

A woman in a white patterned dress and headscarf is walking from left to right in front of a wall made of rusted corrugated metal. The wall has several holes and is peeling in places. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The woman is wearing sandals and has a serene expression. The overall atmosphere is one of resilience and daily life in a challenging environment.

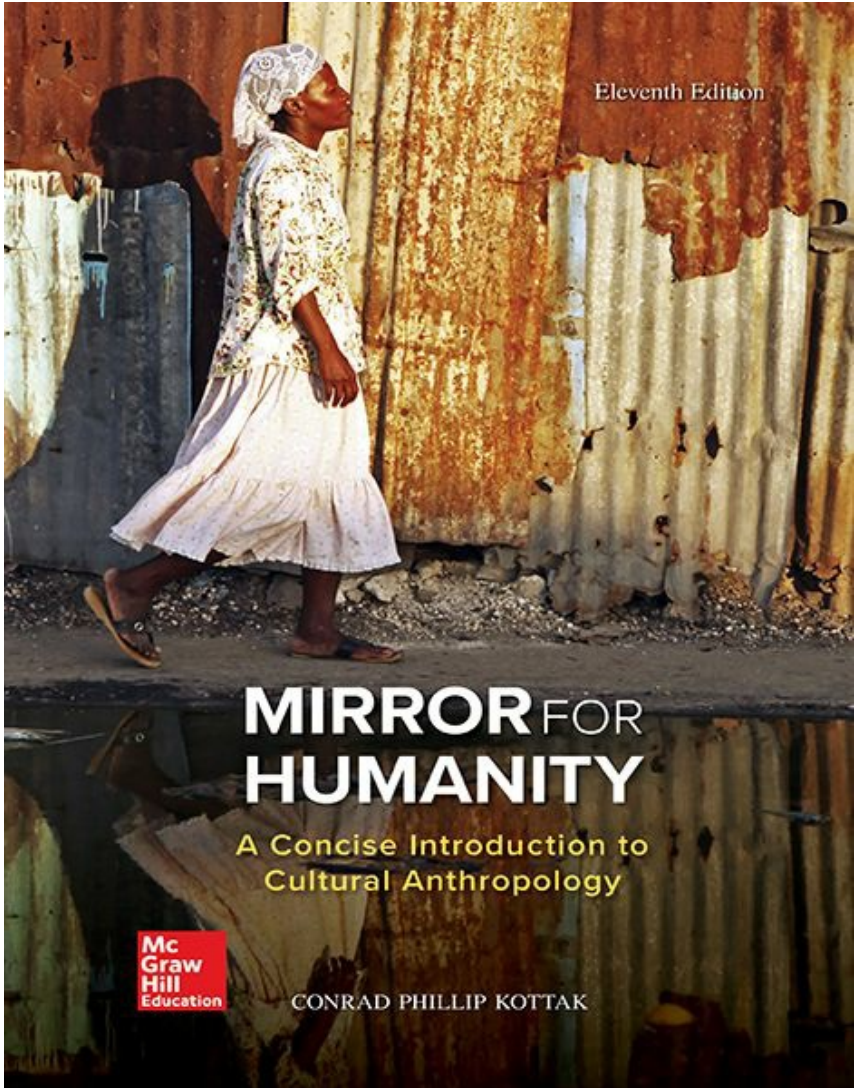
Eleventh Edition

MIRROR FOR HUMANITY

A Concise Introduction to
Cultural Anthropology

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Education

CONRAD PHILLIP KOTTAK



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Eleventh Edition

Conrad Phillip Kottak
University of Michigan





MIRROR FOR HUMANITY: A CONCISE INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY,
ELEVENTH EDITION

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To my daughter,
Dr. Juliet Kottak Mavromatis

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Preface

Mirror for Humanity is intended to provide a concise, readable, introduction to cultural anthropology. The shorter length increases the instructor's options for assigning additional reading—case studies, readers, and other supplements—in a semester course. *Mirror* also works well in a quarter system, for which traditional texts may be too long.

Just as anthropology is a dynamic discipline that encourages new discoveries and explores the profound changes now affecting people and societies, *Mirror for Humanity* makes a concerted effort to keep pace with changes in the way students read and learn core content today. Our digital program, **Connect Anthropology**, includes assignable and assessable quizzes, exercises, and interactive activities, organized around course-specific learning objectives. Furthermore, **Connect** includes an adaptive testing program in **LearnSmart**, as well as **SmartBook**, the first and only truly adaptive reading experience. The tools and resources provided in **Connect Anthropology** are designed to engage students and enable them to improve their performance in the course. This 11th edition has benefited from feedback from over 2,000 students who worked with these tools and programs while using the 10th edition of *Mirror* or one of my other recent texts. We were able to respond to specific areas of difficulty that students encountered, chapter by chapter. I used this extensive feedback to revise, rethink, and clarify my writing in almost every chapter. In preparing this edition, I benefited tremendously from both students' and professors' reactions to my book.

As I work on each new edition, it becomes ever more apparent to me that while any competent and useful text must present core material, that text also must demonstrate the relevance of cultural anthropology to the 21st-century world we inhabit. Accordingly, each new edition contains substantial content changes as well as specific features relevant to our changing world. One of my primary goals is to help students make connections between what they read and their own lives. Accordingly, the “Anthropology Today” boxes placed near the end of each chapter examine recent developments in anthropology as well as contemporary topics and issues that are clearly related to anthropology's subject matter. I have written nine new “Anthropology Today” boxes highlighting important recent contributions as well as world events and issues in the news. Each chapter also contains a new feature that I call “Think Like an Anthropologist,” which attempts to get students to do just that—to apply their critical thinking skills as an anthropologist might.


I realize that most students who read this book will not go on to become anthropologists, or even anthropology majors. For those who do, this book should

provide a solid foundation to build on. For those who don't—that is, for most of my readers—my goal is to instill a sense of understanding and appreciation of human diversity and of cultural anthropology as a field. May this course and this text help students think differently about, and achieve greater understanding of, their own culture and its place within our globalizing world.

McGraw-Hill Connect Anthropology

Connect Anthropology is a premier digital teaching and learning tool that allows instructors to assign and assess course material. Connect Anthropology includes assignable and assessable quizzes, exercises, and interactive activities, organized around course-specific learning objectives. New to this edition, **NewsFlash** activities bring in articles on current events relevant to anthropology with accompanying assessment. In addition, Connect Anthropology includes LearnSmart, an adaptive testing program, and SmartBook, the first and only adaptive reading experience.

The system is praised by users—faculty and students alike—for helping to make both teaching and learning more efficient, saving time and keeping class time and independent study time focused on what is most important and only those things that still need reinforcing, and shifting the teaching/learning process away from memorization and cramming. The result is better grades, better concept retention, more students staying in class and passing, and less time spent preparing classes or studying for tests.

 **SMARTBOOK™ SmartBook:** SmartBook makes study time as productive and efficient as possible. It identifies and closes knowledge gaps through a continually adapting reading experience that provides personalized learning resources at the precise moment of need. This ensures that every minute spent with SmartBook is returned to the student as the most value-added minute possible. The result? More confidence, better grades, and greater success.