

## Context

Who: People of the World

What: The Modern Kilt

Where: around the world, particularly western dress.

Why: The kilt has evolved from military uniform into formal wear for people of Scottish heritage, but recently has appeared on the runways at fashion week.

## The Kilt as a Tool

-Climate

Not unlike Moscow, Scotland is in a Dry/ Cool zone.

Many layers are needed in winter months

The original Great Kilt was designed with a portion at the top that could be used as a cloak to shield a soldier from the elements.

The modern kilt wearer would live in any of Siple's zones, except in the minimum clothing zone, as it is typically made of wool.

(see runway photos)

-The kilt can be worn as a symbol of loyalty and pride for Scotland.

-It can also symbolize strength and manhood.

## Art of Dress

- Formal

Elements are traditional

Importance placed on following tradition

One can wear their own clan's tartan or generic.

Conformity is preferred, but as it is becoming more world dress, individuality is starting to be expressed.

-Streetwear

Emphasis is put on the ideal rather than traditional elements.

A lot of freedom taken with design elements and use of tartan.

Generally just the kilt skirt is represented.

## The body

-Men of all somanotypes

-The question since the beginning has been "What's underneath?"

-There is a lot of folklore about men not wearing undergarments beneath the kilt, but there is no way of truly knowing.

-One thing is certain, if one is wearing a kilt for a special occasion, it is more appropriate to wear underwear.

-The body is a canvas for the kilt.

-Kilts are made of a lot of yardage of tartan fabric.

-The tartan can directly link to one's heritage. (see Cameron and Ramsay)

-There are acceptable tartans that link to the Royal Family of England as well as other generic tartans that are appropriate for all to wear. (see black watch)

## Culture Traits

- Originally, the kilt was part of domestic scale dress but has grown to commercial popularity.

- Now that those of Scottish heritage live in other parts of the world, the demand for special occasion kilt ensembles has grown.

- For those with roots to Scotland, it is a unique expression of ethnicity.

- The kilt has been subject to cultural authentication through the adoption and adaptation of the style and spirit of the garment.

Ellen Williams

FCS419

Dress and Culture

The Kilt: Modern interpretations of Highland military wear