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"Confrontation" and "Media" Relationality from PsychoPolitical Perspective: A Reading on the Effect of Media in the Process of Germany Confronting its History

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In almost history of every society, there are traces of traumas based on differences and conflicts. Such traumas are sometimes separated by psycho-political choice, rhetoric and actions of traumatized societies, even though they may be almost entirely overlapping in identity and quality. Regarding traumas; described as "an event in the subject's life, defined by its intensity, by the subject's incapacity to respond adequately to it and by the upheaval and long-lasting effects that it brings about in the psychical organization or occurrences and events that transcends the tolerance or coping capacity of a subject" by Laplanche and Pontalis; societies have three types of coping tendencies and/or psycho-political choice potentials: 1. Forgetting/rejecting; 2. Keeping it alive to be used against victimization; 3. Confrontation and healing. Psychological, sociological, or communicative traumas, and methods of coping are directly related to historical experience, as the violence of the stimulus is directly related to the sensitivity capacity created by the past experience. Another determinant of the choice of methods of coping with trauma is the relationship of the defense mechanism with the "authority" that builds the identity. This is because the state of trauma that normally disrupts the defense mechanisms that are effective for the health of the individual or the community is linked to the motives used when defining the identity of the individual or society in question. For example, a community may choose to use a trauma experienced in historical context as a "chosen trauma" theorized by Vamik Volkan, to never forget and to redefine her identity over and over again through this. Yet another society, experiencing a confrontation practice in the context of facing up to the past, may liberate the current, produce peaceful solutions and re-establish it as desired, like the individual in psychoanalysis, who seeks her/his subjective truth, finds it eventually and ultimately allows re-questioning of her/his self again. The purpose of this study is to demonstrate the psycho-political significance of the confrontation for a community or country, over the Germany example, and to do so in a manner that reveals the attitudes and contributions of the relevant country's media to the process, unlike similar prior thematic studies. Within the scope of the study, news contents or German media, primarily Der Spiegel, documenting the approach of the German press to the Holocaust at various time periods, will be subjected to critical discourse analysis; from the psycho-political perspective in the context "chosen trauma" and from the psychoanalytical perspective, in the context of theoretical concepts of "confrontation".
Keyword: Confrontation, relationality, psychopolitical, Germany.