Assignment:

Make a table in which you summarize the forms in which cultures can meet each other according to the author.

The Swiss historian Urs Bitterli describes different forms of cultural encounters that he makes out in the history of the European expansion in America, Africa, and Asia. The book he published on this topic is called “Die 'Wilden' und die 'Zivilisierten'. Grundzüge einer Geistes- und Kulturgeschichte der europäisch-überseeischen Begegnung” (1991).

A cultural encounter\(^1\) is a short meeting between a small group of voyagers and members of an archaic people. The short duration and interruption of this type of encounter can be seen most clearly in the context of the early voyages of exploration. […] These encounters were both intriguing and threatening to the parties involved. The thrill of experiencing something new and surprising also have to be taken into account. […] In case the connection of those explorers back to their homelands could be kept up and maintained while the first encounter had lead to a relationship mutually appreciated, cultural contact would have been established. However, this cultural contact cannot involve land grabbing and colonisation by the Europeans. […] Cultural encounters and cultural contacts remained the most prevailing\(^2\) forms of the meeting of cultures until the end of the eighteenth century. When these meetings turned aggressive and the Europeans decided to make use of their military and technological superiority in order to eradicate\(^3\) the indigenous peoples or push them into the hinterland\(^4\) or force them into economical and cultural subordination\(^5\) we will use the term of cultural collision. […] In contrast to the aforementioned forms of cultural meetings, which have the peoples and cultures involved only meet for short terms, longer cohabitation\(^6\) of members of the two cultures will lead to what we will call cultural entanglement\(^7\), which can result in acculturation\(^8\). While cultural contacts are mostly based on trade or mission\(^9\) and the people involved change with each contact, cultural entanglement requires settlement leading to cohabitation, which allows for a pervasion\(^10\) of the societies. This pervasion will then take the place of what otherwise might lead to cultural collisions, if the cultures involved realize their interdependencies\(^11\).

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1. encounter - Begegnung
2. to prevail - überwiegen
3. to eradicate – ausrotten; to wipe out
4. hinterland – back country
5. subordination - Unterwerfung
6. cohabitation - Zusammenleben
7. entanglement - Verflechtung
8. acculturation - Akkulturation
9. mission – Mission (rel.); jmd. Missionieren – to evangelize s.o., to proselytize s.o.
10. pervasion - Durchdringung
11. interdependency – gegenseitige Abhängigkeit
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