the execution of the CSR initiative. This board is constituted by representatives from the company's community relations department, prominent community leaders, and representatives from regional and/or municipal governments. Through the medium of workshops and dialogue tables, these parties will ascertain the most pressing community needs and formulate a plan of action to address these needs.

It is important that these social development projects *"generate some type of economic return so that they are sustainable over time and contribute to the business sustainability of the company"* (Hoyos & Verónica, 2012) and that the company does not lose interest in their implementation and continuity.

In this sense, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is aimed at finding a balance between the profitability of social projects and the development of the populations that are in the area of influence of mining operations, adopting the approach that can bring the greatest social value to the community.

The perception of Socially Responsible Management whose best performance practices account for this are the following: *"Policies of treatment with its customers that guarantee honesty in their transactions, policies of compliance with obligations and commitments with third parties, support programs for the development of suppliers, development of honest promotional and advertising messages"* (Acuña, Severino & Cires, 2019).

However, Corporate Social Responsibility is still an elaborate form of charity that mining companies need to implement in the face of the lack of management and corruption of regional and municipal authorities, to be able to invest and carry out social development projects for the good of the community they represent, despite having the Mining Canon and Royalties. so in recent years an economic and social development strategy known as Creating Shared Value (CVC) has been developed that seeks to recover the spirit of Capitalism as a vehicle to satisfy human needs, improve efficiency, create jobs and generate wealth to seek the well-being of the community; *"by Reconceiving Products and Services that benefit Society, redefining the Value Chain of Products and Services in a way that reduces waste and waste, and by creating a Development Cluster"* (Porter M. & Kramer R., 2011, p. 12) around the vicinity of the company's facilities.

The development of new technologies, the reduction of the environmental impact of the environment where the mining unit is located, the efficient management of the use of essential resources such as water sources, the minimization of inputs, and the reduction of the carbon footprint are all efforts to seek the well-being of the community. These efforts involve a redefinition of the value chain of products and services in a way that reduces the waste and waste generated by the company.

The development of new technologies is exemplified by the implementation of a Coarse Particle Flotation Plant (CPF) at the Quellaveco Mine. This technological

advancement enables the augmentation of copper recovery by 2.4% to 4%, while concurrently ensuring that the consumption of fresh water remains within the conventional limits of this process. This is achieved by employing a recirculated water management strategy, known as HydroFloat, which utilizes recycled water from the Tailings Thickeners.

The Environmental Adaptation and Improvement Project (PAMA) at the Ilo smelter exemplifies the viability of harmonizing responsible mining practices with environmental stewardship, thereby fostering population health and well-being within the impacted areas. This initiative has yielded notable economic benefits, including the reduction of gases released into the environment by the Peirce Smith converters, the generation of by-products such as sulfuric acid, and the utilization of flue gases from the Isasmelt Furnace via the "Boiler for Vapor Recovery" to produce superheated steam for electricity generation. Furthermore, it has led to an augmentation in the production of copper blister by diminishing copper losses through the enhancement of the slag cleaning process in the Furnaces Slag Cleaning (HLE).

Porter and Kramer (2011) posit that "clusters are prominent in all growing and successful regional economies, as well as playing a crucial role in increasing productivity, innovation, and competitiveness" (p. 13). In accordance with the principles of corporate social responsibility and the creation of shared value, mining companies have been known to promote and encourage local communities to generate products and services that supply the mine. They also provide technical advice for the improvement of production processes in agriculture, livestock, the artisanal preparation of products, and the generation of services. This has led to the creation of employment opportunities and the consumption of products and services from the region. Furthermore, it has been observed that this practice fosters a sense of identity and belonging within the community.

The "Moquegua Emerge Program," initiated by Angloamerican, signifies the company's second initiative aimed at providing customized guidance to local small and medium-sized enterprises. The objective of this initiative is to facilitate the connection of these enterprises with business opportunities within the Moquegua region and the southern region of the country. This strategic endeavor is designed to enhance the competitiveness of these companies in their endeavor to penetrate new markets.

This initiative promoted by the Anglo American Mining Owner and executed by Technoserve⁷, will seek in this second call to incorporate a "Cluster" of 35 companies from the Moquegua region, to operate in the areas of Cargo Transport, Metalworking and Construction.

In the post-diagnosis period, the subjects received a multifaceted intervention consisting of advice and training. Remarkably, the initial cohort of graduates demonstrated not only resilience in the face of the economic repercussions of the pandemic but also exhibited a marked improvement in their economic status in the years following the intervention. This improvement has led to a notable economic revitalization within the Moquegua region.

⁷ Technoserve is a renowned organization that has successfully developed Social Development projects that have improved the quality of life of people in countries such as Brazil, Chile and Peru.

AngloAmerican

Moquegua
EMERGE
Oportunidades para mejorar
la vida de las personas

Empresario de la región Moquegua
¿Quieres crecer y entrar a nuevos mercados?

01 Diagnóstico
Realizaremos un diagnóstico empresarial para conocer el estado situacional de tu empresa e identificar las principales áreas de mejora.

02 Planificando tu crecimiento
Desarrollaremos en conjunto, un plan de mejora acorde a las necesidades de tu empresa.

03 Te ayudamos a implementarlo
Te acompañaremos en la búsqueda de nuevas oportunidades comerciales según el rubro de tu negocio.

Figure 1. Call to apply to the "Moquegua Emerge" Program.

Source: Anglo American website.

The Social Development projects identified, selected and financed aimed at improving the competitiveness of their management were:

- Development of octopus farming techniques.
- Cultivating the Future: inclusive economic development and food security for families in the San Antonio district.
- Application of precision agriculture to increase avocado productivity in Moquegua.
- Implementation of technological packages to improve the guinea pig breeding chain.

Nonetheless, in spite of the fact that mining companies promote social development projects in the domains of health, education, economic growth, and through the implementation of an adequate communication strategy that aims to construct a positive image of the company, it is necessary to pose the following question: It is imperative to examine the persistent occurrence of social conflicts between companies, communities, and governments. Illustrative cases include those that transpired in mining units such as Las Bambas, Antamina, Cuajone, and Yanacocha. These cases have garnered significant media attention, shaping national and international public opinion in recent times.

As previously stated, socio-environmental conflicts can be understood as a consequence of the Ontological Colonization that emerged during the Spanish conquest of the ancient Incan Empire. During this period, a dominant culture imposed its religious beliefs, values, customs, and language, effectively banishing all that was deemed alien and declaring it heretical and pagan.

The fundamental premise of anthropology is that conflicts are an integral and natural component of social life, rather than mere exceptions or negatives. The existence of an interrelationship between two individuals, two organizations, two communities, or a company and a community is sufficient to lay the foundation for potential conflict. The presence of a single factor, whether justified or not, is sufficient to ignite conflict.

A multitude of factors have the potential to give rise to socio-environmental conflict. These include, but are not limited to, the consumption of a water well that supplies a population, tailings that are thrown into the river, dust generated by the passage of trucks loaded with concentrate, the noise generated by the operation of the mine, the interaction of the company's personnel with the population, insufficient opportunities for direct and indirect work, the consumption of products and services offered by the community, droughts, rains, diseases, lack of medical services, malnutrition, and child anemia, and the lack of state presence in the region.

Therefore, it is a reasonable conclusion that conflicts will always exist, and that the most that can be done is to take measures to prevent them or reduce their impact. This would ensure that, when conflicts do occur, they are less critical and can be resolved as quickly as possible. This would mitigate the environmental, social, and economic consequences that conflicts generate.

Therefore, it is imperative to ascertain and categorize the primary stakeholders based on their influence and authority. It is also essential to discern their expectations and manage those that do not align with the objectives of the project. This will facilitate the development of mechanisms to anticipate conflicts within a certain degree of uncertainty. However, it should be noted that the likelihood of conflict occurring cannot be guaranteed, particularly given the emergence of new stakeholders, whether within or outside the direct sphere of influence of the mining concession. These stakeholders possess the capacity to impede operations through sacrificial marches, indefinite strikes, and road blockades.

The PMBOK Guide – Seventh Edition (2021) argues that:

Stakeholders can be individuals, groups, or organizations that may affect, be affected, or perceive themselves as affected by a decision, activity, or outcome of a portfolio, program, or project. Stakeholders also directly or indirectly influence a project, its performance or outcome, either positively or negatively.

A proactive approach to stakeholder identification, analysis, and engagement, commencing at the project's inception and continuing throughout its lifecycle, particularly during the operational phase, has been demonstrated to minimize the probability of socio-environmental conflicts arising. Consequently, conducting an ethnographic study of the community to ascertain, interpret, and understand the social practices, values, norms, and behaviors of that specific human group within its own cultural context will facilitate a more profound comprehension of its expectations and those it holds regarding a tripartite relationship between Community, Company, and State.

As previously stated, the management of stakeholders entails the identification of their expectations and their subsequent classification according to their nature and importance. Furthermore, it involves the evaluation of which expectations can be transformed into requirements. It is noteworthy that during the construction of the Antamina Mining Unit, environmental sectors exerted pressure to prevent environmental impacts in the Huascarán National Park. Consequently, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was modified, and it was established that to transport the copper concentrate, a 304-kilometer-long pipeline had to be constructed. This pipeline linked the production area in San Marcos with the port of Huarney, thereby replacing the transportation of copper concentrate by trucks.

The "Peasant Federation of Challhuahuacho in Apurímac" has made a request to the mining company Las Bambas, stipulating that a ten percent contribution of profits be allocated to a social fund (Herrera, 2017, p. 219). However, this demand could not be accommodated due to its imposition under duress during a general stoppage in 2015. This request is part of a series of claims made, in addition to the fact that the owners

comply with tax and royalty payments to the state, as well as the development of CSR and CVC activities.

Agriculture and livestock are also consumers of water resources and polluters due to the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Animal waste (excrement) generates methane gas, which increases the greenhouse effect. Furthermore, rainfall generates sewage that affects the quality of the water, causing it to be unsuitable for human consumption. The impact on the ecosystem is significant, and the damage to the environment is considerable. Competition for water resources is an issue that has persisted since primitive hominids must have competed for the resources of a given habitat. It can be posited that the dispute for natural resources has evolved into more complex forms of competition.

Machado Araoz's approach is characterized by the following elements:

Colonialism and the Appropriation of Nature: A thorough examination of colonialism necessitates an in-depth analysis of the unequal appropriation of nature. Since its inception, contemporary capitalist imperialism has been distinguished by a hierarchical distribution of the benefits derived from ecosystems and the inherent risks of environmental degradation that accompany the absence of stringent oversight of industrial processes involved in the transformation of natural resources under exploitation.

Illegal mining has been demonstrated to have deleterious effects on the environment, as well as to promote human exploitation, drug trafficking, contract killings, prostitution, and tax evasion. In recent years, there has been an increase in the prevalence of this illicit practice, particularly in the northern regions of Peru. This has led to a concomitant rise in suspicion and discredit directed towards the development of formal mining activities. It has been posited that there is a certain similarity between the subjugation and humiliation of the inhabitants of Tahuantinsuyo and the enslavement and humiliation of the indigenous peoples by the Spanish conquistadors. The Spanish conquistadors consolidated their domination and began the exploitation of the region's gold and silver riches, which they coveted. This pattern of power demonstrates that colonialism is not merely a social system of the past; rather, it persists in the present as a pattern of domination and exploitation.

A political ecology perspective reveals that this system of colonial exploitation is predicated on an unequal appropriation of resources, which is obscured by the prevailing logic of progress. Historically, these endeavors were concealed under the pretext of colonizing and civilizing the inhabitants of the "New World." The contemporary practice of large-scale mining, which is often financed by transnational corporations such as Freeport McMoran & Copper and Gold or Lundin Mining, represents a continuation of colonial practices. These practices involve the reconfiguration of territories and resources in a one-dimensional manner that benefits global capital.

Despite the regulation and oversight of large-scale mining by state agencies (e.g., the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the Ministry of the Environment, the Comptroller General of the Republic, the National Superintendence of Customs and Tax Administration) and private organizations (e.g., NGOs, media outlets), this formal activity is not exempt from deviations with regard to its tax and environmental obligations. These deviations can lead to social conflicts with communities and public and private entities.

CONCLUSIONS

Conflicts are inherent to human existence and are an inevitable aspect of societal life. In the context of interpersonal relationships, professional interactions, marital

partnerships, political factions within a legislative body, public organizations (e.g., ministries), the interplay between executive and legislative branches, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and communal defense fronts, it is inevitable that there will be instances of divergent opinions.

Quotas of power, economic interests, influence in the organizational hierarchy, professional misgivings, ideological differences, racial discrimination, have been the cause of social conflicts in the past⁸, and will continue to be so in the future.

In order to encourage investments and enhance the value of mining deposits, it was necessary to modify articles of the constitution. In order to maintain the appearance of legality in this executive initiative, it was decided to enact laws to promote private investment and eliminate restrictions on the expropriation of communal lands, such as non-seizure and inalienability.

In addition to the income tax (IGV) levied by the state on mining companies to fund the regional canon, an additional tax has been instituted: royalties. This tax is remitted by transnational corporations to regional, municipal, and university authorities within the ambit of the mining operation. It is allocated for the utilization of natural resources as a form of compensation to peasant communities for the occupation of their lands.

As an ancillary voluntary contribution, mining companies have implemented corporate social responsibility (CSR) through a trust to facilitate social development initiatives and establish a Cluster for Social Development. The objective of these initiatives is to enhance the living conditions of the inhabitants of peasant communities. However, these measures have proven insufficient to prevent demonstrations from occurring periodically. These demonstrations have taken the form of protest marches, road blockades, and instances of vandalism, including the destruction of public and private property.

These demonstrations have been encouraged by remnants of the terrorist cells (Shining Path and MRTA) that have managed to survive and have mutated, growing within society as a political movement (MOVADDEF), political parties of the Radical Left such as Patria Roja, and environmental NGOs interested in increasing their influence over peasant communities.

The Ombudsman's Office has reported that as of July 2023, a total of 225 social conflicts had been documented, of which 68.35% were of a socio-environmental nature. These conflicts primarily took the form of protests and expressions of opposition to mining activities, thereby underscoring the magnitude of socio-environmental tensions and the associated claims that give rise to such conflicts.

Biographic notes

Williams Merzthal Toranzo is an academic or professional affiliated with the Fundación Universitaria Iberoamericana (FUNIBER), often serving in a capacity that links the foundation's broad international network with its regional activities, such as those centered in Bogotá, Colombia. His role involves contributing to the development, coordination, or delivery of FUNIBER's extensive portfolio of postgraduate and distance-learning programs across Latin America, focusing on areas of sociology. Through his work with FUNIBER, which partners with universities globally, Merzthal Toranzo contributes to promoting international academic

⁸ One type of social conflict has been caused by racial discrimination, the most emblematic being those that occurred in the United States, which led to armed confrontations against the American Indians and the Civil War between the slave states of the South and the abolitionist states of the North. Even today, there are still problems of social discrimination with police repression of demonstrations, economic inequality, detention centers and deportation of illegal immigrants.

cooperation and providing access to higher education for professionals in the Ibero-American sphere.

Harold Torrez Meruvia is an accredited Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor and an experienced consultant with over 15 years of professional experience in both the academic and business fields. Affiliated with EAE Business School in Barcelona, Spain, where he is a faculty member, Dr. Torrez Meruvia teaches at undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels, specializing in areas such as business strategy and business models. He holds a Doctorate in Business Administration and Management from Universitat Ramon Llull and leverages his background to consult for Spanish and Latin American companies on matters of strategy, internationalization plans, and business plan development, in addition to being an active researcher with publications on teaching methodologies and competency evaluation.

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