

# Typology of Asian societies gauged by life satisfaction with sixteen items of life domains, aspects and styles

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How to characterize Asian societies? Georg Friedrich Hegel is known for characterize Asia as having freedom for one person in his Philosophy of History. Asia is in Hegel's mind, best characterized as Asiatic dictatorship. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, discussing Social Contract, disregards societies like Corsica and Poland. This was around the time when west European elites were talking about Berlin as if it smelled of Asia.

Into the third and fourth quarters of the twentieth century many authors from humanities and social sciences have continued this endeavor vigorously as many Asian countries got national independence and obtained membership in the United Nations. One weakness of this endeavor, however, if it is called weakness, is that characterizing society with what academic discipline prescribes to be key explanatory variables within itself and its focused approaches has some demerits when one seeks the wholesome nature of society. As Michel Foucault notes, how to structure information is a source of power. Whether you have a good taxonomy or not distinguishes between wisdom and ignorance.

My approach is grasping the wholesome nature of society with the weight of each key dimension. As long as a nation-wide random sampling method is adopted, one can handle the wholesome nature of society. As long as statistical methods are employed, properly aggregating the society as a whole is not difficult.

Now, what should I choose as indicators that would reflect each and every individual's preference? Life satisfaction is not as vague as quality of life or well-being or happiness. Also instead of asking about the level of happiness in your life, I ask how satisfied you are with the following sixteen life domains, aspects and styles: 1) housing, 2) standard of living, 3) household income, 4) health, 5) education, 6) job, 7) friendship, 8) marriage, 9) neighbors, 10) family life, 11) leisure, 12) spiritual life, 13) public safety, 14) conditions of the environment, 15) social welfare system, 16) democratic system.

Factor-analyzing the responses to the question, how satisfied are you with the following sixteen life domains, aspects and styles?, yield the following results.

1) materialism or survival (denoting A or a, with capitalized A meaning first dimension); 2) post-materialism or social life (denoting B or b, with capitalized B meaning first dimension); 3) public sector dominance or power (denoting C or c, with capitalized C meaning first dimension).

The order of associated eigenvalues or weight of explanatory power varies from society to society. This variety of order means the types of societies.

1. Abc: Japan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Taiwan
2. Acb: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Laos, Mongol, Myanmar, India, Nepal, South Korea
3. Bac: Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia
4. Bca: not found among 27 Asian societies
5. Cab: Pakistan, Brunei, Bhutan, the Philippines, Kazakhstan, the Maldives
6. Cba: Singapore, Sri Lanka

I know the labeling of each type of Asian societies would help readers to comprehend the virtue of the evidence-based typology of societies, especially in Asia. This exercise is not attempted here at this time.

It is sufficient for me to be able to show that the wholesome nature of society can be reflected in such indicators of the evidence-based typology of Asian societies without damaging the basis of individual satisfaction and dissatisfaction of daily life in society at the grass roots level.