

Martial Arts



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The chapter one of Gods, ghosts and gangsters talks of martial arts and its significance in the Chinese Community. What begins as a fascination of martial arts and its culture makes the author take steps towards understanding deeper details of martial arts. As later discovered, everything that the martial art people performed had significance and was tied to the long history of martial arts (Boretz, 2010). Communities like the Dali have embraced the culture of martial arts and they are considered to be the localized minority and have little interaction with outsiders. Since most people that participated in martial arts were secretive it required that the author took a lot of time to interact with the activities and at times follow the individual lives of martial art performers (Boretz, 2010). Rituals are an important part to Chinese and therefore its performance is of significance to the supernatural beings. Martial arts hierarchy exists and its always the central unit that is the most valued and respected. When the teams meet and war breaks out it is considered a battle between supernatural beings and not just a common fight. Sacrifice in a lot of Chinese religion is important and it is believed to make the supernatural heed to the prayers and wishes of the people; this mostly is blood sacrifice. The significance of martial arts, its impact on violence and religion is what the author seeks to understand.

Power has a co-relation with rituals and beliefs. It is argued that power is made out of social practices. Being in power is a way of supremacy and acts as others have to follow your guidance and submit under your authority. Power takes different form but the people to be ruled develop specific social or behavioral traits that make those in power have the power to rule and take charge (Bell & Kreinath,2021). Ritualization becomes an important asset to power due to its interaction with the people in day-to-day activities. An example being the belief of Catholics and the use of birth controls. Most people do argue that they only do so because the Pope said so.

Ritualization is close to religion and a belief unites people from different origins to agree a lot on the same. The manipulation of ritual and the constant belief affects how different people behave in day-to-day life. People that perform or undertake the same rituals could have a specific way of behaving or developing same ideologies (Bell & Kreinath,2021). This forms the society and therefore rituals affect the way people think and the people they support to take power. Some rituals favor specific political ideologies while others don't.



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References

Bell, C., & Kreinath, J. (2021). Ritual. *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to the Study of Religion*, 382-399.

Boretz, A. (2010). *Gods, Ghosts, and Gangsters*. University of Hawaii Press.



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