



## HORIZONS: SOME AMERICAN VALUES, ATTITUDES, AND BELIEFS Compiled by Judith M. Blohm

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**Time conscious** - "time is money," must be on time for an appointment; may give the distance from one place to another in time rather than linear distance.

**Personal achievement is basis of identity** - rarely achieve status by who family is; educational institutions, degrees, profession that one prepares himself for and accomplishes determines status.

**Problem-solvers** - rarely take attitude that one must bear what life gives; have ability to change their life for good or ill by own action; interested in conquering the unknown, solving mysteries (such as causes and cures for diseases).

**Interest in Technology** - bigger, faster, more efficient machinery to free one's time for other things.

Value youth - desire to appear, act young; not particularly respectful of age (age and wisdom not necessarily equated).

**Belief in equality of persons** - refers to desire to give all people equality of opportunity, not that all people are equal in abilities; lack of emphasis on titles, informality in work and social settings; respect for achievement not mere titles.

**Progress** - look to the future, anxious to make a better future, don't dwell on the past.

**Settlement of disputes by compromise** - exact determination of right and wrong not always as important as settling in a way both parties are somewhat satisfied with.

**Distrust of authority** - government systems of checks and balances to ensure that power can't get out of hand; very strict moral standards for persons in public office.

**Ignorant of outside world** - historical development has focused our interests to developing our own rich content with little concern for or interest in or need for the outside world.

**Movement of people** - frequent changes of homes for upward mobility in jobs; changing jobs for personal betterment.

**Honesty** - strong demand for honesty in children, public officials; "white lies" only permissible in certain situations; cheating in school strongly disliked.

**Fluid social structure** - people can move from one social class to another through their own achievements.