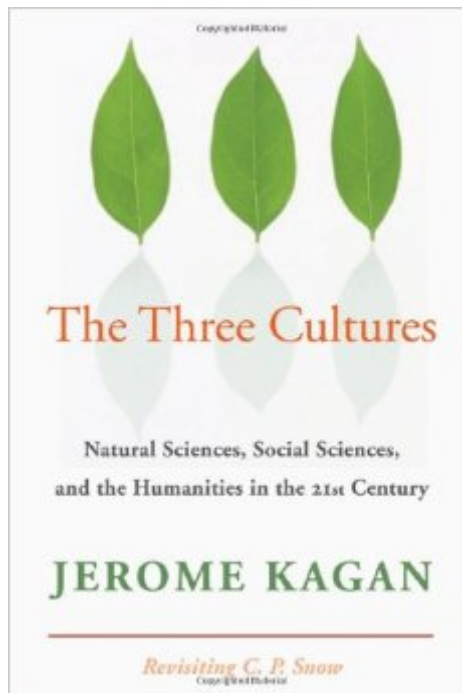


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The Three Cultures: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, And The Humanities In The 21st Century



Synopsis

In 1959 C. P. Snow delivered his now-famous Rede Lecture, 'The Two Cultures,' a reflection on the academy based on the premise that intellectual life was divided into two cultures: the arts and humanities on one side and science on the other. Since then, a third culture, generally termed 'social science' and comprised of fields such as sociology, political science, economics, and psychology, has emerged. Jerome Kagan's book describes the assumptions, vocabulary, and contributions of each of these cultures and argues that the meanings of many of the concepts used by each culture are unique to it and do not apply to the others because the source of evidence for the term is special. The text summarizes the contributions of the social sciences and humanities to our understanding of human nature and questions the popular belief that biological processes are the main determinant of variation in human behavior.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The 1st chapter is extremely dry and very hard to get through but once you make it past that, it gets better. Many examples to explain his reasoning or ideas which is very helpful in understanding him.

This is a great book that takes an integral view of the sciences, social sciences and humanities. Professor Kegan artfully shows how these three domains are similar to the "big three" of Greek philosophy (Art, Morals and Science) and are best viewed as complementary rather than competing. I highly recommend this book for academics and students who want more than a parochial education. Kegan also writes eloquently of the politics of education and particularly the problematic nature of disparity in funded research across the "three cultures."

"The Three Cultures" is on the ROROTOKO list of cutting-edge intellectual nonfiction. Professor Kagan's book interview ran here as cover feature on September 18, 2009.

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