

## **The Global Relevance of the Liberal Arts: Historical Traditions and Contemporary Developments**

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The liberal arts, the concept that an educated person requires a broad yet disciplined understanding of the key academic disciplines as well as the ability to think independently and communicate effectively, has been part of many academic traditions over the centuries. Although the liberal arts has maintained some influence in the United States and some other countries in the current period, globally the curriculum has mostly become oriented to the study of specific fields that are considered to be vocationally relevant.

This presentation discusses a variety of liberal arts traditions in non-Western contexts and in a historical perspective, including the Confucian and Buddhist academic traditions.

The presentation concludes with a discussion of a contemporary resurgence of interest in the liberal arts globally.