

Week 3

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Culture

- Culture is all the things that defines a group, from habits and social norms, to their beliefs and forms of art, that distinguishes from other groups.
- When we meet someone for the first time, it is customary to firmly shake hands. In some cultures, such a firm hand shake would be considered rude, such as in Turkey.

GM Case Study

- The company has a culture that fosters 'incompetence' and 'neglect'. Employees of the company have a habit of not taking responsibility for anything acting like it is always someone else's problem.
- Company culture is cultivated and nurtured often by executives. If those executives foster a culture that is toxic to society, then they are a problem, and they need to go. Unfortunately since GM is a private company, it isn't as simple as replacing management with people whose moral compasses are not so passive. The only solution I see is to burn the company to the ground by hurting their reputation so badly that they have no choice but to go out of business.

Water Boiling Reflection

- Understanding another culture is not always so easy. You have to be careful so as not to make members of another culture feel alienated. Making assumptions about another culture based on our own may not be as productive as we think.
- I plan to work at google, a very diversified company, in the future. I would be interacting with many different people from many different cultures. These concepts would enable me to be more conscious of our social differences and be a little more sensitive about them.