

Analysis on the Status and Function of Cultural Factors in International Relations

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Abstract: Culture, as the third major factor in addition to economics and politics, plays an increasingly important role in international competition and development. Based on this, this paper analyzes the status and role of cultural factors in international relations. Firstly, we introduces the origin, concept and characteristics of culture, and then expounds the role of cultural factors in international relations from four aspects. Cultural security is the fundamental guarantee of international relations, and homogenous culture is the promoting power of international relationship. heterogeneous culture is the source of contradictions in international relations and cultural integration is the inevitable trend of international relations. Through analysis, we realize that with the acceleration of the globalization process, the proportion of cultural factors in the future international relations will become more and more important. Only by achieving multicultural integration will future international relations become more harmonious and stable.

1. Introduction

In the Cold War during World War II and beyond, political relations seemed to be the mainstream in international relations. However, with the recovery of the world economy and the acceleration of the globalization process, economic relations play an increasingly important role. There is more competition and cooperation between countries, and fewer conflicts and wars [1]. In today's world, countries are paying more and more attention to their comprehensive national strength and international competitiveness. In addition to their main economic strength, culture is regarded as a kind of soft power by more and more people, developing their own culture and being wary of foreign culture intrusion has become an important topic in the modern era [2].

2. Cultural Overview

2.1 Cultural Origin

The concept of “culture” is derived from Latin, which means “planting” and “cultivating”. Cicero and other Latin writers used to describe the upbringing of the mind and spirit. The culture nurtures a land called “goodness”. If it is not cultivated, it will produce something that is disorganized and worthless. The human spirit will pour all its energy into cultivating this land to meet the inner needs of man [3].

Culture not only contains spiritual aspects, but also corresponding material forms. Each special cultural complex contains a certain national character that shares human civilization at the same time. But the status of the particularities of different ethnic groups is also different. In the more restricted ancient Greek world, the particularity of the Greek city-state has been developed, and those who do not speak Greek are regarded as the rabble, and their language is even more ridiculed. Although at first it only meant cultural self-identification, its negative effects were only manifested in it, but after all, it reflected some kind of cultural arrogance with negative values [4]. In fact, this arrogance consciousness soon appeared in practice as a rejection of different cultures. It can be seen that the self-identification of all ethnic groups will not only be regarded as a symbol of pride, through which a nation can share the meaning of life when interacting with other peoples and their cultural traditions, and at the same time it may become alienated from different cultures sign. Therefore,

today, with the expansion of the global community of contacts, the negative effects of the past cultural exchanges need to be overcome to some extent. It seems that a non-repulsive cultural and civilized style is established, which has a special priority.

2.2 Cultural Concepts

Generally speaking, culture is a social phenomenon, a product of people's long-term creation and formation, and at the same time it is a historical phenomenon and a deposit of social history. To be precise, culture is the concept of history, geography, customs, traditions, lifestyles, literature and art, norms of behavior, ways of thinking, and value of countries or nations that are condensed in matter and free from matter, etc, which is a universally recognized ideology that can be passed on between human beings. According to the interpretation in the Modern Chinese Dictionary, culture refers to the sum of material wealth and spiritual wealth created by human beings in the process of social history development, especially spiritual wealth, such as literature, art, education, science, etc. The narrow sense of culture excludes the material wealth of human beings in social and historical life, focusing on the spiritual wealth created by ideology. To be precise, culture refers to the historical geography, customs, behaviors, habits, values, literature and art of a country or nation. Culture has advantages and disadvantages, but no distinction. Simply put: culture is knowledge. Culture has the characteristics of diversity, regionality, time limit and mobility. The diversity of culture is mainly reflected in the types of living things. The regional nature of culture is mainly reflected in the geographical location. The corresponding ecological environment of different geographical locations is different, the specific performance is temperature, water source, biological species, soil and so on. The time limit of time-limited culture is mainly reflected in time. The morphology of the creatures is different in different time periods. Therefore, the corresponding culture is different. The mobility of the liquidity culture is mainly reflected in the scope of biological activities. The reasons why culture can spread to each other are inextricably linked to the activities of living things.

2.3 Cultural Characteristics

2.3.1 Culture is diverse

The existence of culture is distributed by different nationalities, countries and regions. The world today has formed rich and varied cultures in the long-term historical development, and the cultures among different ethnic groups have obvious differences. The cultures of eastern and western countries, socialist countries and capitalist countries, developing countries and developed countries differ in many ways and even conflict. Historical historian Huntington once summarized the culture into eight major civilizations, namely, Western civilization, Orthodox civilization, Japanese civilization, Islamic civilization, and a certain range of Hindu civilization. It is this cultural diversity and difference that makes the world culture present a diverse and rich color, of course, this is also the source of cultural conflicts.

2.3.2 Culture has an identity function

Cultural identity refers to the national group and individual's belief in the value of the nation. The understanding and attention to the national way of life and historical destiny, as well as the consensus on inter-ethnic relations, are the spiritual products that people with certain atmospheres recognize and accept. In response to other national cultures, this cultural identity consciousness and centripetal affiliation, external prevention, internal identification, cultural system exclusivity and internality are born. It can be seen that culture emphasizes the identity of human groups, and cultural compulsory or cultural hegemony does not work.

In the past international relations, it is easy to see a phenomenon in which cultures are different and cannot be talked about. The current general concept also believes that homogenous cultures are more likely to promote international cooperation. Because the homogenous culture as a historical accumulation has strong cohesiveness and centripetal force to the nation and the country as the carrier of culture, and the identity function and affinity function of its common cultural characteristics become the link to build alliances or strengthen cooperation. However, countries with

heterogeneous cultures will collaborate with each other, and will also exchange and integrate each other and cultural identity, absorption and reference based on them. Therefore, strengthening exchanges with different cultural countries will also help accelerate the development of the country.

And it is easy to see that each country has a different diplomatic approach, which is also influenced and determined by its culture, and it is also related to factors such as its national strength. Therefore, different national cultures are comprehensive strengths, and foreign policy will be different. When we open history, we can see that some national cultures are exposed and open, but I am unique and highly conquered, reflecting in aggression and militancy in foreign behaviors; some ethnicities emphasize internal harmony. There is a degree of exaggeration, which is reflected in the external behavior of the righteousness of the virtues, and peace and harmony. For example, in Chinese culture, it is a matter of diplomatic behavior, that is, paying attention to etiquette, advocating ritual exchanges, and loving peace.

In today's international relations, cultural identity and conflict are increasingly becoming an important factor in political relations between countries. As a manifestation of national soft power, the role of culture in international relations is becoming more and more important. Cultural identity is the bond between countries to establish and maintain good relations. Cultural concepts influence the formulation and implementation of national foreign policies. Cultural diplomacy helps to establish the country's international prestige. Culture as a kind of soft power, cultural diplomacy is essentially an output of spirit and thought, and it is the spread and communication of cultural values and beliefs. It seems to be weak, but in fact it hits the nail on the head. Culture has a major impact on the destiny of nations and individuals, and for a fairly long period of time in the future, culture will still play an important role in influencing international relations. As a kind of soft power, culture can influence the formulation of the country's foreign policy, and it can influence the behavior of other countries. It is one of the important means to safeguard national interests and achieve strategic goals.

3. The Status And Role Of Cultural Factors In International Relations

3.1 Status of Cultural Factors

Culture is an important part of a country's comprehensive national strength. It has an important influence on the status and role of the state in the international community. It is an important part of international relations and an important basis for the formulation of foreign policy. Although culture does not have a hard and direct impact on international relations as political and economic, military and other factors, but culture as a soft power, the role played in international relations is already indispensable. After the establishment of the modern nation-state, the dissemination, exchange and communication of culture between countries has become increasingly frequent, expanding and extensively in the fields of politics, economy, military, art, science and technology, and law. In response to this, the governments of sovereign governments began to guide and govern foreign cultural exchanges, establish their operational mechanisms, stipulate their content, form, means and purposes, and set their goals and development direction.

3.2 The Role of Cultural Factors

3.2.1 Cultural security is the fundamental guarantee of international relations

In the traditional concept, national security mainly refers to political and military security. With the continuous evolution of the globalization process, the theme of peace and development is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people, and a large number of global problems have emerged, constantly expanding and deepening the connotation and level of national security [5]. A new security concept of comprehensive security is gradually taking shape and is beginning to be accepted by more and more politicians and international politicians. However, in the process of re-examining the concept of security, cultural security is a very important component of the comprehensive security category. Conceptually, cultural security refers to the fact that a country is not interfered, controlled and assimilated by foreign cultures in the cultural and spiritual realm, can maintain the independence of

its own ideology, and maintain the nationality of its national values, lifestyles, customs unique. In the context of increasing globalization, the reason why culture refers to the height of national security is to pay attention to it. On the one hand, it is to maintain the uniqueness of national culture, but more importantly, the enhancement of culture and national strength are mutually reinforcing. The soft power of culture can enhance the legitimacy, appeal of hard power. If a country can make its power legal in the eyes of others, its desire will be less resistant; if a country's culture and ideology are attractive, others will automatically follow. If a country is able to establish an international norm that is consistent with its internal society, there is no need to change itself. If a country can support an international system and other countries are willing to coordinate their activities through this system, there is no need to use costly hard power [6]. On the contrary, a nation that lacks the ability to contribute to cultural development and the spirit of innovation and is attached to the world cultural system is generally attached and followed in politics. Because the cultural orientation and the convergence of other countries cannot but affect the convergence of political orientation. For example, the cultural homologous nature of Latin America and its former European sovereign states has made them consistent with western countries and hindered solidarity with other third world countries. More and more countries recognize that only by maintaining the national identity of their culture can they have a worldwide impact. Because of this, in recent years, the cultural awareness of various countries has been recovering, and cultural security has begun to receive universal attention from all countries. For example, the French government spares no effort to defend the purity of French, to protect it from the "pollution" of English culture, and to promote French culture throughout the world. Tracing back to the source, the awakening of cultural security awareness is directly related to the continuous strengthening of globalization. On the one hand, the trend of globalization, with its unique outward-looking openness, has increased the frequency of cultural integration and collision between the world's major boards, and there has been a trend of cultural homogenization; on the other hand, it is also because of cross-cultural communication. The intercultural conflicts and strong cultural erosion and the elimination of the weak culture have made them deeply aware that cultural autonomy is an important part of national sovereignty, thus activating the cultural consciousness of defending their own traditions. Therefore, cultural security has become a basic requirement for the harmony of international relations.

3.2.2 Homogeneous culture is the driving force of international relations

After the end of the Cold War, with the increasing frequency of global economic and trade exchanges and the increasing interdependence of the world economy, the process of economic globalization is accelerating. The driving force behind this process is of course economic factors, but homogenous cultures are the cohesion and lubrication effects of this combination, which are also not negligible [7]. Even in the more modernized European Union countries, they can accommodate each other and develop into a transnational political party that can implement a unified monetary phase. In addition to internal and external political and economic reasons, it is also a Christian country with European countries. There is no cultural psychological barrier and emotional exclusion.

Cultural identity and communication are catalysts for fostering cooperative relations between nations. According to the theory of identity, under the premise of recognizing the homogenous structure of the international society, the emphasis emphasizes the influence of the social structure composed of cultural traditions, values and behavioral norms on the behavior of the state, and focuses on the interaction between the subject and the social structure relationship. According to the theory of constructivism, cultural identity means that culture builds the identity of the state as an international social actor by constructing shared ideas or knowledge. According to this, the homogenous culture has strong cohesiveness and centripetal force for the nation and the country as the carrier of culture, and with its unique affinity function, the countries with homogenous culture strengthen cooperation or build alliances in foreign exchanges. For example, in the political and economic union of Arab and ASEAN countries, homogeneous Islam plays a vital role.

In the 21st century, the trend of globalization continues to strengthen, the economic and social problems humanity facing are more complicated, and cultural factors will play a more important role.

In addition, it should be noted that the positive role of homogenous culture in international relations does not mean that the movement of heterogeneous culture can only trigger differences and contradictions in international relations. Today, with the trend of globalization increasing, the pace and intensity of heterogeneous cultural exchanges and integration are also constantly strengthening. The cultural globalization of interdependence, interaction and cultural interaction between various cultures is beginning to emerge. Undoubtedly, such a background will facilitate political dialogue and multilateral international cooperation among countries with different cultures, help the basic survival, development and property rights of human beings, protect human living environment and sustainable development, and international politics. A basic consensus has been reached on the areas of democratization and international economic mutual benefit, as well as respect and tolerance for a multi-polar world, and to provide a common drive for cooperation among them, especially for solving global problems facing humanity.

3.2.3 Heterogeneous culture is the source of contradictions in international relations

Huntington, a professor at Harvard University, further pointed out in his book "Clash of Civilizations" that in the new historical period, the main source of human conflict will no longer be ideology or economic factors, but will be cultural differences.

Each culture contains positive factors and negative elements. The intersection of heterogeneous cultures will inevitably lead to collision and friction, and become one of the incentives for conflicts between countries [8]. Even within a homogenous culture, different countries will lead to diplomatic contradictions and conflicts because of cultural differences, because culture has obvious nationality and regionality. For example, in the United States and Western European countries, although they are basically consistent in value orientation, they often have different origins in dealing with many specific problems, and different opinions often appear on different issues. Especially when dealing with different issues of international relations, each cultural unit often adopts different attitudes and practices because of different objects, different time, different occasions and different interests. This is because the comparative advantages of different cultures are bound to be different quality culture responds.

Cultural differences are objective conditions for creating cultural conflicts and even conflicts between countries [9]. Due to differences in natural conditions, historical geography, and humanistic environment, various national states with various styles have been formed in the long historical conditions. Cultural identity is a symbol of a country and a nation, a source of national affinity and cohesion, and it is also a great force to reject heterogeneous culture. Although cultural differences are static, cultural conflicts can only be triggered under certain conditions. However, even in the context of globalization, cultural differences cannot be eliminated. Therefore, conflicts in international relations cannot be avoided. Therefore, the political rulers of all countries must pay full attention to the influence of cultural differences on international relations, and resolve the international contradictions in line with the principle of seeking common ground while reserving differences. It should be noted that human beings always live in different geographical environments. The historical traditions and lifestyles that people have experienced can never be the same. As mentioned above, heterogeneous cultures can not only cause international conflicts. The difference can also promote the heterogeneous culture to complement each other and merge. It is because of these cultural differences that the world is rich and colorful.

3.2.4 Cultural integration is the inevitable trend of international relations

The so-called cultural integration refers to the process of accepting and reconciling different cultural factors or cultural components to form an organic cultural whole. The cultural integration in international relations mainly refers to the process of continuously enriching and updating the national culture through the study, reference and absorption of the culture of other countries.

Generally speaking, cultural integration has the characteristics of "high to low" in terms of form, that is, developed countries have cultural infiltration to developing countries. Strong culture always has a greater influence on weak cultures, so the cultural integration so far, mainly manifested as the

fusion of western culture to non-western culture. However, this is not the proper state of world cultural development. With the bankruptcy of western cultural centralism, the situation of western culture's one-way integration is changing. Different cultures will learn from each other on the basis of mutual respect and mutual equality. The interaction between eastern and western cultures will become the norm. It is the ladder of progress in human civilization. The implementation of multilateralism centered on the United Nations as a basic norm of the international community today is undoubtedly the result of collective recognition of cultural diversity. Although the only superpower, the United States, has used its powerful strength to repeatedly challenge the principles of multilateralism and insist on unilateralism, it can only cause more and more countries to be dissatisfied. In the attitude towards cultural integration, there has been a fundamental change in the past. At the same time that compulsory culture is cast aside, many countries and nations have begun to actively absorb other cultures, including western culture, from passive cultural integration to active cultural integration. This is the awakening of cultural awareness and the inevitable development of history.

Cultural integration and cultural conflict are the unity of a pair of contradictory movements, which are mutually antagonistic and complementary. There is no conflict and no integration. Conflict and integration are two trends in cultural development. These two trends are unified in contemporary world culture. The development of contemporary world culture runs through the integration of conflicts and conflicts in integration. Conflicts without integration can not truly reflect the status quo of world culture [10]. Cultural conflict and integration are two aspects of the same problem. On the one hand, cultural integration is to eliminate cultural conflicts. On the other hand, the process of cultural integration is bound to be accompanied by cultural conflicts. Cultural development is achieved through mutual exchange, mutual understanding, and mutual learning and mutual integration. Therefore, we must turn the negative factors of cultural conflict into positive factors. The most ideal is to achieve "harmony and difference", that is, the countries of the world respect each other and live in harmony on the basis of maintaining diversity.

There is a new situation of cultural integration. Many countries use cultural communication, cultural exchanges, cultural industries and other means to make efforts to export national cultures, while actively breathing and introducing advanced cultures of other countries and nations, such as actively communicating with heterogeneous cultures, on the basis of mutual understanding. In the past, actively learn from each other, and often transplant them directly to promote the renewal and development of the national culture. The survival and development of a country and a nation requires contact and exchanges with other countries and nations in all aspects. It is impossible to completely close itself, especially in the era of globalization. Although such frequent contacts and exchanges often lead to more cultural collisions or conflicts, at the same time cultural integration is correspondingly strengthened, and they effectively form the driving force for the development of human civilization.

4. Conclusion

For each of our civilizations, globalization is indeed a challenge. How to avoid losing their own traditions and heritage in the process of globalization is very necessary. In this sense, for each civilization, it is worth noting various aspects: for example, to establish a clear and firm self-identity, so that they can be distinguished from other national cultures in the process of globalization; to revive the creativity of various cultural traditions rather than simply tend to western Christian civilization; to enhance economic strength, avoid new slavery in the process of globalization; to actively play a political role in the process of globalization, maintain and improve the independence of their national personality, and so on. With the increase of cultural exchanges among various ethnic groups, it is bound to form a global cultural pattern that is both integrated and conflicted. It will rapidly advance the process of cultural integration and bring the cultures with larger differences closer. In the course of diplomatic relations, they understand each other and identify with each other.

To live together and complement each other is the direction of harmonious development of international relations.

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