



SC308: Race, Ethnicity and Migration
Week 25: Multiculturalism and Civic
Integration

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To identify the body...



- What is Multiculturalism?
- How did it come about?
- What are its characteristic features?

And what do supporters claim?

- Multiculturalism encourages take-up of citizenship and hence political participation;
- Promotes educational and occupational success;
- Promotes dual identities, eg as both Canadian and minority, and national pride;
- Encourages pro-minority attitudes among majority group too. (Kymlicka 2010)

What makes the hypothesis so hard to test?

- Different types of migrants
- Different selection processes
- Applied in divergence from the original premises of the liberal multicultural hypothesis advanced by normative political theorists.

Civic Integration

- In the last few years, European policy makers have come to reject multiculturalism in favour of an alternative approach to the accommodation of diversity, commonly referred to as **civic integration** (Kymlicka and Banting 2012).
- This alternative approach is considered to be based on sharply different premises from multiculturalism and exemplifies a form of more 'muscular' liberalism. It involves the **active integration of immigrants into the economic, social and political mainstream**; supplemented by insistence on **language acquisition and knowledge of the history and customs** of the receiving society as well as the operating of its institutions.

Pillars of Multiculturalism

- Exemptions
- Assistance
- Ethnic Quotas
- Recognition of Legal Codes

Britain

1. Lukewarm official affirmation of multiculturalism – Swann report
2. Limited adoption of multiculturalism in school curricula
3. No inclusion of ethnic representation in licensing of public media
4. Exemptions from dress codes, especially for Sikhs
5. Allows dual citizenship
6. Limited funding of ethnic organizations to support cultural activities
7. Limited funding of bilingual education or mother-tongue teaching
8. Weak affirmative action for disadvantaged groups

Exemptions



Assistance



A lot of smoke but little fire!

Ethnic Quotas



Legal Codes



Suspected Negative Outcomes

- **Reduction in trust**



- **Unwillingness to help neighbours**



- **Lack of interest in British politics**



- **Identity**



Can Differences be Overcome?



Multiculturalism as the Celebration of the Unique and the Common!



Photo Source: Cyss, Flickr

Accommodation in Practice

FIGURE 1

Multiculturalism Policies (MCPs)

- (1) Re: Immigrants
 - religious accommodations
 - funding of ethnic organizations
 - ethnic representation in media
 - multicultural/mother-tongue education
 - affirmative action

 - (2) Re: National Minorities
 - official language rights
 - regional autonomy
 - consociational power-sharing

 - (3) Re: Indigenous Peoples
 - land claims
 - self-government rights
 - customary law
 - treaty rights
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Core Liberal-Democratic Values

- (1) Civil and Political Liberties
 - freedom of speech, conscience, assembly
 - right to effective political participation

- (2) Equality of Opportunity
 - to acquire skills
 - to gain employment

- (3) Solidarity:
 - mutual respect
 - redistribution

Kymlicka: Multicultural states compared to other states rather than immigrants compared to the majority

- Political rights
- Equal opportunities
- Solidarity (is immigration beneficial)

Verdict: multiculturalism normalizes diversity – it has an ameliorative effect.

Little is known about how MCPs affect social capital (and how social capital in turn affects liberal-democratic values of freedom, equality and solidarity).

Perhaps a call for new outcomes such as:

Segregation and Separation