

# Cultural Anthropology

UNDERSTANDING  
OURSELVES &  
OTHERS

FOURTH EDITION



RICHLEY H. CRAPO

BUILT-IN STUDY  
GUIDE

# Cultural Anthropology

UNDERSTANDING

OURSELVES *&*

OTHERS

FOURTH EDITION

RICHLEY H. CRAPO

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

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Cultural Anthropology  
UNDERSTANDING OURSELVES & OTHERS

FOURTH EDITION

FOR: *Leonard Crapo*  
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# PREFACE

Anthropology, like its study, humankind, is a tremendously diverse subject that provides a richness of information and an excitement in learning for students. The challenge is to present to students a coherent and meaningful introduction. While no text is likely to fulfill the hopes and needs of all instructors, I believe *Cultural Anthropology: Understanding Ourselves and Others*, Fourth Edition, will provide the basic insights into the field that a thoughtful student ought to have as part of a contemporary liberal education. These include not only facts and theories but, most importantly, the anthropological attitude of a commitment to understanding and appreciating cultural diversity. Less than this will not prepare students for life in a culturally diverse and increasingly interdependent world.

## Content and Organization

In *Cultural Anthropology: Understanding Ourselves and Others*, Fourth Edition, I have made numerous changes to the text to accommodate the needs of the majority of instructors and to keep the text accessible to students and current in a rapidly changing world.

- The major revisions include the following:
- The sequence of chapters has been substantially reordered to provide a more logical organization.
- The chapter on American culture in previous editions has been integrated throughout the text, so students can appreciate their own culture as part of the world's cultural diversity.
- A new Student Study Guide has been incorporated into the text. It contains the chapter outline, chapter objectives, a series of questions with space available for students to write their answers, and a matching test based primarily on the glossed terms in the text.
- New material has been added on careers in anthropology to provide students with a practical view of the field.
- Many ethnographical examples have been updated to provide the current status of societies in a world that is rapidly changing.
- New ethnographical examples have been included that illustrate how various cultures adapt to the modern world or how they strive to maintain their own identity.
- Timely information on the relationships between race, cultural ability, intelligence, and I.Q. has been added.
- The discussion of language has been expanded to consider language and nationalism, bilingual education, language extinction, and recent attempts to characterize language macrofamilies.
- The religion chapter has been expanded to include material on religious change, syncretism, and evidence of religion from the archaeological record.
- The illustrations have been carefully revised so that the historical record of many cultures remains, but photographs of cultures adapting to a technological modern world provide students with a balanced approach to the field of anthropology and the diversity of cultures.

## Part I, The Science of Culture

The book begins with a succinct discussion of the often confusing subject of anthropology itself: the breadth of its content, its holistic perspective, its history and contemporary forms, its methods, and its ethics. This chapter has been carefully reorganized so that historical concepts are discussed early in the chapter. The section on humanistic and scientific approaches to explaining culture have been moved here from Chapter 2 to provide a more coherent definition of anthropology. Chapter 2 introduces the concept of culture, including discussions of both ideology and technology, as well as issues of cultural diversity and how different cultures respond to and influence each other. Chapter 3 outlines the concept of social organization and discusses the relationships between biology and social statuses, race as a social status, and racism as an element of social organization. The complex issue of racially defined social roles is discussed, and students begin to realize how intelligence and intelligence testing must be understood within a cultural context. Chapter 4 examines the way in which changes in social status are organized by

each society into a distinctive life cycle. Finally, chapter 5 takes a detailed look at gender statuses and gender roles in social life and in the relationships between gender and social institutions such as economics, politics, and religion.

## **Part II, Adaptation, Cultural Change and Cultural Diversity**

Building on the basic concepts of culture and social organization, the next two chapters focus on aspects of human survival, adaptation to the physical and social environments, and the infrastructural components of human social life. Chapter 6 discusses the physical environments in which societies are found, the concept of adaptation, and how human societies organize their subsistence customs in various environments. Chapter 7 presents the general principles of cultural change, discusses the demise of the world's technologically simple societies, and analyzes the plight of the peasant cultures of the developing world and of the contemporary world's indigenous and refugee peoples.

## **Part III, Social Institutions**

The next four chapters examine the institutions of economics, marriage and the family, kinship and descent, and politics. Chapter 8 defines the universal characteristics of economic systems and emphasizes the roles of culture, symbols, and values in the economic customs of the world's societies. Chapter 9 discusses the varieties of marriage that have been recognized in human societies and surveys some of the customs and family forms that arise from these marriages. Chapter 10 discusses the human concept of descent and how it has developed into various kinship systems. Chapter 11 considers how humans solve the practical problems of social life, utilizing the various mechanisms that form the political system of each society, and outlines the basic types of political systems that have existed in the world's societies.

## **Part IV, Ideology and Symbolism**

The final section of the text moves to the superstructure of culture, the realm of symbolism, communication, religion, the role of culture in human personality, and aesthetics. Chapter 12 begins with a consideration of the human ca-

capacity for endowing things with meaning and then examines the unique role of language as a system of meaningful symbols with which humans communicate and create their cultural order. Chapter 13 takes an in-depth look at religion, an abstract and creatively varied use of the human ability to symbolize. This chapter not only demonstrates the varieties of human religious ideology, but also points out the role religious thought plays in social organization. Chapter 14 discusses the role of culture in shaping personality, creating altered states of consciousness, and defining culture-specific psychological disorders. Chapter 15 examines the nature of expressive culture such as play, recreation, and art with consideration given both to the universal human capacity for aesthetic experience and to the cultural variables in aesthetic evaluations.

## **Learning Aids**

A variety of learning aids has been systematically incorporated into the text. A list of chapter objectives informs students of the skills they will acquire from their study of each chapter. This is followed by an outline to aid students in recognizing the main concepts that are covered in the chapter and in understanding how they will be organized. To facilitate students' learning of the basic concepts of each chapter, all *terms* are defined in context and *boldfaced* for easy recognition. A formal definition of each term is also provided on the page where it occurs. These technical terms are also defined in an alphabetized *glossary* at the end of the book. Since learning the subject matter of a new field also involves acquiring a new vocabulary, students should be encouraged to use these glossaries as a valuable learning review. By testing their knowledge of the meaning of each term, they can readily determine which parts of each chapter need further study in preparation for tests. Each chapter ends with a summary to help students review the basic concepts that have been introduced. Each chapter also contains an annotated list of readings to guide students in further readings concerning individual topics that have been covered.

Major concepts are often illustrated by *extended narrative examples*. These provide concrete, down-to-earth examples of the material under discussion. For instance, chapter 1 introduces students to Ruth Benedict's *Patterns of*

*Culture* in a discussion of cultural differences in the expression of feelings, and several extended narratives about the Kwakiutl, Zúñi, and Dobuans in chapter 2 are used to illustrate these concepts and at the same time update the current lifestyles of these groups. Through the use of narrative examples drawn from the ethnographic record, students can gain a greater respect for cultural diversity as well as an insight into the underlying unity of humanity within that diversity. In so doing, they will also learn that we can better understand ourselves through an understanding of others. These narrative examples are clearly marked in the table of contents and are identified within the text by a boxed structure.

Unfamiliar cultures to which students are introduced in the extended narratives are located geographically on maps in the narrative. All references cited within the body of the text have been compiled into a single bibliography placed immediately before the index.

## Ancillaries

This edition of *Cultural Anthropology: Understanding Ourselves & Others* is accompanied by an instructor's resource guide, *Teaching and Testing with Cultural Anthropology: Understanding Ourselves & Others*, Fourth Edition, prepared by myself and Lisa Clyde Nielsen. Each chapter of the instructor's resource guide contains a chapter outline, chapter objectives, glossary, chapter overview, a lecture outline, discussion questions, a set of activities for in-class use or as outside assignments, and an annotated list of suggested readings and films.

As with previous editions, questions have been prepared to provide a comprehensive test bank. This edition contains an average of 100 items per chapter or 1500 items in all. In addition to multiple-choice, true/false, and essay questions, it also includes short-answer questions. The entire test bank is available on MicroTest III, a computerized test generator.

## Acknowledgments

I deeply appreciate the insightful suggestions made by the reviewers of all four editions. The publisher and I wish to thank them for their constructive criticism and expert advice.

Arthur L. Alt, College of Great Falls

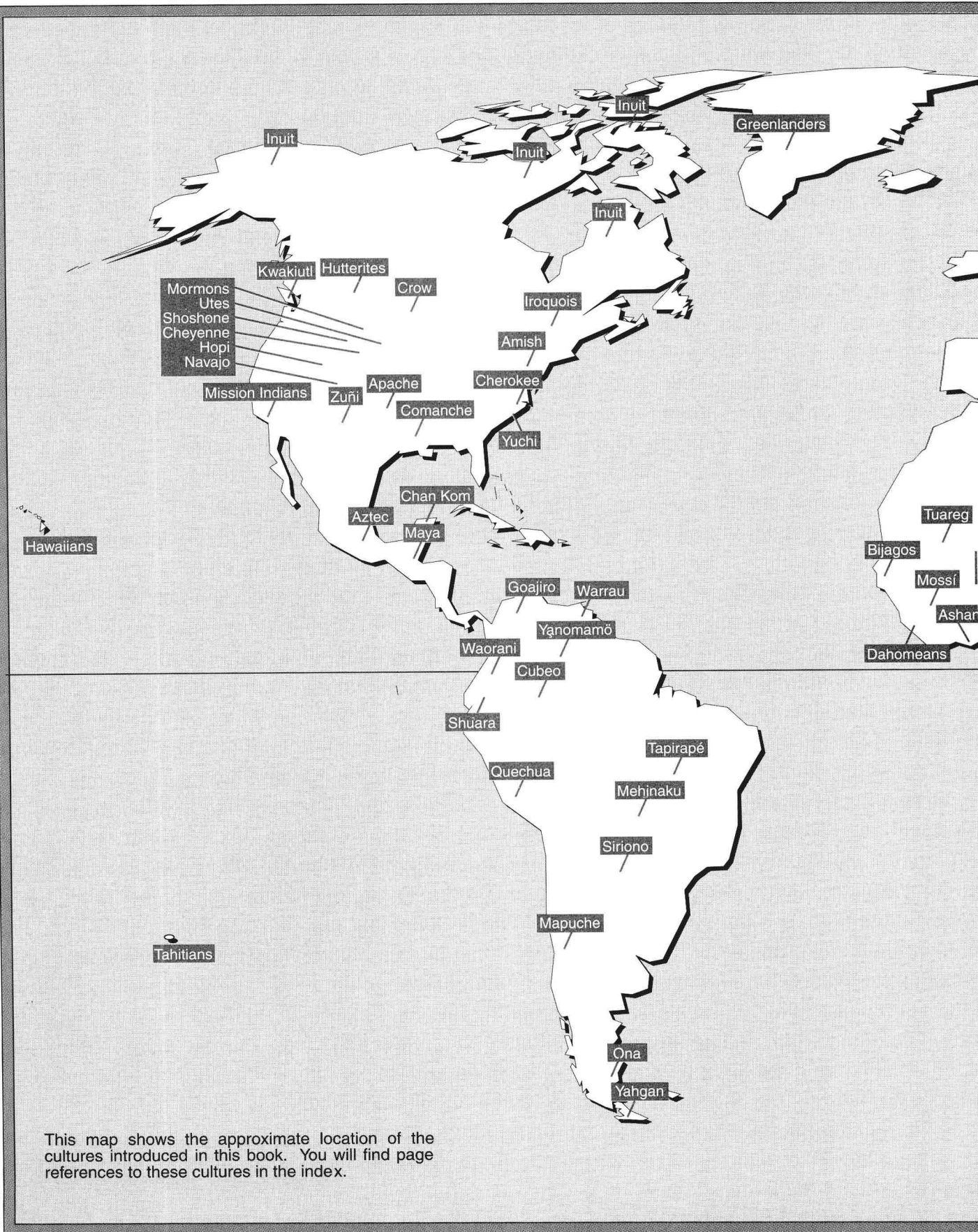
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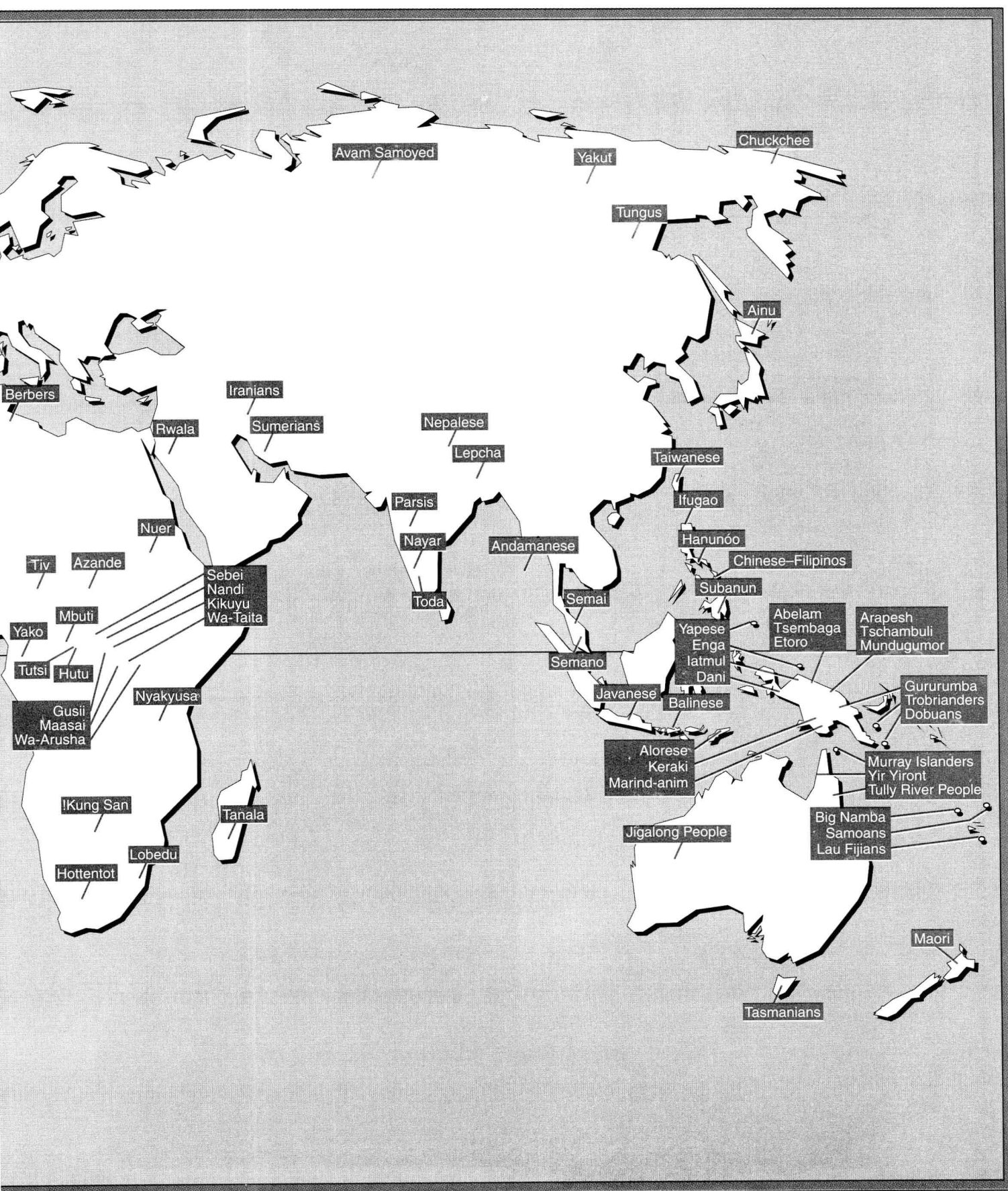
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for her useful criticisms of the manuscript as it  
has evolved.

Richley H. Crapo



This map shows the approximate location of the cultures introduced in this book. You will find page references to these cultures in the index.



# PART ONE

## The Science of Culture

### CHAPTER ONE

#### ANTHROPOLOGY: A DEFINITION

Fieldwork and participant observation are unique methods of studying cultures employed by anthropologists. As with any discipline, the field of anthropology has evolved. The prescientific view saw all non-Western cultures as degenerated forms of an earlier divine creation. This

gave way to cultural evolutionism, empiricism, and eventually to the current period of specialization in which many subfields of anthropology exist, studying many different aspects of both ancient and modern societies.

### CHAPTER TWO

#### CULTURE

The tendency of humans to share their ideas and emotions about their own natures and to develop survival strategies that they pass on to future generations as customs is the basis of culture. Various subsistence technologies derive from a so-

ciety's pattern of culture and its adjustment to the environment in which it survives. Cultural relativism is the method of trying to understand another culture within its own context.

### CHAPTER THREE

#### SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, BIOLOGY, AND CULTURE

Our status in each group with which we are affiliated is ranked by the power and prestige others expect us to have. Sometimes our statuses are achieved by effort, sometimes they are assigned to us based

partly on our culture's ideas about biology. Each status requires us to know and play a variety of roles that, as they change, are often celebrated by rituals.

### CHAPTER FOUR

#### THE LIFE CYCLE

Each culture identifies rites of passage in its own unique way. Most cultures acknowledge pregnancy, childbirth, marriage, parent-

hood, and death as stages in the cycle of life that determine one's status in society as well as one's relationship to others.

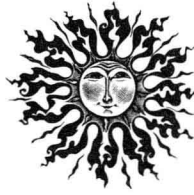
### CHAPTER FIVE

#### GENDER AND CULTURE

The roles that males and females play in society are based not only on a society's perception of sex and gender, but also on its socialization values. Feminist anthropologists have studied the relationship

among social power, honor, and gender, and have concluded that status is generally a measure of economic power and varies from culture to culture.

# CONTENTS IN BRIEF



## **PART ONE THE SCIENCE OF CULTURE**

|                                                                  |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Chapter 1: Anthropology: A Definition.....</i>                | <i>3</i>   |
| <i>Chapter 2: Culture.....</i>                                   | <i>37</i>  |
| <i>Chapter 3: Social Organization, Biology, and Culture.....</i> | <i>61</i>  |
| <i>Chapter 4: The Life Cycle.....</i>                            | <i>83</i>  |
| <i>Chapter 5: Gender and Culture.....</i>                        | <i>107</i> |

## **PART TWO ADAPTATION, CULTURAL CHANGE, AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

|                                                                      |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Chapter 6: Environment, Adaptation, and Subsistence.....</i>      | <i>133</i> |
| <i>Chapter 7: Cultural Evolution and the Contemporary World.....</i> | <i>159</i> |

## **PART THREE SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

|                                                |            |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Chapter 8: Economics.....</i>               | <i>193</i> |
| <i>Chapter 9: Marriage and the Family.....</i> | <i>219</i> |
| <i>Chapter 10: Kinship and Descent.....</i>    | <i>243</i> |
| <i>Chapter 11: Politics and Culture.....</i>   | <i>261</i> |

## **PART FOUR IDEOLOGY AND SYMBOLISM**

|                                                                         |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Chapter 12: Language and Culture.....</i>                            | <i>293</i> |
| <i>Chapter 13: Religion and Culture.....</i>                            | <i>321</i> |
| <i>Chapter 14: Culture, Personality, and Psychological Process.....</i> | <i>357</i> |
| <i>Chapter 15: Aesthetics and Culture.....</i>                          | <i>385</i> |

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                       |                                    |                      |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Preface</i> .....                  | <i>Kinds of Anthropology</i> ..... | <i>Culture</i> ..... |
| <i>World Map</i> .....                | <i>Academic Anthropology</i> 17    |                      |
| <b>PART ONE</b>                       |                                    |                      |
| <b>THE SCIENCE OF CULTURE</b>         |                                    |                      |
| <i>Chapter 1: Anthropology:</i>       |                                    |                      |
| <i>A Definition</i> .....             | <i>Recreating Stone Tools to</i>   |                      |
|                                       | <i>Learn the Ancient Makers'</i>   |                      |
|                                       | <i>Ways</i> .. 18                  |                      |
| <b>The Breadth of</b>                 |                                    |                      |
| <i>Anthropology</i> .....             | <i>Applied and Practicing</i>      |                      |
| <i>The Holistic</i>                   | <i>Anthropology</i> .....          |                      |
| <i>Perspective</i> .....              |                                    |                      |
| <i>Breadth in Time</i>                | <i>Steven Sims,</i>                |                      |
| <i>and Space</i> .....                | <i>Archaeologist</i> ....21        |                      |
| <b>History of Anthropology</b> .....  | <b>Anthropological Approaches</b>  |                      |
| <i>The Prescientific Period</i> ... 5 | to Explaining                      |                      |
| <i>The Evolutionary Period</i> .. 6   | <i>Culture</i> .....               |                      |
| <i>The Empiricist Period</i> .....    | <i>Anthropology as</i>             |                      |
| <i>The Functionalist Period</i> 8     | <i>Humanistic</i>                  |                      |
| <i>The Period of</i>                  | <i>Interpretation</i> .....        |                      |
| <i>Specialization</i> .....           |                                    |                      |
| <b>Methods of Anthropological</b>     | <i>Trish Clay, Practicing</i>      |                      |
| <i>Research</i> .....                 | <i>Anthropologist</i> ..23         |                      |
| <i>Fieldwork</i> .....                |                                    |                      |
| <i>Participant</i>                    | <i>Anthropology as Scientific</i>  |                      |
| <i>Observation</i> .....              | <i>Explanation</i> .....           |                      |
|                                       |                                    |                      |
| <i>The Fieldwork Experience:</i>      | <i>Practical Reasons for</i>       |                      |
| <i>A Case Study</i> ...13             | <i>Dobuan Paranoia</i> .....       |                      |
|                                       |                                    |                      |
| <i>Cross-Cultural</i>                 | <i>Chapter Summary</i> .....       |                      |
| <i>Comparison</i> .....               | <i>Annotated Readings</i> .....    |                      |
|                                       |                                    |                      |
|                                       | <i>Chapter 2: Culture</i> .....    |                      |

|                                                                                 |                                                                              |                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>The Unity and Diversity of Cultures</i> ..... 56                             | Chapter Summary.....81                                                       | Chapter 5: Gender and Culture .....107                      |
| <i>Culture Shock</i> ..... 56                                                   | Annotated Readings.....81                                                    | Sex and Gender .....108                                     |
| <hr/>                                                                           | <hr/>                                                                        | <i>Sexual Differences</i> .....108                          |
| <i>Doing Fieldwork among the Yānomamö</i> .....57                               | Chapter 4: The Life Cycle .....83                                            | <i>Gender</i> .....109                                      |
| <hr/>                                                                           | The Life Cycle.....84                                                        | Diversity in Male and Female Roles.....109                  |
| Chapter Summary..... 58                                                         | <i>Rites of Passage</i> .....84                                              | <i>Socialization of Gender Differences</i> .....109         |
| Annotated Readings..... 59                                                      | <i>Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Naming</i> .....84                             | <hr/>                                                       |
| <hr/>                                                                           | <hr/>                                                                        | <i>Male and Female Roles in Iran</i> ..... 110              |
| Chapter 3: Social Organization, Biology, and Culture 61                         | <i>Conception without Sex in the Trobriand Islanders' Ideology</i> .... 86   | <hr/>                                                       |
| Organizational Patterns..... 62                                                 | <hr/>                                                                        | <i>Common Patterns in Division of Labor</i> ..... 111       |
| <i>Groups</i> ..... 62                                                          | <i>Nisa's First Labor</i> ..... 90                                           | <i>Gender Roles and Subsistence</i> .....112                |
| <i>Statuses and Roles</i> ..... 63                                              | <hr/>                                                                        | Third and Fourth Genders....113                             |
| <i>Division of Labor</i> ..... 64                                               | <i>Roman Catholic Baptism</i> 91                                             | <i>The Berdache</i> .....113                                |
| <i>Rank</i> ..... 64                                                            | <hr/>                                                                        | <i>The Hijra</i> .....114                                   |
| <i>Contextual Cues</i> ..... 65                                                 | <i>Enculturation, Childhood, and Adolescence</i> .....92                     | <i>The Transvestite</i> .....114                            |
| <hr/>                                                                           | <hr/>                                                                        | Gender, Power, and Honor...114                              |
| <i>Caste in India</i> .....66                                                   | <i>France Fights Female Genital Mutilation by African Immigrants</i> .....96 | <i>Gender Stratification</i> ....115                        |
| <hr/>                                                                           | <hr/>                                                                        | <i>Gender in Patrilineal Societies</i> .....116             |
| <i>Master Statuses</i> ..... 67                                                 | <i>Courtship in Samoa</i> ..... 97                                           | <hr/>                                                       |
| <hr/>                                                                           | <hr/>                                                                        | <i>Women and Law in the Victorian United States</i> ... 117 |
| <i>An American Master Status</i> ..... 68                                       | <i>Courtship and Marriage</i> 98                                             | <hr/>                                                       |
| <hr/>                                                                           | <i>Parenthood</i> .....100                                                   | <i>Sexual Equality in Vanatinai Society</i> ..... 118       |
| Biological Traits and Social Statuses ..... 69                                  | <i>Divorce</i> .....101                                                      | <hr/>                                                       |
| <i>Biology and Socially Learned Roles</i> ..... 69                              | <i>Old Age</i> .....101                                                      | <i>Male Dominance</i> .....118                              |
| <hr/>                                                                           | <i>Death</i> .....101                                                        | <i>Gender in Matrilineal Societies</i> .....119             |
| <i>At the Racial Dividing Line</i> .... 72                                      | <hr/>                                                                        | <i>Matrifocality</i> .....119                               |
| <hr/>                                                                           | <i>The Mapuche Death and Burial Ritual</i> ... 103                           |                                                             |
| <i>Race, Cultural Ability, and Intelligence</i> ..... 76                        | <hr/>                                                                        |                                                             |
| <hr/>                                                                           | Chapter Summary..... 104                                                     |                                                             |
| <i>The Ellis Island Project: A Study in the Misuse of Intelligence Tests</i> 78 | Annotated Readings..... 105                                                  |                                                             |
| <hr/>                                                                           | <hr/>                                                                        |                                                             |

|                                                                                      |                                                                            |                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>The Causes of Gender Inequality</i> ..... 120                                     | <i>Cultural and Natural Areas</i> ..... 134                                | <i>Chapter 7: Cultural Evolution and the Contemporary World</i> ..... 159              |
| <b>Gender and Religion</b> ..... 122                                                 | <i>Natural Environments</i> 134                                            | <b>The Process of Change</b> .....160                                                  |
| <i>Gender Symbolism</i> ..... 122                                                    | <i>Carrying Capacity</i> ..... 137                                         | <i>Cultural Dynamics</i> .....160                                                      |
| <i>Gender in the Religious Institution</i> ..... 123                                 | <b>Biological and Cultural Adaptation</b> ..... 137                        | <i>Interrelationships among Technology, Social Organization, and Ideology</i> .....162 |
| <hr/> <i>Sex-Based Persecution as a Basis for Asylum in the United States</i> ...124 | <b>Subsistence Adaptations and the Environment</b> ... 138                 | <b>Cultural Evolutionary Theory</b> ..... 164                                          |
| <hr/> <b>Women's Rights as Human Rights</b> ..... 124                                | <i>Foraging</i> ..... 138                                                  | <i>Specific and General Evolution</i> .....164                                         |
| <hr/> <i>Announcement of Peace Prize</i> ... 125                                     | <hr/> <i>Pygmy Net and Archery Hunting in the Ituri Forest</i> 140         | <i>Stabilization vs. Evolutionary Potential</i> .....165                               |
| <hr/> <i>Economic Exploitation</i> 125                                               | <hr/> <i>Optimal Foraging Theory</i> ..... 143                             | <i>Leapfrogging</i> .....165                                                           |
| <hr/> <i>What's in a Name?</i> ..... 126                                             | <hr/> <i>Food Production</i> ..... 144                                     | <i>Progress?</i> .....166                                                              |
| <hr/> <i>Equality in Family Law</i> ..... 126                                        | <hr/> <i>Optimal Foraging, American Subsistence, and Culture</i> ..... 145 | <hr/> <i>Western Shoshone Land Rights in the United States</i> 168                     |
| <i>Reproductive Rights</i> ..... 127                                                 | <hr/> <i>The Trend toward Food Domestication</i> ..... 146                 | <b>The Vanishing of Nonstate Societies</b> ..... 168                                   |
| <i>Violence</i> ..... 128                                                            | <hr/> <i>The Shuara of Ecuador and Peru</i> ... 148                        | <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> .....168                                                     |
| <i>Political Rights</i> ..... 128                                                    | <hr/> <i>The Northern Tungus Reindeer Herders of Siberia</i> 151           | <i>Extinction</i> .....170                                                             |
| <i>Chapter Summary</i> ..... 128                                                     | <hr/> <i>Farming Lessons from Prehistory</i> .....153                      | <b>The Effects of Industrialization</b> .... 171                                       |
| <i>Annotated Readings</i> ..... 129                                                  | <hr/> <i>Chapter Summary</i> ..... 156                                     | <i>Indigenous Peoples Today</i> .....171                                               |
| <hr/> <b>PART TWO</b>                                                                | <hr/> <i>Annotated Readings</i> ..... 157                                  | <i>Developed and Underdeveloped Societies</i> .....172                                 |
| <b>ADAPTATION, CULTURAL CHANGE, AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY</b>                           | <hr/>                                                                      | <hr/> <i>The Yqnomamö Today</i> ... 173                                                |
| <i>Chapter 6: Environment, Adaptation, and Subsistence</i> ..... 133                 |                                                                            |                                                                                        |
| <b>Environmental Diversity</b> .... 134                                              |                                                                            |                                                                                        |

|                                                                                  |                                                                                    |                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Economic Change</i> ..... 174                                                 | <i>The Cultural Definition of<br/>Commodity</i> .....194                           | <i>Consumption</i> .....213                                              |
| <i>Urbanization</i> ..... 175                                                    |                                                                                    | <i>Subsistence Economies</i> ..213                                       |
| <i>World Population</i>                                                          | <i>Seaweed Farming</i> ..... 195                                                   | <i>Status Income</i> .....213                                            |
| <i>Growth</i> ..... 176                                                          |                                                                                    | <b>Social Agents of Economic</b>                                         |
| <i>Industrialization and the</i>                                                 | <i>The Cultural Definition of<br/>Value</i> .....196                               | <b>Control</b> .....213                                                  |
| <i>Quality of Life</i> ..... 176                                                 |                                                                                    | <i>The Impact of AIDS on Africa's<br/>Economy</i> .....214               |
| <b>Peasant Cultures</b> ..... 177                                                | <i>Kwakiutl Bartering:<br/>Bidding up the Price</i> ..... 197                      |                                                                          |
| <i>Feudal Peasantries</i> ..... 177                                              |                                                                                    | <i>Community Control of<br/>Production</i> .....214                      |
| <i>Colonial Peasantries</i> ..... 178                                            | <b>Production: The Control and</b>                                                 | <i>Kin Control of<br/>Production</i> .....215                            |
| <i>Contemporary</i>                                                              | <b>Use of Resources</b> ... 197                                                    | <i>Association Control of<br/>Production</i> .....215                    |
| <i>Peasantries</i> ..... 179                                                     | <i>Use Rights</i> .....197                                                         | <i>Social Class</i> .....216                                             |
| <i>Refugees</i> ..... 182                                                        | <i>Ownership</i> .....198                                                          | <i>Social Class and<br/>Production in the<br/>United States</i> .....216 |
| <i>Applied Anthropology and<br/>Cultural Change</i> ..... 183                    | <i>Division of Labor</i> .....198                                                  | <i>The Changing Context of<br/>Economics</i> .....216                    |
|                                                                                  | <i>Shoshone vs. Pioneer<br/>Concepts of Land in the<br/>Great Basin</i> .....199   | <i>Chapter Summary</i> .....216                                          |
| <i>Cuban Refugee Camps at the<br/>U.S. Naval Base at<br/>Guantanamo</i> .....184 |                                                                                    | <i>Annotated Readings</i> .....217                                       |
|                                                                                  | <i>Brazilian Women Find New<br/>Opportunities as Avon<br/>Saleswomen!</i> .....201 |                                                                          |
| <b>The Future of the Peasant</b>                                                 | <b>Distribution</b> ..... 203                                                      |                                                                          |
| <b>World</b> ..... 185                                                           | <i>Reciprocity</i> .....203                                                        |                                                                          |
| <i>The Green Revolution</i> .. 185                                               |                                                                                    | <i>Chapter 9: Marriage and the<br/>Family</i> .....219                   |
| <i>Population Control in<br/>Developing Nations</i> 185                          | <i>The Kula Ring</i> ...206                                                        | <b>Marriage</b> .....220                                                 |
|                                                                                  | <b>Redistribution</b> .....207                                                     | <i>Functions of Marriage</i> ..220                                       |
| <i>Home, Home on the Range, in<br/>Brazil's Heartland</i> ..... 186              | <i>Big Women in the Trobriand<br/>Islands</i> .. 209                               | <i>Sex and Reproduction among<br/>the Nayar of India</i> ..... 221       |
| <i>Chapter Summary</i> ..... 188                                                 | <b>Markets</b> .....210                                                            |                                                                          |
| <i>Annotated Readings</i> ..... 189                                              | <i>Yapese Stone Money</i> ..... 211                                                | <i>Types of Marriage</i> .....222                                        |
|                                                                                  | <i>The Productive Base of<br/>the U.S. Economy</i> ...212                          | <i>Polyandrous and Group<br/>Marriages among the Toda</i> ..... 225      |
| <b>PART THREE</b>                                                                |                                                                                    |                                                                          |
| <b>SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>                                                       |                                                                                    |                                                                          |
| <i>Chapter 8: Economics</i> ..... 193                                            |                                                                                    |                                                                          |
| <b>Definition of Economic<br/>Systems</b> ..... 194                              |                                                                                    |                                                                          |