Description

Professor Harris – the leading theorist in cultural materialism – bases this comprehensive work on the perspective of thematic and theoretical coherence, giving the book depth and continuity. Speaking directly to students, helpful chapter introductions and end-of-chapter summaries focus on key points before and after reading each chapter. This seventh edition includes meticulous updating of research and scholarship, especially in the very active field of physical anthropology and archaeology. A new feature – “America Now Updates” – turns an anthropological eye on the contemporary U.S., emphasizing the comparative aspects of anthropology and making the discipline relevant to students.

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Introduction to anthropology. Katie Nelson, Inver Hills Community College knelson@inverhills.edu http://kanelson.com/ Lara Braff, Grossmont College lara.braff@gcccd.edu. 3. Cultural anthropologists study all aspects of culture, but what exactly is "culture"? When we (the authors) first ask students in our introductory cultural anthropology courses what culture means to them, our students typically say that culture is food, clothing, religion, language, traditions, art, music, and so forth. To say that a group of people shares a culture does not mean all individuals think or act in identical ways. One's beliefs and practices can vary within a culture depending on age, gender, social status, and other characteristics. Even this brief introduction to cultural theory sug-gests the basis for an informed approach to the pro-cessing of cultural information. In trying to under-stand the actions or ideas of a cultural group, two questions are unavoidable: 1. How would a member of the group describe and explain this action or idea? Culture, People, Nature: An In-troduction to General Anthropology. New York: Harper and Row. Harris, M. (1980). Harris, Marvin. 1927. Culture, people, nature: an introduction to general anthropology. New York: Crowell. Harris, Marvin. Journal of Anthropological Research 59(2): 151-181. Wolf, Eric. 1982. Introduction to Europe and the People Without History. In Paul A. Erickson and Liam D. Murphy (Eds.), Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory. Ontario: Broadview Press, pp. 370-386.