

ALI 448: Islamic & Western Civilizations

Session 1 Understanding Civilizations

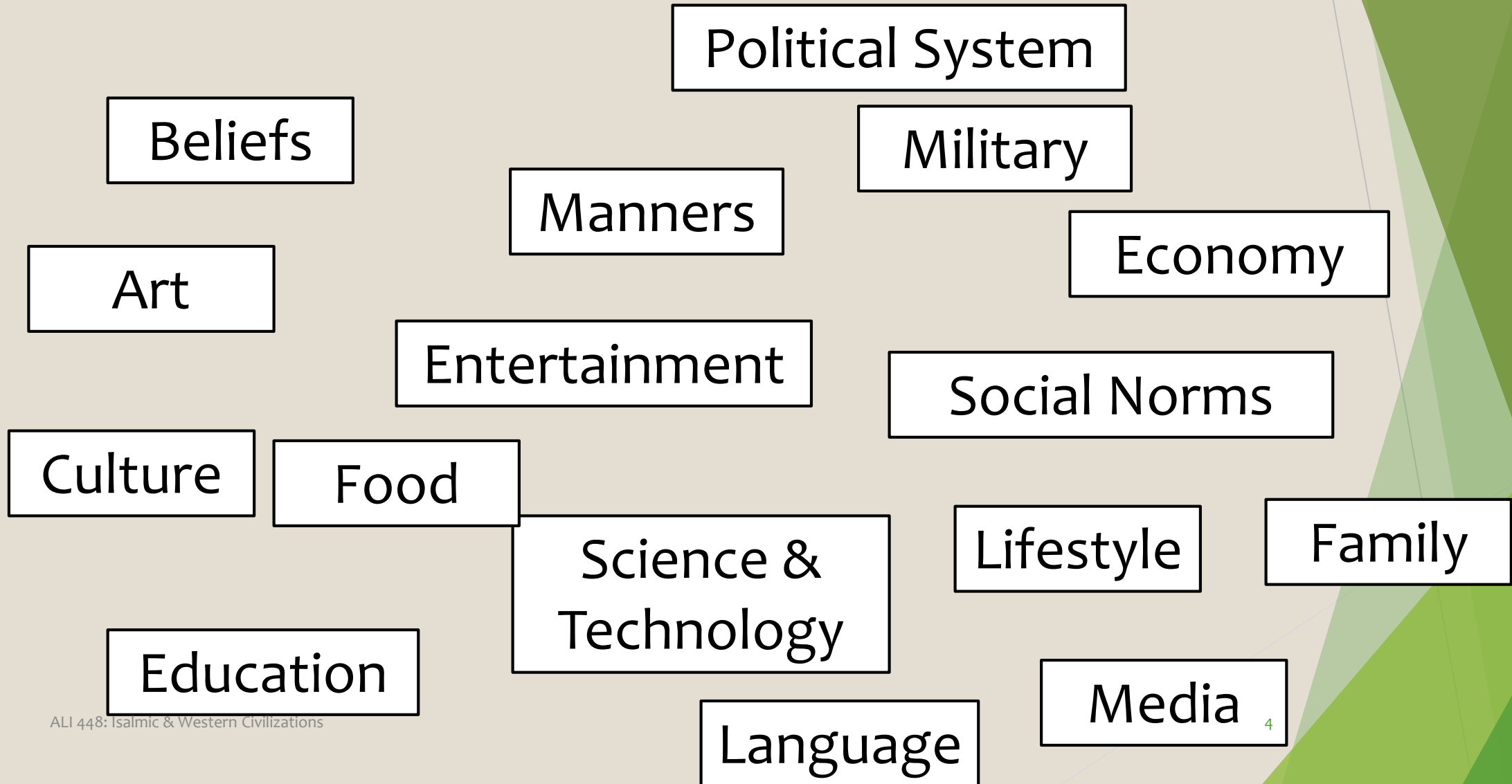
What is a Civilization?

What is Civilization?



A Complete System of Life

What is Civilization?



Effect of Civilization



Both Individual And Society
are Ruled by the Civilization

It is the very air that
we breathe ...

It is there
everywhere but can
hardly be seen ...

Understanding Civilizations

A Deeper Look

Components of a Civilization

Beliefs / Ideology



Values / Manners

Individual Actions / Social Systems

Attractions / Symbols

1. Civilization is Like a Tree & Beliefs are its roots



أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا
كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ أَصْلُهَا
ثَابِتٌ وَفُرُوعُهَا فِي السَّمَاءِ

Have you not regarded how Allah has drawn a parable? A good word is like a good tree: its roots are steady and its branches are in the sky.
(Ibrahim:24)

Roots are hidden but Fruits are
Apparent

2. Values

- ❖ Things that are important or unimportant for people or
- ❖ Things that people consider good or bad
- ❖ Love & Hatred
- ❖ Values play a great role in actions



3. Actions

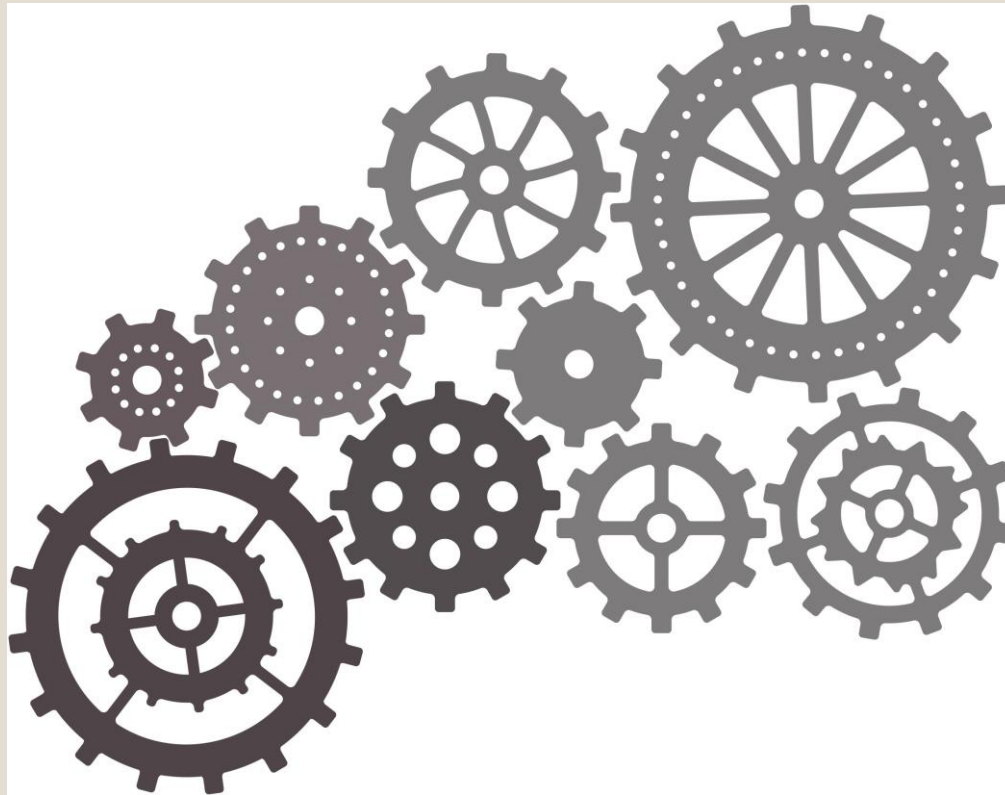
Values
determine
Actions &
Social Systems



قُلْ كُلٌّ يَعْمَلُ عَلَىٰ شَاكِلَتِهِ فَرَبُّكُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ هُوَ أَهْدَىٰ سَبِيلًا

Say, 'Everyone acts according to his character. Your Lord knows best who is better guided with regard to the way.'

3. Social Systems



Different Systems Required to Run a Society

Examples of Social Systems

Political System

Economic System

Judicial System

System of Education

4. Attractions / Symbols



Every civilization wants to attract others to itself

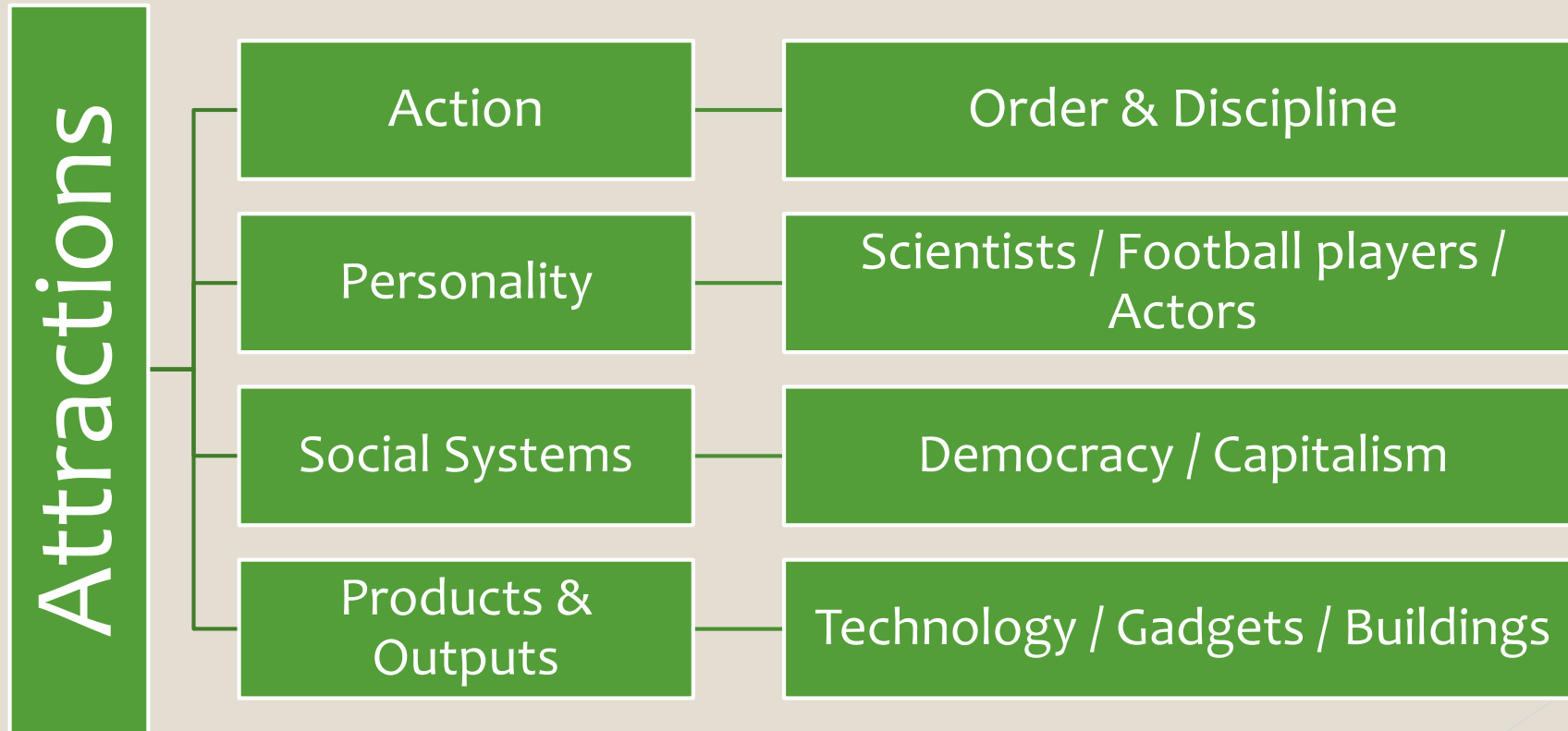
Today's World

Which Civilization is Dominant Today?



Western Civilization Dominated by
America

Examples of Attractions



Effect of Attractions – Woman’s clothing (In Western Civilization)

We are here in this World to enjoy our Lives. Why should the women then restrict themselves?!

Women Dressed in Exposing Clothes are Cool, Free and Respectable (Women in Hijab are backward)

Women Showing Off Their Beauty Through Clothing, Makeup, Etc.

Women’s Clothing, Women in Movies, etc.

Growth & Downfall of Civilizations

What really happens?

How Civilizations Expand and Collapse?

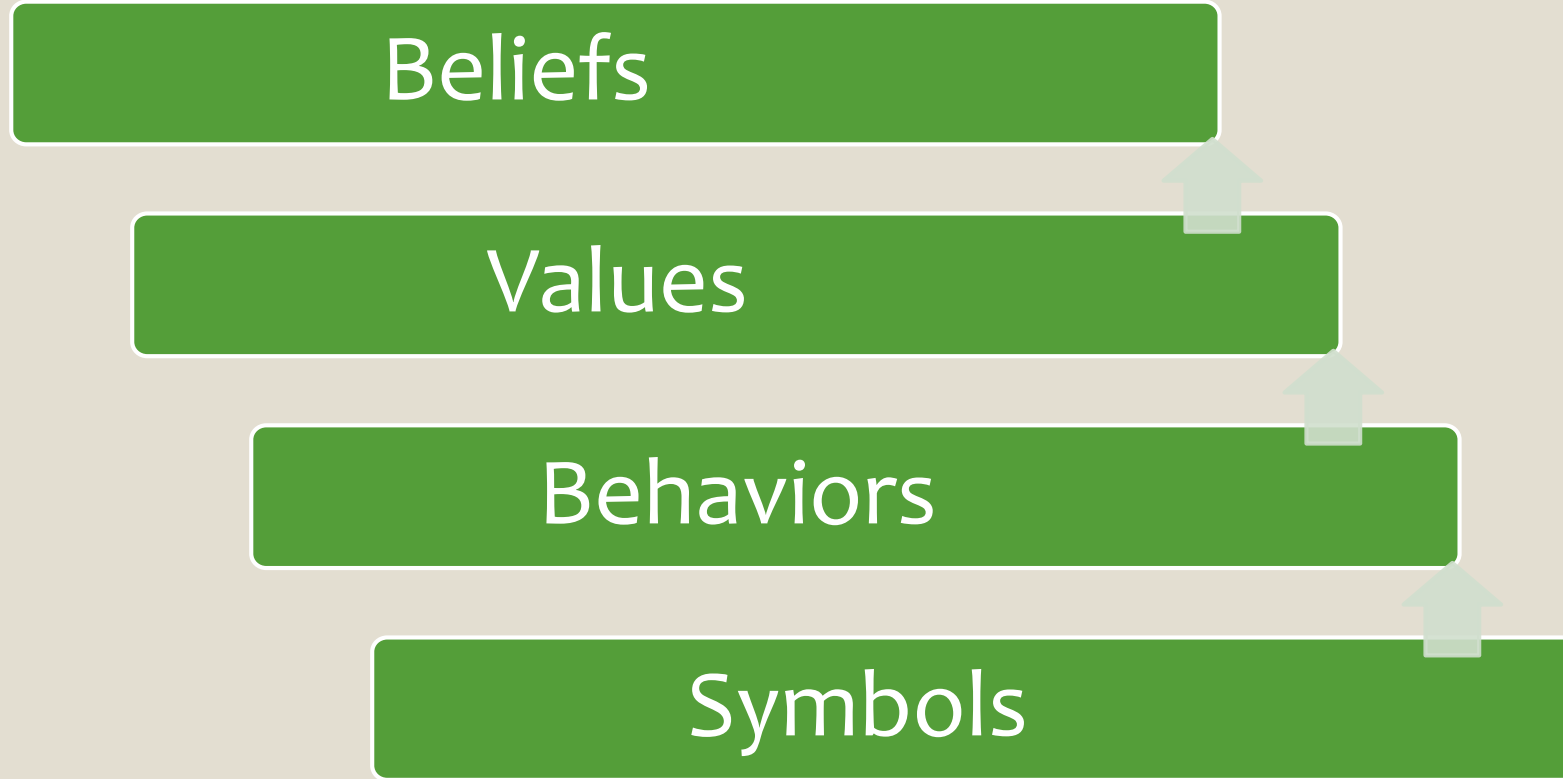


Why?

It is difficult to change beliefs, values and actions

Bottom Up Process

How Civilizations Expand and Collapse?



مِثْلَهُمْ كَانَتْ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ أَسَاءُوا السُّوءَى أَنْ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَكَانُوا بِهَا يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ

Example 1 – Money

Money can buy power and pleasure two main aims of human existence

Money decides value and status of a person in society

People behave differently with the rich and the poor people

Capitalist System, Media

Example 2 – Language

Drop in the quality of Azadari – Do we really need to cry for Imam Husayn (a)?

Being Emotional or Crying is a Sign of Weakness and Cowardice

The way people talk and communicate – Drop in Emotions

Language – From Native Language (Urdu/Gujrati) to English

Concluding Remarks

Looking at things from this perspective!

Civilizational Mindset is Missing



We have our own Civilization

A New Way of Looking at Islam



هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَ دِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَ لَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ