

## VI Cultural Convergence and Divergence

### A. Cultural Convergence vs. Divergence

1. Cultural convergence occurs when two cultures adopt each other's traits and become more alike.

2. Cultural Divergence occurs when two cultures become increasingly different, often when one group moves away from the territory of one culture group.

### B. Acculturation, Assimilation, and Transculturation

1. Acculturation occurs when two cultures come into contact with one another and the "weaker" of the two adopts traits from the more dominant culture.

2. Sometimes acculturation leads to assimilation, when the original traits of the weaker culture are completely replaced by the traits of the more dominant culture.

3. A "weaker" culture (or less dominant) often refers to a culture that, comparatively, has less political power or less acceptance by the mainstream.

4. Sometimes transculturation occurs when two cultures of just about equal power or influence meet and exchange ideas or traits without the domination seen in acculturation and assimilation.