

Abstracts

Cultural Interpretation of the Turbulence in the Arab World

Li Xingang & Zhou Lie

Abstract: The splendid and brilliant Arab culture has contributed significantly to the development and diversification of the human culture, which was especially true during the Middle Ages when it played the role in inheriting and converging ancient Greek and Roman cultures as well as the Renaissance culture, starting to display the true sense of a global cultural form of human beings, with the now most – widely used Arabic alphabet standing as the most convincing evidence. The spread of the Arab – Islamic culture was unmatched at that time by any other cultures in terms of its scale, scope and speed. However, dialectically speaking, although the nomadic culture once contributed to the glory of Arab history and enhanced the resistance of the Arabs to colonial oppression and exploitation, it failed to contribute to peace and stability of the region, which exposes the weaknesses of the tribal culture in the construction and enhancement of national community consciousness. Misreading or even distorting its teachings can easily breed religious extremist thoughts and behaviors and blind obedience, authoritarianism, and foreign adoration hidden in the social culture not only hinder the internal development and progress but also create the possibility of external interference. The excessive compliance with the ancient culture would only inhibit rational thinking, stagnate innovation, repel modernization and reject secularization. From the lessons of the turmoil observed in the Arab world, it is believed that the attainment of the Arab world’ s unity, stability and prosperity in the twenty – first century calls for an Arab culture that is inclusive, open and keeps pace with the times.

Key words: Arab culture; desert nomadic culture; tribal culture; religious culture; dependent culture; the compliance of the ancient culture

The Origin, Evolution and Characteristics of Bride Price (Mehrieh) in Iran

Ji Kaiyun & Liao Xiwei

Abstract: In Iran, bride price is not only a cultural phenomenon, but also an institution. The formation of the modern Iranian bride price system is the result of a

combination of factors such as Zoroastrian culture, Islamic teachings and the influence of the Western legal system. Under the legal regulation represented by the Iranian Civil Code, the Iranian bride price presents typical features such as compulsory, guaranteed, compensatory and symbolic. The bride price has had a profound impact on Iranian families and society, and it safeguards the rights and interests of Muslim women and is a protective measure for women in vulnerable situations. However, in recent years, the economic and livelihood problems in Iran have become more serious under the U. S. sanctions, which has led to a debate on the abolition of bride price. In response, the Iranian government has fine-tuned the bride price law on the premise of respecting Islamic cultural traditions, which has to a certain extent alleviated the negative effects of the bride price issue and promoted a positive interaction between the society and the government. In general, the development and evolution of the bride price in Iran is a process of mutual adjustment between the society and the government, a process of exchange and interaction between the male and female perspectives, and a process of coordination between adherence to tradition and reform and innovation.

Key words: Mehrieh; Iran; obligation; security; indemnity; symbol; Iranian Civil Code

The Religious Thought of the Baay Faal Community in Senegal and Its Influence during the Colonial Period

He Danhua & Liu Chengfu

Abstract: The Baay Faal community, founded by Sheikh Ibra Fall at the end of the 19th century, is an important branch of the Murīdiyya in Senegal. Deviated from the norms of the Koran, so as to be different from the traditional Muridism in terms of their religious practice, its disciples generally do not worship. They advocate physical labor, obey their marabouts, and attach importance to internal cultivation and external practice. Consequently, the development of Baay Faal experienced a cognitive transformation from “dangerous Muslims” or “false Muslims” to “good Muslims”, and gradually gained the legal religious status. Based on the historical conditions at that time and the basic functional orientation of religious organizations, Baay Faal played a complex and diverse role, which was embodied in: served as a tool for French colonial rule in Senegal; deeply affected Senegal’s economic life; promoted the social coordination and stability of Senegal; safeguarded Senegal’s

traditional morality. Up to now, the Islamic proposition of “impartialness” and “moderatism” advocated Baay Faal has helped to curb the spread of radical religious ideas in Senegal, so as to maintain the social stability of Senegal.

Key words: Islam in Africa; Senegal; Murīdiyya; Baay Faal Community

The Formation, Development and Status of Trans – regional Trade Network of Persian Armenians in the 17th Century

Che Xiaomei & Zhang Jingxue

Abstract: Armenian diasporas, active in the 17th century, were not only the practitioners of the Silk Road trade, but also the disseminators of Eastern and Western cultures. Supported by rulers of the Safavid dynasty, they established a New Julfa – centered trade network that was composed of four interconnected trade routes, regaining the former glory of Silk Road cities in the upsurge of marine economy. The prosperity of Armenian trade was closely related to their diasporic characteristics. The long – time exile helped Armenians to form some national traits including perseverance, diligence, realism and honesty, and some commercial spirits such as mutual trust, unity and mutual benefit. With their institutional governance, open and enterprising spirit, flexibility and adaptability, Armenian diasporas enabled themselves to expand markets among empires of different faiths. As cross – cultural messengers, Armenians played a crucial role in promoting the exchange of culture and art between the East and the West.

Key words: trade diaspora; Persia; Armenians; trade network; New Julfa

The Evolution of the Political Participation Status of Iranian Bazaari in the Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century

Jiang Zhen & Guo Xinru

Abstract: Bazaari are the fourth largest force in the history of Iran, besides the royal power, the religious power and the literati class, which have influenced the development of Iranian history. The political participation of this economic group is also a prominent phenomenon in modern Iranian social and political movements. As the economic center of Iran’s traditional society, Bazaari constitute the economic basis of political participation of this group. From the tobacco protest in 1891 – 1892 to the constitutional revolution in 1905 – 1911, Bazaari made full use of their own

advantages and deeply participated through large – scale strikes, protests and demonstrations, but in this process, the political participation of this group also experienced a change from the leadership center towards the political fringe. The internal logic of political marginalization of Bazaari is composed of the political inducement, the change of the goal of struggle and the comparison of international forces, the rise of intellectuals and the limitations of their own political participation. However, the shift of Bazaari’ s political participation from the center to the edge reflects the depth and limit of the traditional economic class’ s role in Iran’ s modernization process.

Key Words: political participation; Iran; Bazaari; the tobacco protest; the constitutional revolution

An Analysis of Türkiye – NATO Relations: Strategic Autonomy or Alliance Supremacy

Guo Changgang & Liang Yingying

Abstract: In recent years, Türkiye’ s purchase of the Russian “S – 400” air defense system, its military operations in Syria, and its claims over the hydrocarbon resources in the Eastern Mediterranean region are all opposite to NATO, and this has raised doubts about Türkiye’ s NATO identity. The outbreak of the Russia – Ukraine conflict has once again triggered discussions on Türkiye’ s eligibility as a member of NATO. These contradictions between Türkiye and NATO can be traced back to the 1960s. The core of these tensions is that Türkiye believes that NATO’ s “collective deterrence” cannot bring security to itself. Türkiye’ s national interests and those of the NATO alliance are not on the same track. Since the end of the Cold War, the geopolitical environment that forced Türkiye to join NATO has been changing substantially, and the new collective deterrent object of the NATO alliance has shifted to so – called “terrorism”. However, when dealing with global and regional terrorist threats, Türkiye’ s national security interests are fundamentally opposed to the interests of the United States and NATO alliance. Türkiye has become a “troubled partner” of NATO. Whether Türkiye will remain in the NATO alliance and whether NATO will continue to accommodate Türkiye depends not only on Türkiye’ s diplomatic strategic policies, but also on the changes in the international geopolitical pattern, and more importantly, on the wisdom of managing and controlling differences between them.

Key words: Türkiye's diplomacy; NATO; security community; the Johnson Letter; Erdogan; strategic autonomy

A Study on Türkiye's Central Asia Policy Since Tayyip Erdogan Took Office

Zeng Xianghong & Wang Zihan

Abstract: Türkiye is an important external actor influencing Central Asia, and Central Asia is one of the key regions in Türkiye's diplomatic strategy. Since Tayyip Erdogan came to power, Türkiye has adjusted its Central Asian policy on the basis of a new holistic diplomatic strategy, and its investment and attention to Central Asia are second only to the Middle East. The objectives of Türkiye's Central Asian policy are threefold: to shape Central Asia into the "strategic deep zone" to support the country's vision of "global power"; to promote the westward movement of energy from Central Asia to build the country into a global energy hub; to enhance the integration of Turkic-speaking countries and actively participate in Central Asian affairs, in line with a holistic foreign policy shift towards the "eastward". In order to achieve these policy objectives, Türkiye has adopted multiple policy tools, including summit diplomacy, economic diplomacy, public diplomacy, security diplomacy and energy diplomacy, to promote all-round cooperation with Central Asia, thereby ensuring the implementation of its Central Asian policy. At the same time, in the specific implementation process, Türkiye's policy in Central Asia is characterized by the circularity of country-specific policy layout, a preference for cultural means in the use of policy tools and a balanced strategy to ensure policy implementation. In terms of the future trend of the Central Asian game, although Türkiye has achieved a significant advance in the implementation of its Central Asian policy by adopting the "issue-hedging strategy", with the ending of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the easing of relations between Russia and the West, the Turkish-Russian competition in Central Asia is likely to further intensify and even reshape the game pattern of the great powers in Central Asia.

Key words: Türkiye's Central Asian policy; Erdogan government; circularity; "strategic deep zone"; balance strategy

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