Is Heroism Culturally Defined?

Heroism seems to be culturally defined. In Judeo-Christian western civilization we find that morality is inseparable from the definition of heroism. Actually, morality may drive heroic behavior. All life must be treated as sacred. Thus, a heroic act is defined as a behavior that achieves a moral outcome. For example, if an individual saves a human life, this is considered heroic. Preserving a human life represents a moral outcome. In the end, morality is central to understanding the motive for heroic behavior.

Our culture defines a hero as one with the attributes of courage, selflessness, moral aspirations and sometimes having extraordinary physical ability. In the end, these traits combine to designate the heroic individual as striving to promote life values. Life values are advanced by the heroic individual. One’s heroic act may reinforce that our natural rights of liberty, freedom, justice, self-determination and self-governance are constantly at play. Our heroes embody these virtues and ideals that compose the fabric of our great country. Millions of people’s lives have been influenced by heroes.