A Comparative Analysis of the Impact of Specialization in Innovative Industries on Urban Development in France, Germany and Iran

France and Germany have had higher degrees of innovative industries compared to Iran in many years and they have experienced more different patterns of urban development than Iran. In urban economics literature, there are different studies in which the impact of different factors on urban development are considered. The specialization of cities as well as technology growth are considered among effective factors on urban growth. This study investigates the impact of mentioned factors on urban development in France, Germany and Iran according to Henderson urban growth models.

In this study, industries in which innovation plays a crucial role are considered. The impact of specialization in these industries on urban growth are tested through an econometric model for each country in the period of 2008-2016. The obtained results show innovative industries have influenced urban development in all three considered countries. This relation is influenced by the size of cities. However, the direction or effects are totally inverse in Iran compared to France and Germany. What is actually important are the differences among the structures of considered countries and the application of French and German results to urban planning in Iran.

The Literature of Diaspora: Dialogue among Civilizations or Clash of Civilizations?

The United Nations named 2001 as the “Year of Dialogue among Civilizations” motivated by the former Iranian president’s UNESCO speech in 1999. “Dialogue among Civilizations” was introduced as a response to Huntington’s futuristic term, “Clash of Civilizations”. If not terminated all together, the idea of dialogue faced serious censure after 9/11 terrorist attack and its aftermath. It seems that Western cultural singularity has been augmented by the rise of Islamophobia.
the persistence of Islamophobia, still some critics like Bala (2006) and Nanda (2003) demand for greater recognition of multicultural traditions and indigenous knowledge. Critics believe that the development of modern Western thought is rooted in its dialogue with non-Western traditions. They tried to answer why non-Western science and art did not flourish like the West. Ronan (1983) mentions different obstacles for the intercultural dialogue between the West and the Rest, namely, the socio-political conservatism, psychological dilemmas, and inflexibility of the non-Westerners.

Ronan's justification has followers and adversaries but when non-Westerners enter the Western territory, dialogue is inevitable. Diaspora is the locus of this dialogue when creativity and innovation is born into art. Art of diaspora by Muslims in the West gains more significance in the epoch of Islamophobia. Marjan Satrapi, the French-Iranian graphic novelist, tried to shape a new impression of Iran and Iranians in the minds of a huge number of readers by her diasporic memoir, Persepolis (2003-2005). This dialogue is shaped by her efforts to challenge the stereotypical representation of Iranians in Western media, especially that of France. She portrays a different image of her nationality by the experience of being the Other. As a female writer of diaspora, Satrapi depicts the perception of France and Austria and the relation of the West with Iranians. Both in the visual and textual realm, her graphic novel, Persepolis narrates the story of an Iranian who struggles to create a dialogue with the West, the dialogue that sometimes turns to clash. This clash in the novel shapes a new dialogue with the West: the meaning of Iranian image in the West and Western image in Iran.

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Une voyageuse en Iran : Myriam Harry (1869-1958)

Myriam Harry a, à partir de 1930, effectué plusieurs voyages en Orient. Elle a aussi fait une longue visite en Iran (Perse) à l'époque de Réza Chah, qui y régna de 1925 à 1941. Le premier livre d'Harry sur l'Iran est très significatif (Femmes de Perse, Jardins d'Iran, 1941). D'ailleurs, son récit de voyage montre qu'elle a visité les grandes villes du sud du pays et de là elle a pris la direction du golfe Persique. Entre son livre sur Jules Lemaitre et celui qui aborde Madagascar, Harry s'est progressivement dirigée vers le mysticisme persan du XIIIème siècle, elle a rédigé une étude importante sur Mowlavi (Djelaleddine Roumi, Poète et Danseur mystique, 1947) où on constate aussi l'influence de Maurice Barrès, celle de Pierre Loti et enfin celle de Henry Massé, alors professeur de persan à l'école des langues orientales à Paris. Massé était en relation directe avec le gouvernement iranien et,