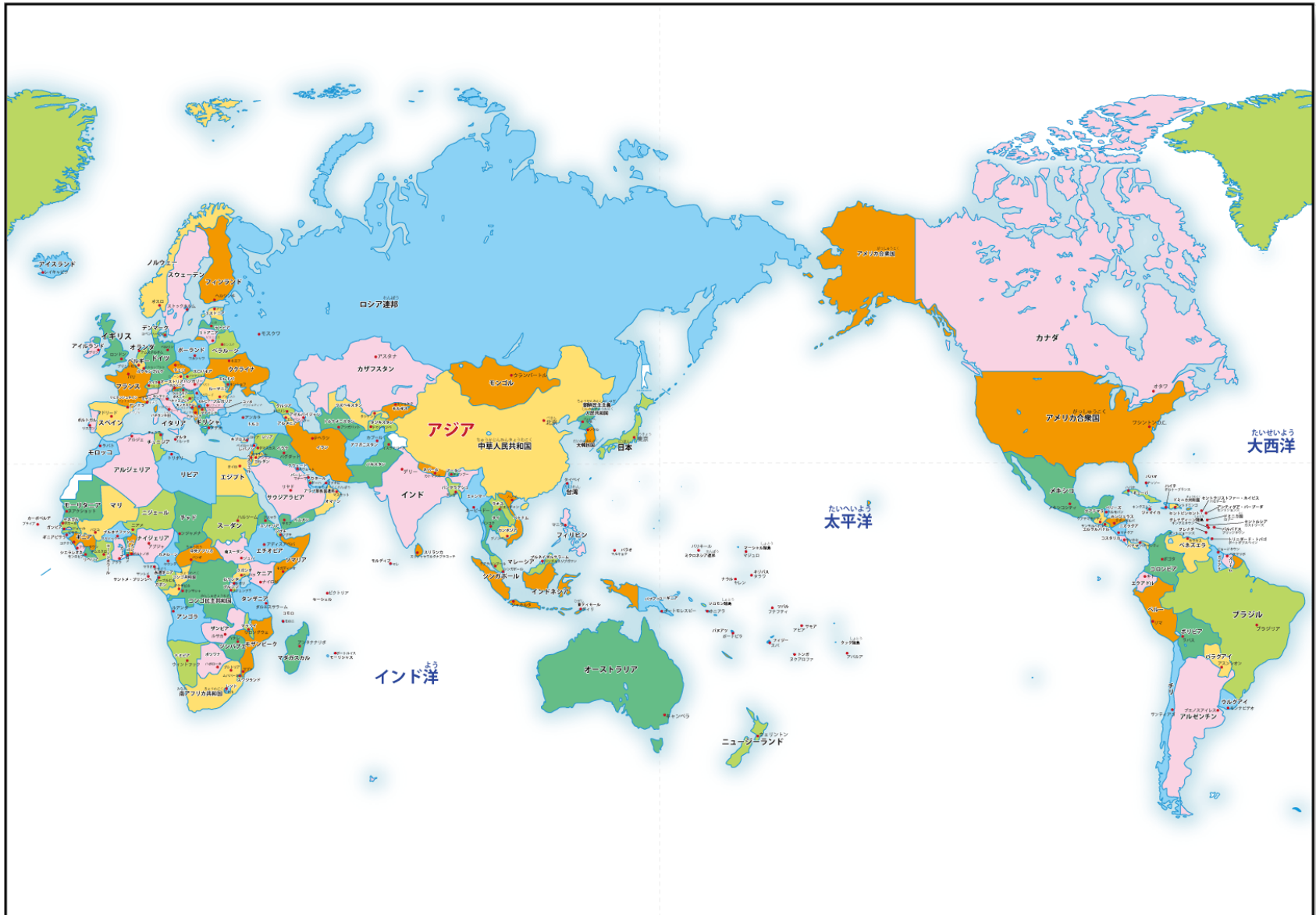
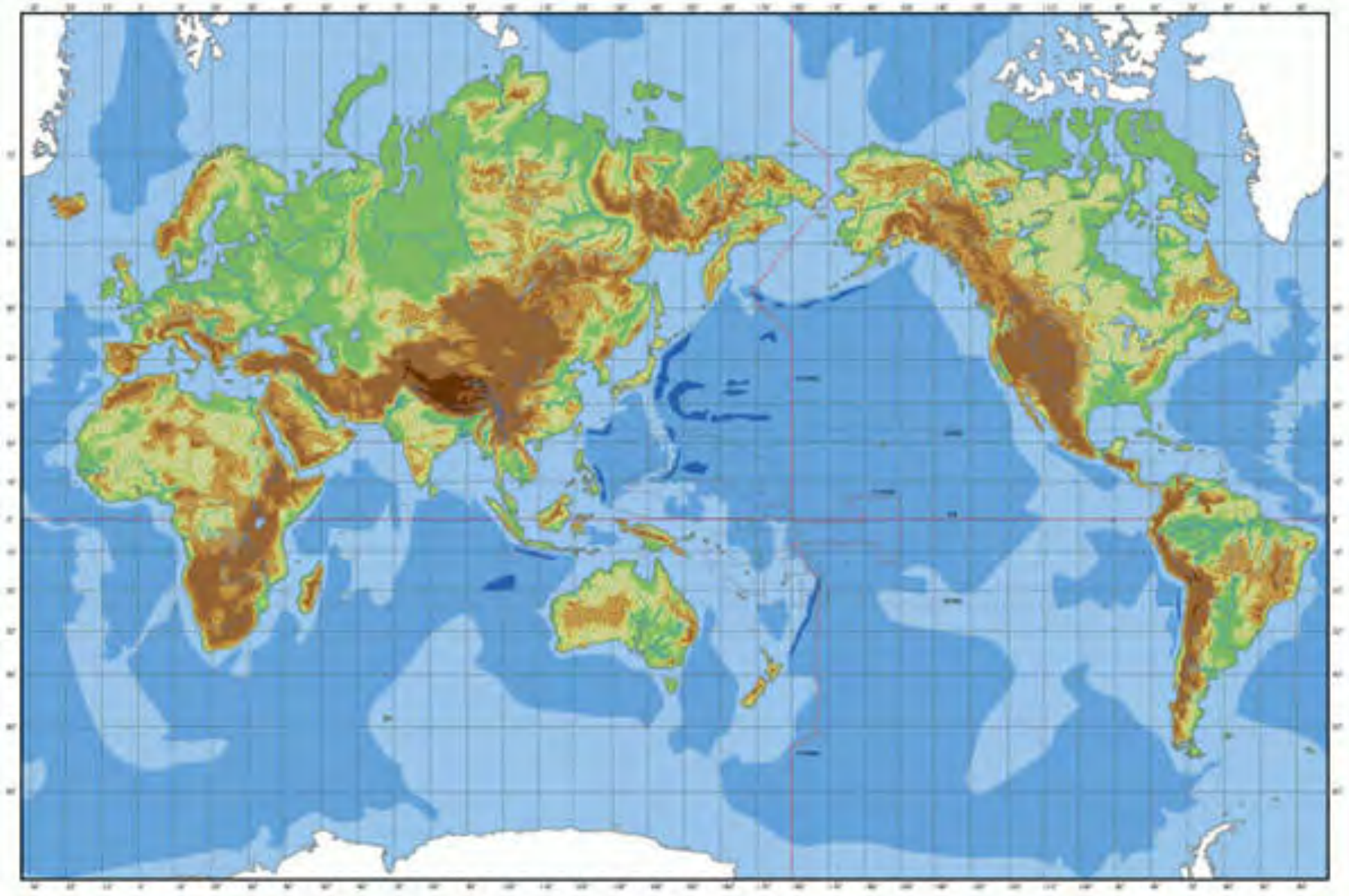


# 1, Human race, cultures and states

## World map 1 - 193 states

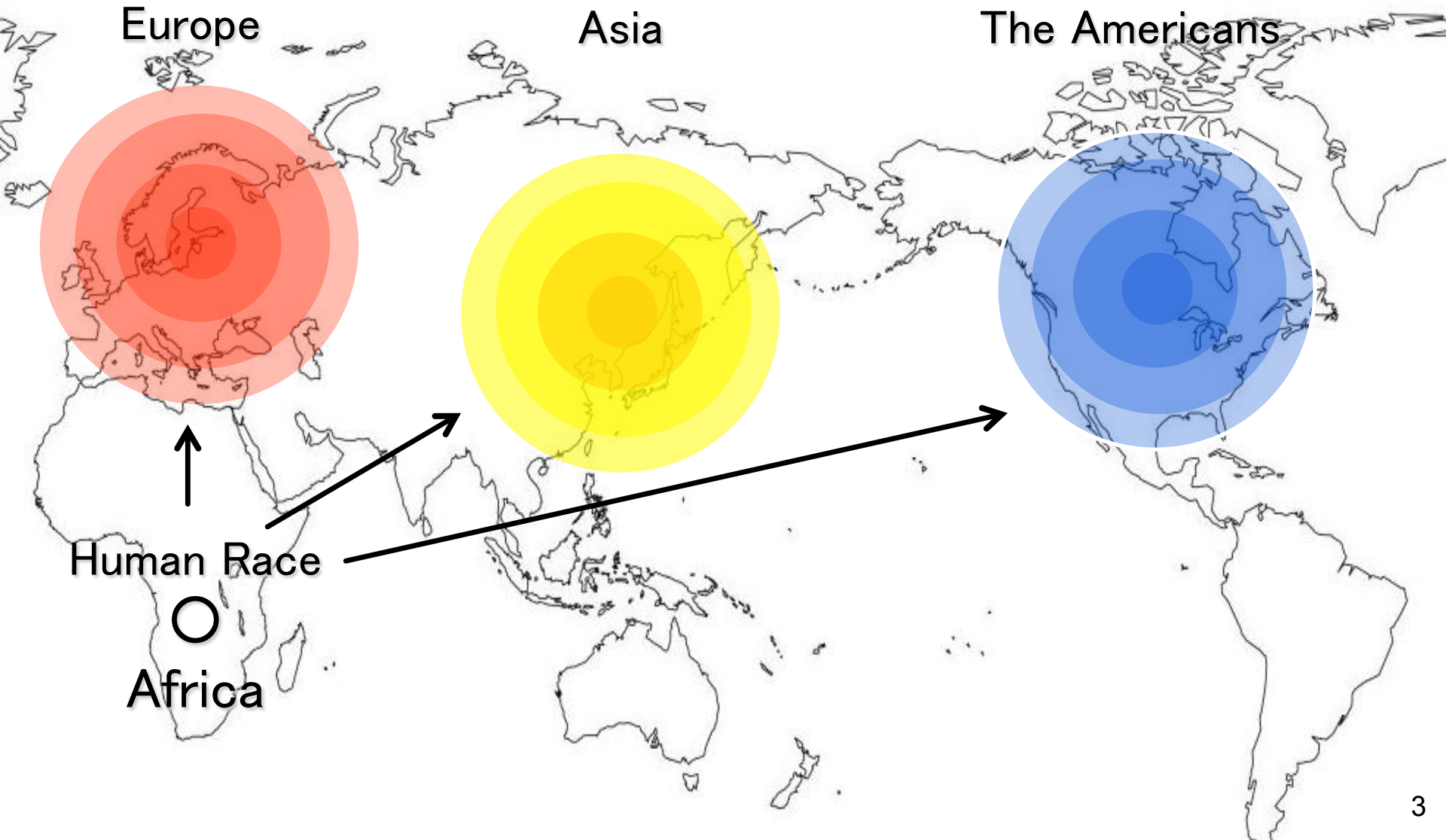


● World map 2 - no states

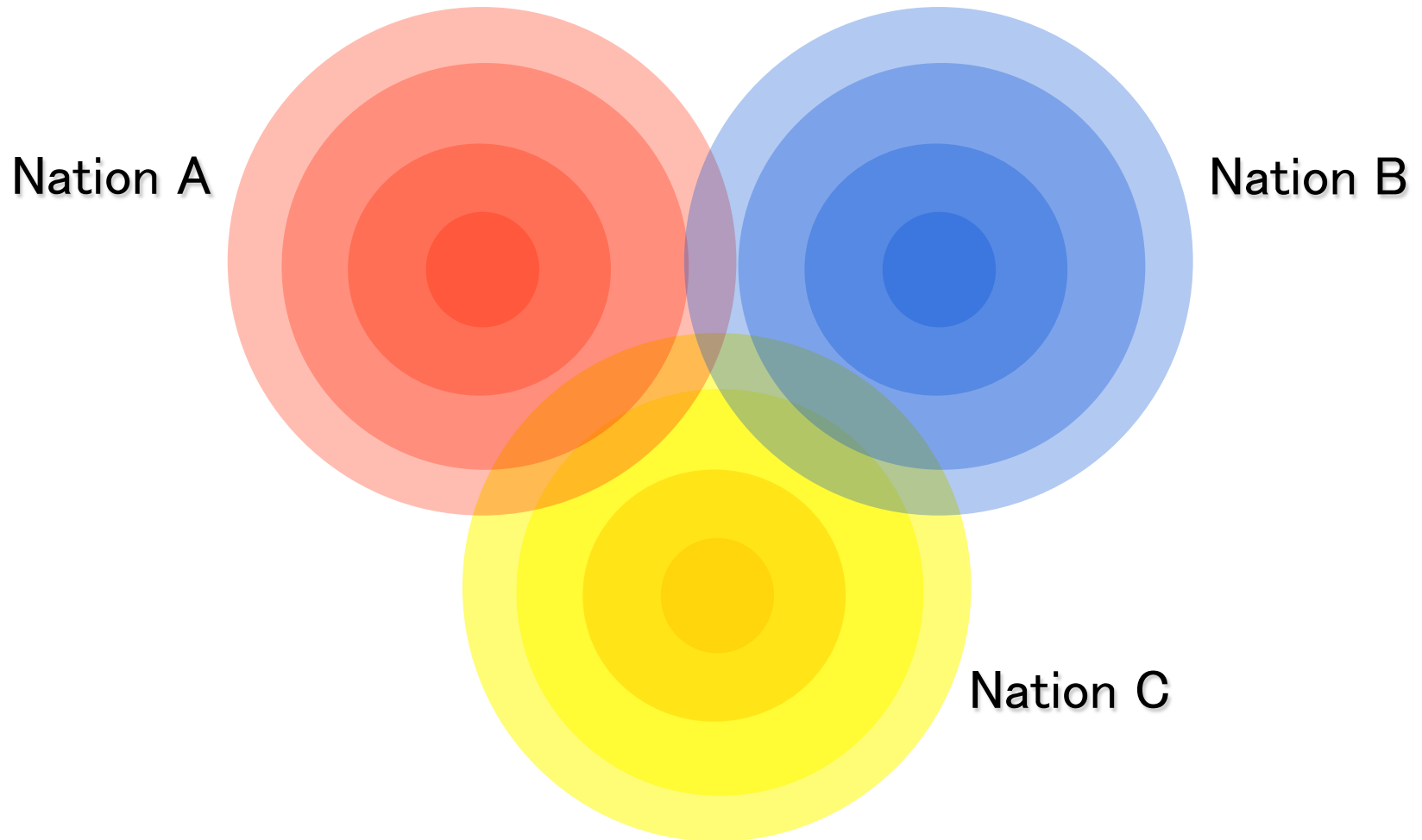


# Formation of cultures, nations and states

① Human race born in Africa migrated into different regions and continents

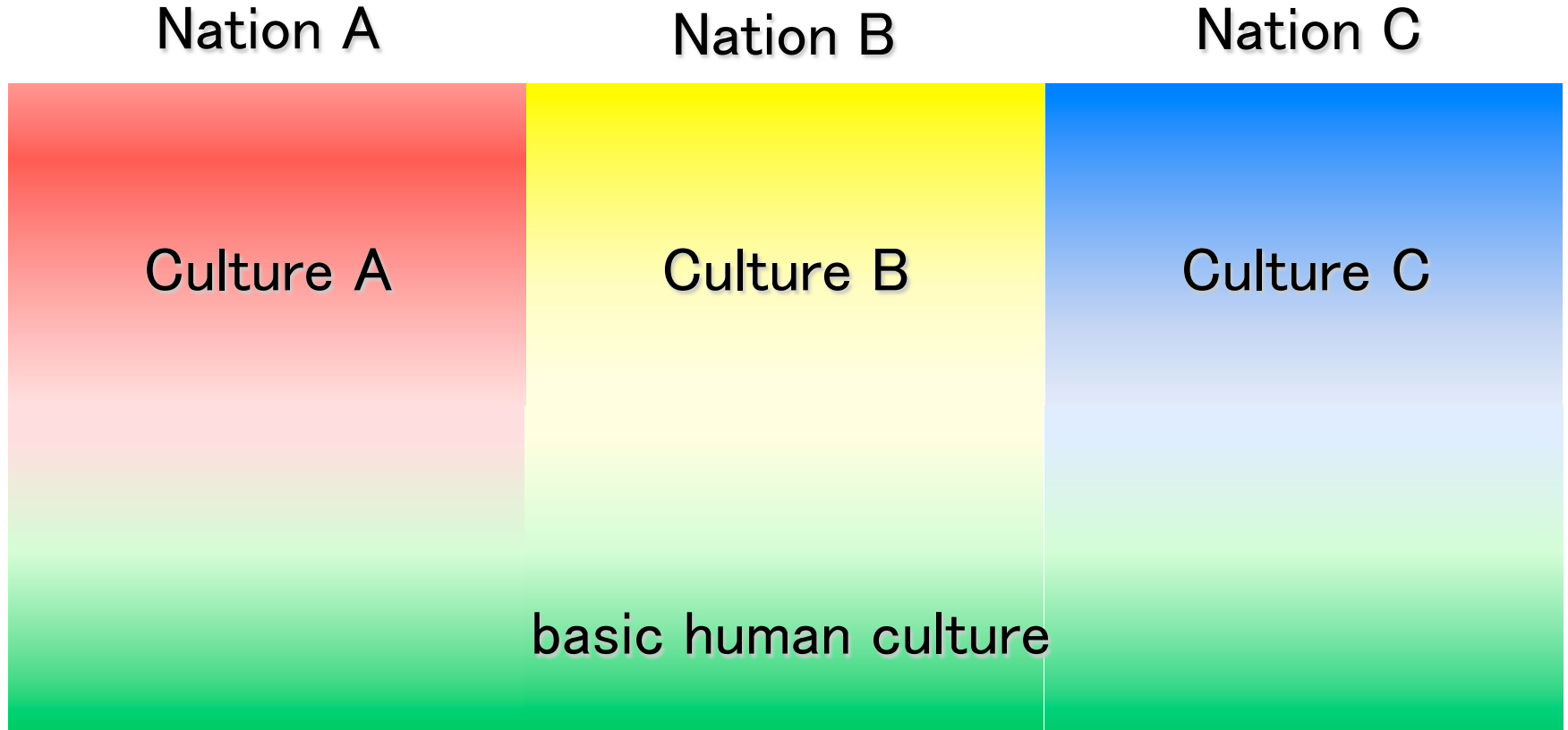


② Human race was divided into different nations,  
in response to different climate and geography





③ Each nation produced a culture, colored by the climate and geography, building upon common bases.

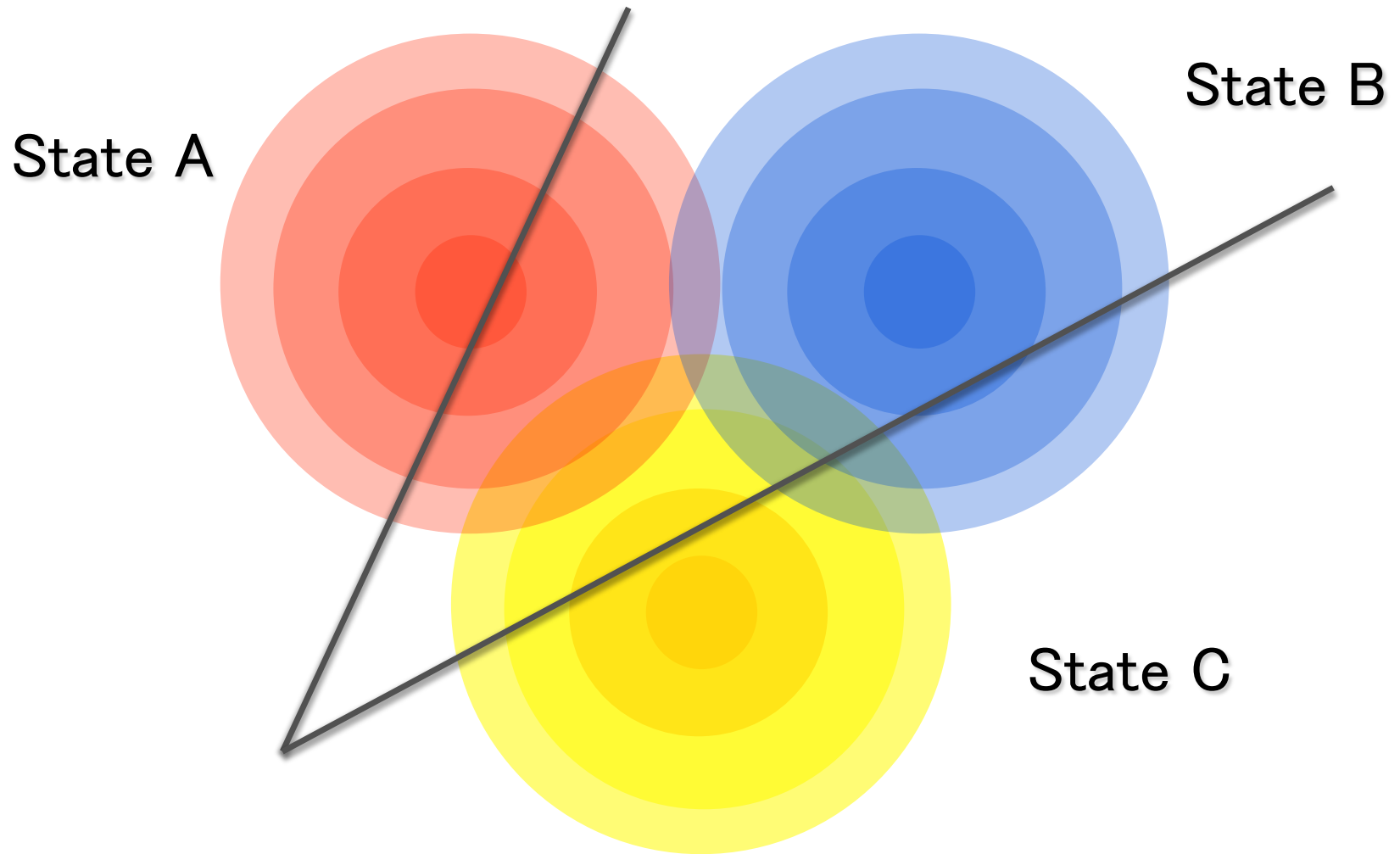


○ Meeting of different cultures

→ crash → understanding of commonalities.

→ appreciation of, and learning from others

## ④ Drawing borders - birth of modern states



- Objectives and nature of sovereign states
  - government of people, territories and assets
  - enclosure by guarding borders

- States vs. states

= either political allies or enemies

either economic partners or rivals

→ States try to fix superficial differences in culture to produce solidarity within borders and build national identity

⇒ instigate “xenophobia” and produce “exclusion”



States - artificial products

Nations - natural development

Cultures - spiritual infrastructure

States

Diplomacy

States

**politics**

**economics**

**science & technology**



War



**politics**

**economics**

**science & technology**

Modernity  
(=civilisation)

**Nations / cultures**

**basic human nature**

superficial differences

common undercurrent

- Working on culture and the arts

→deepens the appreciation of human nature  
by looking into superficial differences and  
commonalities of cultures

States

Diplomacy

States

politics

economics

science & technology



War



politics

economics

science & technology

Modernity

(=civilisation)

**Nations / cultures**



**basic human nature**

superficial differences

common undercurrent

## 2, Characteristics of Japanese culture

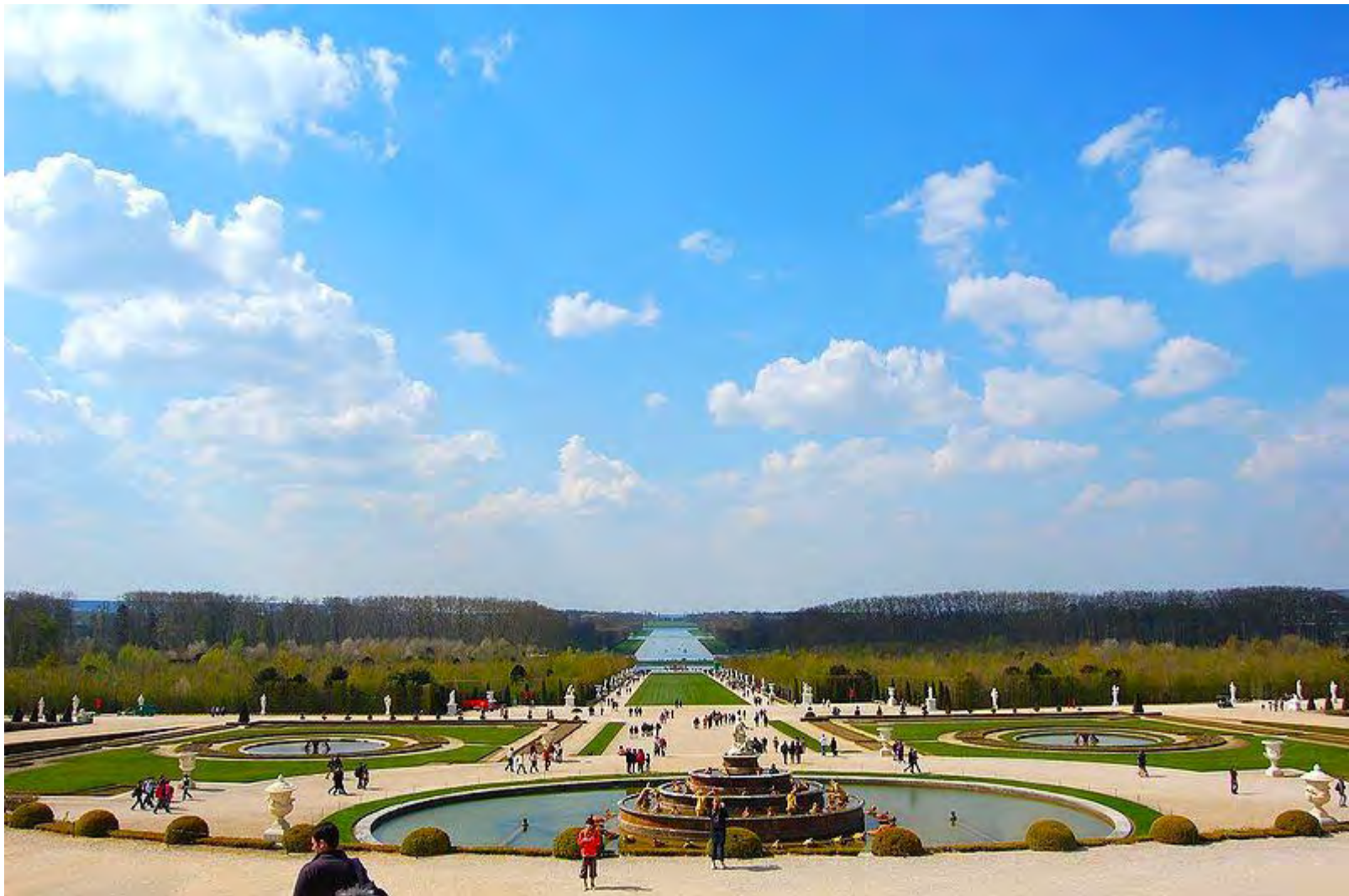
- View of nature
- Appreciation of the intangible
- Acceptance of ambiguity (rejection of “Black & White” world view)

## a. View of Nature

### Mōtsūji – Temple Garden



# Palais de Versailles





# Royal Copenhagen





# Raku – yaki



Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our own image, in our own likeness. Let them have dominion over the creatures of the sea, over all cattle, birds of the air, beasts of the wild, and every ground-creeping thing”

So God created man in his own image. In the image of God he created him. Male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the world and tame it. Be master over the creatures of the sea, the birds of the air, and every living animal that moves on the face of the earth.”

(Genesis 1:1-31)

## b. Seeing the intangible

### Hasegawa Tōhaku



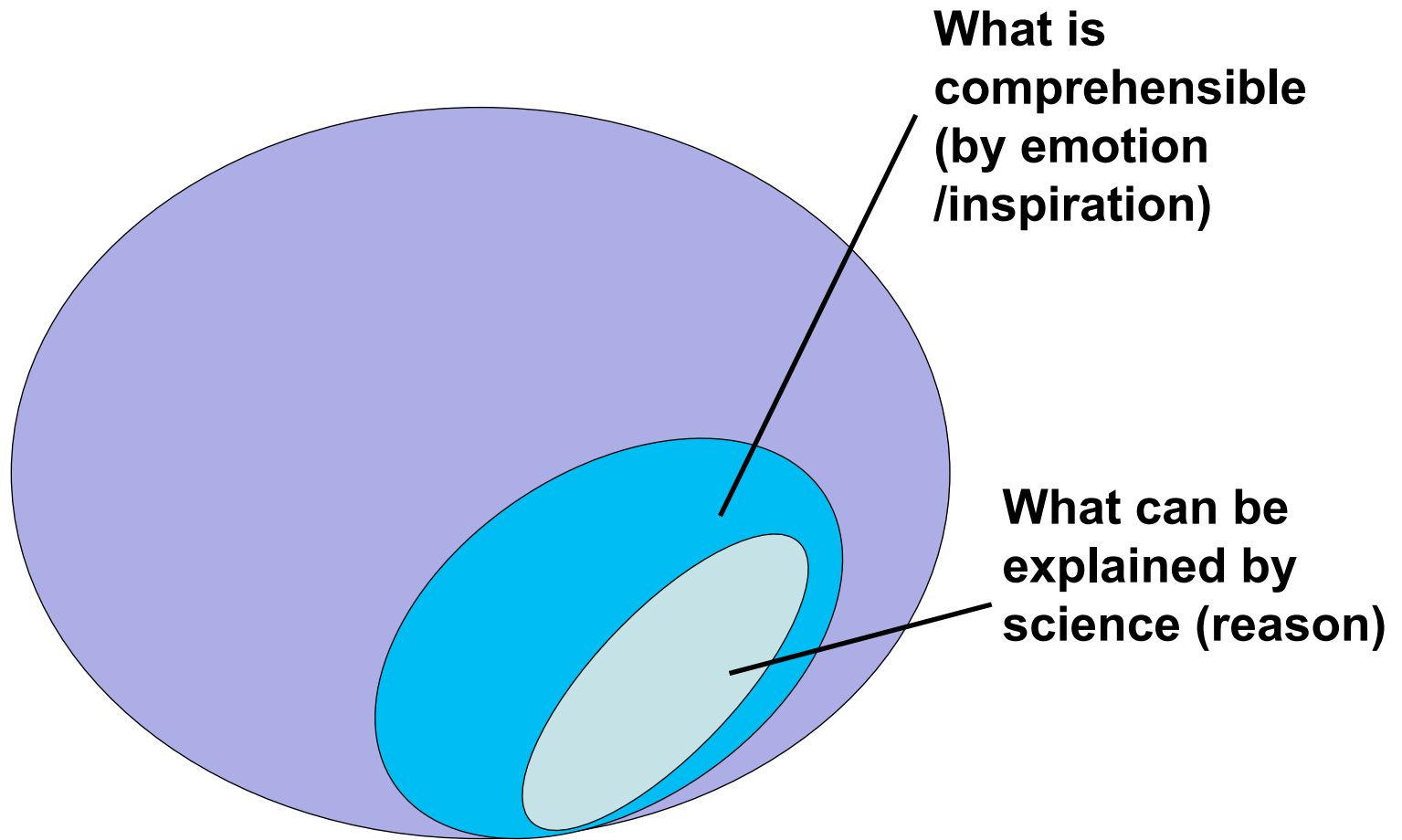
# Hokusai



# Okuda Sayume



# The Universe





c. Acceptance of ambiguity (no black/white view)

## Yashima (Noh)





## **The spider's thread (Ryunosuke Akutagawa)**



# Kao-nashi



**(Spirited Away, 2001)**

### 3, Japanese culture's possible contribution to the world

= re-appreciation of :

- the respect (awe) for nature
- acceptance of diversity
- tolerance to others who are different
- modesty, sympathy to others

→ enabled Japan's relatively peaceful history

These aspects of Japanese culture can easily appeal to the hearts of many humans.

- These ideas were originally held by all humans in old times, but have been put aside in the West since the “Enlightenment” period because they do not go along with the “modernity” that is based on strong belief in reason, rationalism, and science.
- Japan preserved them because Western modernity was introduced only 150 years ago
- Coming back to the front due to big problems caused by the global mismanagement of modernity (global warming, growing income gaps, terrorism)
- Helps to redress the balance between nationalism(science) and humanity

# **Japan's Gross National Cool**

**(Douglas Mc Gray, *Foreign Policy*, 2002)**

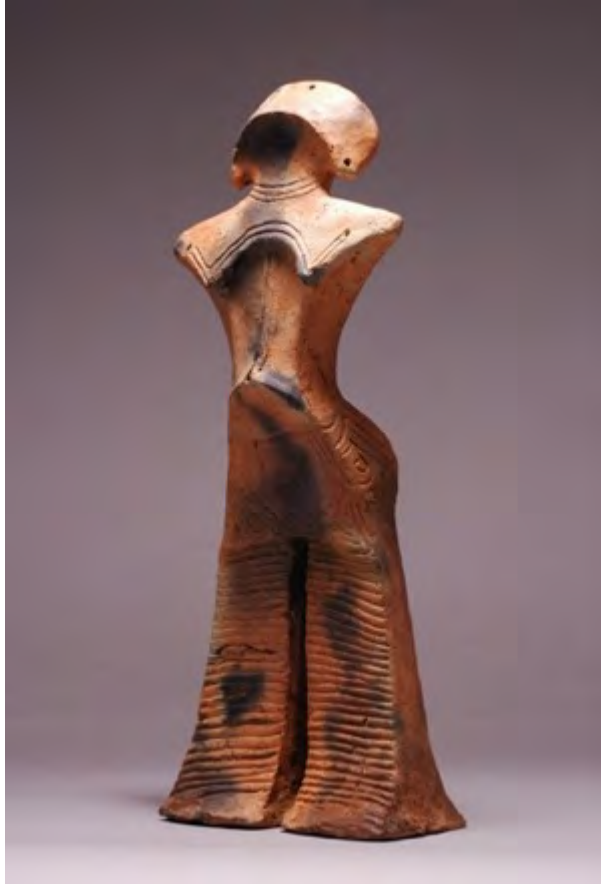
**“ Japan was postmodern before  
post-modernism was trendy. ”**

- This essence of Japanese culture (traditional thought) is developed and condensed in Kogei  
→ spirit of Takumi

- Kogei = Fine arts/represents philosophy in the form of craft  
→ spirit of Takumi
- Takumi = artists / their spirit
  - high skill / mastery
  - handwork
  - adherence to quality / perfection
  - gives consideration to
    - unknown users (customers)
  - love of / awe for nature
    - learn from nature
    - draw aesthetics from nature
    - collaboration with nature
  - no interest in
    - time
    - cost
    - price
    - efficiency
    - wealth, economic growth
    - productivity
    - ROE



**The spirit of Takumi has been transmitted for generations,  
starting from Jomon period (14,000-300 B.C.)**



# Making of MOKUHANGA in Ukiyoe



- The Spirit of Takumi is also represented in most advanced industrial products

**shinkansen**



**a Kingfisher**





**a pantograph**



**owl's feather**



**an umbrella**



**lotus leaf**



# Conclusion

- Culture can free us from the attitude of “exclusion” promoted by politics and economic activities (states and enterprises)
- The essence of Japanese culture, well represented in Kogei (including MOKUHANGA) are:
  - a. view of nature
  - b. appreciation of the intangible
  - c. acceptance of ambiguity
- They can appeal to the hearts and minds of all the people around the world, because they bring us back to the basic human nature (awe for nature, modesty, tolerance, acceptance of diversity, etc.) that was shared by all the humans in old times.
- This will help us to redress the balance between rationality (science, civilization) and humanity.

Japan

Diplomacy

States

politics  
economics  
science & technology



War  
↔

politics  
economics  
science & technology

Modernity  
(=civilisation)

Japanese culture



nations cultures

superficial differences



basic human nature

common undercurrent

# Constitution of the UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization)

– excerpts –

“ since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”

“ a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind.”



**Thank you**