

Abstract

In the present study, implicit interdependence (vs. independence) of individuals in France was assessed in comparison with comparable samples in other Western European countries (Germany and the UK). Although all three countries historically played important roles in the advancement of Western individualism, many socio-ecological factors that are more characteristic of France than of Germany and the UK – including Catholicism, relatively higher temperature, and a relatively stronger reliance on agriculture in economy – point to the possibility that interdependence would be stronger among French than among Germans and British. Consistent with this expectation, as compared to both Germans and British, French showed pronounced tendencies toward (a) less dispositional bias in attribution, (b) holistic (vs. focused) attention, (c) experiencing emotions associated with interdependence (vs. independence), and (d) holding a less expanded symbolic self. These data support the notion that psychological propensities toward independence or interdependence are closely tied to the socio-ecological conditions of a given nation. Directions for future research will be discussed.

Key words: Culture and Self, Implicit Independence, Socio-Ecological Analysis, Western Europe