

BOOK REVIEW TITLE: CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS

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Abstract

After post-cold war the new world order was formed, in this context Samuel P. Huntington written an article named as *The Clash of Civilizations* in 1993. The hypothesized article was published as a book “*The Clash of Civilizations*” in 1996. After the end of cold-war the world societies were divided in different ideologies. The states of the world are struggling between communism and democracy. The major difference between the different societies are on the basis of ideologies, Political and economic values. Huntington stated that in the future new conflicts will occur on the basis of cultural and ideological differences.

Keywords: Book Review, Clash, Civilizations

PART ONE: A WORLD OF CIVILIZATIONS

In the beginning the Huntington explained the past paradigms were not effected in explaining world political order. Huntington drawn a new paradigm for new political order named as “Civilization paradigm”. Huntington divides the world into eight major Civilizations.

1. Sinic: the culture of Vietnam and Korea is common with the culture of China in Southeast Asia.
2. Japanese: The culture and civilization of Japan is different from the rest of Asia.
3. Hindu: The Hindu Civilization which is the major civilization of subcontinent in Asia is placed as independent identity.
4. Islamic: The cultural norms and religious values of the Arabs and Muslims are different from any community of the world. They belong from North Africa and Arabian Peninsula. In Turkic, Central Asian and Middle Eastern Muslims have distinct subdivisions of Islam.
5. Orthodox: They belong from center of Russia. Ideologies and believes are different from Western Christianity.
6. Western: North American and the central European belong from same ideologies.
7. Latin American: South American and Central American have similar identities. The authoritarian culture and catholic majority is in large number.
8. Africans: Huntington claims that Africans are prospering and developing very rapidly and identifying their African identity.

According to new paradigm there are different explanations of distinct civilizations. Before 1500 A.D civilizations of world is based on geography. Huntington argues that technology and development played a role of catalyst for creation of civilization. Evolution of science and technology emerges Western Culture very rapidly and expand the ideas, religions and values.

The dawn of 20th century civilizations moved towards the West. But the multidirectional civilizations have been maintained. In other words Huntington argues that no doubt western civilization influenced the world but the cultural influence is interdependent.

Huntington explained and refuses the idea of western cultural hegemony. He stated that the idea of single universal civilization is not fitted for global communications. The dominance west is creating a line between west and rest. The hostility against the west is arising day by day. The idea of single culture is not helpful to describe the global political order. In this part of book Huntington briefly discussed the modernization and development of West.

PART TWO: THE SHIFTING BALANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

Huntington argues that the influence and dominancy of western powers is fading. The West holds the economy and development of the world. The modernization and development in technologies, increasing military Strength, and economic consumption is led by Western powers. The monopoly and influence is declining. Huntington explains three characteristic of West decline.

1. The process of decline is very slow and still it is not a threat for world powers.
2. The phenomenon of power is very uncertain it does not go in straight line always; it may be speed up, reverse and stop.
3. The decisions and behavior of dominant powers controlled the states.

In this section, Huntington stated about the role of religion in world politics. Different religions cover different aspects of cultural and social norms. Religion filled the vacuum which was created by loss of political ideologies. According to Huntington the religions replacing the political ideologies creating communication gap between different societies of the world. Society needs new identities, new political structures and new set of norms and moral values. Religion is able to meet these criteria.

The rise of non-Western states like China and four tigers (Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong) are emerging economies. These all states have same cultural and social identities. The leading economy of Japan is a serious challenge for West. The growing economy and development of these states make them more prosperous and independent. Now they are able to resist against the pressure and influence of U.S.A and Western powers. The development and successful modernization of Asian countries support the arguments of Huntington.

Muslim community is totally different from Asian societies. Asian societies are based on cultural and social values unlike the Asia Muslim society is based on religion affirmation. Huntington argues that Islam enforce its own modernity and values and reject the ideologies of West. Religion is the sole and primary reason which drawn a distinct line between Western politics and Muslim Politics. Huntington also argues that the Large number of population and failure of economy and authoritarian style of government restrict the Muslims to communicate with other civilizations.

PART III: THE EMERGING ORDER OF CIVILIZATIONS

During the Cold War, the world is divided into two poles. The states of the world are divided on the basis of Communism and Capitalism. After Cold War the world order was shifted as uni-polar world, a single hegemonic power was emerged. The rest of world entered in new crisis as identity crisis. States of world started to make alliances on the basis on ancestry, language and religion. Many regional and political institutions were came into being like European Union, Association of Southeast Asian Nations and NAFTA. Huntington also discussed about the torn countries that create their own identity like Turkey, Russia and Australia.

Huntington discussed that the new proportions of civilization is based on small number of powerful states. The common cultures and legitimate leaderships playing a role core states and powers of institutions. The Examples of core states are members of EU especially France and Germany are dominant economies of the world. Civilizations are strictly attached with religion. The influence of religion is threat for modern democracy. Huntington stated that the Islamic states have no core values and these states have authoritarian regimes.

PART IV: CLASHES OF CIVILIZATIONS

Huntington predicts in his book in future the great clashes that will happened among different civilizations. Firstly he describes the about the relation between sinic culture and Islamic states. He stated that in future Sinic culture and Islamic states joined each other against a common enemy. Huntington explains three causes which separate the West from rest.

1. The ability of West to maintain their Military powers and nonproliferation.
2. The West is continuously promoting their ideas of democracy and human rights.
3. The Restrict the refugees and immigrants entering into Western states.

Huntington explained global prospective of civilization he predicts that the conflict between Islamist and western will be very small. But the chance of clash between America and China is threaten because these states have more potential as core states.

ISLAM AND THE WEST

Huntington briefly explained the historical explanation of the conflicts between Islam and Christianity. He stated five characters as factors of conflict between Islam and West.

1. The large Number of Muslim youth is unemployed and dissatisfied are the recruits of Islamic causes.
2. The resurgence of Islam will give reaffirmation to Muslims with each other.
3. The attempts of the West to maintain Military capabilities creating intense resentment in Muslims.
4. In past communism was the threat for both West and Islam but now West and Islam perceive each other as enemies.
5. Technology and communication creates a difference between two societies.

ASIA, CHINA, AND AMERICA

After post-cold-war the economies and development of Asia and China is growing. The china increased the sense of cultural similarities with their economic partners. Now America and China is competitor in International Arena. The growing economies of Asian states and china will be cause of major conflict in future. The military power of China and alliances of china in different regions of the world is challenge for America. The Global politics and emerging alliances explain the complexity of political relations of the world.

Huntington explains the First Gulf War and Soviet Afghan war are the wars of civilization. At that time Muslim successfully resist against any foreign forces. Soviet-Afghan war was considered as war between Muslims and non-Muslims. The Muslims world was uniting at that time and this war boosted the self-confidence of Muslims fighter. These war create a generation of fighters permanently who conceive West as an enemy.

Similarly first Gulf War was a Muslim conflict. In First Gulf War the Western powers intervened. The Muslims accept this war as war between us vs. them. The Muslims community broadly backed the Iraq and supports the Iraq in Economic and Military aggression of West. For better Understanding Huntington explained five characteristics which are fault line conflicts.

1. Conflicts between community and civilization are always due to difference between Ideas.
2. Different religions and ideologies are always conflicted with each other.
3. The Principles of non-interventions were always compromised.
4. Prolonged duration of conflicts and violence is the causes of conflicts

PART V: THE FUTURE OF CIVILIZATIONS

In this section of book Huntington conclude his arguments that the West is facing challenges day by day. The emerging economies in Asia and non-Western powers make this scenario more difficult. The cultural and religious identities from different parts of the world are causing threats of "Clash of Civilizations".

Book Review Title: Clash of Civilizations

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