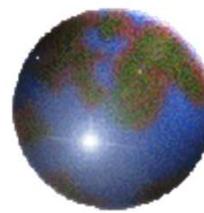




# *Leadership in a Multicultural Marketplace*



John Hooker

Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University

Tepper School Alumni Meeting, London, December 2010



# *Multicultural marketplace*

- ➊ A new economic order.
- ➋ **Multiple economic power centers.**
- ➋ Based on **cultural comparative advantage.**
- ➋ **Cross-cultural skills** of increasing importance.





## *Multicultural marketplace*

- ➊ Result: cultural diversity.
- ➋ **Relationship-based vs. rule-based.**
- ➌ Understanding this is the **key** to operating globally.





# *Outline*

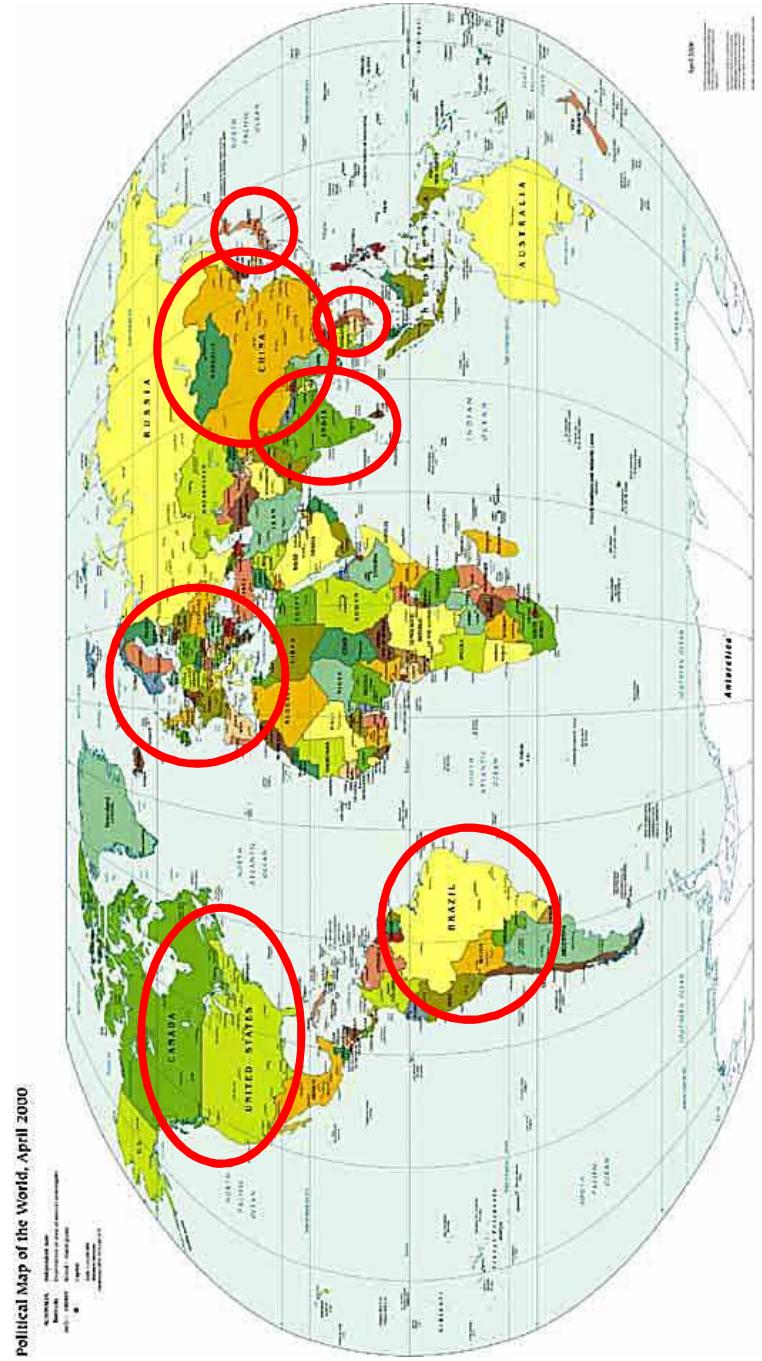
- A new economic order
- Operating across cultures
  - Roots of cultural diversity
  - Business practices
- Information technology
- A multicultural future





## *A new economic order*

- Movement toward a **multi-polar equilibrium**.





## *A new economic order*

- Based on **comparative cultural advantage**.
  - ▣ Much more than "outsourcing."
  - ▣ Many countries have cheap labor.
  - ▣ Only a few have become economic powerhouses.



## *A new economic order*

- Based on **comparative cultural advantage.**
  - ▣ Much more than "outsourcing."
  - ▣ Many countries have cheap labor.
  - ▣ Only a few have become economic powerhouses.
- Such as...
  - ▣ Japanese quality.
  - ▣ Korean manufacturing.
  - ▣ Chinese entrepreneurship.
  - ▣ Indian information technology.
  - ▣ Western technological innovation.



# A new economic order

- Japanese quality

- Continuous improvement

- Group oriented, rather than requiring individual reward.
- Maintain group harmony by honoring everyone's ideas.
- Long time horizon.
- Nemawashi



*Hanko stamp*

Traditionally a part of  
*nemawashi*



# A new economic order

## Superior operations management

- Just-in-time inventory management
- *Kanban* systems minimize rework, maximize flexibility.
- Lean manufacturing, reduced setup times.



Toyota factory in Japan



## A new economic order

- Superior operations management

- Just-in-time inventory management
- *Kanban* systems minimize rework, maximize flexibility.
- Lean manufacturing, reduced setup times.

- Outgrowth of *keiretsu* (formerly *zaibatsu*).

- Old-boy networks, trust relationships.
- *Keidanren*.



Toyota factory in Japan



## A new economic order

- Korean Manufacturing
- Initially an imitation of Japanese *zaibatsu*.
  - High power distance culture allowed Park Chung Hee to create the *chaebol*.
- Cozy relationship between leading industrial families and the government
  - Allowed Korea to build major private corporations in a relationship-based culture.



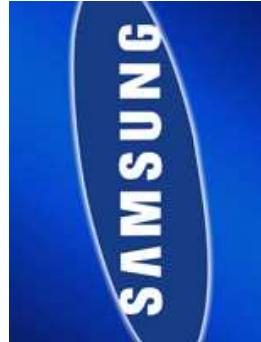
Park Chung Hee  
Korean dictator 1961-79



## *A new economic order*

### ■ Loyalty to the boss.

- Paternal relationship.
- Bottom line and short-term profitability are secondary.



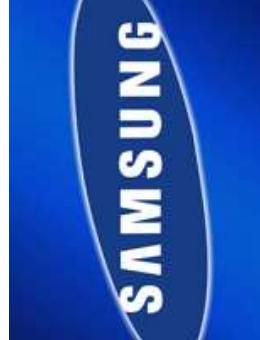
Korean *chaebol*



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- Highly disciplined, hierarchical groups.

- Organized by age.

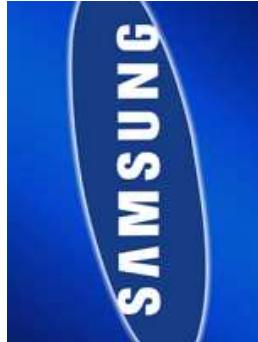


Korean *chaebol*



## A new economic order

- Loyalty to the boss.
  - Paternal relationship.
  - Bottom line and short-term profitability are secondary.
- Highly disciplined, hierarchical groups.
  - Organized by age.
- Highly competitive, masculine culture.
  - Strong national solidarity.



Korean *chaebol*



## A new economic order

- Chinese entrepreneurship
  - A cultural trait of coastal Chinese



Guangzhou



## A new economic order

- Chinese entrepreneurship

- A cultural trait of coastal Chinese

- Particularly speakers of *Yüè* (Cantonese), *Mǐn* (Fujianese), and *Wú* (Shanghaiese) dialects.

- Uncertainty tolerant culture.

Guangzhou





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- Self-esteem tied to wealth and status.

- “To be rich is glorious” (Deng Xiaoping).



Guangzhou



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## A new economic order

### ■ Relationship-based business.

- Family-based investment financed the boom.
- *Guānxì* is a time-tested mechanism.
- World's largest economy for 8 of last 10 centuries, soon to be again.



President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt with Chinese Trade Minister Bo Xilai, who headed a delegation of 150 Chinese businessmen.



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- President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt with Chinese Trade Minister Bo Xilai, who headed a delegation of 150 Chinese businessmen.
- ## ■ Making inroads into South America, Africa, Middle East.
- More comfortable with Chinese relationship-based business style than Western rule-based transparency.



# *A new economic order*

- ➊ Indian information technology
  - Inner discipline

- Get control of one's mind rather than the environment.

- Modern form: intellectual discipline, academic competition.



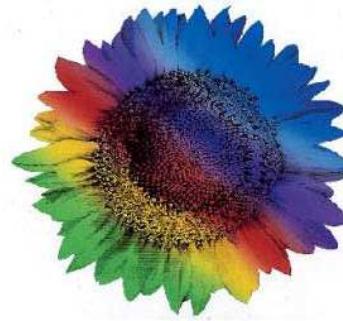
IIT Mumbai



## A new economic order

### ■ Networking.

- Good for business.
- Efficient way to absorb technical knowledge.



**WIPRO**  
*Applying Thought*



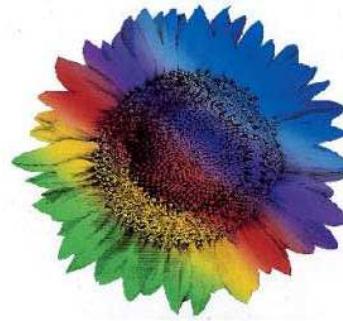
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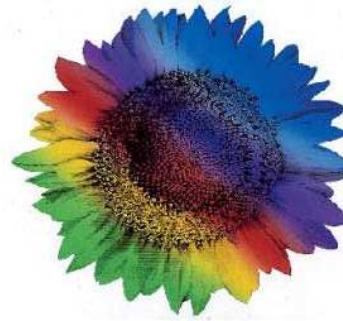
## ■ A verbal culture.

- Well suited to academic discourse, information age.





# A new economic order

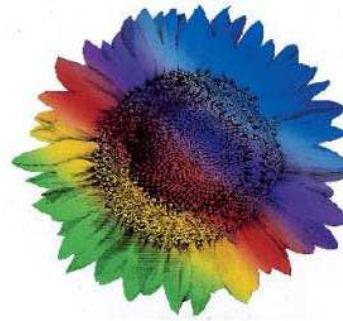


- **Networking.**
  - Good for business
  - Efficient way to absorb technical knowledge.
- **A verbal culture.**
  - Well suited to academic discourse, information age.
- **Case study: Software development.**
  - No need for technology, but well equipped to create it.
  - Inner discipline vs. external engineering.



## *A new economic order*

- Indians may see themselves as **Westernizing/globalising**
  - There is a reliance on rationality, as in the West.
  - But Indians are **Indianising**.

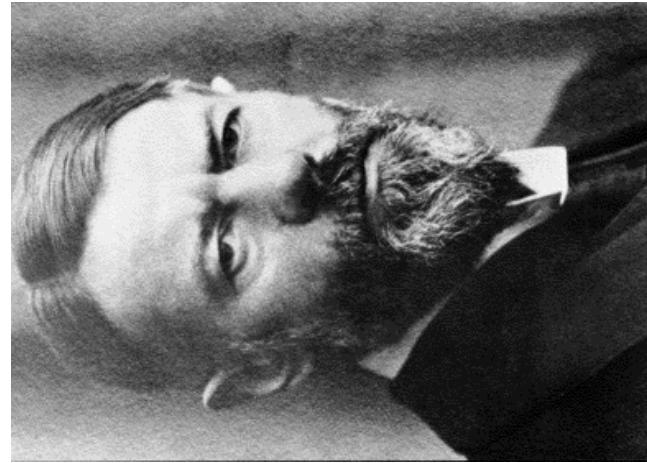


**WIPRO**  
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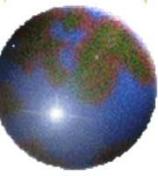


# *A new economic order*

- Western technological innovation
- Manipulation of nature.
  - Secular world (from Middle East).
  - Greek rationality.



Max Weber



# *A new economic order*

- ❖ Western technological innovation

- ❖ Manipulation of nature.

- Secular world (from Middle East).
- Greek rationality.

- ❖ Technology as coping mechanism

- Controlling the environment rather than oneself.
- Support from family, friends less important.



Max Weber

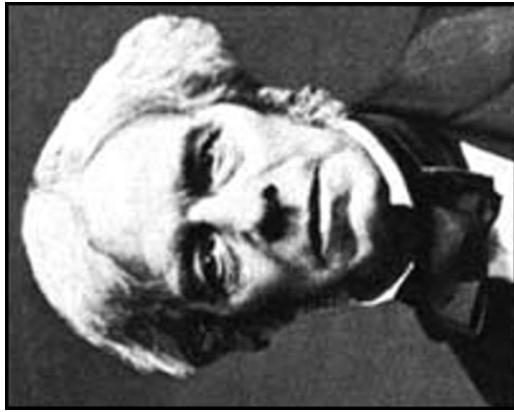


# *A new economic order*

## ⊕ Individualism.

- Individuals have the right to rethink everything.
- Students asked to reason from first principles.
- Do experiments, prove theorems.
- Individual expression, originality valued.

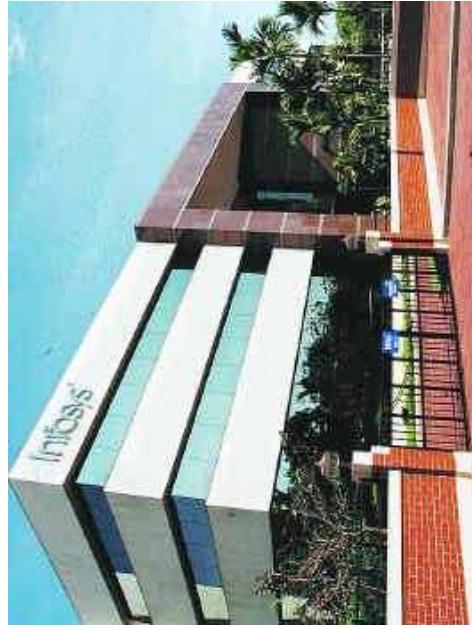
## ⊕ Payoff: new ideas for technological coping mechanism.





# *Cultural deglobalization*

- ➊ Economic basis
- ➋ Successful countries will **retain and emphasize the cultural traits that bring them success.**
  - Including their behavioral norms.
  - They may **see** themselves as Westernising.



Infosys, Electronics City,  
near Bangalore



# *Roots of cultural diversity*

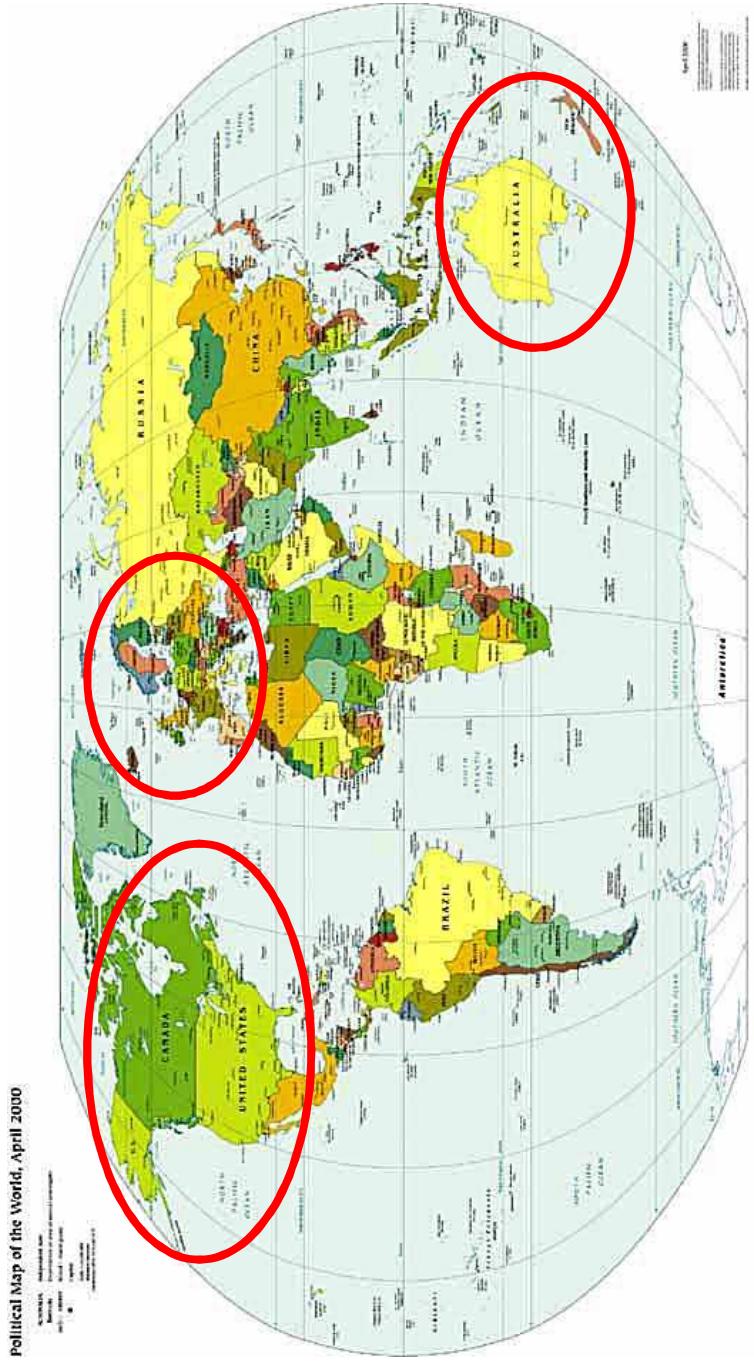
- Two types of cultures.
  - **Rule-based cultures**
    - Humans are autonomous, rational individuals.
  - **Relationship-based cultures**
    - Human existence is defined by its relatedness to others.
    - Family, community.



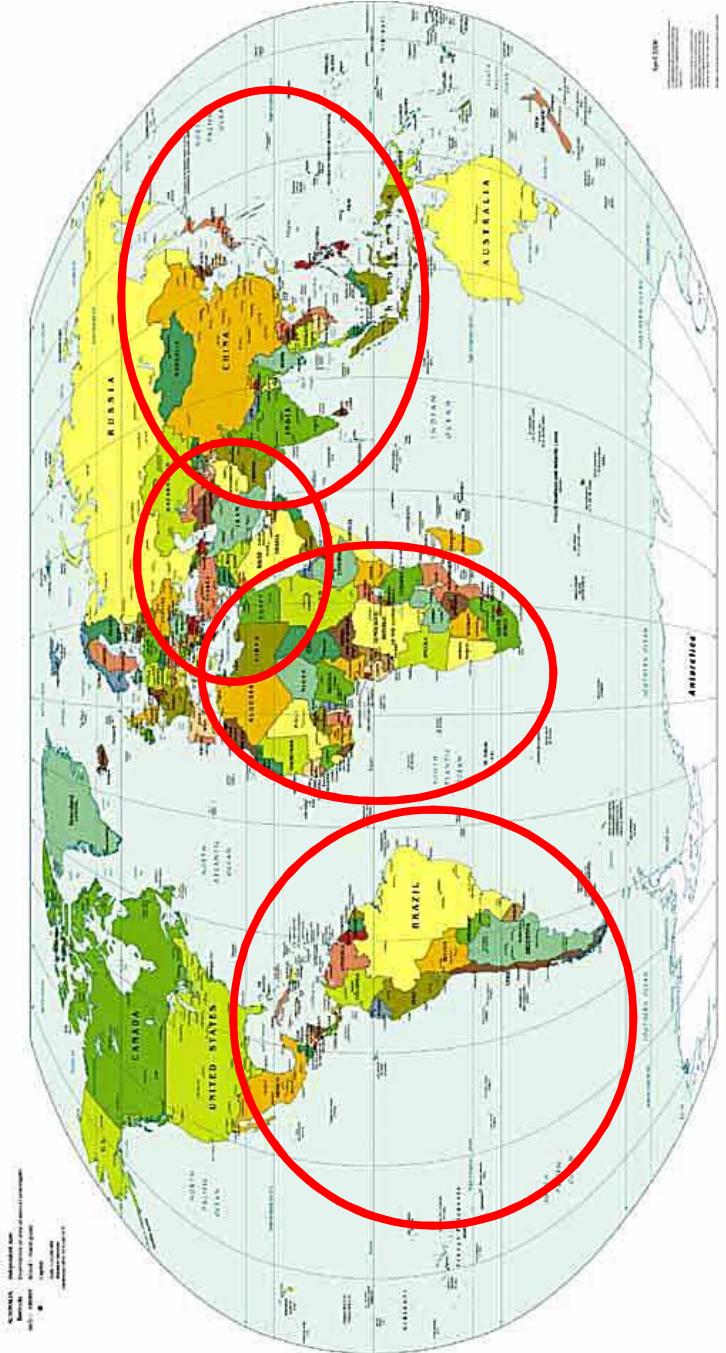
Filipino family



- *Rule-based* = life is organized primarily around rules.



- *Relationship-based* = life is organized primarily around **personal relationships**.





# *Roots of cultural diversity*

- Rule-based cultures

- Autonomous individuals must have equal status.

- Ethic of justice, equality, human rights.
- Grounded in rationality





# *Roots of cultural diversity*

## Rule-based cultures

### Autonomous individuals must have equal status.

- Ethic of justice, equality, human rights.
- Grounded in rationality

### ...and equal authority

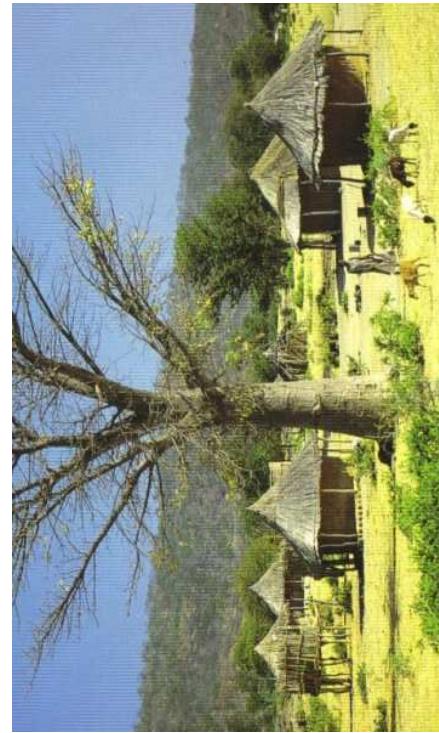
- Allegiance to persons rather than rules.
- The rules must be self-evident and therefore **universal**.





## *Roots of cultural diversity*

- Relationship-based cultures
  - Persons do not exist apart from their participation in a larger unit.
    - Family, ancestors, community, even the universe as a whole.

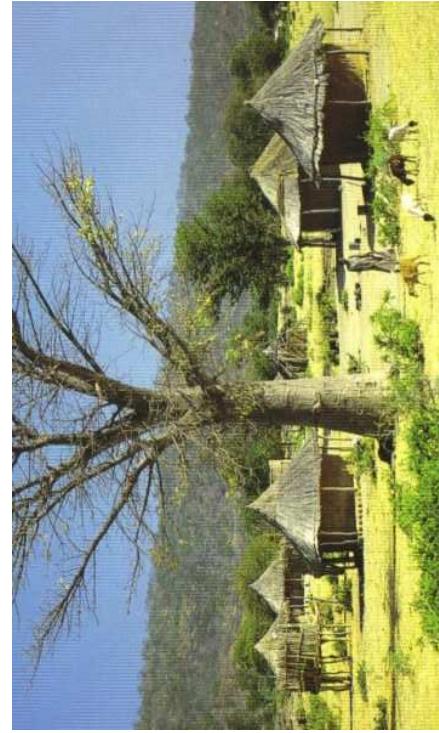


Shona village, Zimbabwe



## *Roots of cultural diversity*

- Relationship-based cultures
  - Persons do not exist apart from their participation in a larger unit.
    - Family, ancestors, community, even the universe as a whole.
  - An ethic of care.
    - Self = the collective.
    - Take care of family, friends.
    - Cronyism, nepotism can be high moral virtue.



Shona village, Zimbabwe



# *Business practices*

- ➊ Rule-based cultures.
- ➋ Long, detailed contracts.
  - Inflexible.
  - Enforced by legal system.





# *Business practices*

- ➊ Rule-based cultures.
  - ▣ Organizations run by the rules.
  - Rather than boss's judgment in particular cases.



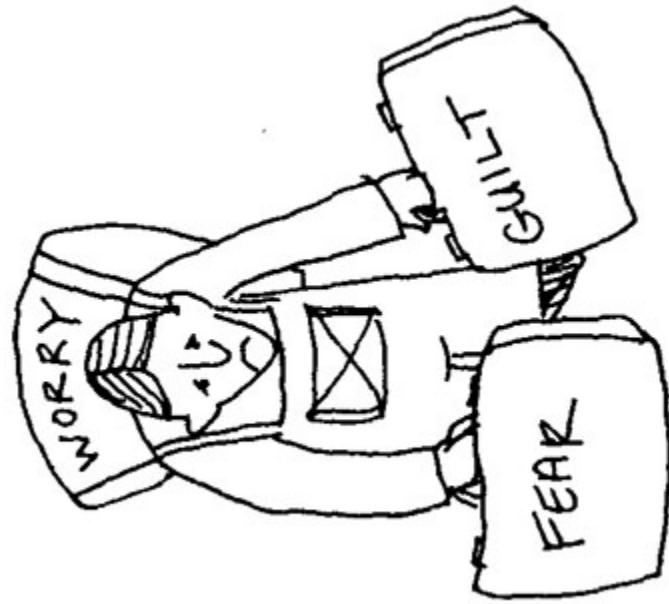


# *Business practices*

- Rule-based cultures.

- Light supervision.

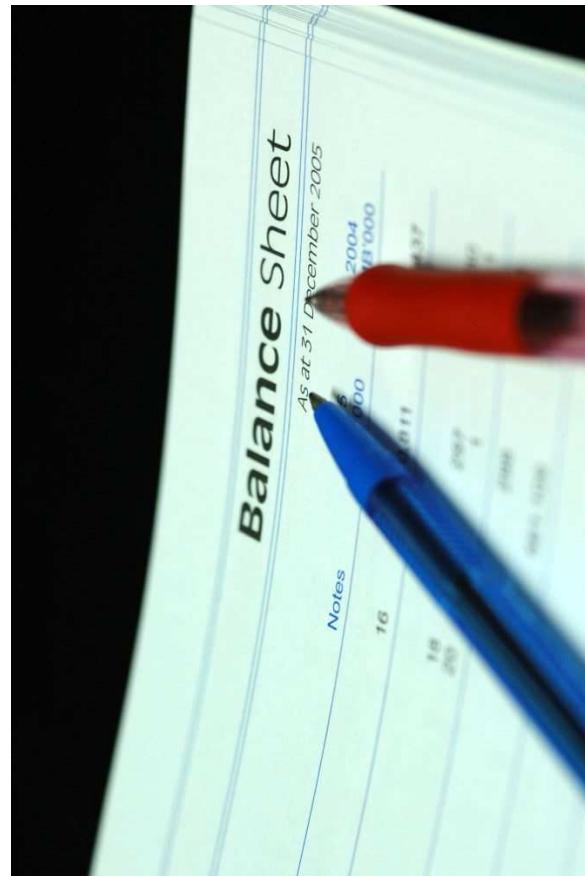
- Compliance based on guilt, fear of being caught.





# *Business practices*

- ◉ Rule-based cultures.
- ☒ Transparency possible and necessary in business.
  - Impractical to work through friends, family.
  - Public information necessary.





# *Business practices*

- Relationship-based cultures.
- Compliance based on respect for significant others.
- Behavior norms are transmitted by authority figures.





# *Business practices*

- Relationship-based cultures.

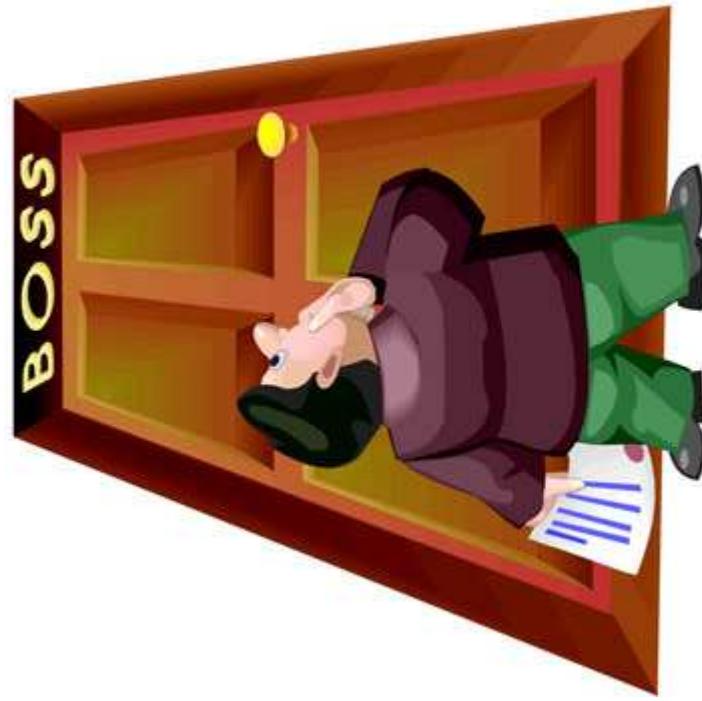
- Norms are implicit in the cultural context.
- Organizations built around persons, infrastructure based on negotiation.





# *Business practices*

- Relationship-based cultures.
- Organization run by the boss.
  - There may be rules and procedures, but the boss makes case-by-case decisions.





# *Business practices*

- ➊ Relationship-based cultures.
  - ▣ Courtesy, face saving avoids disputes.
  - ▣ More important to be nice than to be right.
    - Japanese example.





# *Business practices*

- Relationship-based cultures.

- Reliance on personal trust rather than the system.
- Working agreement, business relationship rather than explicit contract





## *Business practices*

- Relationship-based cultures.
  - Close supervision.
  - Compliance based on shame, loss of face.
  - Transparency difficult and less important in business.
- Work with family and friends.

关系  
关系



# *Information technology*

- Deglobalization.
- Communication technology **reinforces** cultural divergence.
  - Rather than homogenizing the world.





# *Information technology*

- Deglobalization.
- Communication technology **reinforces** cultural diversity.
  - Rather than homogenizing the world.
- In two ways:
  - Market **microsegments**
    - Support for both **relationship- and rule-based** cultures





# *Information technology*

- Market microsegments

- Satellite channels.

- Easy to set up

- Can cater to every ethnic group
  - 350+ Arabic-language channels





25

# *Information technology*

- Culturally-specific websites.

- e.g., 275+ Google sites





# *Information technology*

- Support for high-context communication



- Close supervision





# *Information technology*

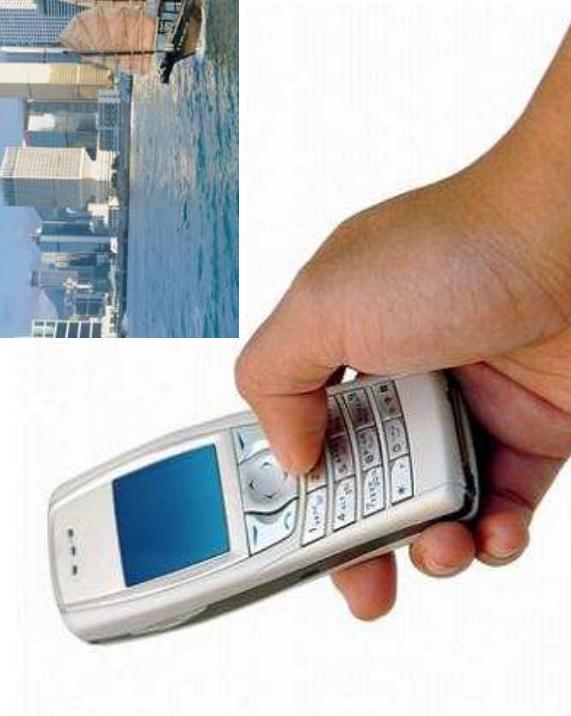
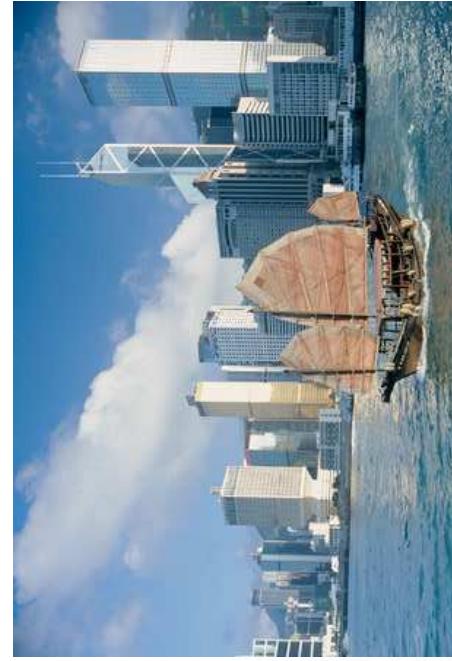
## ■ **Mobile phones.**

- Constant contact with associates.

- After Finland, took off in Asia.

- Close and constant supervision

- By parents.
- By employers.





# *Information technology*

## ■ Text messaging, etc.

- Smart phones
- Instant messaging
- Email





# Information technology

- Networking websites.

*Rule-based*



*Relationship-based*



Facebook helps you connect and share with  
the people in your life.



**Connect** with friends and family using scraps and instant messaging  
**Discover** new people through friends of friends and communities

Wildly popular in Brazil.



# *Stability*

- ❖ Relationship-based approach is more stable.
- ❖ Asian financial crisis.
  - China, Taiwan escaped it.
  - Family-based finance.
- ❖ Current financial crisis.





## *The future of business*

- Multicultural marketplace.
- Powered by **cultural comparative advantage.**
- Enabled by **information technology.**
- Perhaps greater **stability.**

