# VALUE ORIENTATIONS MODELS

#### **VALUES:**

- Basic convictions that people have regarding what is:
  - Right or Wrong
  - Good or Bad
  - Important/Unimportant
  - Should be avoided or accepted
- Important and lasting beliefs or ideals shared by the members of a culture about what is good or bad and desirable or undesirable. Values have major influence on a person's behavior and attitude and serve as broad guidelines in all situations. Some common business values are fairness, innovation and community involvement.
- The commonly held standards of what is acceptable or unacceptable, important or unimportant, right or wrong, workable or unworkable, etc., in a community or society.
- Differing cultural values have shown to produce different management practice norms.

#### Kluckhohn and Strodtbeck's Value orientation model:

- 6 basic orientations
  - What is the person's relationship to nature?
  - What is the person's relationship to others?
  - What is the modality of human activity?
  - What is the temporal focus of human activity?
  - What is the person's concept of space?

#### CROSS-CULTURAL ORIENTATIONS

#### Relation to Nature

 How people relate to the natural world around them and to the supernatural.

#### Time Orientation

The culture focus on the past, present, or future.

#### Activity Orientation

 How to live: "being" or living in the moment, doing, or controlling.

#### Basic Nature of People

 Whether people viewed as good, evil, or some mix of these two.

#### Relationships Among People

The degree of responsibility one has for others.

## KLUCKHOHN AND STRODTBECK'S VARIATIONS IN VALUES ORIENTATIONS

Values Orientation		Variations	
Relation to Nature	Subjugation	Harmony	Mastery
Time Orientation	Past	Present	Future
Basic Human Nature	Evil	Neutral/Mixed	Good
Activity Orientation	Being	Controlling	Doing
Relationships among PeopleIndividualistic		Group	Hierarchical
Space Orientation	Private	Mixed	Public

### Some people were talking about the way that children should be brought up. Here are three different ideas:

- 1. Some people say that children should always be taught the traditions of the past. They believe the olds ways are best, and it is when children do not follow them that things go wrong.
   (A)
- 2. Some people say that children should be taught some of the old traditions, but it is wrong to insist that they stick to these ways. These people believe that it is necessary for children to always learn about and take on whatever of the new ways will best help them get along in the world of today. (B)
- 3. Some people do not believe children should be taught much about the past traditions at all, except as an interesting story of what has gone before. These people believe that the world goes along best when children are taught the things that will make them want to find out for themselves new ways of doing things to replace the old. (C)
- Which of these people has the best idea about how children should be taught? [Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_]

## HUMAN CONCERNS AND POSSIBLE RESPONSES

Concerns/ orientations		Possible Responses	
	Evil. Most people can't be trusted. People are basically bad and need to be controlled.	<b>Mixed.</b> There are both evil people and good people in	Good. Most people are basically pretty good at heart; they are born good.
-	Subordinate to Nature. People really can't change nature. Life is largely determined by external forces, such as fate and genetics. What happens was meant to happen.	Man should, in every way, live in harmony with nature.	Dominant over Nature. It the great human challenge to conquer and control nature. Everything from air conditioning to the "green revolution" has resulted from having met this challenge.

Concerns/ orientations		Possible Responses	
	Past. People should learn from history, draw the values they live by from history, and strive to continue past traditions into the future.	Present. The present moment is everything. Let's make the most of it. Don't worry about tomorrow: enjoy today.	Future. Planning and goal setting make it possible for people to accomplish miracles, to change and grow. A little sacrifice today will bring a better tomorrow.
Activity: What is the best mode of activity?	<b>Being.</b> It's enough to just "be." It's not necessary to accomplish great things in life to feel your life has been worthwhile.	<b>Becoming.</b> The main purpose for being placed on this earth is for one's own inner development.	Doing. If people work hard and apply themselves fully, their efforts will be rewarded. What a person accomplishes is a measure of his or her worth.
What is the best form of social organization?	Hierarchical. There is a natural order to relations, some people are born to lead, others are followers. Decisions should be made by those in charge.	Collateral. The best way to be organized is as a group, where everyone shares in the decision process. It is important not to make important decisions alone.	Individual. All people should have equal rights, and each should have complete control over one's own destiny. When we have to make a decision as a group it should be "one person one vote."
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## KLUCKHOHN-STRODTBECK'S CROSS-CULTURAL FRAMEWORK

Cultural issue	Variations		
Relationship to nature	Domination	Harmony	Subjugation
Time orientation	Past	Present	Future
Activity orientation	Being	Doing	Controlling
Nature of people	Good	Evil	Mixed
Relationships among people	Individualist	Group	Hierarchical

Note: The line indicates where the United States tends to fall along these issues.

- Areas for Training to Increase Understanding of a Foreign Culture:
  - Religion
  - Dress codes
  - Education system
  - Holidays—national and religious
  - Daily eating patterns
  - Family life
  - Business protocols
  - Social etiquette
  - Equal opportunity

#### SOME WEAKNESSES OF KLUCKHOHN-STRODTBECK

- Vague
- Hard to measure
- Subjective interpretations
- Not directly oriented towards management and business issues