

# The Central Liberal Truth

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## **The Central Liberal Truth: How Politics Can Change a Culture and Save It from Itself**

*LAWRENCE E. HARRISON*

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Which cultural values, beliefs, and attitudes best promote democracy, social justice, and prosperity? How can we use the forces that shape cultural change, such as religion, child-rearing practices, education, and political leadership, to promote these values in the Third World--and for underachieving minorities in the First World? In this

book, Lawrence E. Harrison offers intriguing answers to these questions, in a valuable follow-up to his acclaimed Culture Matters. Drawing on a three-year research project that explored the cultural values of dozens of nations--from Botswana, Sweden, and India to China, Egypt, and Chile--Harrison offers a provocative look at values around the globe, revealing how each nation's culture has propelled or retarded their political and economic progress. The book presents 25 factors that operate very differently in cultures prone to progress and those that resist it, including one's influence over destiny, the importance attached to education, the extent to which people identify with and trust others, and the role of women in society. Harrison pulls no punches, and many of his findings will be controversial. He argues, for example, that Protestantism, Confucianism, and Judaism have been more successful in promoting progress than Catholicism, Orthodox Christianity, and Islam. Harrison rejects the Bush administration's doctrine that "the values of freedom are right and true for every person, in every society." Thus nations like Iraq and Afghanistan--where illiteracy, particularly among women, and mistrust are high and traditions of cooperation and compromise are scant--are likely to resist democracy. Most important, the book outlines a series of practical guidelines that developing nations and lagging minority groups can use to enhance their political, social, and economic well-being. Contradicting the arguments of multiculturalists, this book contends that when it comes to promoting human progress, some cultures are clearly more effective than others. It convincingly shows which values, beliefs, and attitudes work and how we can foster them.

作者介绍:

劳伦斯·E.哈里森(Lawrence·E. Harrison)

美国塔夫特大学弗莱彻学院文化变革研究所所长，弗莱彻学院高级研究员，讲师。1965—1981年间曾领导美国国际开发署（USAID）在多米尼加共和国、哥斯达黎加、危地马拉、海地以及尼加拉瓜的任务。1981—2001年间在哈佛大学Weatherhead国际事务研究中心、中美洲工商管理学院、麻省理工学院国际研究中心做访问研究。与萨缪尔·亨廷顿合编《文化的重要作用：价值观如何影响人类进步》（2000，中译本2002年）；著有《不发达是一种思想状态》（1985），《谁富裕了？》（1992），《泛美美梦》（1997）等；文章常见于《纽约时报》、《华盛顿邮报》、《华尔街日报》、《波士顿环球报》、《大西洋月刊》、《外交政策》等大量报章杂志。

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标签

自由主义

政治

生活

文化

Truth

The

Liberal

Central

评论

还不错，但属于介绍性文字，想深入必须接着读其余几部文献的个案研究

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书评

好端端一本八卦书，翻译糟了。算导论，一共十个章节，别的还说得过去，无错不成书嘛。第六章问题如井喷般出现，难道是“影子写手”给翻译的？当然，要让咱家翻译，一章都译不顺溜。所以，估屈聱牙的部分录得较少。当然，剩下的骨头也未必都准确，大多是与通译不合，可能算不得...

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1993年，哈佛大学著名教授塞繆尔·亨廷顿的《文明的冲突》一文，引起世界范围内学界与政界激烈的争执。为了力辟众说、证明己见，亨廷顿随后发表了一系列文章并出版专著《文明冲突与重建世界秩序》，对自己的观点加以申辩、解释和完善。也许是因为亨廷顿的论文和著作受到太多的...

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