

Contrasting Worldviews

(Related Values in Bold Type)

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Ideas of Nature

Nature as sacred source of life (reverence)	Garden of Eden: wilderness is either utopian or savage (like its original inhabitants) (romantization)
Nurturance and power connected in nature and in the feminine aspect of society (reverence)	Nature is infinitely susceptible to human control (domination)
Cosmic hospitality (gratitude)	Nature can be infinitely manipulated to serve human desire (objectification)
Natural model of reciprocity	Uncontrolled nature is dangerous chaos (dualism)
Life is a gift (generosity)	Nature must be deciphered as well as disciplined
Acceptance of mystery (humility)	Nature and human, nature and
There is nothing outside of nature	spiritual spheres, separate (dualism)
Human and nature; nature and spirit are intimately connected (holism)	Human stance with respect to nature :
Nature is teacher/ Source of vision	lord
Nature is refuge	owner
Human stance with respect to nature:	steward
Guest	manager
child of Mother Nature	controller
part of natural "family":	re-shaper
"all my relations"; kinship of all life	(domination)
Witness to wonder of nature	
co-creator	Spirituality based on transcendence of and escape from the natural world
Spirituality based on immanence , living one's story in web of life/ retelling the story of one's people (belonging)	

Ideas of Survival

Long-term (seven generations)	Short-term (five year plan)
Natural cycles, things happen when appropriate, when ready	clock time, rush; faster the better making things happen
Cyclical time	linear time
Determined by inter-relationship	Determined by individualism, moment
Life and death intertwined	Throw away/ abandon the past;
Patience	Efficiency
Renewal	"Arrow of time"
Eternal spiral of return	"Stag fight" between father and son
between mother and daughter (Infinity sign)	Instant gratification of material desires
Survival determined by understanding one's place in web of life	spiritual desires put off till next world
"Fittest" are those who help others to survive (interdependence)	"Fittest" are those who displace others
	Strength/power over others defines "fittest" (competition)

Longevity
determined by memory of past,
how long remembered in future;
Success is **cooperation,**
connection, relationship
Achievement consists of expanding
and challenging self
embracing others in one's world
world around one (**inclusion**)

“Cream rises to the top” (**hierarchy**)
Success is making it is as an individual
against other individuals,
a society against other society;
a species against other species
Individual development is goal in life
Achievement consists in challenging/outdoing
others (**exclusion; segregation**)

Economic Systems

Economic Values

Natural model of **reciprocity/sharing**
“What goes around comes around”
Life is a gift shared with us
by the rest of nature and
therefore must be returned:
“The gift must always move.”
If one is hungry, all are hungry
Economic arrangements, continued

Accumulation/ hoarding for self or
one’s social group
Idea of scarcity predominates
Food, shelter, clothing are “earned”
and thus owned by the individual
consumption/growth

Human needs must be honored
but also constrained
in terms of the web of life

More and bigger are better

Balance
Psychological growth,
but stable human population

Externalize costs, internalize benefits
to the few with privilege

Material Goods\Property

Ownership consists of “spiritual”
or personal items such as
songs, visions, dreams, stories
personal power,
certain artistic creations
(**commons**)
Everything is alive:
world is inter-subjective
We belong to the world
Belonging through
ancestors/ history (**roots**)
story/ myth (**community**)
naming/ language
vision
adaptation of selves to land

Material goods and means of exchange
are “abstract” or symbolic
(e.g. money) (**private property**)
Everything below oneself
in the hierarchical world is an
object and can be used as such

World belongs to owners as resource
Belonging through (**ownership**)
title/entitlement
territorial protection: fences, borders
adapting land to selves
conquest:

“My village is the earth and sky,
And all that lives on this land.”
Hospitality, resource shared
Trade has spiritual,
inter-personal dimensions
resources belong to individuals
Land a place of spirit and mystery

“Taking possession of the land is the
first and final grasping of a man toward
permanence.”(Don Berry/*Trask*)
Ownership gives meaning
Economic system abstract:
unrelated to local resources or place
Land as “resource” (**objectification**)

Permanence, sense of home
Material is spiritual

"Use up and move on" attitude

Power and danger related
Care: things should be tested
by time, fit into order of
nature
Human adaptation to natural world

Technology

Do things because we can do them
Do things because they are convenient
(**efficiency, convenience, profit**)

Adapt natural world to ourselves

Social Arrangements

Social Values

Getting along with others
Diversity honored/ pluralism
"Permaculture"

Winning out over others

Humility

Monoculture of society; monotheism of story

Arrogance and greed
Economically and socially constrained
Interdependence
All are important/ incorporation of all members of society

Pride and egoism; ethnocentrism, sexism, racism

Partnership between male and female, human and nature

Arrogance and greed socially and economically rewarded

Cooperation

Independence

Balance

In group and out-group

Personal growth through interdependence

Domination of female by male, nature by human

Individual spirit/experience/dreams

Competition

"public"; belongs to self alone

Individual psyche and experience validated by social standards

Power/Authority

Social and sacred power to (enabling power)

Individual power to (enabling power)

Power within

Power with

Power as service

Power and danger understood to be linked,
Therefore used with care and balance

Power over

Power as self-aggrandizement

Social power circulates and shifts
with context

Get and use all power one can get
Social power accumulates, is reified and protected

Privilege abhorred

Privilege the basis of society

Status based on sharing, giving away, creating on behalf of others

Status based on accumulation, protection of resources from others

Nurturance and power linked.

Nurturance and power severed

Authority honored when expressed as wisdom/generosity/service to community

Authority seized and held by force

Those in authority sacrifice most for society

Those in authority obtain most from society

Social order expressed and enforced through honoring personal initiative

Social order expressed and enforced through commandments, police

stories
relationship
communication
humor
Authority linked to trust
Obedience to one's unique spirit/calling
Older generation a catalyst for
the younger to understand its own spirit
Younger generation honors older for its
wisdom, caring, practical knowledge
Vulnerability linked to bonding/intimacy
vulnerability and strength interdependent

and military

Authority linked to secrecy and control
Obedience to social mores/authority
Older generation must "shape" younger

"Youth" culture
Authority linked with strength;
vulnerability dangerous

Sexuality and Gender

Natural model of reciprocity:
giving and getting pleasure
one and the same
Partnership idea of male and female,
and other gender expressions
Bonding through physical touch
Sexuality linked with intimacy,
social and economic commitment
Inheritance based on "social parenting"
"Sensuality linked to awareness/conscience"
Natural beauty and ethical "good"
one and the same
Opening senses important to spiritual
development/ ethical connection
to natural world
Body as teacher
Sexual expression
linked to personal,
interpersonal, sacred meaning
Gender definitions fluid
Gender ground

Sexuality and domination linked
Sexuality linked to property rights
Sexuality a matter of conquest

Male control over the feminine
Touch used for domination, physical
attack

Inheritance based on passing on of genes
Beauty created by image/perfection
Ambivalent attitude toward beauty
and pleasure's relationship to "good"
Sensual information "lower" kind
Denial of sensual information

Mind-Body split
Social hierarchy enforced by gender roles

Gender definitions rigid
Gender roles