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## West vs east

East and west are cardinal directions that indicate the position of a location in relation to the Earth’s rotation. East is the direction in which the sun rises, while west is the opposite direction, where the sun sets. Here are the answers to some commonly asked questions about east and west: Which way is east or west? East is the direction that the sun rises, and west is the opposite direction. If you are facing east, north will be to your left. Is east west or left? East and west are not the same as left or right. By convention, on a map, the right-hand side is considered east. What comes first west or east? If you are going around the Earth clockwise from the north, you will encounter the west point first, followed by the south point, and then the east point. Is east and west the same thing? No, east and west are opposite directions. East is in the direction of Earth’s axial rotation. Is east left or right? On a map, east is typically on the right side if north is at the top. East is not always the same as right or left, as it depends on the orientation of the map. Which one is east-side? On a map, the east side is usually depicted on the right side if north is at the top. How do you remember east or west? A common method to remember the directions is to face towards the sunrise (east) and stretch your arms. Your right hand side will be south, left hand side will be north, and your back will be towards west. What runs east to west? Lines of latitude, also known as parallels, run east to west. The equator, which equally divides the Earth into the Northern and Southern hemispheres, is the most well-known line of latitude that runs east to west. At what point does west become east? West becomes east at the International Date Line, which is located halfway around the world at 180 degrees longitude. The prime meridian at 0 degrees longitude separates the eastern hemisphere from the western hemisphere. Why is east not West? The terms east and west are based on the direction of the Earth’s rotation. East is called east because it is the direction in which the sun rises, while west is called west because it is the opposite direction, where the sun sets. Which side is west? On a map with north at the top, west is typically on the left side. Moving continuously west means following a circle of latitude. Is east always left? No, east is not always left. The orientation of east and left depends on the reference point and context. On a map with north at the top, east is often on the right side. Which direction is left to east? In relation to east, the direction on our left is north How do you find the east direction of a room? You can find the east direction of a room by looking out of a window and determining the direction of the rising sun. In the morning, the sun rises in the east, so the window facing the sunrise indicates the east direction. Is west positive or negative? In terms of longitude, positive longitudes are east of the prime meridian, while negative longitudes are west of the prime meridian. The prime meridian serves as the zero point for measuring distance both east and west around the Earth. Is east to west horizontal? No, east to west is not strictly horizontal. It refers to the direction perpendicular to the north-south axis of the Earth, which is not perfectly horizontal due to the Earth’s curvature. Why is it called west and east? The terms west and east originated from Latin. West comes from “occidens,” meaning sunset or west, while east comes from “oriens,” meaning rise or east. These terms have been used to describe the directions based on the sun’s position in the sky. Are east and west opposite to each other? Yes, east and west are opposite directions. East represents the direction of rotation of the Earth, while west represents the opposite direction. What does the east symbolize? The east is often associated with new beginnings, communication, and new growth. It symbolizes the direction of the rising sun and the start of each day. Is north up or down? The convention of north being up and south being down on maps is arbitrary. The choice of orientation is based on historical cartographic traditions and navigational purposes. Am I in the east or west? To determine if you are in the east or west, you can use a compass or look for landmarks to orient yourself. If you are facing the rising sun, you are in the east. From education, the workplace, to relationships and families, in many of these examples the cultural differences are pretty wide-ranging. Most of the cultural differences centre around two concepts:Individualism - favours the individual as an independent entity and encourages self-promotion and self-worth.Collectivism - individuals are part of a group and the needs of the group come before the individual.By and large, cultures in the West tend to be more individualistic whereas people from the East are more collectivist. These concepts are a running thread through many eastern and western cultural differences.Here are five cultural differences in thinking and perception between the East and West.5 Cultural Differences Between East and West1. The individualIn Western society, the individual rules. And this has consequences for society, the workplace, family, even relationships. For example, in the West, we admire the ‘self-made man’. We value personal achievements over group efforts. We want validation for our own self-esteem but not for any particular group.This can lead us to overestimate our own abilities or ‘self-inflation’. For instance, a whopping 94% of US professors rated themselves as ‘better than average’ when asked about their competence. There’s an American saying: ‘The squeaky wheel gets the grease.’ In other words, whoever complains or makes the loudest noise will get the attention.On the other hand, in the East, family and community are more important than the individual. Not to mention that there is little to no evidence of any tendency for self-inflation. In fact, people living in the East are more likely to underestimate their abilities, rather than seem over-confident. In Eastern society, it is considered extremely rude to brag about one’s abilities.To demonstrate, an old Japanese proverb advises: ‘The nail that sticks out gets hammered down.’ This is the complete opposite of the American saying. In other words, you will be criticised if you make a fuss.2. FamilyFamily plays an extremely important role in Eastern society. Particularly when it comes to living arrangements. In the West, it is a rite of passage for children to move out at a certain age. Getting your own place is a sign of independence. Whereas in the East, there is no need for children to leave the family home.Asian people see living on your own as a choice as strange. This goes for elderly relatives as well. Family members care for their older generations in the East. Whereas in the West, we do not see caring for our elderly as a family responsibility.In the East, married couples do not move out of the family home. In fact, a newly-married woman will go and live with her husband’s family. Newly-married Western couples usually live together before they get married. In the East, the emphasis is very much on family.As a matter of fact, you’ll often find several generations living under the same roof. However, this also means that individuals living in the family home may have to compromise. Family come first in the East.3. Love and RelationshipsWesterners believe that there must be one special person in the world just for them. After all, as individuals we are special and only the best will do. Westerners will embark on an endless search for their perfect match. We want that one person that will make us whole. Love, in the West, means huge emotions, a rollercoaster with huge ups and downs. In the East, it’s a much more sedate affair. People trust that they’ll chance upon love through circumstance. They settle for a partner that they have a deep friendship with. This is their foundation on which love will grow. Easterners make a lasting commitment. They don’t give up when their relationship hits a rocky patch.In the East, potential partners must have family approval. In fact, arranged marriages are a tradition that is alive and well in the East. This is virtually unheard of in the West.4. EducationIn the West, the focus is very much on individual achievement and fostering natural ability. Students are encouraged to think for themselves. Participation is key. Students are expected to challenge their lecturers. Tutors want to pique their student’s interest and get them curious about their subject.In Western schools, students are contributors to their own education. They are not merely recipients of education. If a student fails, the school or institution is blamed.On the contrary, in the East, every student is equal and has the same chance of academic success as the next student. Hard work is the way to attain success.In addition, in Eastern schools, discipline can outweigh any academic problems the students might face. There are no other reasons for a student to fail. However, if they do, it’s certainly not the school’s fault. More likely it’s down to the parents or the student themselves.5. The WorkplaceFinally, the East and West differ in many ways when it comes to the workplace. In Western society, walk into an office and you are likely to see very separate designated spaces for workers. The manager has their own office.Other staff members are defined by the size and seclusion of their areas. In contrast, workers in the East enjoy a much more open-plan working environment. Here managers and senior staff mingle with ordinary workers.In the West, forming relationships with your co-workers tends to take time and occurs over long periods. However, in the East, you are immediately treated like close family.And as for networking, you might think that the East is way ahead of the West in terms of technology. This may be true, but they still like the old-fashioned use of business cards. Unlike the West, where we are more likely to pass on our email address. These are just a few cultural differences between the East and West. If you know any more please do let us know!References: -//www.huffingtonpost.com Copyright © 2012-2025 Learning Mind. All rights reserved. For permission to reprint, contact us. Perceived difference between the Eastern and Western worlds This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Find sources: "East-West dichotomy" - news - newspapers - books - scholar - JSTOR (November 2021) (Learn how and when to remove this message) East-West dichotomyA map highlighting the three "East"s as defined by Near East/Middle East (West Asia excluding the South Caucasus, with countries in "Greater Middle East" sometimes included) and Far East (North, East and Southeast Asia, with South Asia sometimes also included)A map of the "Western world" based-on Samuel P. Huntington's 1996 Clash of Civilizations. In turquoise are the Orthodox World and Latin America, which are either a part of the West or distinct civilizations intimately related to the West. A meeting of Japan, China, and the West (Shiba Kōkan, late 18th century) In sociology, the East–West dichotomy is the perceived difference between the Eastern and the Western worlds. Cultural and religious rather than geographical in division, the boundaries of East and West are not fixed, but vary according to the criteria adopted by individuals using the term. Used in discussing such studies as management, economics, international relations, and linguistics, the concept is criticized for overlooking regional hybridity.[1] Conceptually, the boundaries are cultural, rather than geographical, as a result of which Australia and New Zealand are typically grouped in the West (despite being geographically in the east), while Islamic nations are, regardless of location, grouped in the East.[2] However, there are a few Muslim-majority regions in Europe which do not fit this dichotomy.[citation needed] The culture line can be particularly difficult to place in regions of cultural diversity such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, whose citizens may themselves identify as East or West depending on ethnic or religious background.[2] Further, residents of different parts of the world perceive the boundaries differently; for example, some European scholars define Russia as East, but most agree that it is the West's second complementary part,[3] and Islamic nations regard it and other predominantly Christian nations as the West.[2] Another unanswered question is whether Siberia (North Asia) is "Eastern"[citation needed] In the 1700s, the Eastern world comprised the continents of Asia and Australa (New Holland). The concept has been used in both "Eastern" and "Western" nations. Japanese sinologist Tachibana Shiraki, in the 1920s, wrote of the need to unify Asia—East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia but excluding Central Asia and West Asia—and form a "New East" that might combine culturally in balancing against the West.[4] Japan continued to make much of the concept, known as Pan-Asianism, throughout World War II, in propaganda.[5] In China, it was encapsulated during the Cold War in a 1957 speech by Mao Zedong,[6] who launched a slogan when he said, "This is a war between two worlds. The West Wind cannot prevail over the East Wind; the East Wind is bound to prevail over the West Wind." [7] Muslim percentages: green 50% and above, yellow 10-49% in the 1940s, it became bound up with an idea of aggressive, "frustrated nationalism", which was seen as "intrinsically anti- or non-Western"; sociologist Frank Furedi wrote, "The already existing intellectual assessment of European nationalism adapted to the growth of the Third World variety by developing the couplet of mature Western versus immature Eastern nationalism...". This East-West dichotomy became an accepted part of Western political theory.[8] Iraqi novelist Dhul'-Nun Ayyub would include aspects of this concept in his stories. An example can be found in his story "al-Dutkur Ibrahim" that portrays the character, Dr. Ibrahim, being the epitome of evil and corruption, and an anglophile who turns against his people's interests. Another example is in his 1957 story "Orphans on Christmas Day" in which an Iranian Man and a Viennese woman overcome cultural differences to be together. The story is regarded by critics as an allegory for potential peace between East and West during the height of colonialism.[9] The 1978 book Orientalism, by Edward Said, was highly influential in further establishing concepts of the East-West dichotomy in the Western world, bringing into college lectures a notion of the East as seen as "characterized by religious sensibilities, familial social orders, and ageless traditions" in contrast to Western "rationality, material and technical dynamism, and individualism." [10] More recently, the divide has also been posited as an Islamic "East" and an American and European "West." [11] [12] Critics note that an Islamic/non-Islamic East-West dichotomy is complicated by the global dissemination of Islamic fundamentalism and by cultural diversity within Islamic nations, moving the argument "beyond that of an East-West dichotomy and into a tripartite situation." [13] The East-West dichotomy has been used in studying a range of topics, including management, economics and linguistics. Knowledge Creation and Management (2007) examines it as the difference in organizational learning between Western cultures and Eastern cultures.[14] It has been widely used in exploring the period of rapid economic growth that has been termed the "East-Asian miracle" in segments of East Asia, particularly the Asian Tigers, following World War II.[15] Some sociologists, in line with the West as a model of modernity posited by Arnold J. Toynbee, have perceived the economic expansion as a sign of the "Westernization" of the region, but others look for explanation in cultural/racial characteristics of the East, embracing concepts of fixed Eastern cultural identity in a phenomenon described as "New Orientalism".[2][16] Both approaches to the East-West dichotomy have been criticized for failing to take into account the historical hybridity of the regions.[17] The concept has also been brought to bear on examinations of intercultural communication. Asians are widely described as embracing an "inductive speech pattern" in which a primary point is approached indirectly, but Western societies are said to use "deductive speech" in which speakers immediately establish their point.[18] That is attributed to a higher priority among Asians in harmonious interrelations, but Westerners are said to prioritize direct communication.[19] 2001's Intercultural Communication: A Discourse Approach described the East-West dichotomy linguistically as a "false dichotomy", noting that both Asian and Western speakers use both forms of communication.[20] The Orient and the Occident, by Nicaise de Keyser (1854) In addition to difficulties in defining regions and overlooking hybridity, the East-West dichotomy has been criticized for creating an artificial construct of regional unification that allows one voice to claim authority to speak for multitudes. In "The Triumph of the East?", Mark T. Berger speaks to the issue as relates to examination of the "East-Asian miracle". The historical power of the East-West dichotomy, and the fixed conceptions of culture/race to which it is linked, have increasingly allowed the national elites of the region to speak not only for their 'nations', but even for Asia and Asians... There are numerous instances of Western scholars, intent on challenging North American and/or Western hegemony in both material and discursive terms, ending up uncritically privileging the elite narratives of power-holders in Asia as authentic representatives of a particular non-Western nation or social formation (and also contributing to the [21] Clash of Civilizations East-west cultural debate in early 20th century China Global North and Global South Inglehart-Welzel cultural map of the world Oriental Despotism Orientalism ^ What We Mean by the West - Foreign Policy Research Institute ^ a b c d Mestrovic, Stjepan (1994). 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Retrieved from " East and West are two distinct cultural and geographical regions that have their own unique characteristics. The East, often associated with countries in Asia, is known for its rich history, ancient traditions, and emphasis on collectivism. It values harmony, respect for authority, and the importance of family and community. In contrast, the West, typically referring to countries in Europe and North America, is characterized by its focus on individualism, innovation, and progress. It places a high value on personal freedom, equality, and the pursuit of individual goals. While both regions have their own strengths and weaknesses, they contribute to the diversity and richness of our global society. The East and West have distinct cultural differences that shape their societies and ways of life. In the East, collectivism is often emphasized, where individuals prioritize the needs of the group over their own. This is reflected in the strong sense of community and family values that are deeply ingrained in Eastern cultures. On the other hand, the West tends to prioritize individualism, valuing personal freedom and independence. This can be seen in the emphasis on individual achievements and self-expression.In terms of communication styles, the East tends to value indirect and implicit communication, where messages are conveyed through non-verbal cues and context. This can sometimes lead to misunderstandings for those from the West, who are more accustomed to direct and explicit communication. However, the West places a greater emphasis on verbal communication, valuing clarity and directness in expressing thoughts and opinions.Religion also plays a significant role in shaping the cultural differences between the East and West. In the East, religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, and Confucianism have a strong influence on daily life, emphasizing concepts such as karma, reincarnation, and filial piety. On the other hand, the West is predominantly influenced by Christianity, which emphasizes concepts such as salvation, forgiveness, and the importance of individual faith.Education SystemsThe education systems in the East and West also differ in various aspects. In the East, there is often a greater emphasis on rote learning and memorization, with students expected to excel in standardized tests. This approach aims to instill discipline, respect for authority, and a strong work ethic. In contrast, the education system in the West focuses more on critical thinking, creativity, and independent learning. Students are encouraged to question and analyze information, fostering a spirit of innovation and individuality.Furthermore, the East places a high value on academic achievement and the pursuit of prestigious degrees, often leading to intense competition among students. In the West, while academic achievement is still important, there is also a greater emphasis on holistic development, including extracurricular activities, sports, and social skills.Another notable difference is the role of teachers. In the East, teachers are often seen as authority figures and are highly respected. Students are expected to show deference and obedience to their teachers. In the West, teachers are viewed more as facilitators and mentors, encouraging students to actively participate in the learning process and fostering a collaborative environment.Work CultureThe work culture in the East and West also exhibits distinct characteristics. In the East, there is often a strong emphasis on hierarchy and respect for authority within the workplace. Decision-making is typically centralized, with seniority and age playing a significant role in determining authority. Employees are expected to show loyalty and dedication to their organizations, often working long hours.On the other hand, the work culture in the West tends to be more egalitarian, with a flatter organizational structure and a greater emphasis on teamwork and collaboration. Decision-making is often decentralized, with input from various levels of the organization. Work-life balance is also highly valued, with employees encouraged to maintain a healthy separation between their personal and professional lives.Moreover, the East places a strong emphasis on harmony and avoiding conflict within the workplace. Openly expressing dissent or disagreement may be seen as disrespectful or disruptive. In contrast, the West encourages open and constructive dialogue, valuing diverse perspectives and the ability to challenge ideas.Technology and InnovationThe East and West have also shown different approaches to technology and innovation. In recent years, the East, particularly countries like China and South Korea, has made significant strides in technological advancements. These countries have become global leaders in areas such as artificial intelligence, e-commerce, and mobile technology. The East often prioritizes efficiency and practicality in technological development, aiming to improve daily life and enhance productivity.On the other hand, the West, particularly the United States, has a strong tradition of innovation and entrepreneurship. The West often focuses on pushing the boundaries of technology, exploring new frontiers, and disrupting existing industries. There is a greater emphasis on research and development, with a focus on creating groundbreaking inventions and solutions.Furthermore, the East and West have different attitudes towards privacy and data protection. In the East, there is often a greater acceptance of surveillance and data collection for the sake of societal stability and security. In contrast, the West places a higher value on individual privacy rights and has stricter regulations regarding data protection.ConclusionThe East and West exhibit numerous differences in terms of culture, education systems, work culture, and approaches to technology and innovation. These differences stem from historical, philosophical, and societal factors. While it is important to recognize and appreciate these distinctions, it is equally crucial to foster understanding and collaboration between the East and West, as globalization continues to bring people from different cultures and backgrounds closer together. 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