## Four Worlds of History

Social Science **Factors**

The social sciences examine the interplay and impact of these factors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>Politics</th>
<th>Economics</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Culture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. climate</td>
<td>a. form of government</td>
<td>a. production / trade</td>
<td>a. class</td>
<td>a. origins: divine, natural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. physical features</td>
<td>b. legal system—judges, police, patrol</td>
<td>b. means of production</td>
<td>b. status / position / privilege</td>
<td>b. beliefs, faith, teachings</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. natural resources</td>
<td>c. taxes, tribute, fees</td>
<td>c. forms of production</td>
<td>c. mobility</td>
<td>c. sacred texts, objects, places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. trade routes</td>
<td>d. military: armies, weapons</td>
<td>d. types of labor, work, jobs</td>
<td>d. roles in society</td>
<td>d. rites &amp; rituals, practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. territory, borders, boundaries</td>
<td>e. foreign policy</td>
<td>e. distribution</td>
<td>e. demographics</td>
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### Four Worlds

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<th>Economic Structure</th>
<th>Social Structure</th>
<th>Religion &amp; Belief Systems</th>
<th>Other Aspects of Culture</th>
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### Technology

| impact of technology across factors, examples: |
| a. discoveries | b. inventions | c. power: limits, transfer, balance |
| a. discoveries | b. inventions | a. power: limits, transfer, balance |
| a. climate | b. physical features | d. authority ↔ legitimate authority |
| a. production | b. trade routes | e. role of government ↔ control vs. level of government intervention |
| a. discovery | b. invents | f. expansion ↔ defense |
| a. transportation | b. communication | g. competition ↔ cooperation |
| a. topography | b. vegetation | h. militant, aggressive ↔ diplomacy |

**Central Concepts:**

- Government
- Economy
- Society
- Religion
- Culture

**Four Worlds analytical frame developed by Professor Steven Lamy, USC School of International Relations**

4W factors developed by Teresa Hudock, 2008—3rd Edition: July 2017

* Impact of technology across society is a central concept. Civil society is a central concept of the social world.
Social Science Factors: 4W chart of key concepts

These concepts are "factors" of the human condition – that when combined in different ways – produce different types of societies throughout history and around the world today. Some factors are basic to survival while others help establish more order and greater stability. Some of these factors are needed for a thriving, more humane existence. Societies have strengths or weaknesses across these factors. Absence or loss of certain factors can lead to the decline of a society.

**Political**
- type of government
- legal system
- military

**Social**
- how people are organized
- civil society

**Economic**
- goods & services
- types of labor & work
- means of production

**Cultural**
- daily life
- beliefs
- the arts

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**Political**
- leadership
- security
  → protection / defense
- order
  → control – rule is imposed
  → legitimate authority – rule is accepted
  → rule of law – “law & order” is enforced
- managing the commons
  → common goods, public goods, public works projects
- enforcement / recourse
- fairness / rights
- redistribution

**Social**
- civic duty
  → responsibility for the common good
  → willingness to sacrifice for the greater good
- advocates
- education
- news & media
- accountability
- transparency

**Economic**
- infrastructure
  → transportation
  → communication
- standardization
  → of measurements, money, trade fees
- means of production
  → land, natural resources
  → labor
  → capital—money, assets
- means of exchange
  → barter system
  → coinage, money
- entrepreneurship
  → creators of new business; inventors; innovators; risk takers

**Cultural**
- aesthetics
  → the arts, valuing creativity or beauty
- shared values
  → belief systems
  → religion
- meaning / comfort / hope
  → ways to deal with hardships or suffering
- respect for authority
  → from fear / force
  → from love / worship
  → from trust / confidence
- tolerance
  → of diversity
  → of minorities
  → of roles & relationships

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**Four Worlds of History**

adapted by Sandy Line, Associate & Teresa Hudock, Director, CALIS

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