

UNIVERSITY OF MSILA

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Names:

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American Civilization

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## Assessing the validity of Huntington's Clash of Civilizations Theory in the light of the 09/ 11 Events

### Topic and Outline

In this paper students are going to assess the predictions that Samuel Huntington put forward in his theory “**Clash of Civilization.**” They’re going to focus on the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Students are going to provide background information about the attack using a variety of different but credible references. They are going to provide **key examples** about the supposed clash of two presumably “different” worlds; the Western world, and the Muslim world, with a focus on Muslim minorities living in the West.

### Background of the theory

*The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* is an expansion of the 1993 *Foreign Affairs* article written by Samuel Huntington that hypothesized a new post-Cold War world order. Prior to the end of the Cold War, societies were divided by ideological differences, such as the struggle between democracy and communism. Huntington's main

thesis argues, “The most important distinctions among peoples are [no longer] ideological, political, or economic. They are cultural.” New patterns of conflict will occur along the boundaries of different cultures and patterns of cohesion will be found within the cultural boundaries. (1)

**(1) For Further reading about the theory consult the link below:**

<https://www.beyondintractability.org/bksum/huntington-clash>

## **Instructions**

- Follow the writing guidelines of this template (or the one found in Moodle \*the same one as the first semester) **any deviation from it will cost you (the students) in the final assessment.**
- **Deadlines should be respected; again it’s on the eve of the exam.**
- The structure of the paper should be as follows:
  - **Introduction:** Provide a brief background info about the 9/11 attacks and the theory at hand.
  - **First title:** Expand on the theory and its relevancy to the events that ensued after the attacks.
  - **Second title:** Create the two opposing arguments about the ability of the two civilizations to co-exist, providing examples for each argument. (Add subtitles here if necessary)
  - **Third title:** State the findings and share your own opinion, citing some examples of co-existence.
  - **Conclusion:** Summarize your finding and discussions making some predictions about the future of cultural co-existence.

## **Key References**

Huntington, Samuel P. **The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order.**

New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 1996.

Shahi, Deepshikha. **Revisiting the Clash of Civilizations Thesis After 9/11.** MAR 23 2017.

<https://www.e-ir.info/2017/03/23/revisiting-the-clash-of-civilizations-thesis-after-911/>