

The Role of Cultural Memory in Shaping National Identity: A Philosophical and Axiological Inquiry

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Abstract: Memories of history constitute an important aspect of collective and national identity as they are recollections of the unique past experiences, events, customs as well as values. In this research, the focus is on the philosophical and axiological aspects of cultural memory: how these aspects construct national consciousness and its impact on social unity. Culturally, memory serves as a definition of identity which brings in notions of unification and history. Memory, in the words of Maurice Halbwachs and Paul Ricoeur, has an aspect of selectivity. Societies reconstruct their past in order to suit their contemporary needs. From an axiological perspective, memory of the culture serves to construct the main values, ethics and commemorative duties of the nation strengthening ideals that help maintain the citizens' identity. Nevertheless, memories that are culturally contested or ideological struggles often lead to competing narratives that portrays the essence of cultural memory that can bring people together or tear them apart. In contexts where society has experienced colonialism and inter-ethnic conflicts, using inclusive memories renders itself useful towards reconciliation while exclusionary memories tend to widen gaps. Moreover, the preservation and sharing of cultural memories is highly influenced by globalization as well as digital technologies raise issues concerning authenticity, misinformation, and revisionist history. The concluding thoughts will assert that cultural memory influences the matters of identity on the level of the nation in a greatly varying, composite, and deeply moving approach. An effective strategy for building national consciousness requires constructing memory in a managed and inclusive way.

Keywords: Cultural memory (CM), Shaping National Identity (SNI), Philosophical (PP), Axiological Inquiry (AI)

1. INTRODUCTION

The term Cultural Memory is related to those memories and traditions of society that pass from one generation to another through cultural identity and values. In other words, we can say that cultural memory is related to shared experiences and traditions that are common in any group. Moreover, we can also say that cultural identity is shaped by cultural memory so it gives any nation get place in the world. Not only the formation of cultural Memory is mandatory but the transmission and preservation of this memory are also important. This kind of cultural Memory can be transmitted and preserved with the help of some important oral traditions or in the form of rituals or may be any written

record(Bellentani & Panico, 2016). The other key aspect of cultural memory is that it may undergo evolution and adaptation with time. Some important factors contribute to this kind of evolution and these factors are social change, advancement in technology, cultural exchange by migration, and others. There are some important types of cultural memory which are named as historical memory, social memory, cultural heritage, and others. Historical memory is based on historical events and historical experiences as well but social memory is concerned with memories of any social group for example, we can say traditions and customs. In the case of cultural heritage, there are some important aspects such as art, literature, music, and many others. Now we are going to discuss how cultural memory helps shape national identity in various ways. It is said that cultural memory is responsible for the preservation and transmission of some important shared values and traditions that help in shaping national identity(Catrina & Isnart, 2014). If we discuss it from philosophical perspectives, we may come to know that according to some philosophers, collective memory is mandatory because it highlights shared experiences and helps to shape group identity. In short words, we can say that when traditions are followed, they shape the specific identity of a nation. But at the same time, according to some other philosophers, it is said that narrative identity is more important so there is a main role of storytelling. This aspect of storytelling helps in shaping individual identity as well as collective identity. However some other philosophers' perspectives explain that there is a need to understand cultural traditions because these are valuable for national identity(Hoskins, 2017). Now if we focus on the role of cultural memory in shaping national identity from an axiological point of view, we will come to know that the national moral fabric is based on those norms and values that are followed by the whole nation. It also emphasizes that historical consciousness is also mandatory because it is the main part of cultural memory. Moreover, we can also say that national pride is also related to cultural memory because it helps to foster a sense of belonging among citizens of the same nation. Some important points need to be considered in the role of cultural memory. The first and foremost role of cultural Memory is that it preserves historical experiences for example experiences related to war, social movements, or any revolution(Fernández, 2025). The other most important role of cultural memory is that it helps in the transmission of values from one generation to the next. The collective identity of any nation can only be shaped with the help of shared cultural memory. In today's life sense of belonging is very important because it

gives confidence to any individual. This sense of belonging can be gained with the help of cultural memory these days. Moreover, we can say that social cohesion is very important in any society for the conversion of society into a nation. We can only get social cohesion and unity within a nation with the help of cultural memory. Every nation has some important national symbols for example such as on flags, anthems, or any other monuments. These symbols are also related to the cultural memory of any specific nation. These symbols are reminders of some particular historical events. As we have observed there are some important national myths and legends also which may be related to patriotism, pride, or something like that(Chesnokova, 2023). These national myths and legends are also shaped with the help of cultural memory. There are many important examples of cultural memory in history. For example, the American Dream which was the idea of freedom. It is also an important example of cultural memory that shapes national identity. We can also refer French Revolution which had having main focus on Liberty, equality, and independence. This revolution has shaped the important values and politics of the country. The Indian Independence Movement is also an example of cultural memory which had having main focus on independence from British Colonial Rule. There are some important challenges and tensions which are related to the role of cultural memory in shaping national identity. The first and foremost challenge is the aspect of contested memories(Raadik-Cottrell, 2010). Every group within the same nation does not have the same memories. Instead of having the same memories, each group of nations has competing memories and different interpretations of historical events. This aspect of contested memories acts as an important challenge to the role of cultural memory in shaping national identity. The other most important challenge for the role of cultural memory in shaping national identity is the aspect of memory forgetting(Albota & Romanyshyn, 2024). There is selective memory of historical events and most of the historical events are forgotten. In this way, it is impossible to consider the important role of cultural memory in shaping national identity. The third most important challenge for the role of cultural memory in shaping national identity is the aspect of globalization which has gained much concern and importance at the same time(Korostelina, 2024). In globalization, there is the use of advanced technology and such technological advancement is also responsible for less role of cultural memory in shaping national identity(Tu & Yue Chen, 2025). As we know in globalization, there is a main aspect of migration and diaspora and such factors are responsible for the mixture of various

cultures thus affecting the purity of any culture. In this way, such a mixture of cultures does not help shape national identity. If we want cultural memory to play its role in national identity, we have to focus on these challenges to resolve as well (Ivic, 2018). Cultural memory acts as a substratum of national identity by preserving and sharing relevant historical events, values, and traditions within the community over time. It serves as a storehouse of information that dictates a nation's self-image, providing feelings of cohesiveness, loyalty, and timelessness. From the perspective of philosophy, cultural memory refers to the stories which form a nation's identity and help understand its history. Halbwachs and Ricoeur argued that collective memory is fabricated using social structures, which generates national identity through the picking, defining, and at times mythical description of particular events. It shapes how a society sees itself, which brings about social integration or ideological rifts. Cultural memory decided what is important to a nation which is its ethical values, heroic personalities, and important events from an axiological angle. Its focus informs the creation of national symbols, commemoration rituals, and even the curricula taught in schools, further embedding values that are fundamental to the national identity. While this reminiscence is selective, it is bound to be contestable because some social groups may wish to dispute the overarching narrative. Cultural memory in post-colonial and post conflict societies serve to heal temporal scars via their narrations, while simultaneously deepening fissures with their recollections. The philosophical and axiological blend within cultural memory point towards its fluid quality: it is not a mere recollection but an active consolidation of the nation's identity that determines its present and future.

1.1 Research Objective

The main objective of this research is to understand the role of cultural memory in shaping national identity from philosophical and axiological point of view. These studies have effectively explained about various important ways by which cultural memory is prerequisite for shaping national identity.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The Role of Cultural Memory in Shaping National Identity: A Philosophical and Axiological Inquiry (Ivic, 2018). The Role of Cultural Memory in Shaping National Identity: A Philosophical and Axiological

Inquiry(Yergaliyeva et al., 2024). 'The Role of Cultural Memory in Shaping National Identity: A Philosophical and Axiological Inquiry(Pandan, 2024). The Role of Cultural Memory in Shaping National Identity: A Philosophical and Axiological Inquiry(Wolfgramm et al., 2022). The Role of Cultural Memory in Shaping National Identity: A Philosophical and Axiological Inquiry(Mydłowska, 2022). Studies aims to demonstrate the meaning & relevance of ancient archaeologies hypotheses & analytical methodologies, in order to grasp the implications, substance, & valuable structures of humanity in earlier times toward anthropologists of philosophy. Discovering the development of mankind's identities through philosophic & anthropology notions, as well as the substance of a person's life & perspective toward the global, are all made possible through researching this subject(Aitov, 2022). The results of this study show that whenever visitors are searching for hedonistic worth, the larger procurement atmosphere facilitates the worth–encounter procedure; when they're searching for practical benefits, however, it impairs it. Along an emphasis on an additional intricate value in-setting vigorous centered around contextual mental activity, such investigation provides an innovative area of inquiry in the field of procurement touristy(Wong et al., 2024). The basic objective of this study is to investigate bilinguals' perspectives on form of address. The writing on the subject serves as the foundation toward the research goals. Researchers discussed the extent, terms, viewpoints, & developments of axiology ideas & methods. The study infers the subject with a summary of the truth on how structures of address are used in relation to cultural & language identification. A brief summary of bilingual communicators axiology's & their thoughts on interpersonal interactions is therefore given at the end of this research (Soomro et al., 2023).Studies examines the accounts of the Coronavirus epidemic disaster in Italian republic in the manners that they meet along ethnic mechanisms of memory. In order to examine the Osmoses among 2 rambling disciplines (remembering discussion versus emergencies discussion),scholars suggested an idea of "preemptive recall," that might be considered an instance of—unconscious—prevision, adumbration, & reunification of a prospective historical recall of a continuing occurrence in current time (Mazzucchelli & Panico, 2021). Researchers reveal that a feeling of proprietary or affiliation with a state that is associated with the concept of national harmony is known as domestic personality, & it is exemplified via acknowledging commonalities in governmental philosophy, lingo, customs, & tradition. Thus, functions dictate the

motivation behind the creation of construction, categories help us comprehend how architectural is categorized & classified, & thematic help us recognize the building's concealed significance. Architecture, developers, administrators, legislators, & other stakeholders will use such research being a source of information and direction to learn regarding domestic identities in architectural (Rahmat & Ismail, 2022). Studies suggest that the development of domestic identity has become more important in the era of internationalization & multinational transmigration, especially toward kids raising up in an international context. Youngsters' opinions on domestic identification are still unrepresented in educational institutions, even though domestic individuality is becoming a more prominent topic in politics, economy, & sociology. The study might assist abroad Oriental youngsters in navigating their domestic character in the face of internationalization & internationalism, in spite of offering helpful information on expatriate vacation & youngster tourists (Liu, 2023). Researchers determined that the problem of creating & rebuilding native character is the study focus. A sociologic research investigation of Serb National character is the subject of this study. As a result, the findings as well discuss the recent, politics, & societal aspects of Serb National individuality. Conducting the study from a modern standpoint is another goal of the contemplation. Consequently, the described investigation demonstrates the thorough details of the researched National character while taking into account Serbia's divides in politics as well as the nation's path toward democracy & Europa inclusion (Wygnańska, 2021). Studies examines how the "courageous persona" changed in the 20th Century, with an emphasis on contemporary issues with person self-perception. The study also highlights the significant influence of literate legacy like an impetus to forming a courageous identity awareness, highlighting its function like a sensorial & emotive builder. The findings of this investigation capture the historic & Cultural aspects of the development of the courageous persona, including signals, iconography, pronunciations, & linguistic subtleties (Ishchuk et al., 2024). By examining the topical, satisfied, constructed, category, eloquent & technological characteristics of audio streams, the researcher is able to delve toward the protagonist's psyche & pinpoint the key principles that have been instilled in Muscovite community. Like the "the start of the starts" of mortal existence, the assessment of every aspect, & the notion of existence, the household is the primary dimension that unites these disparate tales of a webcast program (Zhuravleva, 2022). Studies examining how artificial intelligence

reflects many social & political personalities & conceptions, including faith, is crucial as the technology becoming increasingly widespread. Scholars accomplish this by providing many discussions on 3 spiritual conventions—Jewish religion, Islamism, & Christian religion—using a variety of artificial intelligence techniques. As a result, researchers propose that Intelligence address spiritual depictions from an axiological perspective (Tsuria & Tsuria, 2024). Using an investigation of basic philosophic assumptions, the researcher of this study explains the details of an Axiological strategy to contemporary transmission issues. Comprehensive person qualities like affection, concern, gratitude, integrity, liberty, fairness, faith, fact, & mankind are demanded by the concepts under consideration. Theorists contend that an individual can escape the pervasive isolation & break free from the harmful existentialist cycle of vices that characterizes contemporary humanity by making use of such principles in communicating (Doskhozina, 2024). The study demonstrates in what way hegemony academic investigation & research agendas and procedures might be changed by utilizing 2 Aboriginal techniques of inquiry in conjunction with 2 important Aboriginal scientific concepts. The primary goal of every paradigm is what causes this change. In order to carry on to (re)construct what colonization has harmed, this study advocates for a wider knowledge & greater general adoption of such structures & methodologies, especially through Aboriginal professionals, by outlining them & talking about whenever & how to utilize them (Harriden, 2023). Studies elaborate that through conversation & shared enlightenment learning facilitates an energetic interaction among ages. Formed by ethical & religious principles unique to ethnic cycles, it reflects the religious substance present in people, groups, times, & instances of culture. The purpose of this research was to evaluate subsequent professionals in psychology' understanding of & preparedness for implementing equitable social growth (Stoliarchuk et al., 2023). This study examines the records that demonstrate the significance of history. As a throughout history accrued carcass, the corroboration actually offers one way to gauge the growth & decline of artistic characters' "Canonicity" across the years & ages. The Nederland's Imperial library's materials on Flemish literature & historical culture have been selected as an experiment subject (Leerssen, 2024). Studies examines the mutually reinforcing connection among past & legislation, emphasizing the ways in which historic convictions impact judicial & governmental judgment. Thus, past convictions have influenced governmental & judicial overhauls by driving changes into bigoted

National mythology. Studies emphasizes how important it is toward judicial & constitution researchers to remember that the past & legislation are intertwined (Luining & Kubinska, 2024). The objective of this research was to analyze the influence that the involvement of parents serves in the learners' educational performance. The outcomes of this research will give significant perspectives to caregivers, educators, & legislative bodies to grasp the consequences of parent participation in the schooling of kids. The data gathered can't be applied to the entire parental because it relies on the unique encounters & viewpoints of all of the respondents. However, the results might help caregivers, instructors, & educational officials understand how parental feel about being involved in their children's education (Shrestha, 2023). Studies continuously refines the spare-contextually essence of spiritual information. The study outlines the concept of the phenomena of digital reality as an instance of virtuous spirituality, awareness being a structure of reflected methods, & tradition like a uniquely mankind's method of managing area & directing duration as determined by the research (Yatsenko, 2024). Studies claim that Axiology & morality make up the uniqueness of the person way of thinking & reacting. Yet, Mircea Eliade's "novel humanitarianism"—which is founded on knowledge, society, & cognizance—appears to be a dying trend in human evolution today.

However, the paradox enormous work that are currently linked with mankind highlight both the significance of humanity & the modern disenchantment with it (Șerban, 2023). Studies examined the idea of disappearance as a crucial yet enigmatic component of the modern acknowledgement, interpretation, & shindig of Aussie borderline clash. In order to examine the power of disappearance in hypothesizing, reassembling, upholding, & analyzing the legacy of Aussie borderline clash, researchers provide a first taxonomies toward the types of disappearance that define the Native Mounted Police (Burke et al., 2022). Scholar studies reveal that in spite of the fact that specialists are frequently ignorant of them, beliefs play a critical role in choice-making, even in processes pertaining to technological & scientific advancement. For Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics learning, researchers offer a corporate Culture paradigm that takes into account the objectives, standards, & conduct of educators, learners, colleges & universities, & the governing body. The Axiological deficiencies in Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics learning may be filled in part by this concept (Vedrenne-Gutiérrez et al., 2024).

3. APPLICATIONS OF CULTURAL MEMORY IN SHAPING NATIONAL IDENTITY

3.1 Cultural Remembrance Commemorated Formally and National Symbols

Cultural remembrance is also embedded in national symbols, monuments, and the commemoration of certain dates such as Independence Day, war memorials, or historical battles and events. These are memorials, monuments, or historic places equipped with some form of inscription tell the stories from a nation's history that fills a nation with pride.

3.2 National Identity Politics

Policymakers utilize cultural memory for crafting and implementing policies that shape nationalism, cultural identity, and memory politics. Political actors employ historical narratives in the justification of political actions aimed at swaying public opinion, strengthening national sentiments in the face of a discord.

3.3 Dealing with Conflict and Post Conflict Resolutions

Cultural memory is called upon in dealing with conflicts and post-colonial reconciliation. Accountable history, healing justice, and other programs help a nation deal with the wrongs against its people to create healing and promote a unified sense of cultural identity. The Impact of Media and Pop Culture: Popular culture utilizes film, literature, music, and art to depict the essence of cultural memory. In the integration of popular media into society, the media often reinterprets certain historical facts, molds public opinion, and fortifies national myths, thus furthering the reinterpretation of cultural heritage.



Figure 1: Tourism and Heritage Conservation

3.4 Tourism and Heritage Conservation

Countries capitalize on their cultural memory in heritage tourism by preserving historical sites, museums, and cultural festivals. In addition to enhancing economic productivity, these efforts fundamentally build the national identity while nurturing reverence for the historical and cultural roots (Figure 1). Tourism and heritage conservation are vital in efforts to sustain cultural memory as well as the national identity through the management of historical places, traditions, and cultural objects. These processes guarantee that the collective memory of a nation is preserved and retrievable for its people, which promotes a state of identity and continuity. This helps enrich and heighten one's national identity and pride to a great degree. And the principal way in which tourism serves national identity is through heritage tourism related to monuments, museums, and cultural centers. Unfortunately, we commonly forget that these places are physical manifestations of living history which citizens and foreign tourists can encounter and experience. UNESCO World Heritage sites, battlefields, ruins of ancient temples, and religious structures are examples of such important landmarks that strengthen the cultural and historical narratives around the identity of a particular nation. Local governments and authorities allocate funds towards the preservation and restoration of these sites to encourage the local population to take pride in their country and history. These practices and arts, as well as languages, are ensured to be passed on through generations due to heritage conservation (Wygnańska, 2021). Rich tourism initiatives often demonstrate the diverse culture with which a country is associated by including the showcasing of various crafts, ceremonies, and festivals that serve as an embodiment of the national identity. Japan, Italy, and Egypt are just a few examples of countries that have implemented robust cultural heritage programs, successfully married tourism and historical preservation while ensured that their identity garners global interest. Societies are able to preserve the essence of their culture and history in the face of globalization through the protection of such cultural attributes. In addition, national development objectives are achieved through the economic advantages of heritage tourism while reinforcing national identity. Local economies are actively supported by tourists through local businesses, crafts, and cultural institutions. The funds generated from these sites not only aids in conservation efforts, but it also motivates the government to focus on protecting significant parts of history which is greatly needed. France and China serve as the prime examples of how tourism works in tandem with conservation of historical

sites to strengthen national identity. France with its focus on conserving architectural beauty for tourism, and China with its restoration of historical sites. Nonetheless, such developments bring forth issues like the commodification of cultural heritage. Mass tourism poses a threat of increasing environmental damage, eroding the core essence of a place, and commercializing cultural practices. Integrating development of tourism with environmental protection activities is necessary to retain cultural memory. Restriction of access, promotion of responsible tourism, and provision of education regarding the national heritage can address these concerns while promoting longevity. Finally, tourism and the conservation of heritage purposes are essential in defining and maintaining the identity of a nation. Nations can make their people feel connected to the past while development a sense of belonging in the present and future by engaging in sustainable tourism, maintaining historical sites, and promoting cultural activities.



Figure 2: Diaspora and Nationality

3.5 Diaspora and Nationality

Community memories serve to maintain the identity of the nation in diaspora through language, customs, and historic accounts. Cultural activities, ethnic clubs, and modern communication aids help people to reconnect with their native land even if they are far away from their country (Figure 2).

3.6 Digital and Technological Advancements

The use of social media, online platforms, and digital archives have reconfigured cultural memory by enabling passive and active ways of engaging with history. The use of digital technologies facilitates stirring up the past and telling the history which helps shape the identity of the people

in a digital world.

3.7 Advocacy for Legal and Human Rights:

Cultural memory is frequently used as a legal concept in the context of historical injustices, indigenous people's rights, and protection of cultures and ethnicities. Legal recognition of events like genocide remembrance or even restitution claims have a bearing on How America's national identity and ethical responsibility are constructed and understood.



Figure 3: Diplomacy Through National Branding and Soft Power

3.8 Diplomacy Through National Branding and Soft Power

Nations aim to use cultural memory as a form of soft power by promoting their countries' identity through cultural diplomacy, international festivals, and history telling (Figure 3). Doing so raises recognition of the countries and strengthens the diplomatic relations by showcasing cultural heritage and common historical events. Doing so illustrates the importance of cultural memory in the construction, promotion, and modification of national identity within social, political, and economic contexts.

4. CONCLUSION

One's national identity is all encompassing and gets influenced by a cultural memory that not only preserves a nation's history but also its modern self. By recalling and relaying past memories, cultural memory emphasizes continuity, a strong sense of belonging, and meaning which helps unite individuals. Its purpose is to aid in the formation of retrospective constructions, as well as serve as an axiological basis upon which societies understand history, present circumstances, and future

projections. What moral values presume, with the aid of dominant historical narratives, a nation's conscience proof that cultural memory is more complex than being stagnant, rather, it is more of a fluid performance that translates over decades under multifaceted political, social and ideological conditions. Cultural memory assists nations, and people, from a philosophical standpoint, provides an orderly story that explains their existence, unites them, and enhances their identity. The collective memory of a given society is, according to scholars like Maurice Halbwachs and Paul Ricoeur, the memory that a group shares. In this particular case, it is the memory of a nation that each citizen recalls and firmly believes took place. This phenomenon enables nations to achieve continuity; however, it may also render cultural memory open to distortion. Frequently, governments, institutions, and ideological movements change the memory of concrete historical events to fit nationalistic purposes or specific political goals. In this sense, cultural memory is more than just the retelling of the past; it is the confrontation with the past, and the retelling of it that is evermore changing. From an axiological perspective, cultural memory fulfills the function of defining a nation's values, moral horizons, and orientations. It shapes social national symbols, commemorative practices, and educational goals in a way that reinforces collective identity. However, the values that underlie cultural memory can sometimes be contentious within a nation. Within much divided, colonial, or ideologically fragmented societies, competing stories are bound to arise. The conflict of dominant and subordinated histories shows that cultural memory serves as a double-edged sword. It can be a unifying factor that fosters social cohesion, but it can also deepen societal fractures. In addition, cultural memory serves as a basis of national identity in postcolonial or post-conflict societies, where fought-over histories can lead to battles for who gets to have legitimacy. Pluralistic approaches to cultural memory can foster reconciliation and healing, while exclusionary or simplistic approaches can heighten it. It becomes essential to remember how to approach handling the ethical burden of national identity; something critical to a just and stable identity. In the modern era, globalization and new technology have changed cultural memory even more. The new social media, digital repositories and online communities have broadened the scope for the public to access historical accounts, thus enabling new and non-centralized renditions of history. This liberalization of memory poses new challenges in dealing with the tsunami of information misinformation, historical revisionism, and ideological fragmentation. The phenomenon of increasing intertwining of

technological and cultural memory needs comprehensive analysis regarding the construction of national identities in the case of the digital age. In the case of national identities, the significance of cultural memory is crucial and multilayered. It is something that lives and transforms, constantly determining how nations construct their identity and position in the universe. Providing a thorough explanation and integration of social, political, and cultural memory, gives rise to improved ethical strength of national identity that is more cohesive and united.

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