

Grasping Reality with Both Hands

The weblog of Brad DeLong. Comments (mostly) welcome, or email me at delong@hey.com with "delong-weblog" as the subject.
RSS feed.

Also on twitter [@delong](#). Since 1999.

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WASP Culture-Noted

Whet Moser: *WASP Culture* <https://twitter.com/whet/status/1283860135958532097>: 'Very disturbing to learn that grifters are out there holding seminars on "protestant fragility":

ASPECTS & ASSUMPTIONS OF PROTESTANTISM
& PROTESTANT CULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES


Protestant dominant culture, or **Protestantism**, refers to the ways Protestant people and their traditions, attitudes, and ways of life have been normalized over time and are now considered standard practices in the United States. And since Protestant people still hold most of the institutional power in America, we **all** have internalized some aspects of Protestant culture – including Catholics.

**Rugged Individualism**

- The individual is the primary unit
- Self-reliance
- Independence & autonomy highly valued + rewarded
- Individuals assumed to be in control of their environment, "You get what you deserve"

Family Structure


- The nuclear family: father, mother, 2.3 children is the ideal social unit
- Husband is breadwinner and head of household
- Wife is homemaker and subordinate to the husband
- Children should have own rooms, be independent, move out when adult

**Emphasis on Scientific Method**

- Objective, rational linear thinking
- Cause and effect relationships
- Quantitative emphasis
- Non-teleological reasoning

History


- Based on Northern European immigrants' experience in the United States
- Heavy focus on the British Empire
- The primacy of Protestant notions of progress and "Enlightenment" thinking


**Protestant Work Ethic**

- Hard work is the key to success
- Work before play
- "If you didn't meet your goals, you didn't work hard enough"

Religion

- Protestantism is the norm
- Christian tradition is foreign
- Tolerance for heretical beliefs




**Status, Power & Authority**

- Wealth = worth
- Your job is who you are
- Respect "secular" authority
- Heavy value on ownership of goods, space, property

Future Orientation

- Plan for future
- Delay gratification
- Progress is always best
- "Tomorrow will be better"

**Time**


- Follow rigid time schedules
- Time viewed as a commodity
- No observance of liturgical calendar

Aesthetics

- Based on Northern European culture
- Meat and potatoes – "bland is best"
- Woman's beauty based on blondeness, lack of mustache – "Barbie"
- Man's attractiveness based on economic status, power, intellect

Holidays


- Based on the needs of business, not the feast days of Saints
- Based on Masonic history and Protestant leaders


**Justice**

- Based on English common law
- Protect property, entitlements, and "rights"
- Ecclesiastical Courts denied jurisdiction

Competition

- Be #1
- Win at all costs
- Winner/loser dichotomy
- Action Orientation
- Master and control nature
- Must always "do something" about a situation
- Aggressiveness and Extroversion
- Decision-Making
- Majority rules (when Protestants have power)



**Communication**

- "The King's English" rules
- Written "tradition"
- Avoid conflict, intimacy
- Don't show emotion
- Don't discuss personal life
- Be polite

Whet Moser: Terrified to eat anything not in casserole form

Brad DeLong: Six Bombay Sapphire martinis & an olive!

Wendy M. A. Darling: Gin & tonic with lime also works.




Max Fletcher: Believe you can throw little cut-up pieces of fruit and vegetables into Jell-O and call it a salad

Elisabeth N.: Miracle Whip and canned cream-of-something-pale soup are mandatory components of every meal...

.#noted #2020-07-21


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>About Brad DeLong

Brad DeLong's Short Biography

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