

DOMINANT AND INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEW MANIFESTATIONS

This chart is not intended as a rigid binary, but a true dichotomy best viewed as a continuum. It is meant to encourage seeking complementarity and dialogue. Absolutism is discouraged with the realization we are all participating in DW precepts to some degree. The chart assumes that all diverse cultures, religions, and philosophies can be grouped under one of the two worldviews. “Indigenous Worldview” does not belong to a race or group of people, but Indigenous cultures who still hold on to their traditional place-based knowledge are the wisdom keepers of this original Nature-based worldview. **All people are indigenous to Earth and have the right and the responsibility to practice and teach the IW precepts.** All have the responsibility to support Indigenous sovereignty, dignity, and use of traditional lands.

Common Dominant Worldview Manifestations

1. Rigid hierarchy
2. Fear-based thoughts and behaviors
3. Living without strong social purpose
4. Focus on self and personal gain
5. Rigid and discriminatory gender stereotypes
6. Materialistic
7. Earth as an an unloving “it”
8. More head than heart
9. Competition to feel superior
10. Lacking empathy
11. Anthropocentric
12. Words used to deceive self or others
13. Truth claims as absolute
14. Rigid boundaries and fragmented systems
15. Unfamiliarity with alternative consciousness
16. Disbelief in spiritual energies
17. Disregard for holistic interconnectedness
18. Minimal contact with others
19. Emphasis on theory and rhetoric
20. Acceptance of authoritarianism
21. Time as linear
22. Dualistic thinking
23. Acceptance of injustice
24. Emphasis on rights
25. Fighting as highest expression of courage
26. Ceremony as rote formality
27. Learning as didactic
28. Trance as dangerous or stemming from evil
29. Human nature as corrupt or evil
30. Humor as entertainment
31. Conflict mitigated via revenge, punishment
32. Learning is fragmented and theoretical
33. Personal vitality minimalized
34. Social laws of society are primary
35. Self-knowledge not prioritized
36. Autonomy for self
37. Nature as dangerous
38. Other-than-human beings are not sentient
39. Low respect for women
40. Linear thinking

Common Indigenous Worldview Manifestations

1. Non-hierarchical
2. Courage and fearless trust in the universe
3. Socially purposeful life
4. Emphasis on community welfare
5. Respect for various gender roles and fluidity
6. Non-materialistic
7. Earth and all systems as living and loving
8. Inseparability of head and heart
9. Competition to develop positive potential
10. Empathetic
11. Animistic and biocentric
12. Words as sacred, truthfulness as essential
13. Truth seen as multifaceted, accepting mysterious
14. Flexible boundaries and interconnected systems
15. Regular use of alternative consciousness
16. Recognition of spiritual energies
17. Emphasis on holistic interconnectedness
18. High interpersonal engagement, touching
19. Inseparability of knowledge and action
20. Resistance to authoritarianism
21. Time as cyclical
22. Complementary duality
23. Intolerance of injustice
24. Emphasis on responsibility
25. Generosity as highest expression of courage
26. Ceremony as life-sustaining
27. Learning as experiential and collaborative
28. Trance-based learning as natural and essential
29. Human nature as good but malleable
30. Humor as essential tool for coping
31. Conflict resolution as return to community
32. Learning is holistic and place based
33. Personal vitality is essential
34. Laws of Nature are primary
35. Holistic Self-knowledge is most important
36. Autonomy for group and future generations
37. Nature as benevolent
38. All lifeforms are sentient
39. High respect for women
40. Non-linear thinking

For non-Indians who are concerned about misappropriation, see the peer reviewed article, “The Indigenization Controversy: For Whom By Whom.” <https://ices.library.ubc.ca/index.php/criticaled/article/view/186438>

Worldview Chart and introduction by Wahinkpe Topa (Four Arrows), a.k.a. Don Trent Jacobs, Ph.D., Ed.D. Originally published in *The Red Road (chanku luta): Linking Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives to Indigenous Worldview*, 2020. Featured in *Restoring the Kindship Worldview*, 2022, by Four Arrows and Darcia Narvaez, Ph.D. Find Four Arrows and more on Indigenous Worldview at www.KindredMedia.org