



# American Cultural Patterns: A Cross-Cultural Perspective

*By Edward C. Stewart, Milton J. Bennett*

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**American Cultural Patterns: A Cross-Cultural Perspective** By Edward C. Stewart, Milton J. Bennett

This classic study was originally written by Edward Stewart in 1972 and has become a seminal work in the field of intercultural relations. In this edition, Stewart and Milton J. Bennett have greatly expanded the analysis of American cultural patterns by introducing new cross-cultural comparisons and drawing on recent research on value systems, perception psychology, cultural anthropology, and intercultural communication. Beginning with a discussion of the issues relative to contact between people of different cultures, the authors examine the nature of cultural assumptions and values as a framework for cross-cultural analysis. They then analyze the human perceptual process, consider the influence of language on culture, and discuss nonverbal behavior. Central to the book is an analysis of American culture constructed along four dimensions: form of activity, form of social relations, perceptions of the world, and perception of the self. American cultural traits are isolated out, analyzed, and compared with parallel characteristics of other cultures. Finally, the cultural dimensions of communication and their implications for cross-cultural interaction are examined.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

Advice [for] foreign visitors to the U.S. that is intended to help them understand the motivations, attitudes, communication styles and actions of Americans. **Book News**

This new edition is a primary starting point for students and professionals to begin their explorations of American culture. Readable and accessible, with new examples and recommendations for visitors, the text is even more amenable to the needs of anyone interacting with Americans and American culture. **Kimberley Brown, Professor, Applied Linguistics and International Studies, Portland State University**

#### **About the Author**

Gary Althen served for thirty years as a foreign student adviser at the University of Iowa, many of them as director of the Office of International Students and Scholars. He has been president of the NAFSA: Association of International Educators and received its Marita Houlihan Award for his contributions to the field of international educational exchange. He is the author of *The Handbook of Foreign Student Advising* and is author, editor, or coauthor of many publications concerning international education and intercultural affairs. He has also lived and worked in Peru and Malaysia. Dr. Janet Bennett is the executive director and cofounder of the Intercultural Communication Institute (ICI).

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