Under the behaviors

                                                                          --cultural iceberg

    The cultural iceberg model is one of the most well-known cultural models. For most visible behaviors in our daily life, the reason of them can be invisible, for example, relationship and tradition.

A classic example is that our traditional music, which always sounds quiet and rhythmic. If one man only heard a single song of traditional music, he may think nothing but the obvious feature of it, but if he know that a lot of ancient musicians were influenced by Confucian culture, he will think that the culture caused the characteristic of traditional music. And another example is that different regions have their own dietary habit. People in the southwest like hot peppers because their weather is humid so they eat peppers to dehumidify, and over time it became a tradition. So the pepper-like habit may shows that how climate is and how people to face it.

All in all, cultural iceberg theory tells us how difficult it is sometimes to understand people from different cultures, because we can often find the obvious part of the cultural iceberg in other cultures, but we cannot immediately find the invisible part. And this hidden part is often an important part.