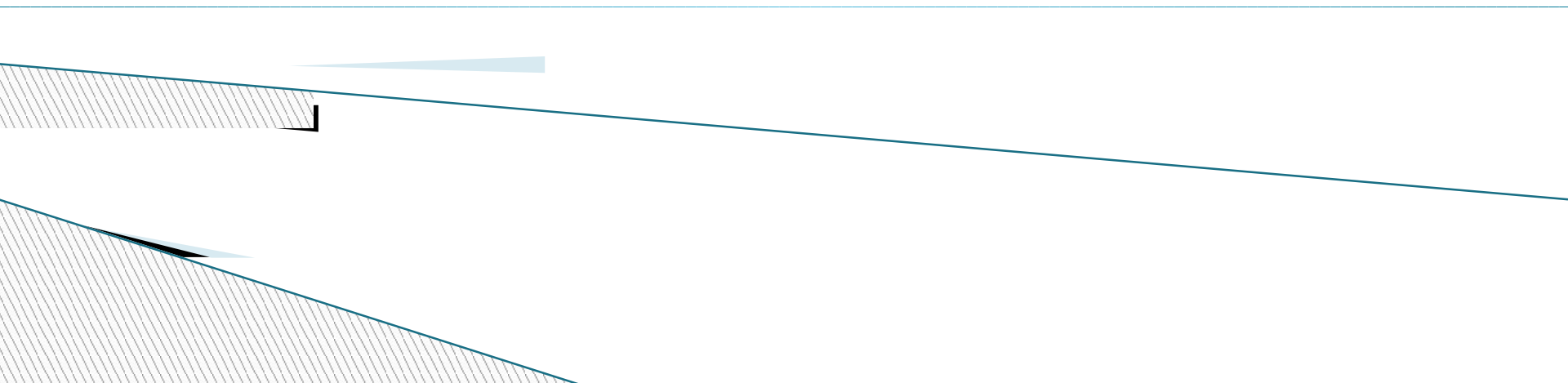


Cultural Ecology: nature vs. neutral

By. Dr. Linjie Chou, November 22, 2011



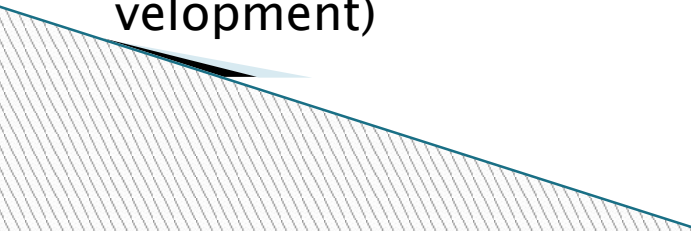
The aim

- ▶ Cultural ecology studies the changing interdependency between the culture and environment (Steward, 1955) under constant adaptation (Berry, 1977; Cohen, 2001). *Climates, geography, population and resources can all influence the value system*

Genetic factors

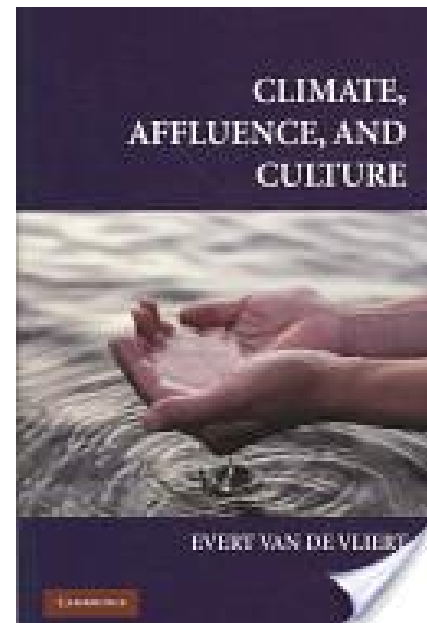
- ▶ Transnational adoption programs
- ▶ IQ research (Rushton, Lynn, Templer)
- ▶ Genetics leads to moral inferiority, physical aggression. MAOA (Monoamine Oxidase A) violence, MAOA is an enzyme that deaminates, thereby inactivating neurotransmitters and serotonin.

Chiao and Blizinsky (2010) concluded that East Asian nations that have a higher frequency of S allele carriers of the 5-HTTLPR (a type of polymorphism that causes attentional bias to negative information and negative emotion) engage in narrow thinking and a cognitive focus that facilitates the maintenance of collectivistic cultural norms of social conformity. (Perhaps a good quality for non-liberal growth oriented economic development)



Climate

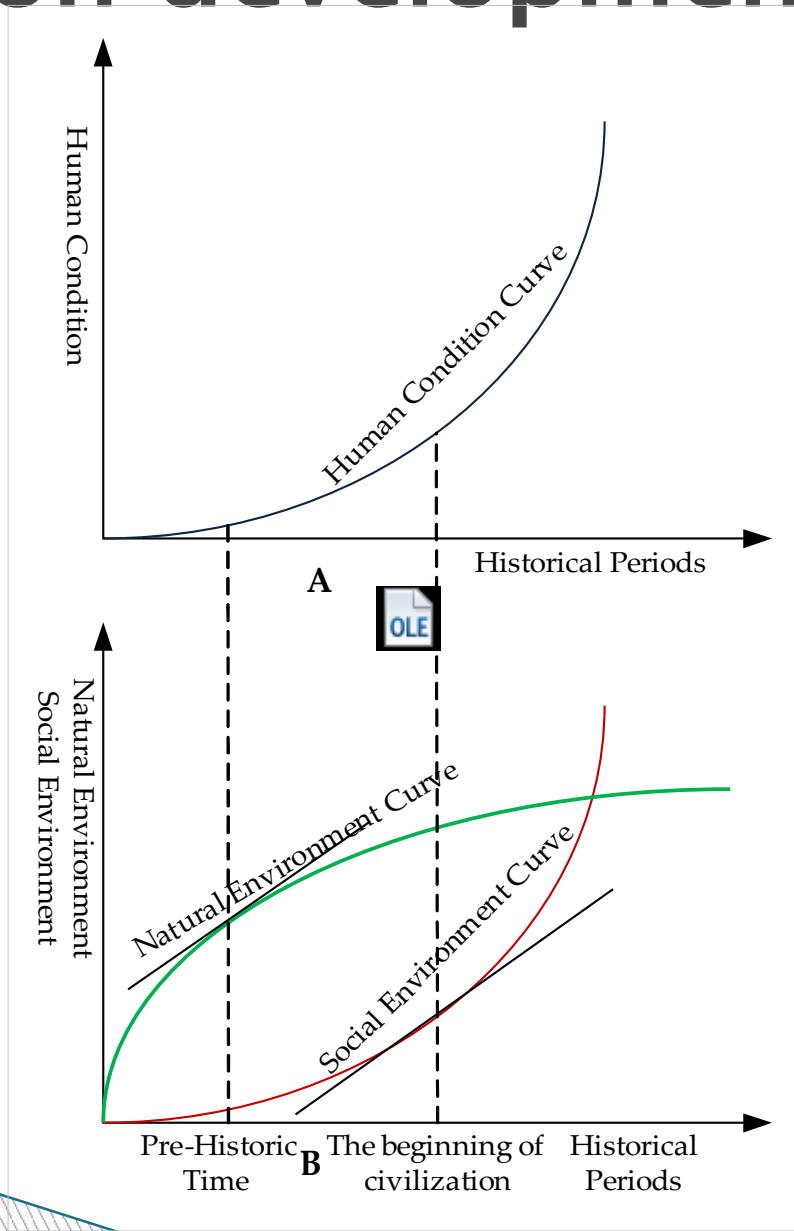
- ▶ Van de Vliert (2009) has found 22°C as the mean level for thermal comfort. The larger variation between summer and winter seasons cause a larger propensity for forming surviving cultures.



Geography

- ▶ Geographically speaking, due to the industrial concentration, countries with large inland regions tend to have economic concentrations in few localities, which fosters the larger disparity between the rich and poor (Krugman, 1999). This may form the social out-group distrust and bitterness that positively encourages the development of food-chain competitions. (backward linkage)

Civilization development



Consequences of disadvantageous climate, genetic and geographic orientation (poverty, hatred, violence)



Does the aid programs work?

In discussions about international development the question of whether overseas aid is effective in reducing poverty is never far from people's thoughts.

This is not surprising given that after over fifty years of aid there are still frequent and terrible stories in the media about people suffering from hunger and treatable diseases.

Between 1990–2001, the poverty level have been increased in Sub-Saharan and Northern Africa (UN Millennium Indicators database)

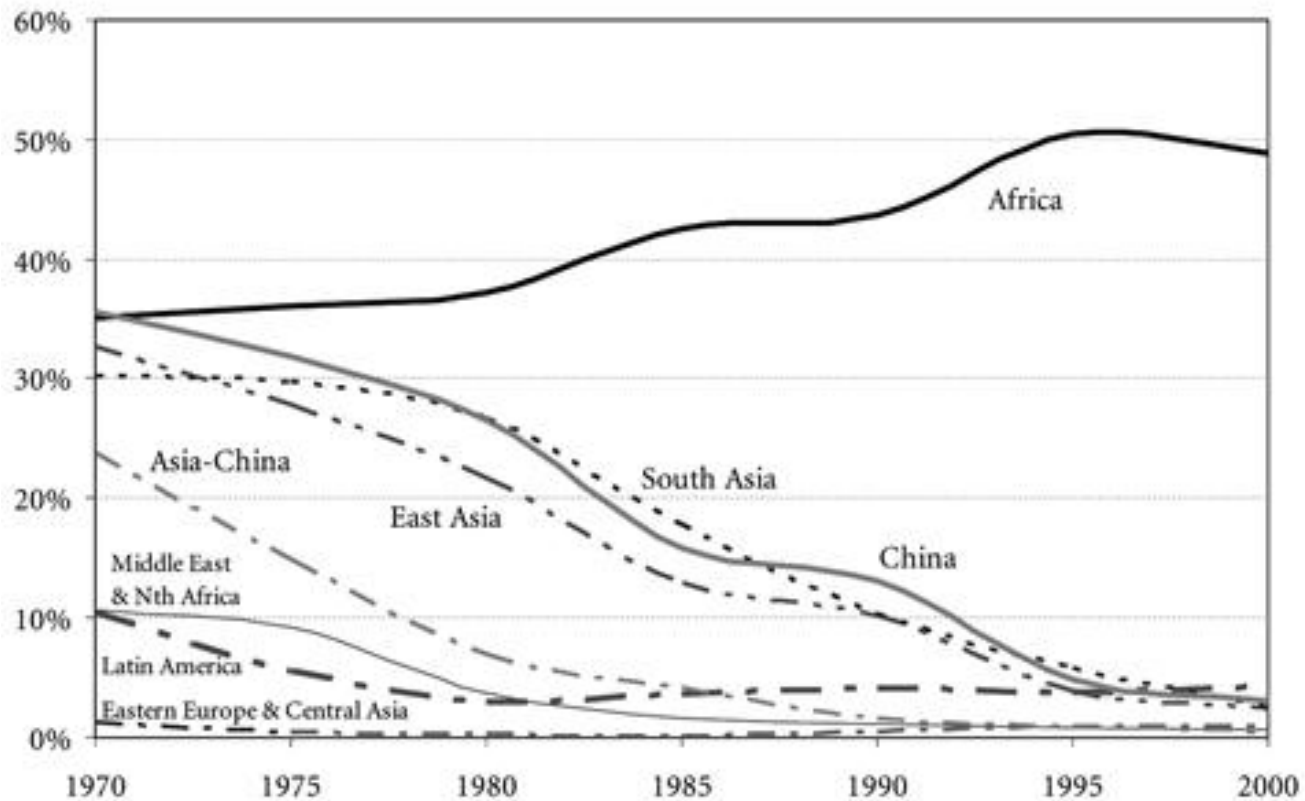


World Bank



Poverty in Africa

Source: International Financial Center Forum 2009



Views On Terrorism

- ▶ In 2008, more than 32% Nigerian Muslims and Lebanese, 25% Jordanians and believe that suicide bombers are justified.

From Pew Research Center, Pew Global Attitude Survey, 2008



Consequences of advantageous climate, genetic and geographic orientation (caring, trust, progression)



Thank you for your attention

Looking forward to cooperate with you

E-mail: lic1@hi.is

linjiechou@hotmail.com

