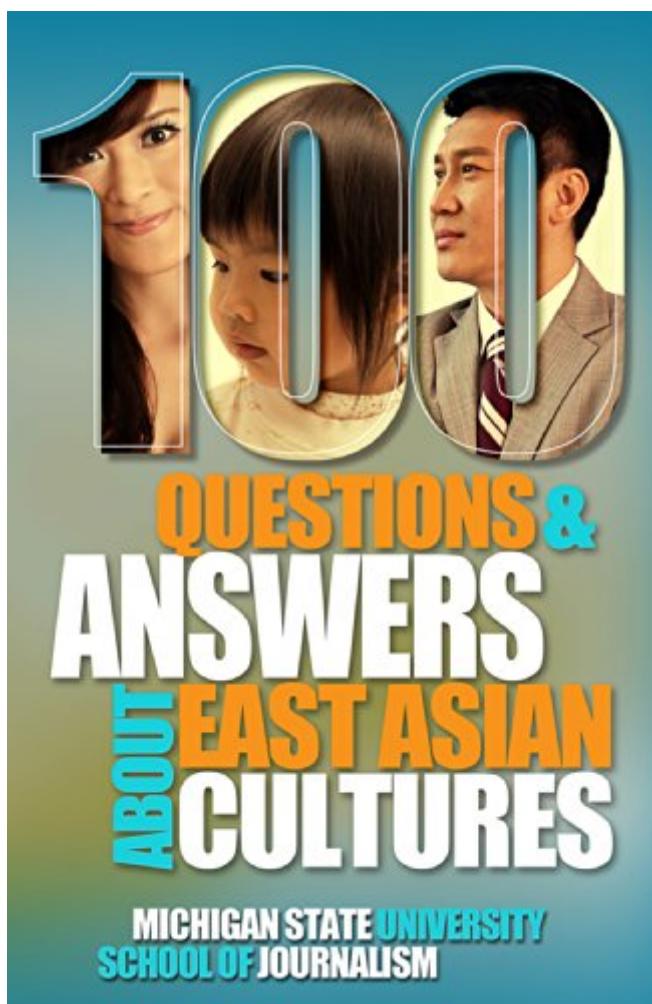


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# 100 Questions And Answers About East Asian Cultures: An Introductory Cultural Competence Guide For Americans About The Customs, History Of People From China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan And Hong Kong





## Synopsis

"One Hundred Questions and Answers About East Asian Cultures" is part of the Michigan State University School of Journalism series in cultural competence. This guide has sections on East Asian cultures, languages, religions, social norms, politics, history, politics, families and food. The guide is intended for people in business, schools, places of worship, government, medicine, law enforcement, human resources and journalism--anywhere it is important to know more about communities. We intended this guide for individuals and for groups. Questions include: What are major differences between East and Southeast Asia? Is it OK to ask Asians "where are you from?" What is the difference between South Korea and North Korea? What type of governments do East Asian countries have? What is the difference between China and Taiwan? Is Hong Kong different from China? Does one culture dominate East Asia? Do Asians value group success more than individual success? Is collective orientation related to "family honor" in Asian culture? What does it mean to "save face" or "lose face"? Why do some East Asians apologize so often? What is the humility or modesty value? What are Asian customs for bowing? What are gift-giving traditions in East Asia? Are East Asians generally more reserved than Americans? Why do some Asians take "American" names? Why is everyone named Lee or Kim? What is feng shui? Why do Chinese wear white or black at funerals but red at weddings? There's Japanese kendo and judo, Korean taekwondo, and Chinese kung fu and tai chi. Does Asian culture encourage fighting? What are major holidays for East Asians? How do Asians celebrate the Lunar New Year? What is the meaning of different animal years and the Chinese Zodiac? Are there beliefs about certain numbers in East Asia? What are manga and anime? What is Hello Kitty and what is "kawaii"? What is "hallyu," or the Korean wave? Did karaoke begin in Asia? What is behind the emphasis on respect for elders? Do Asian parents try to control their children's lives? What is China's "one-child policy"? Why do some East Asians value males more than females? Do East Asians get divorced and, if so, is it looked down upon? Is intermarriage discouraged? Does knowing one East Asian language make it easier to learn another? What are the major languages in China? Is it difficult for East Asians to learn English? Some East Asians seem to speak loudly and some seem quiet. Why? Why are Asians often quiet in meetings or social settings? What gives East Asian eyes their distinctive shape? Do all Asians have black hair and black pupils? Why is plastic surgery so popular in Korea? Can East Asians tell each other's nationality on sight? Are Asians genetically smaller than Americans? Why do Asians come to America for college? Do Asians have to be rich to afford college in the United States? Are math and science emphasized in Chinese schools? Are Asians obsessed with grades? How do East Asian students in the United States afford expensive cars? Do Asians studying

in the United States focus on medicine, engineering and business?What is the "model minority myth?"Do people from East Asia work long hours?Why do so many Asians in the United States work at nail salons?Do a lot of Asians run their own businesses in the United States?Does Asia have religious freedom?What religions are practiced in China?How is religion practiced in Japan?Are South and North Korea religiously similar?What is traditional Chinese medicine and does it work?What is the life expectancy in Asia?Is Asian food spicy?Is Chinese food in the United States like Chinese food in China?Do Chinese eat General Tso chicken in China?Do Japanese eat sushi every day?Why do some Asians eat food like chicken feet?This guide is published with John Hile of David Crumm Media, which publishes the Read the Spirit website.

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## **Customer Reviews**

The U.S. ties with East Asian countries continues to grow whether from a business perspective or accepting students.Understanding the diverse cultures of more than 60 percent of the world's population from China, Taiwan, Macau, Hong Kong, Japan, South and North Korea and Mongolia can be a valuable resource for those involved in higher education or

trade. Created by the Michigan State University School of Journalism, 100 Question & Answers about East Asian Cultures provides some unique insight into values, culture, customs, traditions, language, communication and food, to name a few. The guide provides a clear discussion of each country to understand the regional differences of the second greatest land mass in the world. As trade between East Asian countries and the United States continues to grow in the world economy--learning the very basic differences between those regions can be an invaluable resource. From Asians who run their own business to the model minority myth to a discussion of attitudes toward wealth, understanding the economic foundations can help with trade relations. The guide's authors interview East Asians and asked what are the most frequently questions about their culture. The answers are very simple yet personal regarding the East Asian culture--such as, are chopsticks used throughout Asia? Or do Japanese eat sushi every day? Or what gives East Asian eyes their distinctive shape? The answers will hopefully help spark conversation to better understand different cultures. The guide is very sensitive on topics that would be difficult to ask face-to-face. Specific details on greetings, holidays and beliefs will help bridge the communication gap and erode myths. The guide is also an excellent reference for students and staff in higher education to get to know East Asian classmates better and enhance the education process. With more than 4,000 universities, the United States has become the destination for education for many East Asian students. The guide addresses education in East Asian countries and how it relates to studies in the United States. The discussion of grades, classrooms and study habits of East Asian students provides an excellent starting point for students from the United States.

I enjoyed reading this book. I felt that it was concise and understandable, while also being informative. I liked how the chapters were organized into sections so that the reader can easily find the answers to the specific questions they might have. The voice of the book was respectful toward East Asian cultures and I felt that there was always space left open for furthering the answers in discussion. Being Asian American myself, I found some of the explanations to be helpful in busting the stereotypes that some people might have about others who look like me. The book gave a short insight on the answers but also provoked curiosity for me to keep learning. I felt that the authors did a good job drawing the distinction between the different East Asian cultures, as they can be drastically different with some aspects. However, I felt that having the book include all East Asian cultures, it may have been confusing for some people to draw the distinction. I liked how the authors answered some of the questions about making assumptions about East Asian peoples' origins. That was a very important point to make. I wish that the book could go more into detail with the answers

but it was a great start for someone who is trying to learn and is open to learning about East Asian cultures! I could tell that the authors put in great effort to write this book from a respectful and helpful space. I found the preface to the book to be extremely relatable and I loved reading the introductions that explained what the project goals were. The series is awesome and I cannot wait for the next one to come out!

Before reading the 100 Questions and Answers About East Asian Cultures guide, I was not familiar with any aspect of any East Asian cultures. I was aware of some of the stereotypes and biases placed upon these cultures but it wasn't until after reading this guide that I had a better understanding of East Asian cultures. With questions about politics, religion, traditions, and education, I was informed about what is accepted in East Asian cultures and how many of the stereotypes about these cultures are just that. Some of the questions asked are things you've thought about but probably never would just walk up to someone from East Asia and ask. For example, question 28 is: "Why is everyone named Lee or Kim?" While some may think it may be offensive to ask someone, it is a question that many people have likely wondered about. This guide was a great read and very informative. I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in learning about these cultures and wants to know the answers to questions they've wondered about for the longest.

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