

# CHARACTER STRENGTH DIFFERENCE OF WEST AND EAST

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## 1. SUMMARY

virtue	east	west	delta
kindness	3.78	3.84	-0.06
fairness	3.94	3.95	-0.01
honesty	3.86	3.84	0.03
gratitude	3.80	3.70	0.10
judgment	3.95	3.94	0.01
love	3.78	3.80	-0.02
humour	3.63	3.68	-0.04
curiosity	3.91	3.96	-0.05
beauty	3.82	3.76	0.06
creativity	3.79	3.75	0.04
perspective	3.76	3.70	0.06
social.intelligence	3.68	3.68	-0.00
leadership	3.71	3.67	0.03
teamwork	3.65	3.56	0.09
learning	3.91	3.92	-0.01
bravery	3.61	3.60	0.01
forgive	3.57	3.59	-0.02
hope	3.63	3.50	0.14
industry	3.56	3.50	0.06
religiousness	3.51	3.15	0.36
zest	3.55	3.51	0.04
prudence	3.55	3.39	0.16
modesty	3.42	3.24	0.17
Self.regulation	3.38	3.29	0.08

The most remarkable thing about these numbers are that delta is so small. There are small variations, but the most important feature is the remarkable closeness of these numbers.

We took 28 countries, and just divided up east and west and took group column means.

## 2. ZULF'S INTERPRETATION SCHEME FOR VALUES

Suppose we are looking at one of the virtues  $x_j$  for two people, for  $1 \leq j \leq 24$ . Let's treat this as realisation of a random variable  $x_j(h_1) = 3.2$  and  $x_j(h_2) = 3.4$ . What is the meaning of the difference  $\Delta x_j = 0.2$ ?

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My interpretation in this case is that these arose roughly from averaging say 10 values each from  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . Now the difference is each is maximum of 4, so the maximum difference could be 40 for the sum or 4.0 for the average. Thus 0.2 represents a total difference of 2 slots, so 8 of the answers will have to be exactly identical and the remaining two has to total 2; it could be that one differs by 2 and other 0 or a distribution of 1 each.

Thus for  $x_j$  questions in the questionnaire, we can safely conclude that 8 had to have *exactly identical answers*. So a difference of 0.2 is a subtle difference where some aspect could go from 'Completely like me' to 'Neutral' say on one of the questions or 'Completely like me' to 'like me' on two.

That ought to calibrate our sense of how different the two are.

I would say that ordinary person would not detect a 0.2 difference easily on any virtue for two people. They would seem almost the same. They would detect 1.0 difference. There would have to be on average difference by 1 on every question.

Using this interpretation we can see that the difference between East and West is really subtle and tiny. They represent means, and so the means are almost identical from ordinary human sense of difference in virtues, such as 0.05 difference is too subtle to make out for me.

This interpretation should make us even more impressed at the remarkable strength of universal human nature that we have discovered here.

### 3. THESE ARE MONUMENTAL ADVANCES OF HUMAN SPECIES

I believe this result of universal human nature are one of the most important monumental advances of human understanding of our own nature. For millenia we have speculated and disagreed, and elicited the laughter of the gods with our clumsy failures, our inability to see beyond the surface, our propensity to produce nice little stories about why those other guys are only good for slaving away in mines and cotton plantations so that we can live off the backs of their labours, and other sorts of tricks and political ideologies to sabotage understanding of universal human nature. I think this is work of much higher important than discovery of constant speed of light because it will have impact on every child who will ever be born on Earth for thousands of years in our future. I don't have any problems with the greatness of this work. I am an immortal genius. What's my incentive to work on problems that will make me a buck or two? Of course I will ask for full professorships and several degrees etc.

In order to understand this, I believe I am a great scientific genius who has surpassed Einstein in Schroedinger in macroscopic physics theory. I tell this to some attractive woman, she is doubtful, and she tells me I am narcissistic. I tell her, well look, we are not compatible and will not have a happy love affair, so why don't you find some other man with whom you can be compatible and block her on the internet and move on.

It's no different with Harvard or Stanford or Princeton. If you don't agree with me, then you should not waste your precious resources on me. I don't give a damn. Obviously I am quite confident that I am a monumental figure in the history of human intellect without your intervention. It's not a big deal. You have your interests and views, I have mine, and parties with irreconcilable differences in world view should not be doing anything together.

#### 4. A RENEWED FOCUS ON EAST VERSUS WEST CHARACTER STRENGTHS

Let us put aside issues of scale of differences to gain some insight about West versus East a bit more.

Western people are: (a) kinder, (b) more fair, (c) more loving, (d) more filled with humour, (e) more curious, (f) love learning things, (g) more forgiving than Eastern people. The difference is minute but let's say it's a subtle propensity difference.

In contrast, Eastern people are (a) more honest, (b) more filled with gratitude, (c) have better judgment, (d) more concerned with beauty, (e) more creative, (f) with better perspective, (g) with better leadership, (h) with better teamwork, (i) more brave, (j) more filled with hope, (k) more industrious, (l) more religious, (m) more modest, (n) more prudent, and (o) more self-disciplined than Western people. Again, the absolute differences are relatively small.

These small differences are minute fluctuations, and indeed the real discovery here is not these but the strong underlying uniformity that is Human Nature.

In order to make sense of this, you have to replace the means with billions of people, add in the dispersion within group which will be substantial and then you will see that the mean differences are not indicative of individual differences sufficiently to overcome Human Nature. And that's the beauty of this comparison. The conclusion will be that there is a minor variation of Human Nature for both West and East and there is no justification then to make a huge amount of noise about Western Nature and Eastern Nature. Ergo we have Human Nature.

#### 5. T-TEST PVALUES OF DIFFERENCES

The only significant differences seem to be religiousness, modesty, prudence, self-regulation. That's something, but there is no significance for the others.

Fine, so the sample size is small, and we'll get something stronger. But it's still quite indicative and we can still claim discovery of single human nature with this.

	virtues	east_west_pvals
1	kindness	16.48
2	fairness	89.35
3	honesty	50.84
4	gratitude	9.94
5	judgment	71.79
6	love	64.66
7	humour	18.64
8	curiosity	43.86
9	beauty	23.04
10	creativity	57.66
11	perspective	20.31
12	social.intelligence	99.65
13	leadership	48.67
14	teamwork	13.04
15	learning	90.89
16	bravery	84.59
17	forgive	70.58
18	hope	5.24
19	industry	18.73
20	religiousness	0.41
21	zest	58.14
22	prudence	0.37
23	modesty	1.63
24	Self.regulation	2.01