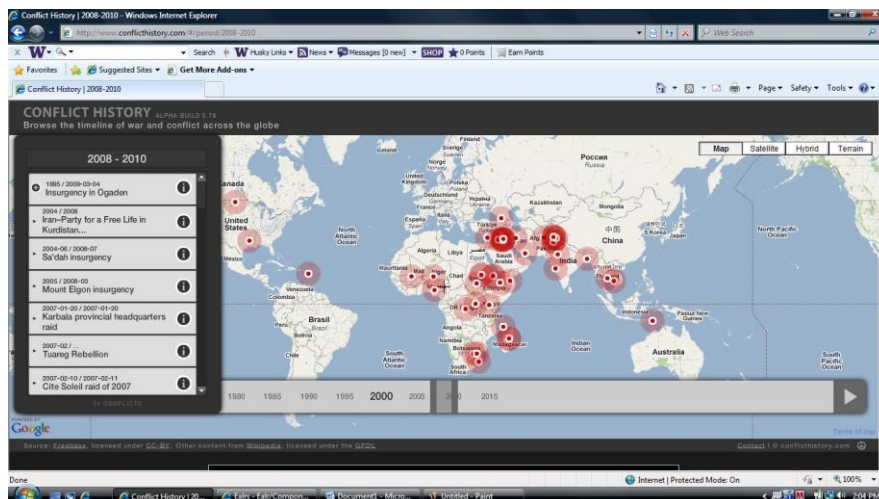


Mark Heald  
BEDUC 566  
December 1, 2009

## Review of Conflict History

Conflict History ([conflicthistory.com](http://conflicthistory.com)) is an extremely interactive website that takes Google Maps to a whole new level. Using a format similar to that of Google Maps, Conflict History shows every major war or conflict in the world from 4000 BC to present times. Users can manipulate a timeline at the bottom of the screen to show major conflicts for any given timeframe, with the conflicts showing up on a world map as a red dot. Also available is a brief synopsis of each conflict with a link to the Wikipedia entry on the event provided as well. Working very similar to Google Maps, users of this technology can zoom in and out of different regions on the map, and can also view the world from satellite images. Also important to note is that this website is entirely free. The visual layout of the website as well as the terminologies used suggest that target audiences may be high school and perhaps some college students as well as people interested in history and war. The purpose of this site seems to be to provide an easy to use program that allows one to see visual representations of every major battle and conflict in the world's history.



The OSPI Washington curriculum standards for 9<sup>th</sup> grade social studies state that students must learn concepts of location and region with regards to geography and must have knowledge of chronology, eras, turning points, major ideas, individuals, and themes in both local and world history. It seems that Conflict History addresses many of the learning objectives. The website allows users to navigate an interactive map of the world. Students exploring the technology would be able to see different regions, cities, geographical features, and countries, all the while fulfilling many of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade standards surrounding geography. The fact that Conflict History also provides a synopsis of the conflicts as well as a link to Wikipedia entries means that students who use this program will have access to a wealth of historical knowledge. Conflict History provides an instrument for students to learn a great deal about the main ideas surrounding virtually any conflict in the history of the world, and because of this, they are able to meet many of the required history standards of Washington.

Conflict History works fairly well with regards to teaching one about various wars and conflicts in world history. The written aspects of the site are well organized and easy to read; however, if one wants further reading on a subject, they are redirected to a Wikipedia page. Wikipedia is not often allowed as a credible source in many high school and college settings. So while this site is great for getting information on a conflict, one may not be able to cite it as a source in a scholarly work. Therefore, it seems the purpose of this site is not so much to provide a source for some sort of composition, but rather, background information that will get students exposed and more interested in history. Conflict History appears to accomplish this goal, as its layout makes it visually appealing and fun, thus encouraging users to explore different regions and time periods.

Conflict History is very easy to learn. There are no directions or guides on the site. Users are simply expected to learn the program by exploring it. The layout of the sites makes it pretty self explanatory on how to use. Once a user has learned how to navigate the site, they are then able to use the technology to further extend their learning of history. Instead of simply being told about war and conflict, they can see visually the regions affected by virtually any war. Users are allowed to explore conflicts of interest to them personally, and perhaps may become more interested in history as a result. Learning is enhanced for users of the site, as they are able to explore history through a more hands on approach.

Conflict History is definitively a site which could be used in schools. While some educators may take issue with the fact that Wikipedia is providing the information on each conflict, there is no denying that this site makes learning about history more interactive and fun. The site is also free, so there would be no financial burden on a school to use this technology. This site would be good if used as an introduction to a certain time period or era. The purpose of the site is not to base an entire curriculum around it, but it does allow students to learn about both technology and history in a manner that is different from the standard way of teaching. With new technologies being used ever increasingly in classroom, it is important that educators continue to explore different means of maximizing learning in their classrooms.

