

Some Aspects and Assumptions of White Culture in the United States

While different individuals might not practice or accept all of these traits, they are common characteristics of most U.S. White people most of the time.

<p><u>Rugged Individualism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Self-reliance •Individual is primary unit •Independence and autonomy highly valued and rewarded •Individuals assumed to be in control of their environment – “You get what you deserve” <p><u>Competition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Be #1 •Win at all costs •Winner-loser dichotomy •Action Orientation •Master and control nature •Must always “do something” about a situation •Aggressiveness and Extroversion •Decision-Making •Majority rules (when Whites have power) <p><u>Justice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Based on English common law •Protect property and entitlements •Intent counts <p><u>Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •“The King’s English” rules •Written tradition •Avoid conflict, intimacy •Don’t show emotion •Don’t discuss personal life •Be polite 	<p><u>Holidays</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Based on Christian religions •Based on white history and male leaders <p><u>History</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Based on Northern European immigrants’ experience in the United States •Heavy focus on the British Empire •Primacy of Western (Greek, Roman) and Judeo – Christian tradition <p><u>Protestant Work Ethic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hard work is the key to success •Work before play •“If you didn’t meet your goals, you didn’t work hard enough” <p><u>Emphasis on Scientific Method</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Objective, rational linear thinking •Cause and effect relationships •Quantitative emphasis <p><u>Status, Power and Authority</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wealth = worth •Heavy value on ownership of goods, space, property •Your job is how you are •Respect authority 	<p><u>Time</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Adherence to rigid time schedules •Time viewed as a commodity <p><u>Future Orientation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Plan for future •Delayed gratification •Progress is always best •“Tomorrow will be better” <p><u>Family Structure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Nuclear family (father, mother, 2.3 children is the ideal social unit •Husband is breadwinner and head of household •Wife is homemaker and subordinate to husband •Children should have own rooms, be independent <p><u>Aesthetics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Based on European culture •Woman’s beauty based on blonde, thin – “Barbie” •Man’s attractiveness based on economic status, power, intellect •Steak and potatoes; “bland is best” <p><u>Religion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Christianity is the norm •Anything other than Judeo – Christian tradition is foreign •No tolerance for deviation from single god concept
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