



Multiculturalism and Multicultural Society

DEMOCRATIC AND MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM IN SOCIAL SCIENCE


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Plural Society

- Furnival (1939) Netherlands India:
 - A society, that is, comprising two or more elements or social orders which live side by side, yet without mingling, in one political unit (p. 446)
 - a medley of people, European, Chinese, Indians and natives, who do mix but do not combine. Each group holds by its own religion, its own culture and languages its own ideas and ways. As individuals they meet, but only in the marketplace in buying and selling. There is a plural society, with different sections of the community living side by side, within the same political unit.
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Assimilation

- Neutrality of the State to all citizens
 - Individual stands equally regardless their socio-ethno-racial and economic backgrounds
 - Assimilation:
 - Social Process: as a way minority groups gradually abandon their primordial affinities and practices to adopt mainstream cultures and traditions of the society
 - Political Project: members of minority groups are supposed to leave all primordial traditions behind and adopting mainstream cultures in order stand equally as citizens and integrate into the society.
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From Melting Pot to Salad Bowl

- Melting Pot:
 - A metaphor for a heterogeneous society becoming more homogenous the different elements "melting together" into a harmonious whole with a common culture.
 - The metaphor describes a unity, solidarity and shared fate of people, though coming from different socio-economic and ethno-religious backgrounds, thus together create a new tradition.
 - Challenged by Salad Bowl, mosaic or kaleidoscope model:
 - in which different cultures mix, but remain distinct in some aspects. Or then arbitrarily called multicultural society
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Cultural Pluralism

- Horrace Kallen (d. 1974)
 - Cultural Pluralism:
 - Each culture has its own virtues that should be recognized;
 - Individual is allowed to pursue its own primordial traditions (i.e. ethnicity or religion) and contribute for the betterment of nation;
 - Official Assimilation policy (i.e. national curriculum in education) should attest a room for pupils to pursue their ethno-religious traditions alongside the national one.
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Justice and Politics of difference

- Iris Marion Young (1990)
 - Challenge the liberal idea of the neutrality and impartiality of the state in order to espouse equal and justice for all individuals;
 - Challenge the assimilationist project that enforce minority groups to adopt the mainstream or national cultures (i.e. liberal one) with the cost of their own traditions;
 - Minority groups should be allowed to get opportunities to pursue and express their own ethno/religious traditions. The opportunity would liberate them from domination and repression in the name of mainstream/national cultures; thus equally participate in the society as themselves.
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Politics of Recognition

- Charles Taylor (1994)
 - The liberal idea of the neutrality of the state failed to accommodate socio-cultural differences that differently inherited by individuals;
 - Democratic participation requires the respected and recognized dignity and identity of individuals;
 - While dignity and identity of individuals are forged and laid on their ethno-religious cultures;
 - To provide an environment that individuals enjoy the same right; their dignity and identity must be respected; and to do that is by recognizing their ethno-religious traditions.
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Multicultural Citizenship

- Will Kymlicka (1995)
 - Two models of multiculturalism: (i) Multinational state: with existing national minorities; (ii) Polyethnic state: with existing minority ethnic groups as the result of immigration;
 - Three forms of group rights claims: (i) national minorities sound self-determination and greater autonomy; (ii) Ethnic groups frequently want protection of their distinct culture and language, so that integration into the dominant culture does not require abandonment of previous ways; and (iii) Both groups may claim special representation in the central government;
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