

The Hypothesis of Cultural Differences in Sino-US Relation with International Political Conflicts

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Abstract. Conflicts and tensions among major powers are often seen as clashes of interests between entities with significant influence. Nevertheless, from a historiographical standpoint, one would challenge the validity of such a simplistic view. The themes of nations that have to be considered full are undeniably formed by comprehensive historical and cultural components. Hence, it is essential to comprehensively evaluate cultural disparities to have a comprehensive understanding of interstate conflicts. This research uses case studies and qualitative methodologies to conduct a comparative analysis of the ideologies and national value identities that underlie Chinese-American interactions during the last decade. It focuses on the cultural distinctions inherited from China and the United States in order to get a deeper understanding of these connections. This research posits that the concept of democracy is firmly ingrained in the cultural and political fabric of these societies, giving rise to divergent ideologies. Numerous pieces of evidence indicate that the cultural aspects of a country significantly influence its political evolution.

Keywords: Political ideology; Culture impact.

1. Introduction

The political ideologies of nations often have similarities. Some countries may even use the political system of other nations as a standard. One process is always applied to the construction of one nation's political system and other aspects, which is called policy borrowing, referring to the practice of drawing upon knowledge and ideas from one political system, whether it be from the past or present, to shape and inform the development of policies, administrative structures, institutions, and ideas in another political system [1]. This strategy has several consequences. Scholars often think of the European Union as a prime example when referring to the matured export of ideology [2]. As time passes, cultural development will lead each country onto its own unique path of development. The US serves as a successful example of the exportation of European ideologies. However, it also exhibits areas of change. Although the idea of democracy is deeply rooted in both their cultural and political essences, these two factors also result in distinct ideologies between them. There is much evidence showing that the culture of one nation plays an important role in its political development. Marcus Tullius Cicero, a renowned Roman politician, and philosopher, emphasized the significance of theatrical performances and gladiatorial contests as indicators of true political sentiment. According to Cicero, the theater served as a crucial political arena and a reliable measure of public opinion during his time [3].

Despite some modern American politicians, like the renowned Martin Luther King Jr., utilizing public gatherings as a stage to express their political views, the significant advancements in technology have led to significant differences between the political situation of the US and the Roman empire. The speed of information dissemination gives American culture the label of "fast and convenient." This also made American citizens attach importance to freedom, more than their Roman counterparts. They also tend to lighten their own responsibilities. It can be observed that the US holds different governing ideas compared to the Roman Empire. In its pursuit of tax revenue, land improvement, and military sustenance, the Roman Empire enforced obligations, dictated occupations, and assigned social ranks to its subjects [4]. On the opposite, the United States places a strong emphasis on the freedom of its citizens. As stated in the original Constitution, all individuals who are free residents in any state are granted the privileges and immunities of free citizens in every state [5].

It is the usual custom to link the genesis of disagreements and tensions between large nations to disagreements and tensions coming from conflicts between the interests of organizations that wield substantial influence. This line of reasoning holds that such disagreements and tensions may be traced back to earlier conflicts and tensions. A historical investigation, on the other hand, raises questions about the veracity of a position that only considers one side of the conflict. There is little room for debate about the fact that components of history and culture that are all-encompassing are accountable for the construction of comprehensive national themes. In light of this, in order to have a comprehensive grasp of the problems that exist between states, it is necessary to carry out comprehensive research on the cultural disparities that currently exist.

In this study, case studies and qualitative research methodologies are being utilized in order to perform a comparative analysis of the ideologies and national value identities that have been the driving force behind Chinese-American connections over the course of the previous ten years. This inquiry is being conducted in order to find out why Chinese-American interactions have been occurring. It's possible that gaining a more in-depth knowledge of, and a healthier regard for, the ties that bind the United States and China may be facilitated by taking a closer look at the cultural differences that exist between the two countries. In spite of the fact that this has resulted in the emergence of competing worldviews, the study indicates that democracy is deeply embedded in both the cultural and political fabric of these nations. Despite the fact that the research was carried out, this is the situation that has arisen. There is a large body of data that lends credence to the theory that the culture of a country has a substantial role in shaping the development of that nation's political system.

This article will take the "cultural foundation differences" as a starting point to analyze the political forms and strategies of the United States and China in the present era and explore the establishment and development of the relationship links between the two countries and other nations worldwide.

2. 20th century and modern China

Now focusing on the divergence of these two countries. The Former in the 20th century also underwent a century-long exploration. Chinese intellectuals attempted to save China through "policy borrowing" by learning from the governance methods of Western countries. However, due to significant cultural differences, all these attempts ended in failure. Eventually, China carved out its own path, a brand-new path that was never used by others before. In today's China, freedom is not valued too much in China. Chinese culture is characterized by a tendency towards conservatism and seriousness. This kind of culture gives the Chinese government the capacity to keep a strict policy for its residents. Take, for instance, the adherence to the "one China principle." Those who oppose this principle will face severe repercussions. Following the unrest in Hong Kong in 2019, Director Zhang Xiaoming of the HKMAO conveyed the central government's concerns regarding the situation and its ongoing strategic initiatives.

Additionally, there are reports of Hong Kong-featured video clips and customer-generated content, which were interpreted as a form of cautionary message [6]. This indicates that the Chinese government adopts a very tough stance towards anti-China individuals or groups. Also, as a rising country, China's policy also influences other countries. However, the strict political control in China does not mean that the Chinese government uses the unreasonable way to treat its people. Instead, China's policy has brought higher living standards to its people. Under China's current political system, the Chinese government maintains social stability well and keeps the economy growing steadily. In 2021, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) celebrated its centenary, signaling the achievement of the initial "Two Centennial Goals" of establishing a "moderately prosperous society." The attention now turns to the subsequent objective of metamorphosing China into a "great modern socialist country" by the year 2049 [7]. This proves that policy borrowing may not be applicable to every country. The cultural background of each country determines the direction of its political development.

3. The culture and the politics

The divergence in political development between countries is also driven by variances in Eastern and Western political values. Both the United States and China embrace the concept of being major powers. While the United States continuously projects its influence in geopolitics, China also emphasizes its sense of major power responsibility. However, their approaches to this concept differ significantly. Scholars argue Confucius believed that humans were more social creatures than political animals, but Aristotle held the opinion that people were political animals. Bartsch makes a reference to the Confucian character Ren in order to give more insight. He does so by using an argument that was first presented by Roger Ames and then expounded upon by David Hall. As a consequence of the fact that the word "benevolence" comprises the characters Ren (human) and Er (two), she arrives at the conclusion that "Man is not a political but a social animal." When compared to the manner of thinking that is found in Confucianism, the way of thinking that is found in Western philosophy has historically not put a significant emphasis on being kind. Rather than adopting the both-and mindset that is associated with the yin-yang worldview, the Western culture is preoccupied with arguments that can only be either "yes" or "no" [8]. Confucianism has deeply ingrained itself into the political ideology of China. Throughout the ages, emperors and kings have revered the concept of "benevolent governance." Over the years, China has shown very little inclination for expansion during each of its periods as a superpower. It has preferred to be a "middle kingdom", enjoying the glory of nations paying tribute to it.

For instance, The Ming Dynasty is an example of China's past "superpower era". The famous maritime voyager Zheng traveled seven times to the Western Ocean without annexing any territory, erecting any forts, or plundering any nations along the way. He followed the idea of giving more in his business and trade endeavors than he gained in return, which is what won him the respect and gratitude of the people who lived in the nations that he toured [9]. Despite undergoing several centuries of reshapes and reforms, China's political system has consistently adhered to the core ideology of Confucianism up until today. Another important component of Confucianism is advocating harmony and the concept of a unified world. Correspondingly, today's Chinese government calls for a human community with a shared future. As one of the minor points existing in this world, it is always actively shouldering its responsibilities as a great power. Focusing on the current policies of the Chinese government.

Take, for instance, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which has as its declared objective the promotion of economic development throughout a vast territory that encompasses not just Asia but also Europe and Africa. This region accounts for 30 percent of the global GDP and is home to 64 percent of the world's population. Additionally, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has the potential to transform the economically depressed "Belt and Road" region into a vibrant hub at the core of the global economy [10]. Another illustration is the Pakistan-China Energy and Economic Corridor (PCEEC). The PCEEC offers a wide array of opportunities for regional connectivity in energy and economics, encompassing social, economic, commercial, and geopolitical benefits for both nations [11]. However, the past Western civilization, led by the Roman Empire, had a strong inclination towards expansion. E. T. Salmon states that it was in the year 338 that the great period of Roman colonization began [12]. The representative of Western civilization today is the United States. The trade war that was carried out by the US reduces nearly all sectoral imports and outputs in both China and itself [13]. One reason that the US did it was China seeking to weaken U.S. national security and international standing [14]. This indicates that the US tends to use radical expansionist means to solve problems.

In this era of rapid information dissemination, countries have developed closer and more interconnected relationships compared to the past. The exchange of ideological influences and inputs has continued to strengthen. Nations have a lot of opportunities to learn from the political ideologies and forms of governance of other countries. There are many reasons for this convenience. One of them is that compared to before, people in today's society are more likely to live a "diaspora" lifestyle. "the dispersion of the Jews among the nations of the Gentile world" and "all those Jews who live

outside the biblical land of Israel" are two definitions that can be found in the New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, which was in use from its establishment in 1913 until 1993. The definition of the word, however, was enlarged in that version of the Dictionary to cover "the situation of people living outside their traditional land." When there are such large-scale migrations of people from one country to another, ethnic assimilation is unavoidable [15]. The ethnic ideologies and governing methods of a country can be brought to another country along with immigrants. However, the intensifying friction arising from differences in traditional cultural foundations has become more pronounced. The concept of "international image" is increasingly significant and exerts a powerful constraint on each country, leading to substantial transformations in diplomacy, domestic policies, and other areas. Such cultural fundamental differences can actually lead to the political forms and governing strategies differences, even conflicts, that we see among major nations today.

Today's international relations have moved away from a unidirectional dominance of major powers' discourse. With increased intercultural exchanges, many people have realized that local cultures have been suppressed and deprived of opportunities to thrive. Major powers with strong self-integration have the chance to achieve information assimilation. However, for many previously disadvantaged countries, especially those affected by war, rebuilding their nations requires tremendous effort. For them, gaining international recognition from the cultural foundation is an extremely challenging task. They need to consider not only the development within their own countries but also the attitudes of other countries in the international community towards their actions.

China has come out on top in the Asia-Pacific region as a result of the many lessons it has taken away from this experience. Between the years 1949 and 1958, the People's Republic of China (PRC) pursued economic expansion using two separate approaches. First, there was the Russian model, which was distinguished by an emphasis on technology and a large amount of bureaucratization. Secondly, there was the Maoist model, which primarily entailed the huge mobilization of the Chinese people. Both of these models had their advantages and disadvantages [16]. This can help us understand the friction between countries by starting with culture, what challenges a country may face, and what preparations it should make. This article focuses on discussing specific countries. For example, it explores how China's classical culture has been rediscovered amidst the continuous development and transformation of the country. Initially, China aimed to unite with other socialist countries, but now it tends to absorb the advantages of local culture within the framework of Marxism. In comparison, the United States has a more pronounced continuity in its policies, consistently relying on the wisdom of Roman-style political mediation.

4. Conclusion

This could provide some insight into the cultural basis of international conflicts, the possible challenges a country might face, and the steps it ought to take to be ready for such issues. This article focuses its attention on a number of different countries for its topic. It examines a variety of topics, such as how traditional Chinese culture has been rediscovering its place in the center of contemporary China. Formerly, the authorities of China pursued unity with other communist countries; but, currently, China is more likely to integrate the local cultural advantages of Marxism into its framework. The United States of America, on the other hand, has a more consistent approach to policy, and its leaders often take the counsel of political mediators who have been schooled in the Roman tradition. Case studies and qualitative research methodologies are used to examine the Chinese-American connection during the last decade in order to make comparisons between the ideologies and national value identities that have shaped the relationship between the two nations. Examining the cultural distinctions that exist between the United States and China might help one develop a deeper understanding and respect for the connections that exist between the two nations. According to this research, democracy is firmly ingrained in both the cultural and political fabric of these countries, despite the fact that this has led to the development of conflicting ideologies. This is the

case despite the fact that the study was conducted. There is a plethora of evidence to support the hypothesis that the culture of a nation significantly contributes to the evolution of its political system.

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