

EVENT	MY REACTION	UNCLE LEIF'S REACTION
War breaks out on Pacific Islands four thousand miles from home.	I buy war stamps, sing patriotic songs, and learn to hate the "Japs."	None: The Pacific Ocean and its islands are not part of his physical environment and the Japanese are not part of his social environment.
A small group of political leaders in a capital city in East Asia misperceive the meaning of an American Secretary of State's address to a press club luncheon and order a military assault on their neighbor to the south.	I worry about being drafted, think a lot about dying, and study hard to keep my grades high and hope the draft board notices.	None: Asia and the Americas are not part of his physical environment and the people who live there are not part of his social environment.
A severe drought takes place in Africa.	I send a check to CARE.	None: Africans and weather in Africa are not part of his social & physical environment.
Simultaneously, bad weather occurs in South America and a civil war breaks out in Africa.	I grumble about the sharply increased price of coffee.	None: Plants growing in Africa and South America are not part of his biotic environment.
A new musical group forms in England.	I buy a record and play it to impress my children with my "cool."	None: People in England and the things they do are not part of his social environment.
The sale of cars in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America increases.	The carbon dioxide concentration in the air I breathe increases.	None: People elsewhere in the world could not do anything to affect the air Uncle Leif breathes.
A new strain of virus evolves in South Asia.	I get sick. My family gets sick. We stay at home and grate on one another's nerves.	None: Uncle Leif stays healthy. Viruses in East Asia never become part of his biotic environment and hence never affect his relationship with wife and children.

What has changed to produce the differences between Uncle Leif and me? Certainly not human nature. Uncle Leif and I are basically the same. His emotions are my emotions. My needs are his needs. His concerns are my concerns. And it is certainly not our planet. The earth's continents and islands and the people who live on them were there in Uncle Leif's lifetime just as they are in mine. What then explains the difference in the scale of our social, biotic, and physical environment? It is the size of the cocoon of culture in which I live and in which Uncle Leif lived.

When we think of culture as a linkage mechanism, then the difference in the scale of Uncle Leif's social, biotic, and physical environment is readily explainable. We can construct two simple syllo-

gisms, each of which has a common major premise but differing minor premises and, therefore, different conclusions.

**Syllogism A—**

MAJOR PREMISE: The scale of a human being's social, biotic, and physical environment is directly proportional to the scale of his or her cultural environment.

MINOR PREMISE: The scale of Uncle Leif's cultural environment (i.e., technologies, institutions, beliefs, and languages) was local.

CONCLUSION: Therefore, the scale of Uncle Leif's social, biotic, and physical environment was local.

**Syllogism B—**

MAJOR PREMISE: The scale of a human being's social, biotic, and physi-

cal environment is directly proportional to the scale of his or her cultural environment.

MINOR PREMISE: The scale of Lee's cultural environment (i.e., technologies, institutions, beliefs, and languages) is global.

CONCLUSION: Therefore, the scale of Lee's social, biotic, and physical environment is global.

You may wish to quarrel about the major premise in respect to details, and you should. Clearly the simple generalization masks complexities in the interrelation of nature and culture that are worthy of being noticed and explored. However, it is the minor premise and subsequently the conclusion that I want to deal with here.