Learning Journey Assignment

April Semester 2022

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For Partial Completion of: Global Studies (GS1002)

**Replace everything in red**

**Delete everything in blue before submission**

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Total word count (excluding cover page and references): \_\_\_\_\_600\_\_\_

**Part 1 (15 marks)**

* 1. **State the Culture Trait/Country you have selected in step 1 (0 mark)**

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| My Chosen Country: | Indonesia |
| My Chosen Culture Trait: | Torajan Funeral Traditions |

* 1. **Attach a photo of this culture trait and describe the culture trait in the photo (3 marks)**

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| Facts of Indonesia (Unknown). [Funeral procession of a deceased Torajan]. https://factsofindonesia.com/tana-toraja-death-rituals |
| In Tana Toraja, it is normal that funerals do not look anything like funerals as we’ve come to know them. Instead, they resemble something straight out of a tribal ritual in practice, and a party in atmosphere.  The photograph above depicts the culmination of what is frequently a multi-day event. The Torajans believe that the deceased do not truly die until they are laid to rest, at the end of this procession. It is therefore integral that this procession is as rambunctious and playful as possible, to give the deceased an appropriate farewell – one not of sad parting, but of a joyful last journey.  **50 to 100 words** |

* 1. **Name the visible and invisible elements of this culture trait in below caption area, using key words (2 marks)**

**10 to 50 words, excluded from total word count**



VISIBLE:

- The buffalo sacrifice

-The continued keeping, dressing and feeding of the dead

- The rambunctious processions

- The highly festivalised funeral

INVISIBLE:

- The Torajan people’s attitudes and beliefs towards death

- The religious beliefs that influence this attitude

- The Torajan people’s beliefs on the role the dead take on after death

* 1. **ANALYZE the culture trait using iceberg model of culture. How the invisible aspects lead to the visible aspects? (10 marks)**

**You can answer by using one or two suggestions below, or other relevant explanation:**

* + - **Elaborating its underlying values, norms or beliefs**
    - **Elaborating its origin or influence (historical, philosophical, economic, etc.)**
    - **Explaining its significance**
    - **Explaining what it symbolizes**

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| The Torajans hold that the dead person doesn’t end their involvement with the family – they believe that the spirit of the dead will continue to look after and bless the family. Thus they take on the persona of deities requiring worship, and so they set on honouring and worshiping the deceased. One example this takes is in the Ma’nene’, a tradition in which they exhume the bodies of the deceased, clean them, change their clothes before reburial.  They also hold that post death, there is still a journey that the deceased has to embark on, which may be labourious and long. Therefore, the slaughter of the buffaloes takes place as they believe these buffalo will aid the deceased in making that journey as quickly as possible.  It is believed that these traditions as a whole begun from a (what is now considered apocryphal) event where a local Torajan hunter went hunting, and found a corpse in the jungle. After being deeply moved by the misfortune suffered by the deceased, he took the body back and dressed it in his own clothes, and as a result, was blessed with luck and good harvests. From these, we can draw the inference that the Torajans begun these elaborate funerary traditions with the hope of similarly achieving good luck and harvests.  These festivities is not to say that no one feels grief at the death of their deceased family members there is frequently also a lot of crying at these funerals as the relatives of the deceased lay the deceased to rest. They as such would tend to try to find ways of coping with their grief, and so these funerary traditions therefore have a reason to pop up and exist, to help families find meaning in their grief.  **150 to 200 words** |

**Part 2 (5 marks)**

**Why you find this culture trait so interesting that you want to talk about it in this assignment?**

**EXPLAIN one reason why knowing this culture trait is relevant to you and important for your life or your future work.**

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| I’ve always had this kind of fascination with how cultures approach and deal with death as a whole. Me picking this really then isn’t too out of character for me, but what especially drew me into this cultural trait was how unique its approach to death is. We traditionally think of funerals as this somber, quiet and highly introspective event, but with this cultural trait, it completely subverts that paradigm. It festivalises every aspect of the funeral, and imbues it with meaning. I found that especially interesting and therefore wanted to talk about it in the assignment.  I believe knowing this cultural trait will help in my life as a whole, mostly due to the reason that I am generally interested in how cultures view and handle death. Knowing how the Torajans deal with death – with great festivity, and great joy and with great focus not on the death, but on community. I find then, that this is helpful in helping me direct my life with reference to eventual death but with some focus on making sure the community in the end will come together for my own funeral not in mournful sadness, but in joyful celebration.  **150 to 200 words** |

**Part 3 (10 marks)**

**How will you show your understanding and appreciation of this cultural trait? How will you promote this culture trait?**

**SUBMIT either 1 infographic/poster or a 1- minute video**, **to promote this culture trait. The link should be made accessible to the tutor till 15 Oct 2022.**

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| If text is too small to read, infographic can be found at link:  https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GGwugsN1zdiY-\_rb7Seiq0jzqcuj1jbY/view?usp=sharing |

**Reference**

Channel News Asia. (2019, July 15). *Paying 150,000 USD for just one funeral | The*

*Last Rites | Full Episode.* [Video]. <https://www.youtube.com/watchv=BYd22hWHk_4>

Facts of Indonesia (Unknown). [Funeral procession of a deceased Torajan]. https://factsofindonesia.com/tana-toraja-death-rituals

S. Putu. (2020, December 14). *In Indonesia, a Blurred Boundary Between the Living and the Dead.* The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/14/travel/torajan-death->rituals-indonesia.html

Vice News. (2018, September 24). *Indonesian Tribe's Traditional Funeral Rituals: Mass Buffalo Sacrifice.* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch>[? v=BYd22hWHk\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYd22hWHk_4)