Contemporary Europe: Social Structures And Cultural Patterns

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It first considers the cultural contexts within which Bourdieu's thinking about culture originated—both in relation to his social origins and in relation to his intellectual training. It then examines the extent to which Bourdieu's early anthropological research in Algeria was influenced by his knowledge of American acculturation theory. It concludes that Bourdieu sought to use acculturation theory in a distinctive way—one which he articulated more confidently as he explored the relationship between agency and structural explanation in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Cultural patterns are shaped according to the region where people live, the economic activities that take place there, the academic level and the groups of friends they frequent, among other factors, to establish a model or scheme of values. These schemes contain a set of rules that serve as guidelines for dealing with a particular situation or simply interacting in society, which are not obligatory to comply with but are approved by the community. However, belonging to a locality with certain patterns of behavior, does not imply that these models should be assumed and take all that the commun