

DR. JAMES: I think you've got a very good point there. I might say of these regions that there is nothing sacred about them. They are hypothetical. The only justification for these regions is that they illuminate what is going on in the world. If it is clearer to take China and Japan and separate them, then I think it should be done. It may very well turn out this way.

Of course Japan derived its culture from China, so historically they do belong together. Now just in the last 10 years have they so departed from each other that they now need to be separated. I would certainly entertain the possibility.

I hate to put one country like Japan into a culture region all by itself. I did have in mind the smallest possible number of culture regions for the world as a whole, which is one reason I did this. In the original efforts along this line I had seven culture regions, but my colleague, George Cressy, told me I couldn't possibly have East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia in one culture region and I'd have to separate them. So I did that. I had Australia and New Zealand and the Pacific Islands in one culture region, but I had a little girl graduate student from New Zealand, and she said, "Professor, please don't put New Zealand in with Polynesia." So to please her I have separated them.

These regions are as flexible as this. I mean, the important point is, don't let's talk about continents. Let's not talk about Africa. Let's not talk about Europe, and limit ourselves to the Urals, or anything like that. Let's not talk about North America and include Mexico and Central