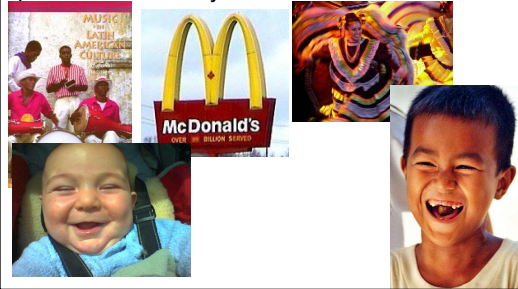


Chapter 4

The 7 Elements of Culture

Culture

Culture: everything that makes up a person's entire way of life



#1-Social Organization

When a culture organizes its members into smaller groups

What might some smaller groups be in a culture?

- Families
- Friends
- Religious groups
- Social classes
- Interest Groups
- Occupations

Family: the *most important* unit of social organization

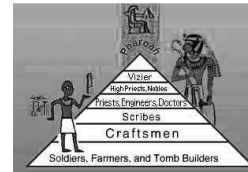
- Nuclear family- husband, wife, children
- Extended family- several generations in one household
 - *** respect for elders is usually strong in extended families



Social classes: a way to rank people in order of status

What can social class be based on?

- Money
- Occupation
- Education
- Race
- Etc.



#2. Customs and Traditions

- rules of behavior (written and unwritten)



#3-Language

- Important for communication and passing on traditions and beliefs

להתראות בקרב

إلى اللقاء

En iyi dileklerimizle

แล้วเจอกัน

كل عام وانتم بخير

Bayramınız Kutlu Olsun

- There is some debate about making English the official language of the United States.

#4. Arts and Literature

- teach about a culture's values
- promote cultural pride and unity
- Could include technology and entertainment



#5-Religion

- Monotheism: belief in one god
- Polytheism: belief in more than one god
- Major World Religions
 - Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism



6. Forms of Government

- People form governments to provide for their common needs
- Types
 - Democracy: people have supreme power
 - Republic: people choose leaders to represent them
 - Dictatorship: a ruler or group holds power by force



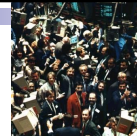
White House

Great Britain's Houses of Parliament



#7 Economic Systems

- Resources a community has
- Four types
 1. Traditional: people produce most of what they need to survive
 2. Market: basic economic questions are answered by buying/selling goods and services
 3. Command: government controls answers to economic questions
 4. Mixed: individuals make some economic decisions, the government makes others



Ways Cultures Change

1. Technology

Cars, telephone, computers, TV dinners



2. Environment Changes

3. New Ideas (like recycling)



4. Diffusion: movement of customs and ideas from one place to another

Be Careful of...

.Ethnocentrism: judging other cultures by the standards of your own

- Assuming your own culture to be the best

.Racism: belief that one racial group is naturally superior to another