

Abstract:

The factual information has been obtained from reports posted on the Internet by the U.S. Government and by governments around the world. However, it is hoped that the information presented herewith, although subjective, will paint accurate and fair cultural portraits of the countries included and prove helpful to those who deal with the persons that hail from them.

For our district, **Name Structure**; by which the people identify themselves; the order in which names appear, crucial when making official records; what happens to a woman’s surname when she marries; how do the children get their surnames and the manner in which a person is to be addressed, formally or informally. (Note: Don’t expect to find references to “first” or “last” names; instead, you’ll find “**given name**” and “**surname**” or “**family name**” since not all countries follow the same format of name sequence to be able to have a “first” or “last” name).

Palls, B. P. (2008). Cultural Portraits. A synoptic guide. AuthorHouse, IN,



China



Official Name: People’s Republic of China

Location: SE Asian coast, W of Korea and Japan.

Size: Approximately, the size of the United States.

Capital: Beijing (Formerly: Peking)

Language(s) Spoken: Mandarin, 72+ %; Cantonese, 20 %; Wu, Kejia

Name Structure: Male/Female: surname + generational name + given name(s): Chiang Wu Jiang (also Wu-jiang or Wujiang) / Loo Shook Ching. A married woman may keep her surname, take her husband’s, or hyphenate the two: Chiang-Loo Shook Ching; regardless, she’ll be called “Mrs. Chiang.” If the bride’s family is wealthy and without male heirs, the groom takes her surname and so do the child; but if the groom is the first-born and only heir to his family, then the first children takes the mother’s surname and the rest, the father’s. The Chinese prefer formality: titles with surnames / rank are highly important, especially when addressing elders.

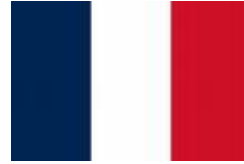
Cultural Patterns: Confucius’ teachings govern entire social order; very disciplined; unemotional; more traditional in the countryside, more cosmopolitan in urban areas; stoic, very patient, quiet; polite; they value modesty, self- control, self-reliance; they frown on individualism; frugal, industrious; excellent bargainers; fine jade artisans and passionate about the art of calligraphy—which teaches self-control and an appreciation for beauty; accomplished gymnasts and acrobats; devoted players of chess and table tennis; they are checkers enthusiasts.



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France



Official Name: French Republic (République française)

Location: Western Europe, N of Spain.

Size: Slightly smaller than Texas.

Capital: Paris **Language(s) spoken:** French (official), 100%; Catalan, Basque, Provençal, Corsican (south region); Britton (west); Alsatian (east).

Name structure: Male/ Female: given name(s) + surname: Jean-Pierre Boulanger / Anne Marie Léglise; a married woman may keep her surname, replace it with her husband's, or hyphenate the two: Anne Marie Léglise-Boulanger; children may be given either their father's or mother's surname, or a hyphenated combination; if there is no agreement, the paternal surname prevails. Formality (title w/surname only) is very important; plain given names are reserved for family and close friends. On official records, surnames precede given names: Boulanger, Jean-Pierre.



Cultural Patterns: Strongly ethnocentric, proud of their culture and of their influence on the world of fashion; individualistic; very well mannered; *bon vivants*¹, gastronomic enthusiasts; quick to go on strike; sticklers for etiquette; often aloof, calm; cosmopolitan; they value education and their perceived role as world leaders; very status conscious; committed supporters of the visual and performing arts and literature; incessant talkers about politics and sports; the most popular sport is *pétanque*²; rugby, basketball, cycling are also favorites; soccer is the national sport.

1. A French term to refer to someone who knows how to enjoy life to the fullest.
2. A French sport, most popular in Southern France (Provence), in which the players compete to see who will throw their metal balls closer to a small wooden ball called *cochonnet* that has been thrown out at the beginning of the game. *Pétanque* is similar to the Italian Bocce.

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Germany



Official Name: Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesrepublik Deutschland)

Location: North Central Europe, on the Baltic Sea

Size: Slightly smaller than Montana.

Capital: Berlin

Language(s) spoken: German (official), with several dialects

Name structure: Male/Female: given name(s) + surname: Hans Schmidt / Eva Braun. A married woman may keep her surname, may take her husband's, or the husband may take her surname, or they may hyphenate their surnames; the same options apply to naming their children. Formal address (title + surname) is very important and expected as a show of respect; given names are the norm for family, close friends and children. On official records, surnames precede given names: Schmidt, Hans.

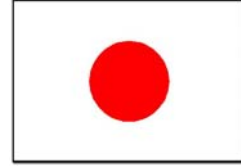
Cultural Patterns: Highly disciplined, very ethnocentric; formal; objective, analytic; strict enforcers of rules and regulations; they prefer to function in structured environments; individualistic, private; cultured, well-mannered; frugal; industrious; proud craftsmen; detail-oriented; very adept at planning, organizing; they value honesty, social order, cleanliness everywhere (nearly an obsession); strong environmentalists; they love music and are loyal supporters of the arts; they enjoy dancing, family outings, basketball, and ice hockey; the most popular game—and the national sport that unites the entire country—is soccer.



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Japan



Official Name: Japan (日本国)

Location: Far East island nation, E of China **Size:** Slightly smaller than California.

Capital: Tokyo

Language(s) spoken: Japanese

Name structure: Male/Female: Before *Meiji*: surname + given name: Yamamoto, Kai / Tanaka, Hiromi; after *Meiji*: given name + surname: Kai Yamamoto / Hiromi Tanaka. A married woman, by law, takes her husband's surname; the reverse is the case if she is the only child of a wealthy family or if her family is more prominent than his: the entire family has the bride's surname. Formal address and titles are an absolute must; the suffix "san" (=Mr. / Ms.) is added to a person's name/surname: Tanakasan, Kobisan; given names are reserved for family and close friends. On official records, surnames precede given names; Tanaka, Hiromi

Cultural Patterns: Highly structured; traditional, conformist; imitators of other cultures, yet somewhat *xenophobic*; patient; they dislike aggressive behavior; they strive for order, harmony and self-development; they avoid praise; they value honor, humility, and loyalty; one's family or group matters more than the self; they prefer subtlety, non-verbal communication; very rank/status-conscious; master gardeners; the older generation enjoys traditional fine arts (i.e., Kabuki, calligraphy), and *sumo*, while the young favor global trends; they are avid fans of baseball.



1. The term (literally "enlightened rule") refers to the reforms undertaken during the reign of Emperor Mitsuhiro of Japan (1868-1812), in which several western practices were adopted in an effort to modernize the country.
2. From the Greek "ksenos," (= stranger, foreigner), and "fovos" (= fear), the adjective describes someone who is comfortable in his environment or entrenched in his way of doing things and fears or is reluctant to accept foreigners or foreign ideas.
3. One of Japan's national sports, *Sumo* is a contact sport in which two men wrestle inside a circle; the one who succeeds in pushing the other out of the circle, wins. Body weight, therefore, plays a crucial role in the players' performance. Sumo is several centuries old and is laden with ceremony and symbolism, i.e., the ritual of purification when the rivals throw salt to their side or over their shoulders.

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Jordan



Official Name: Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan ()

Location: East of Israel and NW of Saudi Arabia

Size: Slightly smaller than Indiana.

Capital: Amman

Language(s) spoken: Arabic

Name structure: Male/Female: given name + father's and grandfather's given names (each prefaced by "bin" / "ibn" = son of, or "bint" = daughter of) + family name or "el" / "al" + w/toponym: Abu Karim Muhammad al-Jamil ibn Nidal ibn Abdulaziz al-Filistini (Abu Karim Muhammad al-Jamil, son of Nidal, son of Abdulaziz, from Filistini); or Nura bint Ahmed bin Saleh Al-Tikriti (Nura, daughter of Ahmed, son of Saleh, from Tikrit). Women keep their names after marriage. Formality (titles w/surnames/given names) is expected, often *Hajji* (if one has made the pilgrimage to Mecca), or *Abu* (= father of) or *Umm* (mother of) (i.e. *Abu/Umm Hassan*). Friends and family members use given names. On official records, surnames precede given names: ibn Nidal ibn Abdulaziz al-Filistini, Abu Karim Muhammad al-Jamil

Cultural Patterns: Traditional, rooted in the culture of the desert; proud of their antiquities; among the most progressive of Arabs (w/freedom of the press/religion); patient; they value highly bravery, honor, strong family ties, and honesty, and respect power; famous for being very hospitable; class / status conscious (all societal systems are based on clans); great artisans (carpet weavers, exquisite embroiders, jewelers); they enjoy folk music and dance; basketball and especially soccer are their favorite sports.



1. The title of honor given to a Muslim man who has made his pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca, one of his obligations under the *Five Pillars of Islam*

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Puerto Rico



Official Name: Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico)

Location: Caribbean Sea island, East of Hispaniola

Size: Nearly three times the size of Rhode Island.

Capital: San Juan

Language(s) spoken: Spanish, English (both official languages)

Name structure: Male/Female: Given name(s) + paternal surname (dominant) + maternal surname: Juan Pablo Pérez Castro / María Elena Gómez Ortiz; married women keep their paternal surname and usually replace their maternal one w/their husband's paternal + "de:" María Elena Gómez de Pérez. Formality (title w/surname, or *Don/Doña* w/given name—for familiar, respected persons) is expected; given names are reserved for family and friends. On official records, surnames precede: Pérez Castro, Juan Pablo.

Cultural Patterns: Very nationalistic; spontaneous; fun loving, they are quick to throw a party (*parrandas* are very popular); traditional; emotional; hospitable; they value friendship and personal integrity; they strive to view things in a positive light and reject negativism; a people of two camps: remain associated with the United States and continue to enjoy the benefits of this association, or become an independent Spanish American country; they are proud of their ethnicity and have no racial prejudice; very status/class conscious; they respect power (both political and economic); very superstitious; they enjoy folk art and music (the *güiro* has its origins here); above all, they are indefatigable dance enthusiasts (Afro-Cuban music); they love to play dominos and are avid baseball fans.

1. A progressive Christmas caroling party in Puerto Rico, in which a group goes from one house to another, in each of which the host offers food and drink then joins the group until they have reached the last house. Guitars and percussion instruments usually accompany the singing of *villancicos* (Spanish Christmas carols).
2. A percussion instrument used in Latin-American music. It is a hollow gourd with parallel notches cut on one side so that one may rub a wooden stick along its length and over the notches to produce a ratchet-like sound. The instrument is said to have originated with Tainos, *Amerindians* who inhabited Puerto Rico in pre-Colombian times.



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