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Panel 3.6: Cooperation and Promotion of Cultural Peace

When Heaven Burns: The Dreams and Grievances of Hong Kongers

When Heaven Burns, a 2011 television series, echoed the dreams and grievances of many Hong Kongers through its trenchant critique of Hong Kong's present conditions. Hong Kong's quasi-democratic political system is portrayed as responsive to the rich rather than to common citizens. Its economy is plagued by money laundering and speculations. Its culture is becoming more monolithic. Even worse, Hong Kong's society is cannibalistic, exhibiting the darkest side of humanity striving to achieve self-gratification and money-grubbing at the cost of morality and empathy. The series ends with a glimmer of hope with four estranged friends uniting to bring off a seemingly doomed people's rock and roll festival, symbolizing the revival of the youth spirit of adventurousness and independence. The words of the heroine Yan are prescient: "Harmony is not one hundred people saying the same thing. Harmony is one hundred people saying one hundred different things with mutual respect."