Anas Askar

SOCI 6900, Dr. Pearce

**Op-Ed 1: Importance of Cultural Relativism**

Nobody should force their opinions on foreign cultures without understanding their specific habits and objectively analyzing their ideas. Western politics should not physically interfere with other countries unless there is an obvious crisis. So how should they interfere? One way is through study and education of the foreign societies. Laura Sjoberg, in “Women and the genocidal rape of women,” studies different countries where women committed crimes against other women. Sjoberg found that the attitude of the general public was that of surprise. The stereotype that the foreign countries had is that all women are peaceful and not violent which means that it’s not really possible for women to harm other women (Sjoberg 2011:27). Without studying a society, there’s no way of understanding why they arrive at their conclusions. What Sjoberg found was a result of research and study. Now, if we were to act as police and go and arrest women who committed crimes against other women without knowing the cause then we have not helped the situation. The problem is not in the arrest, the problem is an arrest without a deep investigation into why these crimes are committed. The problem is not in the arrest, the problem is an arrest without a deep investigation into why these crimes are committed. Crimes can happen again because the root cause has not been addressed. Lucinda Peach in “Sin, Salvation, or Starvation” also studies prostitution in countries like Thailand and India. The involvement of countries like the United States has to do more with imposing restrictions on a specific people (Peach 2011:66). Peach says America’s involvement comes from conservative Christian ideas of sex and prostitution (2011:66). Prostitution is a sin in Christianity, and for that reason it should be a sin in the entire world. This kind of thought may seem to be for the greater good, but this is according to Christian standards. What if countries like Thailand and India do not believe in Christianity? Well that doesn’t matter because America can police other countries according to how they see fit. What gets lost is that this actually harms women who may not have other options or do not see prostitution as morally wrong. Even worse is that the wrong people are being charged with a crime because women are the ones who are fined or arrested while the pimps and brothel owners are left alone (Peach 2011:75). The question is why should western political police care? The answer is in what Peach found that people of foreign countries see western politics with animosity because of the west policing prostitution (2011:76). We keep hearing certain countries hate the west because of our freedom and values, while that is not really why foreign countries hate the west. It’s also hypocritical especially in western countries where names like Clinton, Edwards, Weiner, Petrous and others have had love affairs while they themselves are politicians. To conclude, not respecting other cultures without first investigating is like a doctor doing a surgery without checking on the patient. In the end, foreign countries will see the west as the world police. Even in America we don’t fully trust our own police. For that reason, what we do not really tolerate for our own selves, should not be forced on others.

**Works Cited**

Peach, Lucinda. 2011. “Sin, Salvation, or Starvation?” Pp. 66–82 in *Confronting Global Gender Justice*, edited by D. Bergoffen, P. Gilbert, T. Harvey, and C. McNeely. New York, NY: Routledge.

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