

Beyond the Clash of Civilizations: A Hypothetical Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict based on the “Five Relationships Culture” Theory

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The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, also be called Arab-Israeli conflict, is a touchstone for the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The “Five Relationships Culture” is a theory developed by the Chinese people from their own origin and roots, from experience awareness, through conceptual reflection, and then theory construction. The perspective of cultural reconciliation of Palestinian-Israeli conflict provided by the “Five Relationships Culture” Theory may be a relatively unique explanation.

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The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, also be called Arab-Israeli conflict, is a touchstone for the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It spans World War I and World War II, the Cold War and the War on Terrorism, and many nations have been touched at least indirectly by some aspect of the dispute. It has seen, and participated directly or indirectly in, the rise and fall of Empires, the Ottoman and British. The conflict has been instrumental in shaping our view of Jews, Muslims, Christians, Arabs, the Middle East, oil and the role of superpowers, especially the United States, in world affairs (Bickerton, 2009, p. 7).

The Concept of “Clash of Civilizations” and Its Limitations

The Clash of Civilizations by Samuel Huntington, a renowned scholar in the field of international politics. In the summer of 1993, he published an article in *Foreign Affairs* magazine, which aroused widespread concern and controversy in the international academic community. According to him, the post-Cold War world is determined by seven or eight major civilizations: the Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Islamic, Western, Orthodox, Latin American and possibly African civilizations. In the post-Cold War world, the basic source of conflicts is no longer ideology, but cultural differences, and the “clash of civilizations” will dominate the world. Samuel Huntington himself noted that “The Clash of Civilizations” has been translated into 22 languages, and the concept has become an effective analytical framework for world politics and has had a wide impact. Some scholars point out that there is no fundamental obstacle to mutual understanding between different cultures, but this conclusion is based on an

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optimistic view of human nature. The truth is, people are often afraid of the unknown and respond negatively to it, but these things can be fixed” (Szonyi, 2021).

The Theory of “Five Relationships Culture” and Its Perspective

“Five Relationships Culture”, including Kinship (*Qin Yuan*), Geographical relationship (*Di Yuan*), Religious relationship (*Shen Yuan*), Business relationship (*Ye Yuan*), Material relationship (*Wu Yuan*) is an interpretive cultural theory initiated by Professor Lin Qitan of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. Some scholars have pointed out that “Five Relationships Culture” is a theory developed by the Chinese people from their own origin and roots, from “experience awareness”, through “conceptual reflection”, and then “theory construction”.

The theory of “Five Relationships Culture” is based on the theory that production mode is the basis of social life and a determining force for social development. It includes productive forces and production relations, said Lin. From the actual point of view of the development history of human society, the production of human society includes the production and reproduction of material materials, and the production and reproduction of human life, it means human beings themselves. Therefore, there are two kinds of social relations of production: one is the social relations formed by human beings in the process of production and reproduction of material production; The second is the social relationship formed in the process of production and reproduction of human life. The synthesis of these two relations of production is what Karl Marx called “the sum of all social relations”. The two kinds of production and reproduction relations are related to each other. Interest and emotional identity are the main ties to maintain social groups. As a direct result of the reproduction process of human life, kinship is the basis for the derivation of geographical, religious, business and material relationships (Zhang, 2021).

“East sea, west sea, the same heart and feeling”. An old Chinese saying. For example, Fei Xiaotong’s “differential order pattern” refers to the differential order relationship determined by kinship and geographical relations. The unique “private” personality of Chinese people has created China’s unique “differential pattern”. But the old Afghan Pashtun saying, “I am with my brother against my cousin, and I am with my cousin against the outsider,” Isn’t also a sign of a pattern of differential order? Quran quote: “Those who honor their parents will be honored by their children.” What is different from the Confucian tradition of respecting the old and caring for the young?

Therefore, although the theory of “Five Relationships Culture” was born in China since the reform and opening up, the theory of summarizing the production and life experience of human society has its own uniqueness in analyzing the conflicts among human races, nations and countries. Based on this, this paper puts forward the reconciliation hypothesis analysis of Palestine-Israel conflict as follows.

Kinship: The Connection of Israelis and Palestinians

Taking a quick look at history, the word “Palestine” began to appear in European literature around the fifth century BC, when it basically referred to the area of present-day Palestine. Herodotus, the ancient Greek “father of history,” had already begun using the word “Palestine” to refer to the people of the region (all ethnic groups, including Jews). In the 2nd century AD, the ruling Romans changed the name to “Syrian Province of Palestine”. Before the expulsion of the Jews, Jews and Arabs lived together, but their religions were different, and their holy city was Jerusalem. Soon after, the name “Palestine” began to be used in its own right. After the rise of the Arab

Empire around the 7th century AD and its expansion into the region, the vast majority of the inhabitants were successively assimilated by the Arabs and eventually became Arabic speakers. So gradually the term “Palestinian” became synonymous with the Arabic-speaking people of Palestine (Rosenstock, 2010).

During World War I, British troops seized control of Palestine from the Ottoman Empire, which had ruled the area, and created a separate administrative region called the Mandate of Palestine, creating a clear separation between the area and the surrounding areas that were not under British rule. And when the British began to refer to local people with citizenship granted by the British colonial authorities as “Palestinians,” the concept of Palestine began to be spread rapidly. At the time, however, the British referred to all citizens of the area as Palestinians, including Jews who had moved there before and after British rule. So until the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, the concept of “Palestine” included the local Jewish people. But after the creation of the state of Israel, the original Jewish Palestinians largely abandoned the term, calling themselves “Israelites.” Since then, “Palestine” has become a collective term for the Arabic-speaking groups living in Palestine since 1948. It should also be noted that there has always been a small Christian but Arabic-speaking community in the Palestinian territories. Therefore, the term “Palestinian” is actually a general term for a linguistic and cultural group, which transcends religious beliefs.

According to the Bible, the ancestors of both the Palestinians and the Israelites are Abraham, the descendants of Abraham’s younger son are now Jews, and the descendants of Abraham’s older son are now Arabs.

More radical researchers say that both Zionism and antisemitism see Jews in Jewish communities as biologically and genetically special. They believe that Jews share common genes and have been searching biologically for what the Jewish genes are. Mr. Netanyahu believes that being Jewish is a genetic definition. When people try to define it in terms of biology-ethnicity-heredity, it not only leads to conflict, but also ends in disaster. In fact, official Zionism does not use genes to find out who is Jewish and who is not. The “spread” of Jews is actually a process of continuous conversion of foreigners to Judaism, which is often ignored by official Jewish historians. The researchers say, for example, that Yemeni Jews and Yemeni Muslims look the same.

From a kinship point of view, it is true that the Israelites and the Palestinians are both ancient Semitic people and sharing the same ancestor (Sand, 2021).

Religious Relationship: The Way of Reconciliation Beyond Jesus

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are called the three Monotheistic Religions, and these Religions are also called Abrahamic Religions in comparative religious research. It means that the three religions have a historical relationship with Abraham, who is called the “Great ancestor” by the Bible and the “Father of the Prophets” by Islam.

The three major religions of many of the same historical figures, the same event has a very different history records, describe, explain and expound, even so and lead to very different in terms of doctrine and theology, and even contradictory beliefs and ideas, eventually because of common positions on many issues and other issues of the meeting and constitute the three “monotheism” colorful world. In this series of contradictory and insoluble problems, the theological belief and doctrinal system formed around how to view the position of Jesus, a legendary religious historical figure, is one of the most striking chapters. Judaism, Christianity and Islam

developed in different directions due to their different views on Jesus, thus consolidating, innovating or developing their own theological beliefs and doctrinal systems.

On January 3, 2005, Belgium's king Albert II and Moroccan king Mohammed VI in charge of the forum, from all over the world more than 150 imams and rabbis gathering in Brussels, in an effort to set up the mechanism of dialogue between the two religions and cooperative partnership, promote the whole world, especially the Middle East peace. It was the first time that the leaders of the two religions met under the theme of "For Peace," seeking a way to achieve peace through dialogue. Participants looked for common ground between the two religions from historical, cultural, archaeological and practical perspectives, and explored the root causes of their conflicts. In addition, rabbis who were born in Islamic countries spoke about their experiences living in those countries; Muslims living in Israel also described their experiences of life in Jewish society; Muslims or Jews who emigrated to other countries also spoke of their experiences of integration with other ethnic groups. The advocates of this forum "promise keepers association" founder Alan Michelle pointed out that the forum is by no means a simple ordinary party between different religious believers, but both in many parts of the world has a great influence of religious communication between, it is not the purpose of the paper, but to eliminate the misunderstanding between the two great religions, to seek joint action of means and measures.

Therefore, from the point of view of the Religious relationship, the gathering of so many leaders of two religions is enough to prove that they, born of common faith roots, want to live in peace and friendship, which is a good signal to the public. With the deepening of the communication between the two sides, the contradiction between the two sides will be continuously relieved until finally solved.

Geographical Relationship: Israeli Arabs Case

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Israel's Supreme Court initiated a "constitutional revolution" that formalized the dual identity of a Jewish state and a democratic state. Since entering the 21st century, the issue of state attribute has once again aroused the concern of Israeli society. Since 2011, different versions of the draft Basic Law have been submitted to the Knesset to affirm Israel as a Jewish state. In July 2018, the Knesset passed the Basic Law by a vote of 62 to 55: Israel—a Jewish nation state, the basic law, in Israel and even the international community at home and abroad caused a strong reaction, it shows that Israel is characterized by majority rule of ethnic nationalism from vague to clear, from facts to legal theory, representing the founding of Israel since seventy countries to define properties.

Israeli Arabs, the indigenous Arabs of the Palestinian territories, became citizens of Israel after the creation of the state of Israel, but have long been repressed and controlled by Zionism as a potential security threat. As a result of Israel's Jewish identity, Arabs are subjected to multiple forms of oppression and discrimination that prevent them from enjoying full civil rights. Israel's Jewish Nation State Law of 2018 further highlights the status of Arabs as second-class citizens. At the same time, Israeli Arabs are an inseparable part of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, but they are not the main part of the Palestinian people, and they play a limited role and influence in the Palestinian nationalist movement. It can be seen that the collective identity of Israeli Arabs includes multiple elements such as Israeli, Palestinian, Arab and religious identity. These identity elements are always in a state of mutual contradiction, antagonism and competition in the context of the long lasting

Palestina-Israel conflict, resulting in the identity anxiety of Israeli Arabs and the identity dilemma of dual geopolitics. This is also a unique reflection of geopolitical factors in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Business Relationship and Material Relationship: Economic Ties and Living Habits of the People

The Palestinian economy receives much of its income in the form of aid, first from the European Union and second from the United States, as well as tax revenue. Even in Israeli-occupied territories, Israel collects Palestinian taxes before returning them to the Palestinians. To harmonize the problem, the two sides signed a Paris Economic Protocol in 1994. Under the agreement, Israel will inspect goods bound for the Palestinians and collect customs duties on their behalf. Israel, of course, cannot keep the tariff, but regularly transfers it to the Palestinian government. The agreement also stipulates that most of the income taxes paid by all Palestinians working in Israel will go to the Palestinian government, with Israel keeping only a quarter. The two payments have become the main source of Palestinian government revenue, accounting for about two-thirds of the total.

Jewish and Islamic dietary taboos have many similarities, such as, do not eat pork, blood, self-death and non-ritualistic slaughter of animals, do not eat fierce, ugly, dirty, disgusting animals. This is mainly because the dietary taboos of the two religions have common historical and religious roots. Diet taboo is determined by the natural way of production and living, nomadic way of life determines the Sumerian Islam Jewish Israelis and Palestinians have business relationship and material relationship in common.

Conclusion

In the long run, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict should be resolved through political consultation, and the two-state solution is likely to be preferred. Israeli-Palestinian cannot accept one-country plan, it is determined by the basic goal of the Zionist and Palestinian nationalist, more importantly, even if the Palestinians want, Israel is not willing to absorb the Palestinians citizenship in great quantities, not to give up its Jewish national properties of Israel.

The new Middle East peace plan of January 2020, while heavily biased toward Israel, still calls for a Palestinian state, and Arab countries generally support a two-state solution. Even though the Arab world has generally opposed the State of Israel since its founding, it has been forced to accept the reality and the status quo of the existence of the State of Israel after many defeats in the Arab-Israeli wars. However, the reality of international politics is that Pakistan is weak and Israeli is strong, coupled with the intervention of many external forces. The creation of an independent Palestinian state with territorial sovereignty is still a long way off.

As a matter of fact, the two-state solution is just a big idea. The solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is faced with key challenges such as Palestinian refugees, borders, Jewish settlements, and water resources problem. However, from the perspective of the history of Palestinian-Israeli conflict, force can not solve the conflict, and eventually it has to return to the political negotiation table, and the perspective of cultural reconciliation of Palestinian-Israeli conflict provided by the "Five Relationships Culture" Theory may be a relatively unique explanation.

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