

## CULTURAL RELATIVISM & ABSOLUTISM

Cultural absolutists claim that there is only one good lifestyle--e.g. the so-called American Way of Life. On the other hand cultural relativists hold that every lifestyle is adequate to the society that practices it. There is a grain of truth in both positions. Thus a society with a good public health care system is objectively superior (in this regard) to one without it; it is equally true that some societies have evolved adaptive customs that are not exportable--e.g.

We need a synthesis of absolutism and relativism, one admitting both the objective transcultural values, and the regional traditions.

In 82917  
FT098