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CULTURAL PORTRAITS 2nd Edition

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Cultural Portraits A Synoptic Guide



Byron P. Palls, Ph.D.

Cultural Portraits has been written for those who work with persons whose cultures differ from ours. It provides a framework for developing cultural proficiency, thus bridging the culture gap in our changing environment that often results in miscommunication and ineffective productivity. Would you know that Chang Wu Jiang's last name is *Chang*, not Jiang? Or that handing something to an Arab with your left hand is an insult? Or that, at birth, a Korean is one year old? *Cultural Portraits* answers hundreds of questions and empowers you with valuable information not only about cultural practices but with explanations about terms we hear daily (i.e., "jihad," "Sunni"). If you are a school principal, a corporation executive, a registrar, an institutional dietitian, a social worker, an immigration attorney, a policeman, a guidance counselor, a director of personnel in a factory, a professor or a classroom teacher, a foreign student adviser, a business man, or just a tourist traveling around the globe, there is something in *Cultural Portraits* to help you avoid offending the sensibilities of others and spare your embarrassment. The more complete and accurate information we have, the better we perform our jobs. In this book, you'll find brief, succinct information (i.e., caveats, educational systems, recording foreign names, forms of address, gender relations, diets, long and short dates, writing numbers, body language, punctuality, evaluating transcripts, national traits, et al.) which will compose for you the cultural portrait of any one of the 80 countries included in this study. *Cultural Portraits* is a valuable resource for resolving challenging issues and addressing cultural questions to help you do your job with renewed confidence; and even though population figures may experience gradual changes from year to year, culture requires many generations to change ever so slowly, so the information contained in this publication will continue to be valid for years to come.

An easy-to-use, easy-to-read, instant-access reference and source of information on culture for classroom teachers, ESL teachers, guidance counselors, administrators and others who want to improve their

CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION & UNDERSTANDING

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