



- Culture

- culture

Weberian



Swidler

RETHINKING CULTURE

- **Culture** is the symbolic vehicles of meaning, including beliefs, ritual practices, art forms, and ceremonies, as well as informal cultural practices such as language, gossip, stories, and rituals of daily life.
- Our view of **culture** is ultimately **Weberian**, a view that maintains that our interests shape the ideas we pursue through action.
- However, **Swidler** argues our actions do not necessarily reflect our wants.

RETHINKING CULTURE

- For instance, consider Weber's argument about the **protestant work ethic**: why does the behavior persist if the idea no longer holds the same appeal?
- For Swidler, **culture** provides the **toolbox** from which strategies of action—or general ways of organizing action—are shaped, rather than motivating the action itself.
- In other words, **people do not just live within a culture**, but **culture is something we use**: A set of beliefs, practices, moods, and perspectives that we manipulate.

