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# Lawrence E. Harrison: The Central Liberal Truth Study Guide

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# LAWRENCE E. HARRISON: THE CENTRAL LIBERAL TRUTH STUDY GUIDE, 2009 Steven Alan Samson

## CHAPTER TWO: DISAGGREGATING “CULTURE”

### Study Questions

This book is one of several by several authors that grow out of the Culture Matters Research Project of the late 1990s. Mariano Grondona developed the grid of twenty-five elements of culture. A similar approach was developed by the anthropologist Edward T. Hall in his classic study, *The Silent Language* (1959). Ronald Inglehart has tested data from the World Values Survey and has found considerable correlation to support the Progress Typology about which he written.

1. **Worldview** In what ways can religion be a powerful force for progress? How did Tocqueville view the New World form of Christianity? What did John Wesley believe about the relationship between religion and riches? How do progressive and progress-resistant cultures differ with regard to time, destiny, and wealth? *Schadenfreude* means the enjoyment of another's misfortune. What does George Foster mean by the Universal Peasant Culture? Among other things, it views life as a zero-sum game.
2. **Values/Virtues** How well do trust, fair play, punctuality, and education correlate with growth competitiveness? [Francis Fukuyama wrote a book about *Trust*; Salvador de Madariaga and John Rawls focused on the importance of fair play in the Anglo-American tradition]. What cultures favor these values? Disregard them?
3. **Economic Behavior** Fatalistic cultures are risk averse while progress-prone cultures calculate risk [the importance of which is set out in a book entitled *Risk*]. Why does Mariano Grondona regard competition as a form of cooperation?
4. **Social Behavior** What is meant by “social capital?” How may it be nurtured in a cultural environment of low trust? How does the role of religion differ in progress-prone and progress-resistant societies?

### Review

Max Weber  
*Democracy in America*  
progress-resistant cultures  
Image of Limited Good  
punctuality  
corruption  
social capital

Protestant ethic  
John Wesley  
George Foster  
costs of tardiness  
Joseph Schumpeter  
Edward Banfield

Alexis de Tocqueville  
progressive cultures  
Universal Peasant Culture  
fair play  
entrepreneurship  
*Moral Basis of a Backward Society*