

Cultural As The Cause of War As Well As Oil And Gas

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War or armed conflict has existed and occurred since thousands years ago, although the situation and degree are different from armed conflict today. War can be defined as a conflict carried on by military force between different states, nations or groups. It is caused by many reasons. Every war has consequences and the biggest is the loss of civilian's life, as well as the destruction of civilization.

This essay will examine two different articles, the cause of war based on the book of Samuel Huntington (1993) "Clash of Civilization " and an article "The New Geography of Conflict" by Michael T Klare (2001). Samuel Huntington prioritizes the culture while Michael T Klare blames oil and gas and other natural resources as part of potential factors that lead to conflict. Both articles debate the same issues regarding the cause of war and the implication after all. Huntington focuses on the Post-Cold War which is a period of history that follows the end of the Cold War, while Klare concerns the period of time during the Cold War.

In his book, published in 1993, Samuel Huntington argues that ideological differences can lead to war. As happened during the Cold War, global politics became bipolar and the world was split into two parts: democratic societies led by the United State and poorer communist societies led by the Soviet Union. This is similar to what Klare (2001) stated in his article that during the Cold War ideological differences made the world divided into bipolar. It can be seen that both authors agree that ideological differences can lead to war.

Another point of similarity is mentioned by Huntington (1993) in addition to Kissinger's six major powers, there are Islamic or Moslem states that have potential oil resources to influence in world circumstances, besides having a big population and strategic location too. These sentences however show a slightly agreed comment to Klare's (2001) statement regarding oil and gas as the cause of war, so does with future global affairs.

Furthermore, Huntington (1993) explains that a war is caused by culture and cultural identities which are part of civilization identities to unity, fragmentation and conflict in the Post- Cold War world. At the same time, people are divided not by religion, political view, ideological or economic but cultural. In the Post-Cold War world, in Huntington's view, culture plays an important role to form cultural groups, such as tribes, ethnic groups and religious communities and at the largest level is civilization. Even at the end of the book, he says that clashes of civilizations are the most dangerous threat to world peace.

In contrast, Klare (2001) points out, global resources such as oil and gas have become the prior cause of conflict over local, national and international. Whereas the local conflict potentially happens over control of some export materials like timber and diamond. Unlike Huntington argues in his article that culture plays a role in cultural groups, Klare says during the Cold War resource materials have been ruled by the two supreme powers, a powerful state rather than a group, the United State and Soviet rivalry at that time. Furthermore, in the perspective of politics, Huntington states, it is highly required to be in the same culture rather than the same political party or ideology if we want to gain power or to reach goals. Thus, culture becomes the main reason why people are involved in politics compared to interest. On the other hand, Klare argues that political and economic disruption that is indirectly connected to resources issues, nevertheless still grant to risk the supplies. In this point, Huntington claims to avoid conflict as well as war, politics is not important rather than culture, whereas Klare is in the opposite way of thinking.

Overall, it may be said, in spite of both articles debating the cause of war, Huntington (1993) assumes conflict over culture and cultural identities such as religion will affect and dominate future global politics. While Klare (2001) strongly states the relation of war with global resources issues as well as water, timber, diamond and other local export commodities.

Even though both articles contribute their own strong point on defending their argument based on scientific proof, we can not deny that the war and armed conflict

throughout the world is getting more aggressive due to global resources such as oil, natural gas, also because of other natural resources such as water, timber and various mineral, compared to culture or religion. Invasions by the US and its allies into countries such as Iraq and Syria in recent years have clearly proved this theory.

References

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