

Chapter 9

Post-positivism in International Relations

For post-structuralists, language and texts are instruments of power. Therefore, the analysis of speech-acts and discourses is of primary importance in IR. Against this background, collect information about the Muhammad cartoon crisis in 2005. The crisis began when a Danish newspaper published twelve cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. In the text accompanying the cartoons it was emphasized that the publication of the drawings represented an effort in the liberal struggle for freedom of expression. But protests from the Muslim world also prompted an identity crisis in Denmark, as reported in the New York Times:

Now, after rioting that has raged for weeks across the Muslim world after a Danish newspaper's publication of caricatures of the prophet Muhammad, Denmark has sunk even more deeply into an identity crisis. A country that once prided itself of having Europe's most open immigration policies and a generous welfare state is grappling with how to preserve its vaunted liberalism while remaining Danish. (Bilefsky, NY Times, February 12, 2006)

Assignments

Think about ways in which liberal, Danish identities on the one hand and Muslim world identities on the other hand were challenged, strengthened, and/or weakened in context of the crisis and speculate about the consequences for this for international relations. Was this a "clash of civilizations" as described by Samuel Huntington?

References

The New York Times is a good place to begin the collection of information, see for example:

http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/subjects/d/danish_cartoon_controversy/index.html.

There is also a helpful article by Lene Hansen on the subject: 'Securitization and the Muhammad cartoon crisis', *Security Dialogue*, 42/4-5: 357-69.

Feminism and International Relations

In the following video, Professor Kimberley Hutchings from the London School of Economics gives an introduction to feminism in international relations. Watch the video and discuss the following points:

- What is the central issue for feminist scholars?
- How does feminism challenge realism? How does it relate to constructivism?

- Make a list of possible research questions from a feminist perspective.

Professor Kimberley Hutchings on feminism in IR

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajAWGztPUIU&list=UUXsH4hSV_kEdAOsupMMm4Qw