**The Central Liberal Truth**

A Review

James Alleman

The Central Liberal Truth: How politics can change a culture and save it from itself

Lawrence E. Harrison.
Oxford; New York:

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**Theme: Culture Matters**

- Role in Development

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**Agenda**

- Theme: Culture Matters
- Critique: Yes, but...
- Summary/Conclusions

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**Agenda**

- Theme: Culture Matters
  - Role in development
  - Culture topology
  - Research/evidence

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**Theme: Culture Matters**

- Role in Development

- Culture Topology (25 categories)
  - Progressive/resistant prone
    - Worldview
    - Values/virtues
    - Economic behavior
    - Social behavior
Theme: Culture Matters

- Role in Development
- Culture Topology
- Research/Evidence
  - "Case studies"
  - Anecdotal

Agenda

- Theme: Culture Matters
  - Role in development
  - Cultural topology
  - Research/evidence
- Critique
  - Lack of empiricism
  - Lack of remedies

Critique

- Lack of Empiricism
  - Conjectural analysis
  - Uni-causal
  - Lack of empirical data
  - Cause or effect?

Lack of Remedies

- "Remedies" good/useful
- What are incentives to implement?

Summary/Conclusion

- Culture is Important
- Needs Quantification
- Remedies Required

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Summary/Conclusion

- Culture is Important
  - Issue neglected, but important
  - Foundation laid
  - Additional research required

Cultural change occurs when two factors coincide: (1) leaders with progressive vision, and (2) a time of crisis or unique opportunity. (p. 164)

Summary/Conclusion

- Culture is Important
- Lack of Quantification
  - Conjecture
  - Lacks empirical analysis
  - Gestalt view need

Summary/Conclusion

- Culture is Important
- Needs Quantification
- Remedies Required
  - Exogenous remedies!

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