

## Compare & Contrast Essay Example

### Asian and American Culture

Every life-factor makes us unique in the whole world. Cultural factors include a set of material and spiritual values created by the humankind throughout its history (McDaniel 60). In this paper, we will discuss the difference between the culture of Asia and that of America, as well as the notions that unite and distinguish them.

Let us start from the general characteristics of Asia and America. Asia is the biggest part of the world that forms the continent of Eurasia and Europe. The continental Asia is located mainly in the east (the exception is the Chukchi Peninsula) and northern hemispheres. With Africa, Asia is connected by an Isthmus of Suez; from North America it is separated by the narrow Bering Strait. Countries in Asia to date, fully or partly, included 54 states, four of them (Abkhazia, Republic of China, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, South Ossetia) are recognized only partially.

America is a part of the world that unites two continents: North America and South America, as well as the nearby islands (including Greenland). This part of the world is also called the New World.

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Asian culture is significantly different from the American. First of all, the difference is visible in the Asian variety. If under American culture we understand the western Christian culture, the fruit of modern civilization, then the culture of Asia is a set of various cultures and subcultures that exist only in this part of the world. Historically, Asia was formed from a few of the great centers of crops, primarily associated with religious beliefs. These centers

geographically are: 1) Middle East (the center of origin of modern Islamic culture. Islamic world today covers almost all of Western and Central Asia); 2) Eastern Asia is the cultural center for many millennia (Confucian East Asia is China, which has significantly affected countries such as Japan, Korea, and Vietnam); 3) South Asia (India), with its Hindu culture; 4) South-East Asia (Thailand, Laos, Burma, and Cambodia) is dominated by the Buddhist worldview. Also distinguish Malay-Islamic subculture in South East Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines), and the Indo-Islamic in South Asia (Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives), where local traditions are closely mingled with Islam.

Historians thought that Asia is the cradle of the modern world religions. This is where (in what is now Israel and Palestine) Christianity arose, which later spread throughout Europe, and from there got to other continents as well. Another great world religion, Islam, also arose in Asia. Later, this religion has spread across North Africa and to some parts of Europe (Irapta 63). At the same time, Asia is the birthplace of Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shintoism, and other religions. Today, the numbers of Muslims in the world, according to the various estimates are between 1 and 1.8 billion people. According to these indicators, Islam is in the second place after Christianity.

As in medieval European, in America there are about 260 Christian denominations, religious sects, and cults. The most common are Protestant churches - about 50% of believers (Baptists, Pentecostals, Methodism, Anglicanism, Lutheranism, and Presbyterianism) and then Catholics (about 40% of the population) (Steinfels 29).

The difference between America and Asia in religious aspect lies in peoples attitudes to religion. Most of the Asian Christians live outside of Asia, because at the moment the most popular religion in this part of the world is Islam. Therefore, Christianity has no opportunities for growth and development, so people tried to find a place, where they could live in normal

Christian conditions. Many of them moved to Europe, but the biggest part is finding themselves in America, because exactly this country could help to find shelter to such refugees. In general, this does not pose any conflicts on a religious basis, but this creates a conflict at the level of the demographic situation. Personally, I had no problems with differences in the religious views. While I understand that many Muslims, who come to the United States, are substantially different from that culture, which is popular in America. These people are much more conservative than the modern American Christians with their modern views on life. Therefore, due to that factor, some conflicts between those cultures can arise.

If we talk about the culture developed in America and Asia, it is certain that they are different. Most parts of Asia, which is still more religious and conservative in all aspects of cultural life, still honor national creativity (music, painting, and literature). In these views, it is dominated with the cultural development of Latin America. Printed books, porcelain, silk, mirrors, and umbrellas are just a small percentage of those objects of our everyday life, which were invented by the Chinese.

At the same time, the USA is more open to the new beginnings and has no such ancient traditions as Asia. It is necessary to pay attention to music and development of the modern art. Weekly magazine Billboard continually broadcasts all the hottest trends in the world of music. Millions of artists from around the world strive to open their gallery in the United States. After all, this is where fashion is born, and the fact that we all now call the mainstream also takes its roots from there.

Speaking as well about the main advantages of the United States, it is enough to recall the Hollywood industry. Daily shooting of movies in the various genres and styles has been continuing to rule the world for many years. There is no one single part of the world, which is producing such a large number of media projects like America. The film industry of America

controls people around the world, imposing stereotypes and methods of behavior through the screens.

Speaking about the development of technology in these different parts of the world, it should be noted that to a certain time, it had the same results. However, as technology development is accelerating, this situation is also changing its momentum. Nowadays even the smallest child via a smart phone and the internet can get more knowledge than the President of Russia or the United States 15 years ago. Which of these countries is leading in this area? This question is difficult to answer, because both parts of the world are very well developed in this area. America, after World War II, has become one of the superpowers and started the technological process (the apogee of technological process was the launch of shuttle Apollo 11 on the Moon). At the same time, Asia, along with the industrial genius, such as Japan, was able to become one of the leading countries in the field of scientific research, such as high technology, biomedicine, and robotics.

Some scientists believe that modern China in economic terms seemed to be more successful than the United States. Today, China is the largest foreign holder of the U.S. debt at \$ 1.3 trillion. China actually pays for a significant part of the American deficit in budget, helps to protect against fluctuations in the stock market, and maintains a low interest rates. Reserves of the U.S. dollars in foreign exchange reserves of China exceed \$ 2 trillion. Despite the growth of trade between the two countries, significant differences between them remained. The United States expressed concern about certain aspects of trade policy in China. American analysts have noted that the appreciation of the Yuan against the dollar by 20% would contribute to the reduction of the U.S. foreign trade deficit in the amount of 50 to 125 billion dollars. Over 80% of the U.S. companies that operate in China reported about double-digit revenue growth in 2011. This, in turn, means that people are confused in search of work.

China over time becomes more profitable place to work than the USA. Global processes, where China plays increasingly greater role, influence the formation of a New World order.

Therefore, the United States is composing a script that will combine economic “pragmatic cooperation” and will have the ability to block the growth of China’s role on the global arena. The United States seeks to create a unipolar world (where America will occupy the main place), and China, in turn, seeks a multipolar world (where the countries will be able to realize not only themselves, but also cooperate with others). Further development of partnership relations between the United States and China could lead to expansion of their cooperation in trade and investment, free trade zone, and joint action in response to common global threats and challenges. However, there could be another option, where China can become for the United States a new Soviet Union, which could lead to a new Cold War between those countries.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the cultural development of Asia and America is indeed different, as well as the people, who lived in those continents. Of course, because of that, there are many challenges in communication between those nationalities. Primarily differences and conflicts are in the religious aspects of life, because one’s outlook and actions are changing from the spiritual development of the person. Earlier I thought that Asians are the people, who are more serious about their faith, and are much more enriched people than Americans. Therefore, being in America, I feel this dominant cultural aspect very close. These values are “showing up” in everyday life, especially during the conversations between the young people. However, with time I see that this is an international problem. Now I can say that the problem is not just in America, but in Asia as well. With the popularization of a new culture with the new canons of beauty and behavior that became mainstream, young people are getting out of controlled normal behavior. To overcome such a different level of

culture, people probably need to change the system of training of the young people in order to help them to enrich their spiritual life.

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