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**Dr. Vishal Kr Sharma**  
Head, Department of History  
Hindu College, Sonapat,  
Haryana, India

## Peace and Conflict: A brief Study

**Dr. Vishal Kr Sharma**

### Abstract

Relationship between culture, conflict and peace share thoughts on the role of cultural initiatives in building peace, and some of the good practices. Suggestions for a possible EU-Japan cooperation.

**Keywords:** Peace and Conflict, Relationship, culture

### Introduction

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, peace is more than no war. Johan Gaultung's definition: negative peace (no violence or war) + structural peace + positive peace.

### My definition

Well-being of people free from violence.

### What is Culture?

Peace, well-being	Identity	Way of Thinking	Way of Life	Religion	Cinema
Sport	Art	Literature	Dance	Music	Theatre
Educational (+vocational)	Confidence building	Integration,	Reconciliation		

### Does Culture Trigger Conflict?

The clash of Civilizations' by Samuel Huntington. Post -9/11 debate: cultural differences trigger conflict. Cultural differences don't cause conflict, but with political/economic motives may do so culture for conflict; Nazis used music to induce war, Music is used in Africa and Asia to prepare children for fighting.

Culture alone does not cause conflict. Cultural differences combined with political/economic motives can cause and escalate conflict. On the other hand, culture can be useful for peace-building.

### Research Hypothesis

Culture alone cannot prevent, end or resolve conflict. Political, security, economic means are necessary for peace, but not sufficient to ensure lasting peace- thus many recurring conflicts. When culture is included, it can help prevent and solve conflicts, reconstruct post-conflict societies for sustainable peace, and reduce the number of recurring wars.

### Good Practices

During Confrontation, Peace Picture Books – The ICLC The International Centre for Literacy and Culture (funded by the Japan Foundation and supported by UNICEF) artists and child education experts from India, Pakistan, Nepal and Japan to Katmandu to create picture books. Seven books were jointly produced in Urdu, Hindi and other languages. The stories relate the benefits of ceasing to fight and working on a common goal. The collaboration helped promote mutual understanding. Good Practices: During Conflicts Art for Peace – Peace Winds Japan

**Correspondence**  
**Dr. Vishal Kr Sharma**  
Head, Department of History  
Hindu College, Sonapat,  
Haryana, India

**Objectives**

Support Kurdish artists, promote peace and exchange, boost understanding of peace by easing fear of the military border. Ten artists painted pictures expressing their ideas about peace on rock faces, created peace symbols in a plaza, and painted a former checkpoint, making it a symbol of peace. Checkpoint soldiers joined in the painting. Provided stimulation and networks; the area is now a people’s park. Artists and visitors sense an aura of peace. Good Practices: During Post Conflict Peace-keeping Manga Stickers & Water Tanks – JSDF When hostilities end, troops are sent to keep peace, help in reconstruction and distribute humanitarian aid. The troops are often feared, but culture can help heal local distrust. Japan Self-Defense Force troops, deployed to Iraq to distribute water, placed anime character Captain Tsubasa (Captain Masjid there) stickers on their water tanks. The children’s reduced fear had an impact on the community. Good Practices: During Post –Conflict Peace –keeping Drama Workshop in Aceh The JF drama workshop catered for 30 children with no contact with peers in other areas. The aim: care of traumatized Children. The program encouraged cooperation so the children could open their minds and begin to think of the future. The process of mutual understanding was born through activities: writing scripts, music, lyrics; making the sets. The groups gradually understood that ‘the enemy’ had also suffered and been victimized.

**Cultural Initiatives in Pace Building**

<p><b>PEACETIME</b>                  Objectives: Make individuals and communities able to resist adverse effects of conflict.                  Functions: Build confidence, capacity                  Activities: Cultural exchanges concerts, etc.</p>
<p><b>DURING CONFORMATION</b>                  Objective: Coexistence                  Functions: Confidence building to ease conformation; neutralize and resolve confrontation; neutralize and resolve conformation (encourage mutual understanding, build tolerance and trust); seek to integrate communities.                  Activity: Publish picture books, support libraries.</p>
<p><b>DURING CONFLICT</b>                  Objective: Cushion shock of conflict survivors                  Functions: Tackle feeling of loneliness, hopelessness; give concern of international community; give hope try to reduce stress of those experiencing conflict; show the world the inhumanity of conflict areas.                  Activity: Theatre, exhibits, firm making and other pursuits.</p>
<p><b>POST-CONFLICT PEACEKEEPING</b>                  Objective: Peaceful Coexistence                  Functions: use culture as catalyst for accepting aid teams; heal trauma; reintegrate into local community those isolated by conflict (ex-soldiers, gang members)                  Activity: Sport, cultural pursuits, animation, vocational training etc.</p>
<p><b>POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION</b>                  Objective: Encourage cooperation among conflict survivors                  Functions: Build trust; integrate conflict participants; have therapy for those affected by conflict; build confidence; support democratization; build hope; rebuild identities                  Activity: Multi-ethnic orchestras, art workshops, support resuming traditional handicrafts etc.</p>
<p><b>POST-CONFLICT PEACE CONSOLIDATION</b>                  Objective: Mutual empowerment                  Functions: Reconciliation among conflict parties, multi-cultural coexistence.                  Activity: Promote self-expression, cultural exchange, education aimed at ethnic reconciliation and consistence; network etc.</p>

**Good Practices**

During Post- Conflict Reconstruction A Multi-ethnic Orchestra Before the war, Pristina had an integrated orchestra of Serbs, Albanians, and Croats. Since the war, it comprises only Albanians. Mr. Toshio Yanagisawa, conductor of the Kosovo Philharmonic, formed the multi-ethnic Balkan Chamber Orchestra with musicians from conflict regions.

The Japan Foundation supports the project that aims to integrate ethnic groups from the former Yugoslavia. Good Practices: During Post –Conflict Reconstruction Traditional handicrafts (Japan Foundation) A team was sent to Istalif, a village in Afghanistan known for its ceramics, The kilns had been destroyed by the Taliban. Potters from Istalif were invited to Japan for training. As they worked at their wheels, the Afghan potters recalled the Istalif ceramic tradition and regained confidence. After returning home, they again made pottery and created new designs. They reopened shops with a view to earning an income. A network developed between the Japanese and Afghan Potters, as well as potters who visit Japan from other counties.

Good Practices: During Post – Conflict Reconstruction Roadside Theater (Save the Children Japan) Roadside theatre in Bamiyan, Afghanistan, highlighted the importance of education.

**Goal**

Increase the number of children going to school. Youths put together their own groups write and perform their own scenarios. Performances are staged at schools and open village areas. The potpies are related to the daily lives of the people: appeals for school attendance, the importance of reading and writing.

Good Practices: During Post –Conflict Consolidation of Peace Integrated Education through IT (JICA) JICA is promoting IT education to help consolidate peace and ethnic reconciliation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It is helping integrate the separate Muslim, Serb and Croatian education by writing textbooks, installing computers.IT education has no points of historical ethnic contention and is popular with youths. The extracurricular course makes it available to many students. Three ethnic/religious groups have been set up; the textbook is used throughout Bosnia at the request of the local government.

**Nexus between Peace and Culture**

Nexus activities by international actors can be effective in peace-building if integrated with other measures.

The activities enable: people in conflict areas to build new identities that tolerate, respect other cultures; people to experience multicultural coexistence, different cultural groups to work together and to create a future together.

Functions of culture for peace: Culture can be a catalyst and facilitator for social capital formation. (Robert Putnam, Making Democracy Work, 1993)

Culture can transform violence into peace. Cultural factors are important for peace-building.

**Conclusion**

Peace-building/conflict resolution is an area promising for EU and Japan to collaborate. In addition to cooperation in SSR, economic development etc, there is a room on cultural initiatives, sharing good practices, theories and challenges. Possible EUNIC + Japan cooperation.

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