

A Historical Analysis of Conflict, Decline, and Renewal

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Abstract: Over the past five decades, the concept of civilization has been widely discussed among scholars, policy makers, and the general public. The academic community has published a great deal of research on topics such as the clash, decline, collapse and revival of civilizations. Many scholars believe that the interaction and conflict between different civilizations are important factors in the course of human history. At the same time, governments are faced with the challenges posed by the clash of civilizations over ethnic, regional and national issues, which often lead to social unrest and political instability. For most people, their standard of living, economic status, and level of education are greatly affected by the civilization in which they live. The study of civilization should not only be limited to specific people, times or places, but should also be examined in the broader historical process. This paper proposes that a more realistic and objective perspective can be obtained only through the in-depth study of the historical process of civilization.

Keywords: Civilization, History, Human being, Nature and destiny.

1. Introduction

Friedrich Nietzsche, one of the most influential philosophers living in years of renewal of the Western civilization, created the concepts of slave morality and master morality to redefine the morality that had dominated the Western world for over a thousand years. Nietzsche gave a vivid explanation of the personification in his ethics beyond good and evil, the slave morality appreciates humility, meekness, and self-denial and the master morality adores strength, power, and life-affirmation. Civilization, the holistic definition and distinct characteristics of human being, should be the first concept which is endowed with human characteristics.

Like the dichotomy of the human into body and soul, civilization has two indispensable parts: body and soul. The body of civilization, including land, military, economy, politics, and technology, is external. The soul of civilization, a collection of beliefs, values, morality, traditions, and identities, is internal. In the same way as human being, the body and soul in civilization are mutual benefit. In the Age of Exploration, some civilizations in Asia, Africa and America were extinguished by the greedy colonists. The core reason of the ending of those civilizations is that the indigenous military and economics were far behind that of the invaders. In other words, the weak body is vulnerable confronting with the strong one. In ancient Mesopotamia, the empires rose quick and fell fast, Babylonian, Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian... These empires, reigning large and numerous lands, had the same type that all people had to be submissive to the ruler with supreme power. The long submission had weakened the social moralities. Once the ruler passed away, the empire would

immediately collapse. The history tells that the big-body civilization cannot endure without a strong soul.

2. Methodology

The body is mortal, the soul with different destinations in various traditions, departs from the body after the death of people. Does a civilization share the same destiny with human? Toynbee and Spengler have given a definite answer in their writing on history. Furthermore, our physicists have declared the nature of civilization death through calculating the time and space of it. In this context, arguing that civilization is immortal, we will challenge the consensus among humanities scholars, and ignore natural science at the same time. However, we still need to recognize the immortality of civilization.

In the 17th century, the European society experienced a strange and wondrous succession of changes in the weather [1]. "After over a month of continuous rain, a final four-day downpour, washed away bridges, mills, drainage works, houses and even town walls. Many rivers froze so hard that for three months they could bear the weight of loaded carts and, most spectacularly, the Bosphorus froze over so that people could walk across the ice between Europe and Asia"[2]. The extreme cooling brought flood and famine to Europe. In *Global Crisis*, Geoffrey Parker provides a detailed graphic description of the Little Ice Age in the 17th century. First came the devastating famine, then a deadly epidemic broke out, resulting in corpses strewn everywhere and the rapid spread of disease. European people, especially "the dirty people of no name" [2], the thousands of people came from humble backward, was most the passive and helpless victim. They found all the ways to survive the adversity living environment. Once they realized that the politics had exacerbated their sufferings, they start to reflect on their relationship between the aristocrats, intellectuals, and clerics. . Confronted with the destructives from nature, human beings are insignificant, Before the 17th century, people were fortunate to survive amidst the climate change. During the Little Ice Age, people with their instinct brave, and their choices led to petitions, alliance, uprising, and revolts, resulting in significant political upheavals. Those actions profoundly "shaped all social relationships among individuals and groups"[2], leading to the new society structure of modern European, and enlightening the self-perception and self-cultivation of a true European citizen. More importantly, "the hope only for change"[2], filled with resilience and courage ,on the verge of collapse, became the foundation of the soul of European civilization.

3. Results

Franklin D. Roosevelt, couldn't control his legs, but the man with courage and determination, was able to lead a nation over 120 million people through the turbulent times. At the end of 1920s, the US was struck by a series of economic disasters. The nation-wide bankrupt and unemployment, involved every region and every aspect was a heavy blow which almost ruined the country's wealth, and destroyed people trust in U.S. .With his belief , "this great nation will endure as it has endured ,will revive and will prosper"[3], Roosevelt won the President official title in the tough time. He believed that the government could get better and provide solutions to make it happen. He tried everything to overcome the difficulties, one of the most unconventional things he tried was "New Deal." In his first 100-days official time, he ensured new legislation to solve the most immediate crisis-the massive unemployment to help people find jobs and support their families. It wasn't easy, the New Deal reforms has attracted fiercely opposition ranging from conservative to radical. But FDR's conviction to America dream support him to look forward. Gradually the New Deal came to be understood as less than asset of policies than an ethic a belief that individual dreams were attainable so long as America worked together. By making American mind more inclusive, and giving the economic more

diverse, Roosevelt added new meaning to the American Dream. A president ,confined to a wheelchair ,uplifted America to a new level both in wealth and spirit.

4. Discussion

Benin is a country that one needs to look closely at the map to find. Over the past few decades, the country has undergone significant political reforms, a brand new modern democratic country emerged on the colony [4]. The political landscape of Benin is a testament to the resilience of its people, who have continually strive for better government and social constitution. Despite living in the enclosed tropical rainforest, the people of Benin are devoted to embrace new ideas and brave enough to carve out their own destiny. The journey of towards a brighter future is still with by numerous challenges. The people of Benin have shown remarkable adaptability in the face of adversity. Their commitment to education for all that "almost all Beninese boys and girls" [5] can access school reflects a collective vision for a prosperous and inclusive society. Moreover, Benin's cultural heritage, with its rich traditions and vibrant arts, plays a crucial role in uniting its people and fostering a sense of national pride.

5. Conclusion

The unknown and known heroic historic figures, who tried and succeed to survive their lives and nation, and their impacts and reshape on history tell us the strength to break out of the past and boldness to move forward, is the ultimate dynamic of civilization. Historians, the recorder of history, write the history through the accumulated layers of human experience. Survivors, the builders of history in realities, created the history via the instinct to alive in constantly changing realities. Who is the fixer The laws of the movement of history? Historian grant this power to ultimate one, church historian name the one GOD, Asian historian gave the title Dao/Karma to it, and in the Marxism the mechanism depends on the redistribution of production. In the minds of creator of history, the history has one omnipresent order that only the survivors in this world can seize and build up the history, because their genuine experiences of the randomly spontaneous movement of history. Galileo used the iron balls falling experiment demonstrated the failure of Greek philosophers 'belief that there must be a governing laws for everything, including history. Through Galileo's experiment, we learned that the all the laws need to be validated in the real world.

The definition of civilization includes the resolutions of humans to survive in any kind of adverse environment, thus, we can claim that the civilization in crisis is a false premise. "the resolutions of humans" are widespread with all cultures and regions, but only few man realize the cores innate are the bravery character. Obviously, historians, the transmitters of human experience, do not belong to this small group who are concerned with the cultivation bravery character of human. Human is vulnerable, the purpose and end of human evolution is the survival. The catastrophic Little Ice Age, climate change, subsequent pandemics, and the incompetent and instabilities of political institution, has pushed human life and civilization to the brink of extinction. When disasters come to people, human nature divide them into two groups, one is to turn back to the challenge with excuses and illusions, and other is to confront it with brave.

Catastrophes takes on numerous shapes, the calamities comes from the natures, the economic collapses and the breakdown of beliefs inside the society. Throughout the history, there always been figures like the no name individual in 17 century European, or fame name like Rossevelt confronted with the critical challenges. These people are creator of history, and at the same time, the firmly guardians of civilization.

The thousands-yeas history, and the hundreds of recorded history reveal that there history is not governed by certain laws, but by the creators. History is by the people, for the people, of the people

who cultivate and preserve the character of bravery. In other words, everyone can seize the history because all individual owns the natural rights to acquire the quality and capability of history creator.

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