

Unit 11: Resources

Objectives

At the end of this unit, you will

Be aware of the following

- Necessity of obtaining accurate sources for East Asian culture/religion issues
- Top twelve resources for East Asian religions/cultures
- Importance of history, biography, autobiography, and novels as sources of cultural understanding
 - Helpful Internet sources of information

Identify

- U.S. Department of State WWW site
- LingNet
 - Unofficial Civil Affairs WWW Homepage

Realize

- Discernment of sources--choosing the right ones--is most helpful in obtaining East Asian religion/culture information
- Importance of the WWW State Department site for timely, accurate information
- Helpfulness of The Multifaith Calendar
 - Extent of Department of the Army Pam 550 Country Studies Series

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I. Necessity of Discernment

One difficulty in studying East Asian religions and their impact on a culture is the sheer amount of information available. Titles abound. Card catalogs and on-line directories overwhelm with their listings.

Questions arise. What is the accuracy of material presented? What is the author's slant and purpose? How can the text assist my purposes? How accessible is the information presented? What are the accurate sources?



This section delineates an annotated bibliography. It first lists the top twelve resources. Next, it specifies books (history, autobiography, novel) which assist in capturing a feel for the culture of East Asia--its geography, world view, historical themes, life of its peoples. Then, this section presents assets available at local libraries and learning resource centers. A small list of helpful tools available outside the Peninsula is then inventoried. Finally, there is a limited treatment of helpful Internet locations.

II. The Top Twelve Resources

1. The World Wide Web State Department site should be the first location serious students tap for information on culture/religion.

Site: U.S. Department of State
URL: gopher://gopher.state.gov...

By far, this site is the best up-to-date resource for country studies. Go first to this location to find background studies on countries of East Asia.

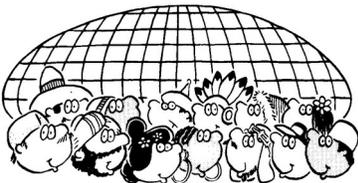
Reports given by the State Department are exhaustive yet well-organized, made for easy skimming. Plus, for military linguists, the information presented is accurate, reflecting current U.S. government perspectives and assessments.

Of special interest are the following headings:

- 1996 Patterns of Global Terrorism Offerings include area as well as specific country listings
- Country Studies
- Travel Advisories Up-to-the-minute presentations of critical information for the prospective traveler
- Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1996 Just released (30 Jan 97), these reports analyze the current state of human rights
- Recent speeches, topics, trends and historical searches
 - U.S. Policies in Support of Religious Freedom: Focus on Christians, 22 Jul, 1997

The following books and calendar resource are general tools which give great assistance. Most are reasonably priced and readily available.

2. Spence, David, The Multifaith Calendar, Burnaby, British Columbia: Hemlock Printers, 1997.



Every linguist needs this helpful, accurate, and informative calendar.

Artistically done, the calendar not only lists significant events on days when they occur, but also explains their importance as a monthly aside. Individual copies of the calendar, at \$11.00 each, can be ordered from Multifaith Resources, P.O. Box 128, Wofford Heights, Calif. 93285.

3. Country Studies, (various authors and editors), Headquarters, Department of the Army, DA Pam 550 series.

Exhaustive studies of various countries around the world. Sometimes the information is a bit dated, depending on the edition. Also, quality of assessment varies from study to study.

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The authors give a thorough history and some insight on practice of religion in the country studied. Available at Aiso Library and the Foreign Area Officer (FAO) office, building 274. The FAO office also has an excellent catalog of most recent "reports from the field," the back briefings of FAO visits. Over 70 Country Studies are now available on the WWW at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>

4. 1996 CIA World Factbook. Statistics, facts, trends, policy and rough maps of the countries of the world assessed by the CIA. <http://www.odci.gov/cia/pu...ions/nsolo/factbook>

5. Culture Shock! Guides to Customs and Etiquette, (Portland, Oregon: Graphic Arts Center Publishing). Titles include Burma, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.)



This series is the best of its kind in treating customs and etiquette of the country treated. These resources are listed first in the bibliography of cross-cultural resources put out by the Overseas Briefing Center, National Foreign Affairs Training Center, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C., 20520.

6. Wenzhong, Hu and Cornelius Grove, Encountering the Chinese, A Guide for Americans (Yarmouth, Maine: Intercultural Press, 1991)

Excellent overview of manners, customs and etiquette of China--written specifically for Americans. While treating China specifically, this work orients readers to many cultural similarities held by East Asian peoples. (Aiso Library)

7. Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kits (Berkeley, Calif: Lonely Planet Publishers)

Probably the best, most practical, "ground level" guide to travel in East Asian countries. Individual countries are listed by separate title.

8. Foreign Area Reports, Foreign Area Officer Program, Building 274, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey.

This library compiles "on the ground" reports and assessments by recent Foreign Area Officer visitors to regions of the world. The products are fresh, accurate and often more complete, less "sanitized" treatment of areas treated.

9. Simple Guides to Customs and Etiquette, (Kent, England: Global Books, Ltd.) Series titles include listings for China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Thailand.

Another highly recommended resource by the Overseas Briefing Center.

10. MacDonal, Margaret Read, The Folklore of World Holidays, Detroit, Mich: Gale Research, Inc., 1994.



The only thing bad about this research guide is its price--\$80.00. It is filled with data on religious and cultural festivals around the world. A day-by-day listing of events around the world is given. Each entry is detailed enough to be thorough and interesting. Author lists sources of information after each entry. ISBN 0-8103-7577-X. (Aiso Library)

11. Smith, Huston, The Illustrated World's Religions, New York: HarperCollins, 1994.

The aesthetic beauty of this book pleases the senses. With most of the same text as Huston Smith's classic, The World's Religions, the art work and photos of worshippers around the world make this an especially appealing work. Price for the hardcover is \$30.00. If you can't afford it, get Smith's The World's Religions for \$12.00. This is the most readable of all the general texts I've read. (Aiso has The World's Religions)

12. Famighetti, Robert, ed., The World Almanac and Book of Facts, Mahwah, New Jersey: Funk and Wagnalls, 1997.

Up-to-date and packed with information, this resource tool is compact and reasonable. The statistics and country history sections are invaluable. Purchase this book at almost any news/bookstore for under \$10.00. Don't settle for other publishers. The World Almanac gives data on country communications (phones, radios, newspapers per person) as well as health and economic indicators.

III. Resources Promoting Cultural Appreciation

- Appiah, Kwame Anthony, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Michael Colin Vazquez, The Dictionary of Global Culture, (New York: Alfred Knopf, 1997)

Great resource for building one's cultural literacy. The book sorts out what are the most important cultural contributions within civilizations of the world. Authors treat significant achievements, figures and events. The only lack is the absence of an index by subject/region. (Aiso Library)



- Hersey, John, A Single Pebble (New York: Alfred Knopf, 1956)

Classic short novel of an American's trip up the Yangtze River Gorges. Written from the perspective of a Western engineer, the work graphically shows cross-cultural Chinese/Western differences.

- Huntington, Samuel P., The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order, (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996)

Controversial, thought provoking, influential analysis of the current and future condition of geopolitics. The author, a

professor at Harvard, argues for seeing some eight civilizations as currently in conflict. Suggestions for dealing with this condition of "civilizations in conflict" are also given. (Aiso Library)

- Hersey, John, The Call (NY: Alfred Knopf, 1985)

Engaging novel of a missionary family in China in the early 20th century. (Chamberlin Library)

- Weatherbee, Donald and others, The Political Impact of Islam in Southeast Asia, (Institute of International Studies, University of South Carolina, 1985--prepared for the U.S. Department of State)

Thorough analysis of Islam in the Southeast Asian region.

- Tuchman, Barbara W., Stilwell and the American Experience in China, 1911-1945 (New York: MacMillan, 1970)

A captivating historical overview of General Joseph W. ("Vinegar Joe") Stilwell's life and work in Asia, concentrating especially on the WW II China-Burma-India (CBI) theater. (NPS Library)

- White, Theodore, The Stilwell Papers, (N.Y.: MacMillan, 1946)

General Joseph W. Stilwell's papers and letters from the CBI theater. Unvarnished, straight forward perspective and account. (Aiso Library)

- Lopez, Donald S. Religions of China in Practice, (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996)

The introductory essay by Princeton's Stephen Teiser ("The Spirits of Chinese Religion") gives a succinct overview of the subject. (NPS Library)



- Juergensmeyer, Mark, The New Cold War, Religious Nationalism Confronts the Secular State, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995.



Now out in paperback, this text analyzes the underlying religious motives behind most major present day conflicts. Excellent for bringing one up-to-date on the religious fundamentalist movements (which the author describes as religious nationalism) around the world. ISBN 0-520-08651-1.

- Kimball, Charles, Striving Together (A Way Forward in Christian-Muslim Relations), Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1991.

The author, one of the negotiators during the Iranian hostage crisis, treats subjects which foster positive Christian-Muslim relations.

- Alexander, Pat, ed., Eerdmans' Handbook to the World's Religions, (Grand Rapids, Mich: Eerdmans, 1994).

Good pictures and graphs from a variety of sources. For students interested in a Christian approach to world religions, the section on Christianity provides helpful insight.

- Appelton, George, ed., The Oxford Book of Prayer, (New York: Oxford, 1985).

This scholarly yet usable book gives representative prayers from most of the living religious traditions of the world. A paperback edition is available.

- O'Brein, Joanne and Martin Palmer, The State of Religion Atlas, (NY: Simon and Schuster, 1993).



For those drawn to maps and visual presentations, this resource is a "must." Reasonably priced, it gives fundamentals of each major religious faith, shows distributions throughout the world, and treats a variety of important issues (money, the state, conflicts, status of women, environmental issues, projections for the future).

- Muck, Terry, Those Other Religions in Your Neighborhood, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992).

Succinct guide to world religious expressions present in the United States. Chapter conclusions on "common misperceptions" are exceptionally helpful.

- Sampson, Kenneth L., World Religions: A Resource for U.S. Army Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants, (Masters of Theology Thesis, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, submitted to Dr. Charles Ryerson, 6 May 1996).

Though designed for chaplains and chaplain assistants, this thesis is helpful to all. It treats Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Aspects of Chinese Religions, Primal Religions--African, Santeria and Voodoo, Orthodox Eastern and Liberation Theology. Available on the WWW through the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Homepage--World Religions Resources.

IV. Locally Available Resources

- The New York Times.



Few resources can match The New York Times for information and analysis of Middle East events. Also Library subscribes to the Sunday edition. Naval Postgraduate School's Bosun Library carries a complete microfilm storage of past issues.

- Skabelund, Grant, Culturgrams, Volumes I and II, Garrett Park, Maryland: Garrett Park Press, 1996.

These volumes give the background, people, customs and courtesies, lifestyle, and society traits of 150 countries. Four pages are given to each country. These background studies are succinct and have a reputation for reliability and accuracy. Non-profit groups can purchase both volumes for \$35.00 each. ISBN 0-912048-86-7 (for set).

- Smith, Jonathan, ed., The HarperCollins Dictionary of Religion, New York: HarperCollins, 1995.

Readable, well-organized, and thorough (1,152 pages), this book is a "must have." Especially helpful is the user-friendly pronunciation guide. ISBN 0-06-067515-2.



- Barrett, David, B. ed., The World Christian Encyclopedia, 3 Volumes, New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

This is a new revision of a standard reference tool first published in 1982. For detailed facts and figures on all religions within various countries, this is the place to look. ISBN 0-19-507963-9. The Monterey Public Library has the older edition.

- Eliade, Mircea, The Encyclopedia of Religion, 16 Volumes, New York: MacMillan Publishing, 1993.

Newly revised, this is the standard reference work on world religions. Practically every aspect of religion in the world is dealt with by a knowledgeable scholar. Monterey Public Library has the older edition.

- Levinson, David, ed., Encyclopedia of World Cultures, Boston: G.K. Hall, 1996.

For detailed analysis of over three thousand world cultures, this can be your primary resource. Recently printed, the work incorporates the information found in the old, more cumbersome, Human Relations Area Files gathered by Yale University. 13 editors, 800 contributors, and 20 translators worked over 10 years to put this massive work together.

Each culture has an extensive religion and expressive culture section. Beliefs, practitioners, ceremonies, arts, medicine and death/afterlife sections comprise the heading under religion.



Cost is high (\$800.00 for ten volumes), but nothing more detailed exists in the mass publishing market. Aiso Library has all but the Middle East volume (on order). Naval Postgraduate School (Bosun) has the set on order.

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- Harris, Philip and Robert Moran, Managing Cultural Differences, Houston, Texas: Gulf Publications, 1991.

Outstanding text on cross-cultural communication from a business person's perspective. The authors give practical guidance for various regions of the world. (Aiso Library)

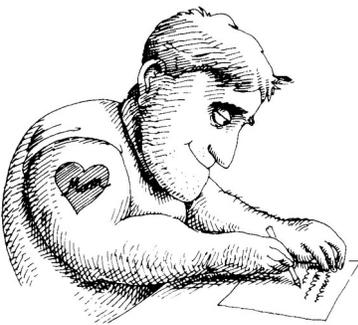
- Axtell, Roger, Gestures, The Do's and Taboos of Body Language Around the World, New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1991.

This reasonably priced paperback gives great information and contains an excellent bibliography. The first half describes gestures--the most popular ones around the world. Then, in the second half, the text gives a by-country listing of tips helpful for intercultural communication. ISBN 0-471-53672-5. Price is under \$15.00.

- Mead, Richard, International Management, Cambridge, Mass: Blackwell, 1994.

Great text designed for business and government workers working in cross-cultural settings. Gives the theoretical background of leadership practices and differences around the world. Very helpful for units working with other Allied armies on military to military or peace operations.

- Harris, Ian ed., Longman Guide to Living Religions, Essex, UK: Longman Group, 1994.



This concise text details the impact of religion on politics in a country-by-country rundown throughout the world. For its purpose, there is nothing better. Unfortunately, its price (\$75.00) makes it prohibitive for personal libraries.

- Randal, Gary and Dinah Hanlon, Religions on File, New York: Facts on File, 1990.

Excellent resource for charts, graphs, and sketches which will add visual appeal and stimulation to classes and briefings. Some libraries purchase a reproduction certificate with the text, enabling users to run off multiple copies of documents given. The \$155.00 price makes it prohibitive for small libraries.

- Country Profiles, Economist Intelligence Unit, London, UK: EIU, 1996.

Quarterly and yearly updates, in succinct, quickly read style, which dispatch current information on the country listed. Though dealing with economics and politics, religious parties are sometimes treated as a part of the analysis. Outside of the daily newspaper, this resource is the most up-to-date, in print product available. Due to its excessive price, no library on the Peninsula subscribes to this collection. Stanford may have it.

- Morrison, Terri, Wayne Conaway and George Borden, Kiss, Bow or Shake Hands, (Holbrook, Mass: Bob Adams, Inc., 1994).

Fresh insights, concisely organized, offer original perspectives on over 60 countries in the world. (Aiso Library)

- Background Notes, United States Department of State, Bureau of Public Affairs, Office of Public Communication, Washington, D.C. (Available through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402).



Succinct analysis of the people, history, government, education, economy, communications available, foreign relations,

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U.S. relations and policy, military and helpful addresses.
Titles are available for most countries.

- Post Reports, United States Department of State, Department of State Publication, Office of Information Services, Publishing Services Division.

In some ways, more extensive treatments of areas listed in the Background Notes. The intent of Post Reports is to orient new state department officials and families to living in a given country. Logistical matters (schools, housing, transportation, shopping) receive detailed treatment.



"Keep exercising."

V. WWW Sites



- Site: U.S. Department of State Universal Resource Locator (URL):
gopher://gopher.state.gov:...

(See earlier listing under Top Twelve Resources).

- Site: LingNet - The Linguist's Network
URL: <http://lingnet.army.mil/>

Provided as a public service by our own Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, this site is dedicated to support the military linguist. LingNet's Language Resources page (URL: <http://lingnet.army.mil/general.htm>) links to an overwhelming amount of information and materials.

Included in the Resources page is an Area Background listing which includes:

- 1996 CIA factbook: Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook, 1995 edition
- City.Net: a comprehensive guide to cities and countries around the world
- The Electronic Embassy: Links to Embassies in Washington, DC

- Unofficial Civil Affairs page. (This site is a gold mine of information, provided you can connect.)



- UCLA's Language Materials Project: country and language information; sensitive map (click on a location, receive information about languages in that area).
- US State Department Travel Advisories
- Site: Area Handbook Program Country Studies
URL: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>

Currently, over 71 countries are treated. Much of the material is world for word what is printed in the Department of the Army's hardbound Country Studies series.

- Site: Strategic Assessment 1997
URL: <http://www.ndu.edu:80/ndu/inss/sa97/sa97ch1.html>

An overview and regional analysis by the National Defense University.

- Site: 1997 Strategic Assessment
URL: rummelr@carlisle-emh2.army.mil

Strategic assessment from the Strategic Studies Institute, ed. E.H. Tilford, Jr., U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA.

- The following is instructive for use of the World Wide Web.

"The Digital Middle East," an article in the Nov/Dec 1996 edition of Aramco World magazine gives photojournalist George Anzar's review of helpful Web sites currently available (Jan 97) on the Internet. I quote at length from this article. WWW sites referred to are ones I've personally found beneficial.

"For the cybernovice, the Internet has two main 'highways': The World Wide Web carries sound and graphics in addition to text; newsgroups on Usenet use text-only files, including electronic mail, or e-mail.

As a whole, the Internet--and particularly the Web--can seem like an enormous bazaar: The hawkers are many and the info-goods, at first glance, seem to address every imaginable need. However, as in any bazaar, let the browser beware.



While some sites are gems of useful information, smart design and clever insight, too many others offer virtual junk, information of doubtful value, sometimes presented with glitzy design and supplemented by meaningless, slow-loading graphics that can make your trip on the information superhighway more like creeping through a construction zone during rush hour.

The fact is that, behind the hype, the Internet still has some serious shortcomings. While it is relatively easy to access from home or work and its reach is indeed global, the information stream runs broad rather than deep. For in-depth learning, the Web and Usenet are still no matches for even an average library.

But hang onto your hats. Most sites have been around for only a year or less, and their numbers and the sophistication of their content are exploding. Given a bit of time, this could be quite a ride."



"Our goal must be to serve as best we can; to leave our piece of the [Armed Forces] and the lives we have touched richer for our having been there. Everyone in America's [Armed Forces] can and does contribute, and contribution equals success."

(General Gordon R. Sullivan)