

CEF: Global Personality in a Contemporary World

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Short Summary**

The author claims that borders and barriers between cultures and people are on its way down due to the increasing natural tendency among people all over the world to reach out to one another. Communication and social interaction between people are always a supreme goal. The author examines the rate of contradictions within cultures and the impact of these contradictions on individuals and groups. He introduced the Cognitive-Emotive Fission (CEF) to name the human experience and the ramifications of the relative absence of harmony and integration in human life. The author proposed a new Personality Paradigm which emerged out of the CEF experience. The paradigm refers to seven personality types, the author claims are walking among us today and they are as follows: Nationalist, Retreatist, Nomadic, Alienated, Rebellious, Global and Zero personality.

The author claims that a change in our belief systems might be the most significant factor which affects and drives our Attitudes, Prejudices and thus our behaviors and decisions toward one another.

Based on Sociological and Psychological background, the author sees CEF analysis contributes to explain the world conflicts today. He sees that we are hurting one another due to our ill minds and dysfunctional belief systems which our cultures sometimes instill in us. Holy religions, especially Judaism, Christianity and Islam hold the same principles and adhere to the same values until Man messed it up by his own thoughts and ill perspectives. Palestine is known as a Holy place for these monotheistic religions and thus become through out history as a Holy land to people of the world.

CEF has severe negative and damaging affects on people's life. Anxiety, insecurity, discrimination, hatred, depression, sense of disharmony, extremism, terrorism and many more are CEF symptoms which turn life into a constant miserable experience.

Diversity is a life style by which culture instills a healthy belief through which people value one another despite their differences.

The author claims that building walls which separate people are damaging the future of our generations; it's healthier to communicate and build bridges, schools, and hospitals. Walls, Weapons and Wars are the road to the IMPOSSIBLE. Let's talk, communicate and reach out to one another. Let's see the sky as our horizon and Peace as our dream...this is the road to the POSSIBLE! WE owe it to our children. Is there a limit to the suffering man can endure?! We only have one Globe to share. Let's review your own prejudices and get rid of some mental viruses that have distorted our insights and bled our hearts.

CEF is a researched topic the author initiated and introduced in mid 80's in USA continued in the 90's at the American University in Cairo and followed by a recent study in United Arab Emirates.

CEF Theory

Culture entails every thing man has made out of his physical and mental capacities. Man is, thus the only cultural being there is and his behavior, cognitions and emotions are circumscribed, to a great extent, to the culture he belongs to. Culture provides us with almost every thing. Perhaps we make it and it makes us, an amazing dynamic state that is endless. Culture provides us with language to think and express our emotion through. It provides us with beliefs-scared or mans made-and gives us directions and answers to major life questions. It gives us goals as values to achieve and it provides means to reach them. Culture creates norms, in order to keep us in line with its expectations. All this comes to us through the acculturation process and socialization agents the culture trusted and appointed that they should do the job to make us the social being we are- such as family, school, friends, religion and media. We learn who we are and how we are supposed to act within and through these agents every day. We affect others and others affect us...that social interaction process that makes life meaningful. Culture has relied on those agents in order to inoculate what society wishes, expects, and may be need us to believe, value, present ourselves and act as members.

However, as man is the only cultural being, equipped with very powerful and maybe the most powerful, capacity there is, the Mind, the process of becoming a social being is the most complicated ever. I do not mean, however, to convey that man is an empty container, culture fills up. On the contrary, I mean to convey that man makes culture and culture creates man. And it may be important to clarify-at this point- that I see two major dimensions to culture: material and mental=nonmaterial. When I use the term mind I refer, perhaps, to the nonmaterial mental capacity the makes man unique among all other creatures we see around us in this universe. Mind to me is a process that stems out of social interaction, composed of cognitions and emotions. Thus man is not a robot or an animal, nor an empty container, but a dynamic intellectual being.

I see Culture in a dynamic state, where new elements are added today and a other elements are deleted...a process, which we usually refer to as cultural change...which usually leads to social change.

Culture is the totality of every thing man has made, be it material or non-material. It is the "Paramount Mind" that contains every thing we have already made, saved, and achieved, mental or material of course. From that P.M= paramount mind, you and I were able to build our own "Finite Mind" which mirrors to a great degree the P.M that we belong to...it's our cultural reference. You could easily call it our mental compartment.

Man's behaviors, to me, are a reflection of his mind and self, or say his mental makeup. Again, I refer to the sum and interaction between one's cognitions and emotions. Here, I claim that the relationship between us and the cultures we belong to is not choice, it was determined even before we had a chance to select or choose...no one chooses what language to speak, name he gets, family etc.. Based on that, I argue that the state of harmony within the culture - whichever ours is, Eastern, Western...does not matter- that culture is represented and is mirrored in mental harmony of its members and can be easily detected through the observations and evaluations of members' acts, decisions and everyday life events...be it the positive or the negative ones. It is reflected on the ways we make and handle life issues. I argue that the deeper the integration and harmony between cultural elements be it mental

and material, the lesser we should expect of negative acts out of members...and the opposite of this equation is true.

Here, I introduce to the literature - a newly coined -concept as an additional intellectual tool to explain and interpret this growing global human experience CEF; "Cognitive-Emotive Fission": a process of separating into parts and collisions within one's mind(cognitions& emotions) due to the lack of harmony in the culture/society one belongs to. It is those conflicts, contradictions, double-messages, conflicting messages and mixes up one experience in his own mind/self are assumed to be due to the troubled social reality one belongs to. Such as conflicts between the claimed norms, values, beliefs, emotions, ideals and the every day life practiced patterns of social behavior. Contradictions between what we claim and what we really do in every day life situations are assumed to reflect our mental state. Quite deeper and further than Schizophrenia, CEF refers to a particular Social/Psychological human phenomenon occurs at all levels from micro-individual to a global/societal level.

This theory was based on empirical observations first took place , in 1982 in Dallas ,Texas ,USA during attempts to explore into the lives of Arab/American immigrant families .A second stage in the development of this theory took place during 1994-2000 , on a sample of students at the American University in Cairo.

Out of this claimed CEF experience, I have proposed a -seven personality paradigm- expected to emerge. The following is a brief description of these proto types.

The Global Personality: describes those who were able to manage the difference between cultures and deal skillfully with both. Fast, digital and technologically oriented. Skilled with foreign language, exposed and comprehend to great extent, the two cultures differences and able to merge them in one and live happily and perform at extraordinary levels in life...at Personal and professional level.

The Nationalistic Personality: describes persons who are very particular about their own culture and the society they belong to. This person usually speaks one language and confined to one cultural setting. They tend to be content with the way things are in life and usually defend it. Change and strangers are not comfortable topics.

The Rebellious Personality: describes a person who is mainly discontent with the way life is put together. They are critical with various cultural elements, specially beliefs, values and norms. They attempt to change the rules of the game and or create new games. They feel separated from the culture, discriminated against or feel rejected. Their criminal involvements tend to be maximized. They tend to display violence and aggression reflecting their disappointments and failures to achieve life goals.

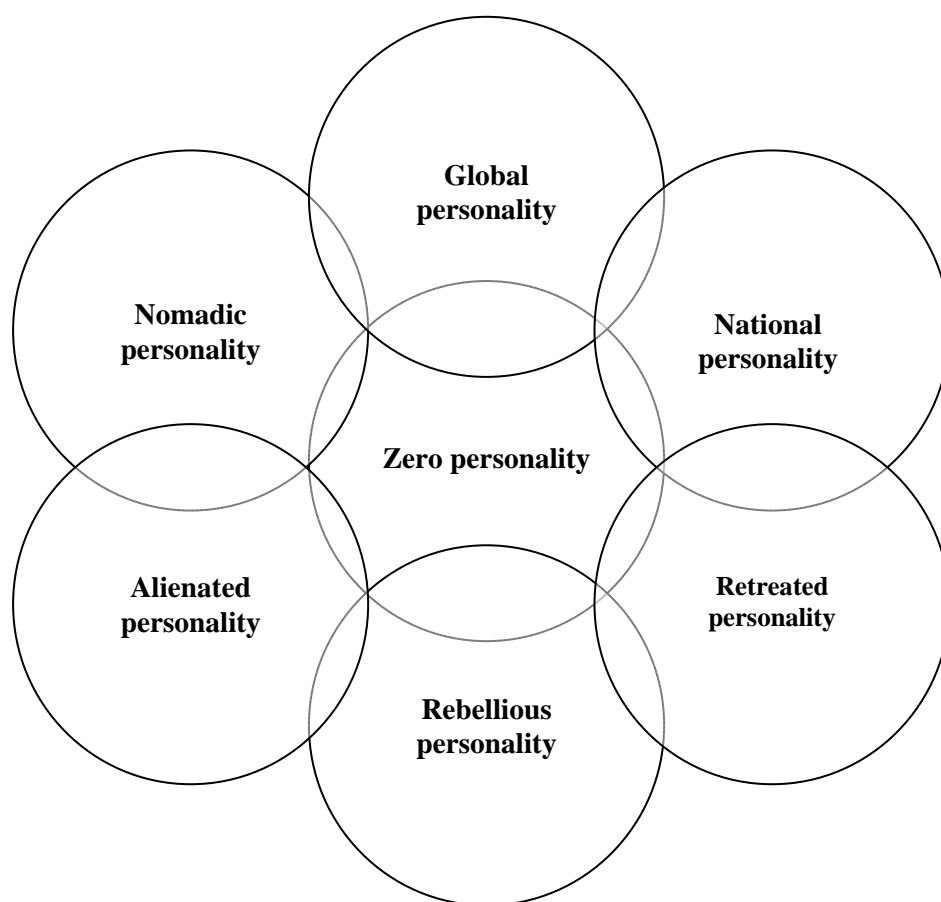
The Nomadic Personality: describes those who lack a great deal of stability and live in uncertainty. They describe their lives as living on the travel mode permanently, and or living on the intersection between two cultures. They feel that they belong to both cultures, yet they are settled in neither one. They lack life stability and literally spend a great deal of their lives jumping between two worlds = two cultures.

The Retreated Personality: describes a person who is closed to himself due to discomfort and discontent with the way things are regarding the cultural performances. They feel mostly that they do not fit, may be unaccepted or discriminated against. They tend to be unhappy with the way life is set, prefer isolation over being part of, they are conservative in their relationships with others and may be socially passive.

The Alienated Personality: describes those who lack strong sense of belonging to the dominant culture. Not only feel separated but also display no concern for it. Sense of hopelessness tends to be strong, social commitments are minimal, unmotivated to what most members care for. Tend to be dangerous to themselves and others because usually they do not care.

The Zero Personality: describes a person who is living somewhere else other than the reality we describe. Not insane- on the contrary, sound and skilled with extraordinary capabilities. Yet he lives in a world of his own, he greets us just to be nice but most of what turns us on to him is meaningless. He is Accurate, sharp to what he wants to do. Unemotional or at least unlike others and usually hard to read and predict. Digital person, as you feel him as a robot at times and shows indifference to many issues of common concern.

It is important to clarify that no single personality could stand pure or independent from others. I argue that all seven proto types exist in various degree & levels in our lives. One prototype features, however, tend to override, dominate & direct other features at the individual level.



J. Fatayer's Personality Paradigm