

Social Science **Factors**4W reference #1: **the factor sheet**

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

Influence of **GEOGRAPHY** and impact of **TECHNOLOGY** affect the Four Worlds

Geography	Four Worlds			
	Politics	Economics	Social	Culture
a. climate b. physical features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> topography vegetation c. natural resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> water land: rich soil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> arable land minerals trees (lumber) d. trade routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rivers, straits mountain passes e. territory, borders, boundaries	Governing Structure a. form of government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> monarchy, oligarchy, feudal democracy, authoritarian centralized, decentralized b. legal system—judges, police, patrol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> laws, standards, regulations rights, guarantees, legal claims obligations: <i>summons, warrants</i> c. taxes, tribute, fees d. military: armies, weapons e. foreign policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expansion ↔ defense competition ↔ cooperation militant, aggressive ↔ diplomacy -----Central Concepts:----- f. power: limits, transfer, balance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> authority ↔ legitimate authority role of government – control vs. level of government intervention g. functions of government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> security (border protection) internal: order, stability support commerce infrastructure: public goods redistribution: public services manage the commons h. rule of law vs. force/fear/favors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> equality <i>before the law</i> justice, fairness – consistent application of the law enforcement, recourse guarantee private property (contracts, deeds, licenses) i. leadership ↔ stewardship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> public servant 	Economic Structure a. production / trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> goods & services / selling & buying b. means of production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> resources – “land, labor, capital” raw materials, tools, equipment labor source: <i>employee, slave, indentured servant</i> capital, finance: investment, access to credit, loans → debt c. forms of production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>cottage industry, guilds, feudal, industrial, assembly line</i> d. types of labor, work, jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> division of labor, specialization manual, skilled, white collar necessary, dangerous, seasonal e. distribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ration vs. market (consumers) privatized / public / mixed f. infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> roads, bridges, ports, rails irrigation, aqueducts, sewers energy sources; power lines g. means of exchange <ul style="list-style-type: none"> system of money, banking h. standard measures: length, weight, volume, distance -----Central Concepts:----- i. survival → prosperity means to prosper: role of ownership and private property j. scarcity → allocation k. innovation & efficiency l. risks ↔ incentives m. entrepreneurship	Social Structure a. class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> upper – ruling class, elite, aristocrat, wealthy middle – common class, working class lower – working poor, poor, peasants, slaves b. status / position / privilege <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hierarchy ↔ communal segregation ↔ integration c. mobility d. roles in society by gender, class, age, race... e. demographics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> population groups, trends migration: internal, external; refugees, asylum seekers rural ↔ urban nomadic ↔ sedentary ----- Civil Society:* ----- f. equity & access ↳ equal opportunity g. civic duty / common good h. movements, protests —advocates, watchdogs i. organizations, associations j. institutions —continuity k. distribution of information; news; <i>role of the media</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accountability transparency l. education: literacy level; level of collective knowledge	Religion & Belief Systems a. origins: divine, natural b. beliefs , faith, teachings shared truth ↔ moral authority c. sacred texts, objects, places d. rites & rituals, practices e. influence; role in society Other Aspects of Culture f. daily life, <i>pace of life</i> g. customs, traditions h. language; alphabet, writing system i. literature; oral storytelling j. leisure activities: games, hobbies, sports, entertainment k. the arts — aesthetics visual arts: draw, paint, sculpt, crafts performing arts: music, dance, drama l. architecture -----Central Concepts:----- m. ideas, values, expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rights & responsibilities ethics, principles tolerance ↔ inclusion view of authority: defer ↔ mistrust n. identity — sense of belonging, pride, bonds, loyalty o. meaning — source of hope sense of purpose, <i>pursuit of happiness</i> p. cultural diffusion ↔ blending <ul style="list-style-type: none"> diversity ↔ homogeneity harmony ↔ conformity acculturation ↔ assimilation universal ↔ monolithic
Technology a. discoveries b. inventions impact of technology across factors, examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> transportation communication sanitation weapons legal process production media medicine, health beliefs, values 	Arrows note political economy of large scale trade/commerce			

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

4W reference #2: concrete vs. concept

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.

