

Civics

Character

Family

Commerce

American Traditional Values

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I was born into a normal middle-class American family. I learned a set of basic values as the basis of American culture. As an adult I then learned that American values were hard to identify. That was the heyday of the Globalist Neo-Conservatives, and perhaps they just did not want to identify them, I thought. They were so clear and obvious.

But recently, when I decided to write them down, I found it difficult. The bulk of material was clear, but the organization of that vast bulk was not obvious. However, my job entails classifying things and creating taxonomies or classification systems of various kinds. I am also a rather persistent sort, a bit hard headed perhaps. I did not give up.

The material eventually organized itself into four main areas, plus some miscellany. It seems simple and clear. To be fully honest, my only contribution here is an organizational structure suitable for teaching or discussing the material, nothing more.

The four emergent areas are:

- Civics;
- Character;
- Family; and
- Commerce.

Civics

The USA has just 3 main definitional documents that describe our Federal Government:

- The ***Declaration of Independence*** tells us the mission and purpose of the USA as an organization.
- The ***Constitution*** tells us basic government structure.
- The ***Bill of Rights*** tells us our inalienable rights, beyond governments control.
- These serve as a template for society, not just a description of the Federal Government.
- All government, all use of power, must be compatible with these.

Character

- Americans must be capable of facing hard circumstances. Therefore, our default archetype for character is the warrior. We use warrior codes as a template for our character, such as ***Chivalry*** or ***Bushido***.
 - This gives rise to stories about soldiers, airmen, seamen, marines, detectives, defending yourself against oppression and such.
- Americans also inherit the European philosophy of ***Stoicism*** from western civilization, from philosophers Marcus Aurelius and Seneca.
- Americans generally adhere to the ***7 Virtues*** of Christianity or an equivalent substitute such as the ***Buddhist 8-Fold Path***. These define "Good".

- We adopt heroes from American history and use aphorisms written by Benjamin Franklin or Mark Twain, identifying specific character traits.
- We believe in individuation, discovering our God given nature and becoming that. (“Playing the hand you are dealt.”)

Family

- Marriage is primarily a contract between a **biological man** and a **biological woman** to bear and raise children.
 - Other similar agreements are sometimes called “Civil Unions” and are perfectly fine by the standards of American Values and have always been so.
 - The Church sanctions marriage in America and this is practical because the culture children will be raised in is decided early.
 - Commitment is central to Marriage. Divorce is not a traditional value.
- There are two primary roles of parents: **Breadwinner** and **Homemaker**. I am not saying that who does what is fixed, as Americans have always done what is required to survive, but there is a default historical allocation between sexes.
- Heredity and family identity is important, such as family mottoes or coats of arms. Family history is important, such as medical history and biological quirks or preferences.
- It is the job of families to insure children are cared for, educated, protected, and learn American Traditional Values.

Commerce

- The **Contract** is fundamental, foundational. **Competition** is also fundamental.
- You must balance **Responsibilities** (per agreement), **Commitments** (your stated priorities), **Obligations** (Other’s expectations) and **Indulgences** (everything else).
- The ideal of American Capitalism is that the **American Rich** fund the **American Middle Class** to produce **American Small Business**.
- America is a **Meritocracy**, awarding work to the most qualified, not by quota or nepotism.
- Americans seek **Craftsmanship**, and ever strive to be ever better at their chosen **Profession**.

Miscellany

Now some will rage against this simple exposition, but it is critical to remember that traditional values are based on the idea of accepting the will of “Natures God”.

- He creates the laws and we cannot escape them.
- The laws of society, of sociology and of psychology have basis in the hard sciences of physics and chemistry, as in for instance described by [Behavioral Biology](#).

- There is also the [Constructal Law](#) of Adrian Bejan, now at Duke, which describes why freedom is so important.
- The United States has always favored Natures God, and some of our government structure comes from the Iroquois, who hold reverence for nature. Our National Parks System is testament for American love of nature. Natures God is cited in the Declaration of Independence.
- The simple practical observation that those who deny Gods laws might take a bowling ball and suspend it over their foot while earnestly repeating that all is subjective and there is no gravity, only to let go and smash their toe- this is the viewpoint of a traditionalist American.

Conclusion

The thesis here is that traditional American values may be grouped or taught by reference to three simple categories. Whether you believe in such values or not is not the point. I maintain that they are simple to describe and summarize with this 4-category system.

No doubt there is great depth to be explored in each of the categories to further understand the material. I will leave that out of the scope of this simple document.