

Review of: "How WEIRD is the US and why does this matter for the rest of the world?"

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The author rightly draws attention to the Eurocentric and American-centric research on culture, civilization, and economic development, which indicates the so-called Western cultures are leading and worthy of imitation. He himself believes that the USA cannot be a representative of Western culture and that Western culture itself is not better than others, and its models are not absolutely necessary to imitate by others to achieve success. Instead, he proposes to apply inclusive analysis and concentrate on other parts of the world - especially in the decolonial context. And just the attempt to highlight the issue of non-European/American-oriented research is very important and worth reading articles.

Pinxteren argues with the belief that economic development can only take place in countries that have adopted Western culture as their own. He also points out that development often takes place at the expense of the natural environment. In his opinion, economic success is not related to W.E.I.R.D (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic), but to state's/ cultural self-determination. He believes that the economic growth of countries with different and other than Western cultural patterns is possible without the need for their Westernization, still, only on the condition, they have the right to self-determination.

Sometimes imprecise ways of arguing and combining different scientific disciplines can be seen as a weak side of the article. The author elaborates on the definition of culture, leading to a very basic thesis that culture refers to communities and groups. It also seems he includes too many threads in one text - from psychological programming of the mind, through cultural differences and the definition of culture, to a note on CO2 emissions, all solely to prove by referring to the research of Hofstede, Minkov, and WVS, that the United States should not necessarily be considered a WEIRD.