

Incident of Humiliation: Globalization and Humiliation

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Bosnia-Herzegovina is a place that has been at the center of cooperation and conflict, and Mostar (mostar; most=bridge) epitomizes Bosnia- Herzegovina. The stari-most bridge was built in 1566 to symbolize unity, as well as enhance connections between the east and the west. In July 2004, Mostar is divided in two parts by the River Neretva: The east is the Muslim side with mosques and the respective minarets. The west side is catholic where a high concrete steeple dominated the town. My days spent there were with a Bosnian and his Dutch girlfriend. My experiences and knowledge are based upon the opinions of my travel companions and my own independent research.

Humiliation and the Experience (Lindner-Peace)

Historically speaking the land in current Bosnia- Herzegovina was under Ottoman control for the longest, until the disruption and chaos of two world wars. This chaos resulted in many nationalistic and other revolutions in the first half of the twenty-first century. After the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, three groups prevailed: Croats, Bosnians, and Serbians. Additionally, people were grouped by various racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, and national groups. In Mostar, Muslim and Christian group names were used to describe the horrific fighting between people on opposite sides of the river. The international media had a profound impact on the naming of the groups and sub-groups. This pressure and power shift led to escalation and humiliation which led to perpetual retaliation. Each group, over and over again became victim to the conflict and the humiliating attacks. The fighting and aggressiveness, brought upon by the continual humiliation escalated into a global human rights catastrophe.

Shame and Humiliation (Jordan)

When conducting this type of research it is important to understand who you are asking, because each has a different perspective. This is because the humiliation is so fresh that it is difficult to revisit. There has been a great deal of shame and humiliation between family's and friend's who were divided by this war. Reaching the relational perspective will be a difficult and long experience because of this.

Human Rights, Humiliation, Globalization and Egalization

There were numerous human right violations mainly with race gender and ethnicity. This was highlighted because at that time human rights was becoming more important in Eastern Europe. Each felt entitled to be proud to be there and the violence that came brought upon terrible feelings of resentment. This took place during globalization and movement toward egalization. Each group, as they were named, became conscious of their honor and equal dignity. During this transition people became a component in the politics of recognition and the many elements of power for each designated group.

Humiliation at the Group Level, Personal Level and International Level

For every person involved in this conflict their roles at the group, personal and international levels frequently shifted. At the personal level people tended to relate more with religion, and race or ethnicity rather than at the group level where they preferred to be identified by nationality. At the international level it became even more blurry due to the media and other institutions declaring people a part of one group or another. This naming and designated of people and groups just escalated the issue.

Personal Experiences and Views on the Relevance of Reading Material

My personal views on these experiences are quite contrasting. The United Nations is involved in peace-keeping; the people are exhausted of war and deem it to be simply wasteful. However, it is the groups (more the meaning of these groups) which continue to fire the mistrust, which becomes a reason for continued humiliation. The globalization and egalization movements both can potentially continue the violence as well as create peace and harmony. As for the people, I believe they would like peace, but a peace brought upon internally, not forced upon from the outside, ultimately it is a very fragile situation which can change momentum quickly and destroy past progress.