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Women And Ethnic Conflict: Roles and Perceptions

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Abstract

With the end of the Cold War, the national wars in the world have basically ceased, but the regional armed conflicts have not stopped, and the armed conflicts between various ethnic groups in regions, countries or within countries have become increasingly fierce. As there are often strong ethnic factors in this type of armed conflicts, most of them belong to the category of "ethnic conflicts", which makes "ethnic conflicts" become the main form of contemporary armed conflicts. In terms of roots, history and culture, each "ethnic conflict" has its own unique characteristics, but in many contemporary "ethnic conflict" cases, armed groups or paramilitary groups committed violence against civilian women during the conflict as a combat strategy, and this strategy is widely used. It makes "victim of sexual violence" almost a collective identity label for women victims of ethnic conflicts. Based on the reality that women are constantly becoming victims of ethnic conflicts, civilian women in "ethnic conflicts" have been paid special attention by the outside world, and on the other hand, they are expected to become an important force to oppose ethnic conflicts, build regional peace, and achieve national reconciliation. From a practical point of view, women do play the role of "war fire hydrant" in some ethnic conflicts. They break through the identity boundaries of ethnic conflicts and build a horizontal alliance between women of different nationalities, laying a good foundation for the benign settlement of ethnic conflicts.

Keywords: ethnic conflict, female, gender, role, cognition