Space

The concept of "space" is one of the most fundamental of geographical concepts. Space is the boundless, three-dimensional extent in which objects and events occur and have relative position and direction. It is no more than the collection of spatial relations between objects in the world.

Meanings of space represents two components:

- Time or duration
- Area or extension (more common definition)

❖ In physics, space has three dimensions (x-y-z axes) and is considered as a volume not an area.
❖ The eighteenth-century German philosopher **Immanuel Kant** considered space to be represented by geography and time by history.
❖ According to **David Harvey space** is "a thing in itself". The whole practice and philosophy of geography depend upon the development of a conceptual framework for handling the distribution of objects and events in space.
❖ According to **Yi-Fu Tuan** space can be described as a location which has no social connections for a human being. People don't ad value to this space. Tuan says that it is an open space, but may marked off and defended against intruders (Tuan, 1977, p. 4). People don't feel like giving that kind of space a meaning. It is more or less abstract (Tuan, 1977, p. 6).

Geographical space is often considered as land that has a relation to ownership in which space is considered as property or territory. Space has also impact on human behaviour because it is considered as an important factor in architecture and farming system. Therefore, the impact of space found on the design and structure of buildings and agricultural system. Ownership of space is not restricted to land, it is also related to air-space and water space.

Characteristics of space

1. It is physical and active.
2. It is existing and it is an orderly manner.
3. It is the way in which the different natural and human components are distributed in the geographical space.
4. It is measurable and can be described.
5. Space is that which results from places taken together.
6. Space is something abstract, without any substantial meaning.
7. Spaces are perceived, structured, organized and managed by people and can be designed and redesigned, to achieve particular purposes.

Measuring of space

Knox and Marston (2007) describe three ways of measuring space.

1. Absolute Space

The concept of "absolute space" originated in classical mechanics or Euclidean geometry. It is a container which holds all the earthly matters. For example village, city, factory, forest, roads, and railways etc. Absolute space is a mathematical space described through points, lines, areas, planes and configurations whose realtionships can be fixed precisely through mathematical reasoning.

Characteristics:

- It is physical, real which can be perceived through experience.
- Absolute space is a mathematical space
- Geographer divided the absolute space into small fragments and when these fragments are divided unevenly then it is called an area, but when these fragments are divided on a fixed parameter then it is a called as a region.

2. Relative Space

Relative concept of space in which space is merely a relation between events, or aspects of events and thus bound to time and process. The relative measurements of space can take the form of socioeconomic or experiential or cultural space. The socioeconomic space consists of sites, situations, routes, regions, patterns.

Characteristics:

- Discuss the relationship of different events.
- Space cannot be judged only through absolute viewpoint. Space is depended on what people see, what he thinks and in which way it can be used. It means relative space is social space.
- It is of various types, like, social space, economic space and relational space.
- The experiential or cultural space consists of a space where groups live and interact.

3. The cognitive Space

The cognitive space is defined and measured in terms of values, feelings, beliefs and perceptions. Therefore, it is described in terms of behavioural space, like landmarks, paths, environments

Types of Geographical Space:

Henri Lefebvre say that space is a (social) product, or a complex social construction (based on values, and the social production of meanings) which affects spatial practices and perceptions. There are three types of geographical space. These three types of space are independent of one another.

1. ***First Space*** **(Physical space/perceived space)**

   "The spatial practice of a society secretes that society's space; it propounds and presupposes it, in a dialectical interaction; it produces it slowly and surely as it masters and appropriates it."

2. ***Second Space*** **(Mental space/conceived space)**

   "Conceptualized space, the space of scientists, planners, urbanists, technocratic subdividers and social engineers, as of a certain type of artist with a scientific bent -- all of whom identify what is lived and what is perceived with what is conceived."

3. ***Third Space*** **(Social space/lived space)**

   "Space as directly lived through its associated images and symbols." A social space is physical or virtual space such as a social center, social media, or other gathering place where ***people gather and interact***. Some social spaces such as town squares or parks are public places; others such as pubs, websites, or shopping malls are privately owned and regulated.

Even though there are many disciplines in the study of Human Geography, the most well-known approach is **"The third space" formulated by Edward Soja**. In **unitary theory**, there are three approaches; first space, second space and third space. **First space is physical space, and spaces** are measurable and mappable. **The second space is a mental or conceived space** which comes from our thinking and ideas. However, **the third space is a social space/lived space** which is a social product that is a space created by society under oppression or marginalization that want to reclaim the space of inequality and make it into something else.

For instance, two different cultures combine together and emerge as a third culture. This third hybrid space displaces the original values that constitute it and set up new values and perspectives that is different from the first two spaces. Thus, the third space theory can explain some of the complexity of poverty, social exclusion and social inclusion, gender and race issues.

Society

A society consists of individuals who live together in a specific geographic area, who interact more with each other than they do with outsiders and cooperate for the attainment of common goals.

The term "society" came from the **Latin word societas** which means interaction between parties that are friendly, or at least civil.

Each society includes key institutions— such as family, education, religion, politics, economics, and health—that meet basic human needs. Members of a society share a common culture over time. The way people think and behave in any society is largely prescribed by its culture, which is learned, transmitted, and reshaped from generation to generation.

The structures that make up society include the interdependent positions we hold (as parents, workers), the groups to which we belong (family, work group, and clubs), and the institutions in which we participate. **This "hardware" (structure) of our social world provides the framework for "software" (culture) to function.**

Definition

Many scholars have given the definitions of society in different ways. Some of them are:

MacIver and Page, (1950) defined "society as a web of relations, a complex system of usages and procedures, of authority and mutual aid of many groupings and divisions, of control of human behaviour and of liberties".

According to Durkheim, the sociologist defined "it as the combination of social facts and values, a sense of collective consciousness for social integration".

The definition of society provides the importance of the role relationships among the members of society which in turn provides the complicated relationships expressed in different ways based on the position as well as capabilities of the individual members.

Characterises of Society

Societies are characterized by patterns of relationships (social relations) between individuals who share a distinctive culture and institutions; a given society may be described as the sum total of such relationships among its constituent of members.

1. According to **McIver** "**society is a web of social relationships**"- Society is the result of interrelationships that connect individuals together.
2. Society implies **interdependence**. It is another essential element to constitute society.
3. All **societies have geographical boundaries** or borders and individuals who live together in families and communities and who share a culture
4. **Society change with time**- Societies exist in particular places and times, and they change over time.
5. **Cooperation** is also essential to constitute society. Without cooperation no society can exist. Unless people cooperate with each other, they cannot live a happy life.
6. **Society is universal and pervasive** and has no definite boundary or assignable limits.
7. A **society based exclusively on likeness and uniformity**. 'Likeness is the one element which must have strongly stimulated the group feelings in bringing men, women and children together. Likeness is the link-up for mutuality.
8. Conflict is an ever present phenomenon present in every human society. Not only cooperation but also conflict in necessary for the formation of society. They must coexist in a healthy society. Conflict is a process of struggle through which all things have come into existence.

The Origin of Society:

A number of theories have been put forward to explain the origin of society.

1. *The Divine Origin theory* makes society the creation of God. Just as God created all the animals and inanimate objects of this world, so he created the society as well.

This theory in course of time, particularly in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries took the form of Divine Right Theory.

2. ***The Force theory*** makes society the result of superior physical force. According to this theory, the society originated in the subjugation of the weaker by the stronger. In the primitive times the man of exceptional physical strength was able to overawe his fellowmen and to exercise some kind of authority over them.

3. ***The Patriarchal and Matriarchal theories*** make society the expansion of family system. Sir Henry Maine defines patriarchal theory as 'the theory of the origin of society in separate families, held together by the authority and protection of the eldest male descendant' He believed that society is the family writ large. The matriarchal theory suggests that polyandry and transient marriage relations were more common in primitive times than monogamy or polygamy. Under such circumstances descendance is traced through the mother for, as Jens point out motherhood in such cases is a fact, while paternity is only an opinion.

4. ***Social Contract Theory*** According to social contract theory views society as a contrivance deliberately set up by men for certain ends. According to this theory, all men were born free and equal. Individual precedes society. Individuals made a mutual agreement and created society. According to Hobbes, man in the state of nature was in perpetual conflict with his neighbours on account of his essentially selfish nature. In his own words, the life of man was 'solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short.'
Every man was an enemy to every man. To protect himself against the evil consequence man organised himself in society in order to live in peace with all. Locke, another social contract thinker, believed that the state of nature was not a state of war. It was a state of 'peace, goodwill, mutual assistance, and preservation.'

5. ***Evolutionary Theory*** The evolutionary theory offers a generally correct explanation of the origin of society. According to it society is not a make but a growth. It is the result of a gradual evolution. It is continuous development from unorganised to organised, from less perfect to more perfect and various factors helped in its development from time to time. Kinship and family were the earliest bonds uniting man with man.
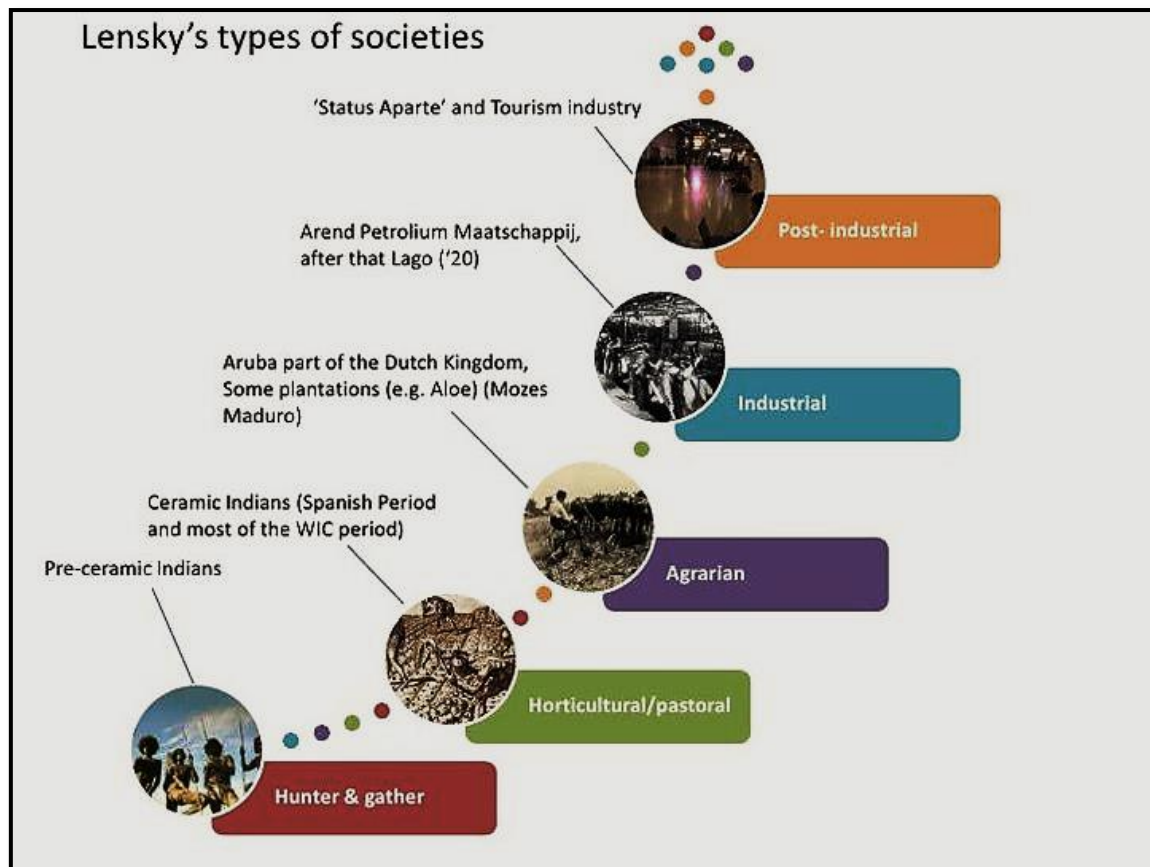
"Kinship creates society." says Malvern. Patriarchal society was organised on the basis of Kinship through males. Religion was another factor to help in the creation of social consciousness. As a matter of fact, as Gettell observes, "Kinship and religion were simply two aspects of the same thing."

Type of society

There are various forms of society found in the social structure of an area based on the level of technology used. According to Durkheim, as societies transformed, they became more complex through increasingly complex divisions of labor and changes in the ways people carried out necessary tasks for survival. As you read about each of the following types of societies, from the simplest to the most complex, notice the presence of these variables: (a) division of labor, (b) interdependence of people's positions, (c) increasingly advanced technologies, and (d) new forms and uses of energy. Although none of these variables alone is sufficient to trigger evolution to a new type of society, they may all be necessary for a transition to occur.

Lenski's five level of society-

1. **Hunter-Gatherer Societies** – From the beginning of human experience until recently, hunting and gathering (or foraging) were the sole means of sustaining life.
    - ➤ They used simple tools to hunt animals and gather food.
    - ➤ Life is organized around kinship ties and reciprocity for the well-being of the whole community.
    - ➤ Groups are migrating seasonally to find new food sources.

2. **Herding and Horticultural Societies** –
    - ➤ **Herding societies** Herding societies have food-producing strategies based on keeping herds of domesticated animals, whose care is the central focus of their activities. Domesticating animals has replaced hunting them. In addition to providing food and other products, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, and camels represent forms of wealth on which further changes in roles and status may be built.

    - ➤ **Horticulturalist society**- keep domesticated animals but focus on primitive agriculture or gardening. Horticulturalists use digging sticks and wooden hoes to cultivate tree crops, such as date palms or bananas, and to plant and maintain produce in garden plots, such as yams, beans, taro, squash, or corn. This is more efficient than gathering wild vegetables and fruits.

3. **Agriculturalist society**- Large-scale cultivation using plods harnessed to animals or powerful energy sources.

4. **Industrialist society**- The production of goods using advanced sources of energy to drive large machinery.

5. **Postindustrial or Information Societies**- The production of information using computer technology.

Culture

Culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing *language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts*.

Culture is an umbrella term which encompasses the social behavior and norms found in human societies, as well as the knowledge, beliefs, arts, laws, customs, capabilities and habits of the individuals in these groups.

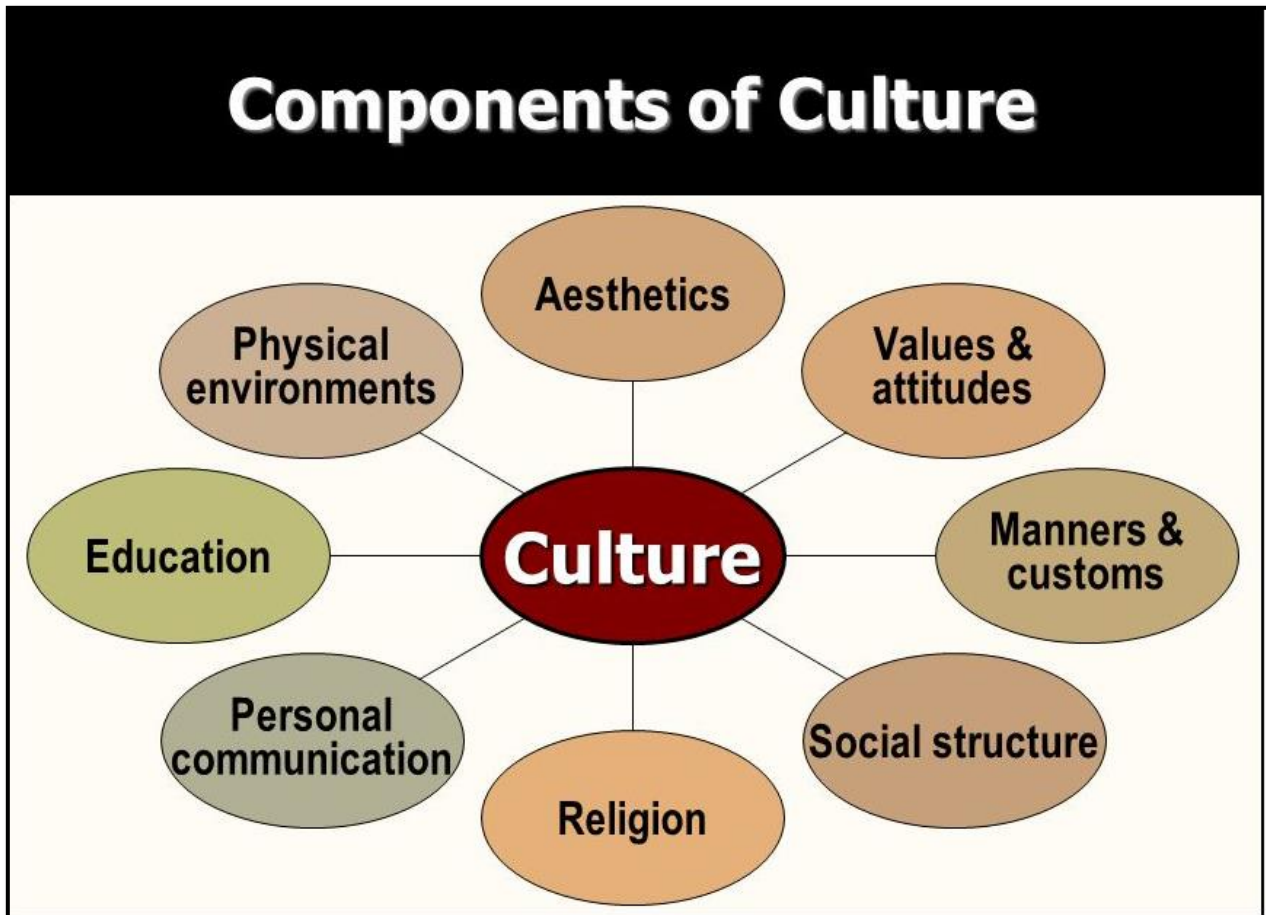Culture is the internal component of a society; it working as "software" (culture) to function the society.

The word "culture" derives from a French term, which in turn derives from the Latin "colere," which means to tend to the earth and grow, or cultivation and nurture.

The *Center for Advance Research on Language Acquisition* goes a step further, defining culture as shared patterns of behaviours and interactions, cognitive constructs and understanding that are learned by socialization. Thus, it can be seen as the growth of a group identity fostered by social patterns unique to the group.

According to Cristina De Rossi "Culture encompasses religion, food, what we wear, how we wear it, our language, marriage, music, what we believe is right or wrong, how we sit at the table, how we greet visitors, how we behave with loved ones, and a million other things,"

Components of culture

Cultural universals are found in all human societies; these include expressive forms like art, music, dance, ritual, religion, and technologies like tool usage, cooking, shelter, and clothing. *The concept of material culture* covers the physical expressions of culture, such as technology, architecture and art, whereas the immaterial aspects of culture such as principles of social organization (including practices of political organization and social institutions), mythology, philosophy, literature (both written and oral), and science comprise the intangible cultural heritage of a society.

There are many components of culture …

- religious
- language
- cuisine
- architecture
- technology
- music
- dance

- sports
- medicine
- dress
- education
- government
- agriculture
- economy etc

Cultural region

A culture region is a portion of Earth surface that has common cultural elements and has distinct cultural authority from other regions. In geography, a cultural region or cultural sphere refers to the aspects of culture associated with an ethnolinguistic group and the territory it

inhabits. Specific cultures often do not limit their geographic coverage to the borders of a nation state, or to smaller subdivisions of a state.

A cultural region is a geographical region where cultural traits maintain homogeneity.

Culture regions, like cultures themselves, display considerable variety. For starters, any number of cultural components may be used to define culture regions. A map of religions, for example, includes a shaded area in India where Hinduism is dominant. Cultural "spheres of influence" may also overlap or form concentric structures of macro-cultures encompassing smaller local cultures. Different boundaries may also be drawn depending on the particular aspect of interest, such as religion and folklore vs. dress and architecture vs. language.

World cultural region

A. ***Brock Webb*** divided the world into **four major and two minor** cultural realms. The major cultural realms are **Occidental Realm, Islamic Realm, Indian Realm, East Indian Realm** and the minor cultural realms are **South-East Asian Realm, Meso-African or Negro African** Realm

Major Cultural Realms of the World

1. Occidental Culture
   a) West European
   b) Continental European
   c) Mediterranean
   d) Anglo American
   e) Australian
   f) Latin American
2. Islamic Culture
3. Indic Culture
4. South East Asian Culture

Occidental culture

Occidental culture is the *culture of the European society*. It is influenced to a great extent by **Christianity**. It has regional modifications on the basis of varying levels of industrialisation, political and economic thought, colonisation, commercialisation, urbanisation, and development of transport system, land development of social, political and economic institutions. It is further divided into six sub-regions considering the impact of regional environment-

1. West European is the most industrialized and urbanized culture.

2. Continental European culture is influenced by different political and economic thoughts, while Christianity remains an important influence.

3. Mediterranean Europe includes countries lying to the south of the Alps. It is the region of dominance of Christianity. To many geographers, the deep-rooted traditional social system is the principal cause of limited economic development in countries like Spain, Portugal and southern Italy, compared to countries of northern and western Europe which adopted necessary changes in their social systems.

4. Anglo-American and

5. Australian cultural realms are practically the offspring's of west European culture. Both are inhabited by migrants from west Europe. There are only some regional differences.

6. Latin American culture is very similar to the Mediterranean culture. It is the only region of occidental culture which lies in the tropics and is underdeveloped. It became a part of the occidental culture as a result of conversion of tribes into Christianity. The colonial languages, Spanish and Portuguese, have become the state languages. Regional architecture has been influenced by the Spanish and Portuguese styles. Practically all countries maintain economic, cultural and social ties with the Mediterranean countries.

Islamic Culture

The culture here is influenced by Islamic values. It covers a vast geographical area from Morocco in the west to Pakistan in the east. The population is sparsely distributed due to inhospitable environment. The coasts, river basins and oases have been the cradles of Arabian culture in this realm. The British call it the Middle-East while the Germans call it a "region of oriental culture". This cultural realm lies between the traditional Indian culture in the east and the modernized European culture in the west. Islamic culture is highly orthodox and based on traditional beliefs, the impact of which can be seen in high female illiteracy rates.

Indic Culture

This is the culture of the Indian sub-continent. Baker called it a subcontinental culture, while D. Stamp used the term paddy culture. This cultural realm is well-defined; it lies between Himalayas in the north and Indian Ocean in the south. This cultural realm is characterized by joint family, village community, caste system, semi- feudal land relations, subsistence agriculture, paddy farming, seasonal climate changes and agricultural season coming at the same time all over the region. The culture of this region is greatly influenced by Vedic values. Though the region is inhabited by various communities, the social system has the hidden impact of Vedic cultural values.

South-East Asian Culture

This culture is basically a Buddhist culture with regional modifications. True Buddhist culture can be seen in South Korea and Japan. Even these two countries have felt the impact of industrialization, urbanization and modernization. The culture of mainland China has modified the Buddhist system. This culture was adopted after the Second World War.
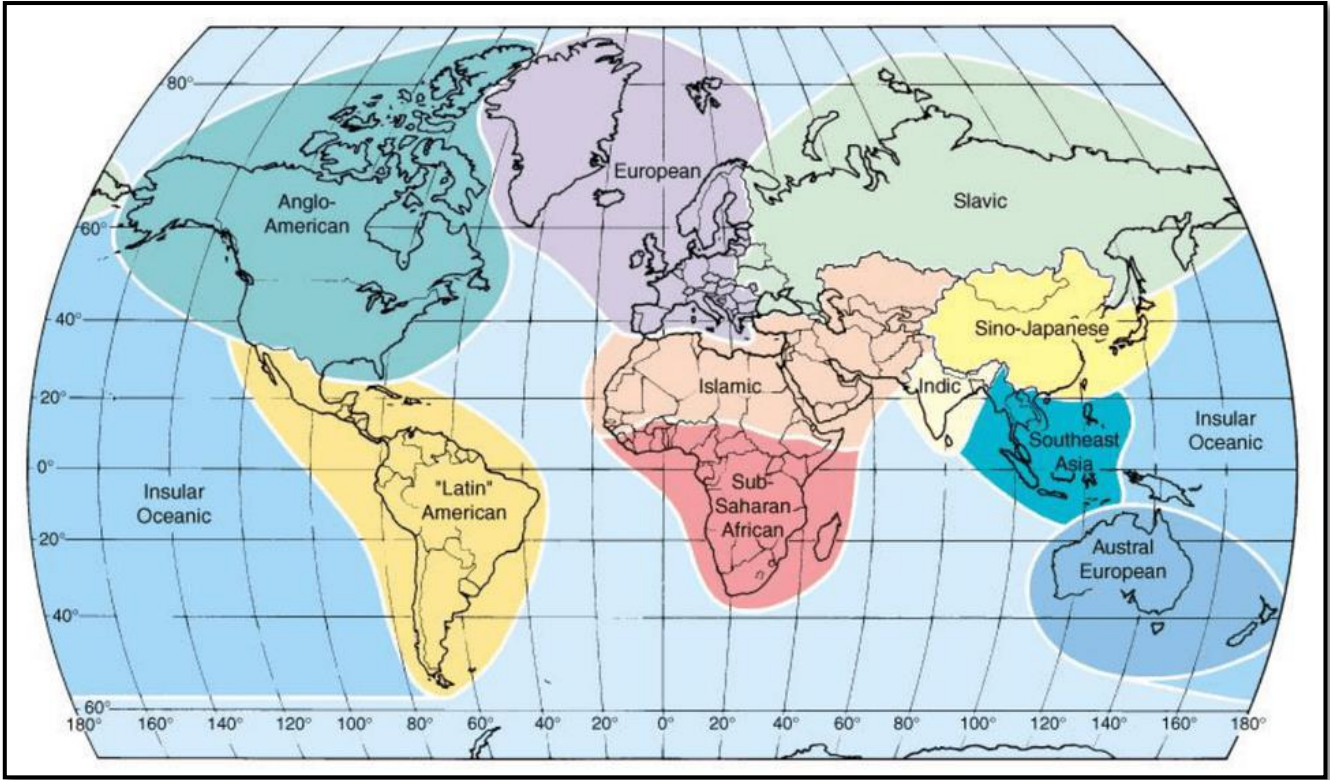
Fig: Cultural region of the world