Multi Culturism

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ASSIMILATION

COSMOPOLITANISM

INTERACTIVE PLURALISM

FRAGMENTED PLURALISM

INTRODUCTION

- **Two-Dimensional Framework**
  - The theoretical terrain of visions of difference can be mapped in two dimensions: cultural and relational.
  - These dimensions reflect the sociological domains of cohesion and order.
- **Cultural Dimension**
  - The first dimension deals with the cultural bases for cohesion and the legal or moral foundations for order and justice.
  - Different theories emphasize either shared substantive bonds and practices (thick) or common legal codes (thin).
- **Relational Dimension**
  - The second dimension concerns the basis for social association, indicating the role of individual interactions or groups.
  - The core distinction is between visions that prioritize individual interactions and those that emphasize groups.

ASSIMILATIONISM

- **Introduction to Assimilationism**
    - Often considered the baseline vision of difference.
    - Lauded and criticized in recent years with a radical rethinking of the concept.
- **Foundations in Race and Ethnicity**
    - Rooted in works like Park (1939) and Gordon (1964).
    - Emphasizes the importance of substantive moral bonds for cohesion.
- **Individual and Social Whole**
    - Denies the mediating role of groups, making the connection between the individual and the social whole direct.
    - No strong distinction between internal and external boundaries; group characteristics resemble national characteristics.
- **Removal of Difference**
    - Assimilationism deals with difference by removing it.
    - Emphasizes cultural homogeneity and conformity.
    - Removal of out-group markers and traits is necessary for incorporation into the social whole.

ASSIMILATIONISM

- **Private vs. Public Difference**
  - Tolerates private differences as long as they do not enter the public sphere.
  - Shared core values create the societal "center," promoting conformity.
- **Pressure to Conform**
  - Pressure to conform is strong, and individuals are made over in a rigid and uncompromising way.
  - The "melting pot" metaphor symbolizes the loss of distinctiveness in favor of mutual understanding and responsibility.
- **Defense of the Center**
  - Strong defense of the center against outsiders and their distinctive cultures.
  - The national culture tends not to be subject to change.
- **Immigration and Assimilationism**
  - Theoretically compatible with high rates of immigration if immigrants are willing to give up their group identities, practices, and values.

COSMOPOLITANISM

- **Introduction to Cosmopolitanism**
  - Recognizes diversity but questions the obligations and constraints of group membership.
  - Prioritizes individual rights and freedom over cultural conformity.
- **Lack of Cultural Specificity**
  - Unlike assimilationism, cosmopolitanism lacks cultural specificity.
  - The vision is characterized by vagueness in external markers.
- **Macro-Culture and Moral Solidarity**
  - Cosmopolitanism presents a thinner, procedural understanding of the macro-culture.
  - Weak public salience of subnational communities distinguishes it from other multicultural visions.

COSMOPOLITANISM

Tolerance and Individual Choice
- Emphasis on tolerance and individual choice rather than mutual obligations.
- Membership in the social whole is one source of identity but not necessarily the most salient.

- **Weak Group Identification**
  - Group differences may be important, but group identities are not totalizing.
  - Group membership is a choice and a source of individual identity.

- **Individualized and Voluntaristic Vision**
  - Individualized in Simmel's sense with multiple and cross-cutting boundaries.
  - Group differences are moved into safe contexts where they do not create tension.

- **Thinnest Form of Difference**
  - Cosmopolitanism allows difference to exist without significant conflict.
  - Inclusive elements coexist with exclusive pressures, resulting in neutralized, not negated, qualities.
  - The vision promotes the possibility of forming group bonds that bridge particularities.

COSMOPOLITANISM

- **Balancing Inclusivity and Neutrality**
  - Cosmopolitanism represents a middle ground between assimilation and true multiculturalism.
  - Some scholars term it "neutral liberalism."
- **Lack of Constraints and Attraction**
  - The lack of concrete constraints is attractive to those wishing for a more open model.
  - Attracts scholars interested in choice, voluntarism, and permeable group boundaries.
- **David Hollinger's Perspective**
  - David Hollinger's vision, exemplified in "Postethnic America," emphasizes individual rights and freedoms without compromising cultural diversity.
  - Advocates for an equal platform for diverse narratives within society.
  - Favors a society where every individual can freely choose their place in the ethnic mosaic.

INTERACTIVE PLURALISM

- **Interactive Pluralism Defined**
  - A specific form of multiculturalism emphasized by Alexander and Taylor.
  - Recognizes distinct cultural groups but promotes common understanding through mutual recognition and interaction.
  - Emphasizes cross-cultural dialogue and exchange as a core value.
- **Contrast with Assimilationism**
  - Unlike assimilationism, which seeks to assimilate cultural differences, interactive pluralism values the acceptance of differences.
- **Cohesion and Group Focus**
  - Both interactive pluralism and assimilationism emphasize the importance of strong bonds among groups.
  - While assimilationism focuses on mutual responsibilities based on common values, interactive pluralism stresses mutual recognition and respect of differences.

INTERACTIVE PLURALISM

- **Constant Pressure for Self-Reinvention**
  - With increased immigration and diversification, there's a continuous pressure for the macro-culture to reinvent itself.
  - This reinvention is not based on empty liberalism but involves a democratic hermeneutics, leading to a "fusion of horizons."
- **Incorporation of Outsiders**
  - In interactive pluralism, incorporation involves accepting the qualities and cultures of outsiders.
  - It goes beyond mere inclusion and aims for achieving diversity within the cultural sphere itself.

INTERACTIVE PLURALISM

- **Interactions Between Groups**
  - In interactive pluralism, the crucial interaction
    occurs between groups, not just within them.
  - Group identity claims are considered legitimate entries into public life.
- **Decentered National Culture**
  - Rejects the idea of a single, uniform national culture.
  - Recognizes a constantly evolving macro-culture that emerges from group interactions.
- **Emergent Substantive Moral Order**
  - The moral order is not fixed but constantly evolving through democratic interactions of groups.
  - Substantive commitments are continually regenerated, shaping the nature of the macro-culture.

Fragmented Pluralism

- **Fragmented Pluralism Defined**
  - Focuses on distinctive and self-contained mediating communities.
  - Emphasizes the necessity and strength of diverse group identities.
- **Structural Contrast with Assimilation**
  - Opposite of assimilation in terms of structural characteristics.
  - Relies on procedural norms instead of common moral bonds.
  - Emphasizes strong internal group boundaries.
- **Group-Centric Model**
  - In fragmented pluralism, the individual is subsumed by the group rather than the nation.
  - Group membership is seen as essential and based on strong preexisting boundaries.
  - Maintenance of distinctive group cultures is a priority.

Fragmented Pluralism

- **Interplay of Diverse Group Values**
  - Different group value systems may be divergent or directly opposed.
  - Procedural norms, like legal rights to maintain separate institutions, are emphasized.
- **Role of the State**
  - The state plays a crucial role in mediating between group claims.
  - It manages discrepant rights claims without imposing substantive moral values.
- **Similarities to Assimilation**
  - While structurally different, fragmented pluralism can be seen as a version of assimilationism where groups are substituted for nations.
  - Each group acts as its own solidaristic community, policing internal boundaries.

Fragmented Pluralism

Challenges of Social Boundaries

- The social whole lacks clear-cut divisions between insiders and outsiders.
- Without a shared value consensus, it's challenging to define the limits of the social body.

Illustrative Works

- Works by Iris Young, Horace Kallen, Alejandro Portes, and Ruben Rumbaut exemplify fragmented pluralism.
- Alejandro Portes and colleagues' concept of "segmented assimilation" highlights the multiple forms of immigrant integration into American society.
- Fragmented pluralism reveals a vision of multidimensional difference, emphasizing group differences within a diverse society.