

Compare and Contrast Essay: Japanese vs. Chinese

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ENG101 English Grammar

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November 17, 2017

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While people are unable to physically differentiate between the Chinese and the Japanese, their sociocultural values are quite indistinct, which places the two nationals in differing sides inasmuch as their sociocultural values are concerned. For starters, the two countries have distinct government types in which case China operates as a communist state while Japan operates as a parliamentary constitutional monarchy. The different governments are founded on the different cultures that the countries believe in. Further, while the Chinese offer no political pressure due to the communism, the Japanese people critically pressurize their government through trade unions and business groups. The difference in the pressure towards the government is due to the different acculturation that the citizens undergo through. Moreover, the neighbors of each country have generally affected the way the two countries behave towards their governments.

China has various spoken languages but only possesses a single writing system (“Chinese”) while the Japanese uses a single spoken language but utilizes three indistinct writing systems. The Chinese language is tonal while the Japanese spoken language is monotone while allowing for the pronunciation of all the letters in any given word. Moreover, the Japanese language has various regional dialects unlike the Chinese language. The two cultures further are differentiated by their indistinct cuisines. The Japanese food mostly features seafood due to the nature of their geographical location, which entirely comprises various islands. While the Chinese cuisine differs according to regions, it is significantly characterized by strong flavors. While both cultures favor rice in their cuisines, the Japanese rice is stickier and glutinous short grained and the Chinese rice is long grained and mostly served with wine. Rice cuisines are preferred by both cultures since the countries are renowned for their local growing of paddy rice as well as importation from neighboring countries.

The two cultures can also be differentiated through the ways in which they celebrate their holidays. Unlike China, Japan fails to celebrate the Lunar New Year but celebrates the westernized New Year as it is postulated in the Gregorian calendar. However, the celebrations for this holiday are similar in that both cultures put a lot of emphasis on cleaning and visiting their families prior to the day's celebration. Moreover, Japan has an Obon season where people go back to their hometowns, which does not happen in China. Finally, the Japanese names consist of three syllables ending with a vowel while the Chinese names have a single syllable only.

Despite the differences, both cultures have indistinct features which are similar in nature. In both culture, Buddhism is the main religious aspect and is practiced by the majority of the population. Both cultures adopted Buddhism from India though there are indigenous religions that are unique for both cultures. Chinese have Confucianism and Taoism while the Japanese have Shinto. Both cultures display a strong work ethic and have the most industrious populations, which can be attested by their industrial revolution and growth (Lo, 2017). The cultures' populations are workaholics and most of their people have been known for overworking themselves to the extent of succumbing to heavy workloads. Further, both cultures are renowned for maintaining their cultural values even when they are beyond their countries' borders.

References

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