

# The Difference of Family Value Between China and America

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**Abstract:** Family value refers to an individual's view, attitude or belief in family affairs, and it also impacts the behavior of people to conduct family life and family related affairs. Everyone knows that the family value has impact on everyone like the blood in the vein or our DNA. That is to say, the value of the two countries with different systems depends to a great extent on their national family views. Through comparative study, it can establish a bridge between the two countries with different family value, so that the people of China and America can understand the social and family view of each other from the initial unfamiliarity to cognition, and from recognition to approbation, finally two countries will understand each other. Mutual understanding is also the most basic communicative ability. This article will study the difference between China and America from different aspects, and it will start with the value of the two countries in terms of culture, education, and marriage. While understanding and analyzing different cultural values, we can further contrast our own cultural values. In the thesis, i have expounded some details about the cultural communication between China and United States, and achieved the goal of promoting mutual understanding. Conclusion part of this paper is summarized and summed up personal views.

**Keywords:** Family View, Family Value, Initial Unfamiliarity, Mutual Understanding

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## 1. Introduction

Recently as China and America continue engaging in positive and open conversation on issues and policies that affect the citizens of both nations, including on topics such as environment and conservation. America and China both recognize that by encouraging students to study in each other's countries, promoting exchanges and understanding each other's countries. Two countries in the process of mutual understanding, the family value of two countries are very important factors and we can't ignore the family value in this process. This article will study the difference between China and America from different aspects, through the study of the different family values of the two countries, we can understand each other, which will help us to further understand the social and social relations of the two countries, and promote the understanding and communication between the two countries.

Family plays an important role in human society. Since people were born, they began to understand their culture and everything in the word through the family environment. Family value involves all the ideas of how you want to live

your family life, and they are often passed down from previous generations to generations, which can help define behavior in various situations, help you make good choices. Our thoughts, our actions, and even our languages, are taught by the guidance of family value. Chinese culture is the typical representative of Oriental civilization. As a "melting pot", American culture is a synthesis of various Western cultures. Therefore, the culture of China and the United States represents two very different cultural values. [1] Because of many differences between the two countries about the family value, there exit many aspects like culture, and communication. However, these differences do not make either family value better or worse than the other one. These make both cultures unique and worthy of study and respect.

## 2. A Sketch of Family Value Between China and America

With the growth of our pocket and urbanization, People

put emphasis on family value. China and America play an important role in the international community. Mutual understanding between two countries is the basis of mutual exchange and cooperation between China and America. The family value plays a decisive role in people's daily life, so it is necessary to understand different family views. Due to different backgrounds and environment, different country has formed their own family value. [2] So does China and America. China and America have some similarities which can promote mutual understanding among two countries.

Despite the big differences in family value between two countries, the people of both countries can absorb the good part and also broaden our horizon. Though we understand the differences in family value in two countries, we can't understand the family view of the other country from one aspect. The results are not authoritative. We should understand from different angles, these parts are also very necessary in our report. To understand the family views of the two countries from many angles can let us know better about the subject.

### **2.1. The Family Value of China**

With the rapid development of China's economy, people put more energy to the family building. Family as the basic unit of a society, is very much like a mirror, reflecting a society's cultural characteristics, moral beliefs, economic and political relations and other social problems. [3] China's traditional festival, television, radio, network and soon on, without exception, they are vigorously promoting our family value.

Family value of China is hope and sustenance, which not only has a strong affinity and cohesion, but also has a deep influence in China. In the social life, people regard the family construction as the most important life goal, and they form the family value with relative fixed connotation in the inheritance of generations. The core value embodies the essence of traditional family value obtaining general recognition in the society, and it becomes the basic criterion of the construction of family civilization.

### **2.2. The Family Value of America**

America family value is partly influenced by the traditional culture of Europe. Thus, comparatively speaking, Americans are more adventurous and innovative. There are less authoritarian relationship between parents and children, which means that they are equal most of the time. [4] There are several representative ideas in American family value. For example, individual independence, personal rights, equality and freedom. In America, the family value emphasize that individual beliefs are only way to save them. [5] Because of this, American people have shaken the patriarchal family in ideological consciousness, and have made the American families gas its own feature, which formed its particular family value. So the starting point of American family value is person centered value.

## **3. A Comparative Study on Family Value Between China and the America**

The family value of China typically represents oriental civilization. The American family view culture is the combination of different western cultures. Therefore, the culture of the two countries represents two different family values. Through a comparative study of differences from many sides between China and America, we can discover the situation.

### **3.1. Differences in Culture Value Between China and America**

The core of Chinese culture value is collectivism, in which the needs of individual interests are subservient to the group. In China, people often say, home is the smallest country, China is the biggest home. In the minds of Chinese people, the collective interest is more important. In Chinese culture, the family and the state have a commonality in the organizational structure, which is based on the kinship relationship. Kinship enables families to maintain a stable relationship that is impossible to achieve in any law or administrative enforcement. Kinship also affect one's situation in society, the access of children to education, property, they are largely influenced by their parent's social status. Children's moral values and values are derived from diplomacy, especially from their diplomacy with parents. Therefore, parents have a great influence on their children's thought. [6] The difference of family values lies fundamentally in the difference of cultural inheritance.

The core of American culture is individualism. In American cultural value, personal interests are the most important factor. The American public is fond of honor and individualistic heroism, and has a strong pursuit of success. In the minds of American people, the individual interest is always more important than the collective interest. [7] In America, the kinship relation in American society is not as important as his ability or skill. They understand that "a person's family background does not have a significance influence, and what make one person success are hard work and tenacity".

### **3.2. Difference in Marriage Value Between China and America**

Due to the different environment, history and culture, marriage is the foundation of family stability. Differences in family value are caused by differences in cultural value between China and America. In china, people attach great importance to the relationship between relatives and friends. Family values have a significant impact on marriage and family views under different cultural backgrounds. The cultural environment systems of China and the United States are different, so the concept of family and marriage, including the individual thoughts and behaviors of family members, are obviously different. [8] In the traditional Chinese family value, elder people can decide the marriages of their offspring. And in the traditional Chinese family concept the purpose of a man getting married is to continue the family line. It is his

responsibility and obligation. [9] When they get married, the husband and his wife work together in the direction and pursuit of the goal is the happiness of marriage. Besides, the divorce rate in China is much lower than in America, because in the Chinese mind, the family interest is the most important thing. Marriage is no longer a personal issue. It includes many factors, such as morality and responsibility. They do not consider much about personal gain or loss but the marriage and family issues.

In the American family view, the marriage is a private matter for two people. Neither parents nor others have the rights to intervene in their rights. They think marriage and morals are not connected. A person has the right to choose the person they love. If they find out this marriage was a mistake after they got married, they have the right to make another choice. When they find the marriage unhappy, they will end the marriage. In America, the couples will give each other space and mutual respect. Parents and others rarely participate in their lives. In contrast, American couples frequently communicate with each other.

### ***3.3. Difference in Educational Value Between China and America***

Education is the embodiment of culture. In China, family value emphasizes family interests. Family education is an important part of life education, which is directly related to the quality of talent cultivation. [10] In China, traditional ideas have a greater impact on people. Generally speaking, many parents put emphasis on their children's academic performance and devote more energy to their children's grades and examination. In recent years, parents have begun to recognize the importance of quality education, so that they began to recognize the importance of quality education, so that they began to pay more attention to the cultivation of children's skills. Parents prefer to put their children to all kinds of weekend class, cram school, summer school interest school etc.

In America, because of the America is the core of the cultural value of personal doctrine, so Americans care more about themselves. They actively pursue personal goals and find their own value. Generally, American parents would consciously cultivate their children's ability to choose their life and do what they want. The sense of competition throughout American society and in their life is an important part of American family value. Competition could promote innovation and development, people could hone their skills and enhance themselves through competition. American parents pay attention to cultivating children's social practice and social viability, in order to have good independent skills and social adaptability. [11]

## **4. The Reason for the Difference of Family Value Between China and American**

China's geographical location and environment determine

that China is a self-sufficient farming civilization. Early Chinese farming culture has a profound impact on the family value of China. Many ideas in farming culture still have great significance in people's life and agricultural production. [12] These ideas play a fundamental role in the process of Chinese family view. "Family" is the foundation of Chinese traditional culture. In Chinese family value, they think that as long as there is a family, family value will exist. The Chinese nation is a nation that attaches importance to family building. Family represents love and unity, the family is not only a safe place, a harbor, but also the root of a person just like the city you born, family raised you and you cannot choose what family you are born. Since ancient times, our ancestors began to build their own family value with many rules and taboos, and many families are proud of owning and inheriting good family value.

China has a long history, but America is a blend of western culture, and America history is relatively short, two countries of the family value can reflect the different core cultural value. Most part of the culture of America comes from Europe and it is an open minded culture. Americans encourage children more than protect them. Children are encouraged to have a spirit of adventure, to overcome shyness, and to compete with Others. [13] America's law and constitution make sure that American culture is protected and preserved and is not controlled or ruined. In America, every year to recruit a large number of foreign students and scholars, they bring a large number of different cultural backgrounds, that is why its culture is splendid and various. Early American culture is deeply affected by colonization, which has a profound impact on American family value. Early American culture indicates the zest of freedom and democracy which really affect the politics and trend. In American family value, they enhance the status of people and economy, and the status of parentage and succession is not the most important.

## **5. How to Treat the Difference of Family View Between China and America**

Although there are great differences between two countries, they do not have some levels or disadvantages in both of them. China has a long history that is among The Four Great Ancient Civilizations, which is magnificent. The history of America is relatively short, the early culture of the United States began to develop capitalism, the British and other Western countries, the impact of capitalist countries is an important factor in the development of the United States has little national traditions, but the United States makes both cultures unique and worthy of learning and respect. So it is essential that the people of China and the United States understand each other's family view, If people do not consider the cultural background of both parties, divorced from social norms, values and cultural orientation, it is easy to cause misunderstanding between both parties. Eliminate misunderstanding between the two countries, stabilize government diplomacy and greatly promote the process of government diplomacy. [14]

It may be an exciting and challenging experience to

understand a country that is different from one's own national family value, and you must understand the habits that result from different family value and try to adapt to them. People of different cultural backgrounds often do not understand each other or may have some stereotype and cooperation, which is mainly due to the difference between different cultures, among which the difference of family value of two countries in China and America is very important factor. Therefore, understanding the differences between Chinese and American family values can not only help us understand Chinese and American culture, but also explore the root causes of Chinese and American cultural differences from the perspective of social culture, so as to solve the barriers of cross-cultural communication and constantly promote and strengthen the cultural exchanges and integration between Chinese and American people. [15] Therefore if you know the truth and learn more, you will not only help us and the United States culture exchanges, but also help us and the world exchanges and cooperation, especially the Western countries exchanges and cooperation.

## 6. Conclusion

The family value of China and the United States represent two major cultural systems with different characteristics. Their origins and development paths are different. China is a traditional-oriented society, and the Confucian ideology has been dominant for thousands of years. Chinese people love peace and unity and against hate and violence, and focus on collective power in Chinese family value. In addition, China has a long history of more than 5000 years, therefore, China has rich experience and lessons in the process of development, which let the Chinese people attach importance to traditional culture. American family value is influenced by the religious culture of the Western countries and has a strong self-centered ideology in American people's value through personal struggle.

Every country in the world has its own splendid and abundant culture, including both physical and cultural science and technology, natural culture, and soon on. It is because of the exchange of many cultures that the world develops better for the family value of different nations. We should have a broad mind to accept all the different cultures. We have to learn other countries' advanced culture to develop them, but, in learning and understanding the rest of the world, to reject the backward value, in general is to abandon the bad on the one hand, to get a good side to enrich their own culture, we should actively promote the promotion of advanced civilization culture.

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