



Humans as homo sapiens

Turning Back Climate Change and Preventing Mass Extinction

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A Human Approach

- Humans love to solve problems
 - Anti-fragile
- Climate change is *change!*
 - A fearful opportunity
- Einstein quote:

“We can’t solve problems by using
the same kind of thinking we used
when we created them.”

What are humans?

- Human genome unchanged for about 200,000 years
- Humans evolve through culture
- Humans are
 - Ultra-social – connected (“made to love”)
 - Imaginative and creative
 - Restless in pursuit to make things better

What is culture?

A culture is a way of life of a group of people –

- the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols
- that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and
- that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next.

<https://www.tamu.edu/faculty/choudhury/culture.html>

Symbols, Heroes, Rituals, Values and Practices!

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what is culture



for their own sake (ways of greetings, paying respect to others, religious and social ceremonies, etc.).

- The core of a culture is formed by values. They are broad tendencies for preferences of certain state of affairs to others (good-evil, right-wrong, natural-unnatural). Many values remain unconscious to those who hold them. Therefore they often cannot be discussed, nor they can be directly observed by others. Values can only be inferred from the way people act under different circumstances.
- Symbols, heroes, and rituals are the tangible or visual aspects of the practices of a culture. The true cultural meaning of the practices is intangible; this is revealed only when the practices are interpreted by the insiders.

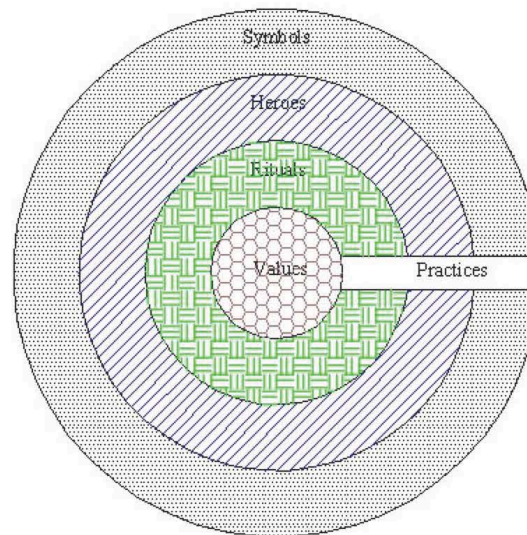


Figure 1. Manifestation of Culture at Different Levels of Depth

Dominant Global Culture

Layer	Significance	Current Interpretation
Symbol	Superficial	Money
Heroes	Honored people	Trump, Gates, Jobs
Rituals	Normal Practices	Money
Values	Deepest/Unconscious	Money

Adam Smith Capitalism

- Adam Smith was a moral philosopher
- He cared deeply about the weakest, those unable to care for themselves
- Adam Smith's Capitalism works to create flourishing civilization
- **Adam Smith warned to count value, NOT money**
- Adam Smith's was a largely local economy. The invisible hand included one's reputation based on value added.
- We need to find ways to measure and evaluate value without relying on money as the measuring stick.
- We need to make the Invisible Hand visible!

Human Values & Practices

- Cooperation
- Shared information
- Safety, creativity, kindness

Quotations

- Shakespeare:

“Thinking makes it so.”

- William James,

“Three things in human life are important:

The first is to be kind

The second is to be kind

The third is to be kind.”

“Act as if what you do makes a difference!”

Topics 1 of 2

- Cultural evolution of homo sapiens
- Eudaimonia, justice and meaning
- Cooperation, competition, & natural selection
- Practices to support cognitive transformation
- Perspectives on good & evil
- Desire, safety and creativity

Topics 2 of 2

- Systems thinking, cell biology and emotions
- Neuroscience, self-interest, & transformation
- Consciousness and free-will
- Capitalism: versions & alternatives
- Democracy at its best
- Paradigm shifts