Dialogue among Civilizations as a New Approach for International Relations

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After the collapse of the bipolar system different views and theories were expressed by scholars and thinkers about the future of the world and the international system. One of them is the theory of “The clash of Civilizations” which was expressed in 1993 by the Samuel Huntington. This theory caused some anxieties in the world. In reaction to this theory, M. Khatami, the former president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, proposed the way of “Dialogue among Civilizations” as a paradigm in the international relations. 53rd General Assembly of the United Nations on 3 September 1998 accepted it and approved a resolution for the purpose of promoting dialogue among cultures and civilizations and nominated the year 2001 as “the year of Dialogue among Civilizations”. This article presents the study of both mentioned theories and refers to the role of dialogue approach in creation of peaceful relations between nations and states.

Keywords: Dialogue, Civilization, Clash of Civilizations, Dialogue among Civilizations, International Relations.

Introduction

States and countries as the members of international community are enforced to make relations with each other. They have special functions in the world system. Any states and governments for being and security have aims that name national aims and interests. For achievement to these aims on the international arena the rational foreign policy is needed. Hans Morgenta, who is the prominent scholar of international relations, says the true aims of the foreign policy of any country are defense and expansion of
national interests (Ranney, 1993). Foreign policy of any country is defined on the basis of the constitution and is performed by the foreign affairs ministry and other related organizations (Qavam, 1991).

The correct understanding of the international situation, the position of the country in the world system and also effective diplomatic activities can enhance the national power and promote the situation of the country in the international system (Kazemi, 1994).

There is a direct relation between the national power, the political leadership and the geopolitical position of the country in the international system with the achievements of the successful foreign policy (Hafeznia, 1999). These relations can be displayed in this model:

![Diagram of Relations]

From: M.R. Hafeznia (1999)

M. Khatami, the former president of the Islamic republic of Iran, has presented his idea of the “Dialogue among Civilizations” in General Assembly of the United Nation in 1998 as a new approach to the international relations. This idea welcomed by the majority of the states and affected on the position of Iran in the world.

The Background of Dialogue among Civilizations

This idea was formed under the effect of the three factors: reaction to the theory of “The Clash of Civilizations” which was pronounced by Samuel Huntington in 1993. Professor S. Huntington is a scientific advisor of government and director of the John. M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies at Harvard University. His theory is the product