

A high-angle, slightly blurred photograph of a large crowd of people. The crowd is dense, and many individuals are wearing bright, solid-colored shirts in various colors including red, blue, yellow, green, and purple. The overall scene suggests a large gathering or event. The text "Culture: A Sociological View" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Culture: A Sociological View

Culture Defined

- the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group(Dictionary.com)
- Made up of different customs, practices, traits, and beliefs

Education

Government

Agriculture

Economy

Sport

Grooming

Values

Work ethic

Etiquette

Courtship

Recreation

Gestures

Dance

Sports

Medicine

Dress

Gender roles

Law

Religion

Language

Architecture

Cuisine

Technology

Music

Customs, Practices, Values, and Beliefs

- Custom - A traditional and widely accepted way of behaving or doing something that is specific to a particular society, place, or time.
 - Ex. Japanese Collectivism
- Practice – Things that people do that is a reflection of culture. Practices are actual manifestations of culture
 - Ex. Muslims fasting during religious festivals
- Values – What a group holds to be important
 - Ex. Western value of hard-work and money
- Beliefs – Intangible thought process and ideas as connected to a culture.
 - Ex. Buddhist belief of Non-violence



Habit and a Custom

- A Custom is practiced by a large enough groups of people that it becomes accepted to be a trait of that cultural group
 - Ex. Christians going to church on Sundays
- A habit is generally traced back to individuals with wide variations from person to person.
 - Ex. Chewing nails, some people within a culture do it and others do not



Language and Gestures

- The verbal, and non-verbal ways that people communicate
 - Gestures are body movements and hand signals with specific meanings
- Strong connections to identity through language and even accent
 - Accents are regional variations in languages
 - Ex. The New York accent vs. the Boston Accent
 - Can be nationalistic
 - Ex. French people speak French



Religion

- The belief in and worship of a superhuman God (monotheistic) or Gods (polytheistic) with controlling power
 - Has an attached belief of an Afterlife
 - Typically combined with a moral code
 - Ideas of right and wrong



Government

- The series of rules and beliefs towards leadership which governs the people of a society
 - Laws – Systems of rules enforced by the government
- Different societies have different views about how the country should be governed and the traditions attached to it



Economy

- The different ways that a culture regulates and controls the exchange of goods and services
 - Ex. Traditional barter based economy vs. money based economy



Education

- Education is the methods in which a culture prepares its members to participate in the society by teaching them the necessary skills.
 - Series of formal and informal lessons teaching the necessary skills and knowledge
 - Sometimes left up to families to provide
 - Ex. Germany offering technical educations to students



Agriculture and Cuisine

Agriculture

- The farming practices a culture uses in order to feed members of its society
 - Ex. Western use of machinery and traditional family farms



Cuisine

- The different foods a cultural group eats, often with national connections to regional variations
 - Ex. Korean Kimchi



Sport/Sports and Recreation

- Sport/Sports – Physical activities or games either for fun or competition
 - Ex. Texas Football vs. Minnesota Hockey
- Recreation – Physical activities that are done for their enjoyment
 - Ex. Boating
- Used as a way to build bonds within a culture



Dance and Music

- Cultures differ in their connections to which music they listen to and how connected it is to dance
 - Ex. Dancing is a very large part of South American Culture
 - Ex. The connection between Country Music and rural areas of North America



Festivals/Holidays

- A day fixed by law or custom on which ordinary business is suspended in commemoration of some event or in honor of some person from a culture
 - Connected to religious or national origins



Etiquette

- The expected behaviors for someone living within the culture
 - Behaviors are actions and the reasons for doing them
 - Ex. Giving a bus seat to an elderly person out of respect



Architecture

- A particular way in which a society designs their buildings. Can be cultural expression or practicality
 - Ex. Japanese “efficient” architecture vs. American “space” architecture for hotels



Work Ethic

- Societies differ on the value of how hard individuals within the society should be working. Some societies value a “hard day’s work” which can be described as individuals living to work, while others take move the viewpoint that individuals are working to live
 - Ex. Spanish siesta mid-day breaks vs. Japanese Dawn to Dusk work ethics



Gender Roles and Courtship

Gender Roles

- The perceived set of standards and actions for a male and a female within a society
 - Ex. Male Machismo in Latin America



Courtship

- The methods in which a member of a culture goes about in finding a mate
 - Ex. Practice of arranged marriages in India



Medicine

- The methods that different cultures use to heal their sick and wounded. Some cultures rely on modern technology and medicines to heal, while others use traditional methods such as prayer and rituals
 - Ex. Jehovah's Witnesses refusal to accept blood transfusions because of religious beliefs



Grooming and Dress

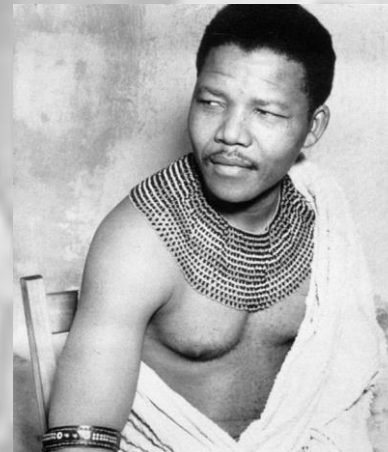
Grooming

- Cultural standards for cleanliness (bathing) and personal care (shaving, trimming, etc...)
 - Ex. Western women expected to shave legs



Dress

- The different clothes that people wear as connected to identity. Can be used as a type of cultural variation or conformity.
 - Ex. Traditional vs. Modern Dress



Technology

- Societies differ in how much they embrace new technologies or if they hold on to traditional methods. Some view foreign technologies as a burden and prefer a more simple life, while others embrace it as a helpful tool
 - Ex. The Amish rejection of most modern technologies

