Cultural Exceptions And Gender Roles Of Women

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The history of many countries is characterized by racial and ethnic uniformity rather than diversity. Most of the national boundaries depicted religious, ethnic and linguistic homogeneity. Variety was at first considered a liability until the 20th century when the perception changed to strength.

Ethnic Homogeneity and the Language of Purity

Societies and nations that were ethnically homogenous, such as modern Japan or ancient Germanic communities, have an impression that they were inherently more secure and stable than the alternatives, such as imperial Rome and contemporary America. Most societies came up with terms intended to highlight their racial purities. In some instances, “Raza” in Spanish, “Volk” in German and “Razza” in Italian are typically used to include ethnic essence rather than taking the role of shared language, residence or culture.

Naming the Cultural Other

Many ethnic groups and cultures depicted their suspicions of diversity through the use of pejorative nouns for the “other.” In ancient Hebrew, the term “goyim” was used to refer to all the non-Jewish states and people. Armenia used the term “Odar” to denote the rest of the world, which was not unethical to Armenia. Japanese use the word “Gaijin” to refer to people who, by ethnicity, nationality, and race, cannot be fully accepted as Japanese. Any foreigner or non-native Spanish speaker would be called “Gringo” in the 18th century in Castilian Spain (SCHOEMAKER 97-102).

National Borders and Racial Homogeneity

In the 20th century, the Balkan nations became the powder kegs in the world wars as various groups desired to change and mark their territorial borders reflecting different ethnicities. The objectives of Nazi Germany were to link all the German “Volk” into one broad linguistically and racially harmonious and homogenous “Reich” even if it would call for the destruction of the national borders of Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Poland. It is outlined in the Mexican constitution that the federal immigration laws and policies should not interfere with or endanger Mexico’s ethnic structure

(SCHOEMAKER 97-102).

The Historical Instability of Multiethnic Empires

Nations, both ancient and modern, that have made attempts to connect and unite various diverse tribes have achieved little success, performing poorly. The Italian-Roman Republic existed for almost 500 years. In contrast, the multiracial Roman Territory that ensured all the diverse cultures were treated equally after the Edict of Caracalla only lived for slightly more than two centuries, marked by violence and conflicts. Deadly force and violence were used to keep the bickering cultural factions in shape and from killing one another, as was the case with most of the sizeable ethnically broad empires such as the Ottomans, the Austro-Hungarians, and the Soviets. Modern nations such as the multi-tribal and multicultural Iraq, Rwanda, and Lebanon have consequently proved to be a failure. Europe has been making attempts to emulate the multiracial but unified ethics of the United States. However, the European Union may break itself by trying to assimilate and unite the millions of desperate migrants who are reluctant and hesitant to absorb fully (SCHOEMAKER 97-102).

The American Melting Pot

America is history's exception. It started as a nation founded by European migrants. Similar to homogenous citizens of most other countries, they were seemingly on a trajectory in the assimilation of racial sameness as the affirmation of citizenship. However, the ultimate logic of the United States' unique Constitution was varying and different. Therefore, America steadily evolved and changed to fit the definition of Americans according to their shared values and ethics rather than their superficial appearance. Eventually, every person was permitted to become an American so long as they agreed to shed off their earlier identities and embrace the newly developed American persona. The "melting pot" ethos of e Pluribus Unum has always been cherished and adopted in the United States as it mainly involves the blending of a variety of people and cultures into a single entity through integration, assimilation, and intermarriages (SCHOEMAKER 97-102).

Assimilation, Immigration, and the Rise of Multiculturalism

America thrived as a result of specific approaches and methods coupled with controlled and measured immigration. The diverse ethnic communities enriched and significantly impacted America with a variety of food, art, music, and literature while at the same time accepting an ordinary and necessary culture and ethics of America's values, attributes, and institutions. Challenges arose only after immigration was often illegalized, in mass, without placing any emphasis on assimilation. At times, towards the end of the 20th century, the United States primarily gave up and disregarded multiracialism under one primary ethnicity but instead opted for multiculturalism. Multiculturalism

allowed each specific group or community to retain and observe their tribal norms, and chauvinism always viewed itself as separate from the whole entity.

Hyphenated Identity and Institutional Classification

There was a sudden popularity in the hyphenated names and words. Americans under constant crackdown by the government often complicate their ethnic lineage and structure. Racial quotas and pedigrees were at the time used in entry into jobs and college admissions. The present discrimination was permitted by the courts as compensation for the prior perceptions. Difference and diversity were featured and taught in the schools' syllabus in preference to unity and sameness. Langston Hughes and Edgar Allan Poe were categorized and grouped as "black" or "white male" rather than "American" authors (SCHOEMAKER 97-102).

Multiracial Unity Versus State Multiculturalism

The current objection against homogenizing the various divergent races can be linked to the history of partiality and injustice. Even when it was not perfect, America's unrealizable high ideals led to it being judged as subordinate. Nevertheless, history will be cruel to those who imagine America having different tribes and racial groups that are healthily competitive. The characteristics of the history of state multiculturalism are disagreement, breakdown, brutality, and disarray. What has made America the most high-powered country in the world is its ability to remain multiracial instead of multicultural. We must learn to accept that heterogeneity is an accessory, but the union is a strength.

Separate Spheres and the Romantic Era

The late eighteenth century witnessed the start of changes in the cultural set-up. This extended to the early nineteenth century. The revolution resulted in the formation of 'separate spheres.' It was as a result of various factors. One of them is the growth of the inspiration of the evangelical belief. It resulted in a rise of moral value in areas of female home life, religiosity and virtues. At this time, a man's life entailed working and was very public. On the other hand, women were required to remain at home. There was a high expectation for a woman's behaviour. This came as a result of a change in the concepts of the female anatomy.

Women as Domestic and Reproductive Subjects

Previously, women were seen as just objects. They were also considered the weaker and less critical gender, which was supposed to be ruled by the males. Their role was just to reproduce. Personality traits and their character gave them this position since they were considered harmful. They could, therefore, not make it well no matter their efforts to improve their lives since they were not allowed to

gain in such ways as business and education. Men always looked for a way to push them down and oppress them. However, with the revolution, a difference was created in the way they were being trodden. The belief that they were the most lustful was also fading away. They were, therefore, expected to be angels at home. The ones who failed to control their lust were criticized and considered prostitutes (Galligan, 2008).

Marriage, Virginity, and Male Authority

The roles of men and women during this period were different in terms of social and legal aspects. The criterion used to define the functions was different in both characters. This time was dubbed the 'Romantic Era.' There was, however, not much of an achievement by the revolutionists who advocated for absolute gender equality to eliminate the supremacy of males. The model of the Christian family confined all classes of women to the home surroundings. The rights and roles of either member of a married couple were very different from those of their partner despite them being considered as one. Any woman who lost her virginity before matrimony was considered a castaway (MASON, 1988).

Legal and Economic Subordination

Women were, therefore, considered lesser beings as compared to men. A case example of this is that female authors had to do their work under the name of a man so that they would not be disapproved of by their gender. The role of men during this time was to support their families financially. They also had the right to vote, but women were not allowed to do so. Women were also expected to be very obedient to their spouses. If the lady got any income, it was channelled to the man since it was his property henceforth. This applied to any other things brought in by the lady during the marriage. There was an aspect in which women were objectified. This was demonstrated by the activity in which the woman would give the man a certain amount of money as a way of showing gratitude for being taken. The rights of custody of children were solely for men.

Industrialization and Women's Paid Labor

The Industrial Revolution came in as a significant relief to women. They were incorporated into the labour force from their former activities in the home area. This went a long way in the revolution for gender equality. This was achieved through recognition of the work done by women. They also started getting income from their work. This further led to the campaign for equal pay through collective bargaining. The 'Romantic Era' saw a significant change in the roles, especially those of women. They were able to get out of their homes, where they were previously performing duties, into industrial activities. This was a stepping stone for them to start being treasured and appreciated for the work they did. The revolution in culture amongst the Europeans came at about this time. It was

caused by the rise in consumerism as well as the increase in the power of the middle class. This brought about economic changes (Galligan, 2008). These changes presented gaps that the women would fill to indulge in economic activities more directly. It was, however, 'not right' for a woman to know too much when it came to business matters.

Education and the Limits of Female Advancement

The change in women's lifestyles led to them getting an education. They, therefore, gained reading and writing skills. This helped them in the development of education-related activities such as becoming writers and authors. Many women rose in such fields during this period. The education of women was, however, considered to be the one that taught them about domestic roles and social activities. Further training was not supported since its purpose was just to give the woman a better womanhood. Some were lucky enough to attain a level of education similar to that of men. Their rights, however, were still being passed on to their husbands upon marriage, although some alterations were made to this over time.

Activism for Education and Marriage Reform

The educated women started advocating for equal access to education for both genders. There was also a debate on the marriage laws since they heavily favoured men. This, however, did not favour the women as much as expected. Over time, women have fought for equality and sometimes for supreme power higher than men's. This happens all over the world. Some prominent women have led others in fighting for justice since the 18th Century. They, however, met a lot of challenges, including execution (Bland, 1979). Madame Roland is an excellent example in this case. She was executed after being charged with treason. She had been advocating for the rights of her fellow women in France. Women have continued speaking out against the traditional roles and gender inequality in justice systems. They have been doing so through actively participating in writing and being activists.

Modern Work, Governance, and Continuing Inequality

The late 20th Century experienced a continuation of the revolution. There has been a change in the way people perceive roles according to gender. There has been a notable change in the 21st Century since then. Many women have taken up different professional careers and have gained an education. Many people now feel that the household income should be raised by both the man and the woman. There is, therefore, a need for the woman to work. There has been a massive evolution of the roles and rights of women as compared to the eighteenth and twentieth centuries. This has taken time to cultivate, and the struggle continues since there is still a gap between men and women up to date. Statistics have revealed that the participation of women in governance acts as a predictor of peace. In

nations and countries where women are empowered across a variety of spheres, the states have less likelihood of going to war or conflicting with their neighbours.

Women's Expanding Military Service

Women have an extensive history in the military, although they are not always in uniform. For instance, in 1799, the first female soldier received her early pension due to her services during the Civil War. The first women who ever enlisted in the military joined the United States Marine Corps reserves, and after that, women were seen taking up combat roles for the first time. Women continued to take up combat roles without any fear, and as years went by, they began taking up leadership positions like Warrant Officer. In 1967, a group of women was ordered to a combat zone in Vietnam for the first time (Bland, 1979).

Opening All Military Roles to Women

Over the years, women played a large part in the success of the armed forces, and this resulted in the Defense Department lifting all gender-based rules on military services beginning in 2016. This move opened not only job opportunities for women in the military but also duty positions and promotion opportunities, and schools were ready to accept women. Wilson argues that this move only meant that all women currently in the service and all recruits were going to be allowed to work in any military job of their preference as long as they met the required gender-neutral standards and any other requirements (Bland, 1979).

Gender-Neutral Opportunity and Military Readiness

In summary, our modern world has opened jobs to women regardless of what people say or how they view this move. Time is the only thing that will tell if women are fit to work in various fields, such as combat, which has been dominated by their male counterparts. Despite the fact that women are good combat soldiers, it doesn't necessarily mean that it is necessary or practical. However, what matters most is that the mission is successfully conducted with or without women in the force. As Eden (2013) says, accepting women in the armed forces is based on ideology and not the actual necessity for women in the military.

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