

LATIN AMERICAN AND ANGLO-SAXON WORLDVIEWS

Latin American Worldview

1. A Real World:
 - less systematic, more intuitive
 - not always predictable
 - worth measured by innate dignity, machismo, number of children
 - more supernatural intervention felt in life; fatalism; religiosity
2. More Tradition Oriented
 - one's station in life is more or less fixed
 - progress is good but not a high value
 - progress is a natural process
 - begging is demeaning but not shameful, rich give without disdain
 - existentialism: time is not money, little moral worth assigned to work, less scheduling, more leisure, work is part of curse, upper class does not do it
3. Class Centered
 - moral responsibility borne by others (pastor, patron)
 - conformity to class norms, vertical relations are secure (patron-client)
 - more "round about" courtesy
 - truth is relative
 - "success is with one's family"
 - more public mindedness
 - authoritarian, democracy is an ideal but it is not right or necessarily the best
4. Uniform Moral World
 - "North American interferes so we are held back"
5. Only One Life
 - purgatory provides additional hope and fear. Eternity is more vague.
6. Passion for life
 - money comes & goes, can't predict it
 - gambling, windfalls give wealth
 - care for your extended family

Anglo-Saxon Worldview

1. A Real World:
 - experienced through the senses
 - predictable, orderly universe
 - worth measured by material well-being
 - sharp distinction between supernatural and natural realities
2. An Open Worldview
 - one's position in life can change by hard work, wealth and higher status
 - progress is of high value: new is better
 - progress based on knowledge, money, effort
 - begging is bad, humanitarianism through institutions
 - pragmatism: time = money, work = good, test is does it work for the public good, a premium is placed on activity
3. Individual Centered
 - individual moral responsibility
 - autonomy of the individual is stressed, horizontal, contractual relations are good
 - simple, forthright, direct
 - truth is absolute
 - personal social mobility, success oriented
 - private ownership and self realization
 - democracy is best and right
4. Uniform Moral World
 - "We are the richest, therefore smartest and best. Be like us"
5. Only One Life
 - so prepare for eternity. No second chance. Make long range plans.
6. Money is the root of all good, get money
 - save and invest, good is unlimited
 - shopping gives meaning to life
 - care for yourself