# MULTICULTURALISM

Alicia Toma

Wiktoria Ostropolska

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

11/7/2023

# DEFINITIONS OF MULTICULTURALISM

- The existence of racial, ethnic, religious and cultural differences within a certain population

- A system of political integration acknowledging the rights of minorities within a given state

- The concept of accepting distinct cultures, religions, races and ethnicities as having the right to be recognized and preserved in society
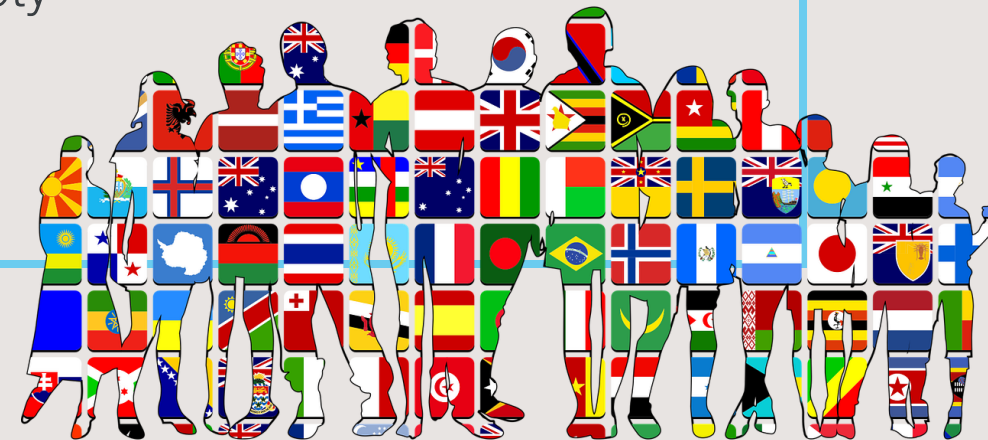
# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- Historical example for multiculturalism: Habsburg Monarchy

- Concept of multiculturalism gained prominence with the Canadian government and its emphasis on the social importance of immigration

- Cultural freedom & recognition of the cultural contributions of diverse ethnic groups

- Multiculturalism as an official national policy in Canada 1971, followes by Australia & most member states of the EU

# THEORISTS OF MULTICULTURALIST THOUGHT

- No single originator and several sociologists contributed to the sociological concepts related to multiculturalism:

- **Durkheim:** division of labor, mechanical and organic solidarity, role of social institutions

- **Will Kymlicka:** relationship between cultural diversity, citizenship, individual rights

- **Charles Taylor:** questions of cultural identity, multiculturalism, preservation of cultural distinctiveness in contemporary societies

- **Robert Park:** dynamics of diverse communities, the ways in which different groups interact and adapt in urban settings

- **Milton Gordon:** assimilation, multidimensional process by which ethnic groups adapt to the dominant culture

# DIMENSIONS OF MULTICULTURALISM

- Liberal multiculturalism

- Conservative multiculturalism

- Pluralist multiculturalism

- Cosmopolitan multiculturalism
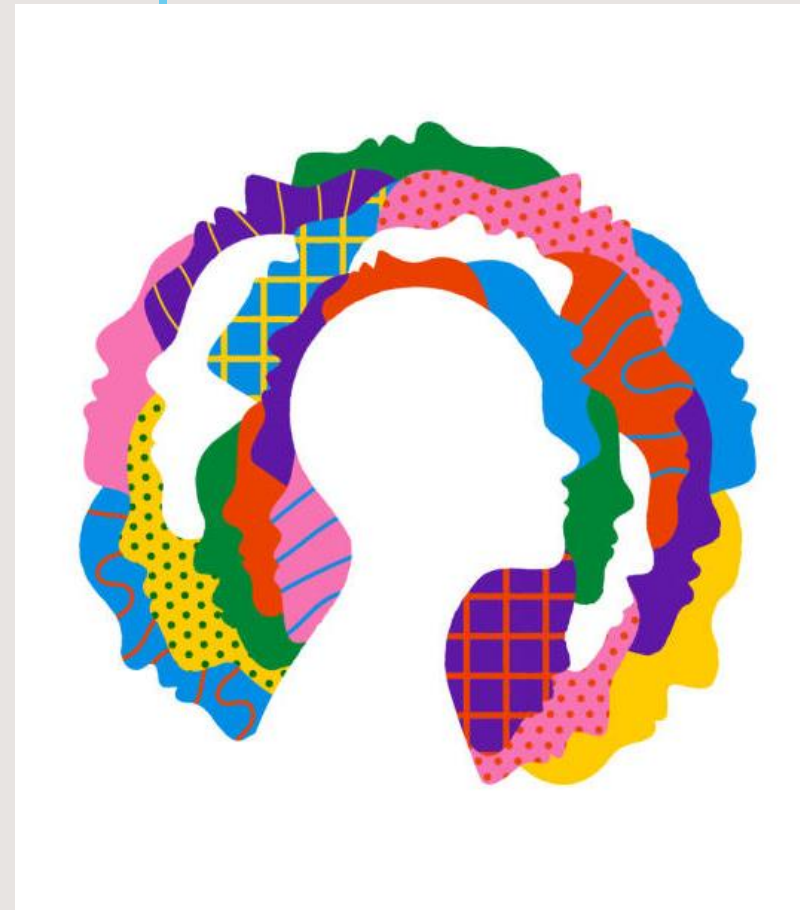
# LIBERAL MULTICULTURALISM

- Advocates for individualist freedom

- Recognizes the right of the individual to retain, practice, and celebrate their culture and identity

- Tolerates cultural differences as long as they are consistent with respect for the freedom and autonomy of individuals

# CONSERVATIVE MULTICULTURALISM - ASSIMILATIONISM

- Cultural homogeneity - The group is synonymous with the nation

- Individuals are expected to abandond their group identities and adopt the identity of the social whole

- Private difference can be tolerated as long as it remains confined and doesn't enter the public domain

- Deals with differences by removing them

- The fundamental aspects of national culture typically remain resistant to alteration

# COSMOPOLITAN MULTICULTURALISM

- Recognizes cultural diversity, while emphasizing individual rights and freedom over group obligations and constraints

- Cosmopolitanism does not promote a specific macro-culture or impose a strong cultural identity

- Tolerance and inclusivity

- Individual choice and identity

- Neutral liberalism

# FRAGMENTED PLURALISM

- Emphasizes the presence of diverse and self-contained communities as both a social fact and a vital aspect

- The social structure is composed of collective entities

- Strong internal groups and boundaries

- Group affiliation is considered necessary

- Emphasizes the significance of group self-determination in shaping one's identity

- Rejects the idea of a singular shared cultural foundation

# INTERACTIVE PLURALISM

- Recognizes cultural diversity and promotes the interaction and mutual constitution of diverse cultures.

- Defends the existence of diverse cultures, acknowledges their differences

- Cross-Cultural-Interaction: emphasis on interaction and exchange between different cultures

- Distinction from assimilationism

- Thick bonds through interaction

- Decentered identity claims: cultural identity is no longer based solely on the emphasis of one's own culture

# THE IMPACT OF MULTICULTURALISM

# QUESTION

- How can we ensure the diversity within unity?

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Loobuyck, P. (2005). Liberal multiculturalism. Ethnicities, 5(1), 108-123. https://doi.org/10.1177/1468796805051679

- Sohrabi, H. (2019). A Durkheimian critique of contemporary multiculturalism. Ethnic and Racial Studies, 42(8), 1283-130

- Wacker, R. F. (1979). Assimilation and cultural pluralism in American social thought. Phylon (1960-), 40(4), 325-333.

- Gordon, M. M. (1964). Assimilation in American life: The role of race, religion, and national origins. Oxford University Press, US

- Bannerji, H., Haljan, D., & Saunders, B. (2003). Multiple Multiculturalisms and Charles Taylor's Politics of Recognition. Whither Multiculturalism: A Politics of Dissensus, 35-46

- Hadi Sohrabi (2019) A Durkheimian critique of contemporary multiculturalism, Ethnic and Racial Studies, 42:8, 1283-1304, DOI: 10.1080/01419870.2019.1585898

- Canadian Multiculturalism Policy, 1971 - https://pier21.ca/research/immigration-history/canadian-multiculturalism-policy-1971#:~:text=Multiculturalism%20was%20intended%20to%20preserve%20the%20cultural%20freedom%20of%20all,ethnic%20groups%20to%20Canadian%20society.&text=The%20recommendations%20of%20the%20commission,government%27s%20official%20policy%20of%20multiculturalism

- Menek, İbrahim Halil (26 May 2020). "A HISTORICAL EXAMPLE OF MULTICULTURALISM: ACHAEMENID EMPIRE MULTICULTURALISM". Gaziantep Üniversitesi İktisadi ve İdari Bilimler Fakültesi Dergisi. 2 (1): 118–138. ISSN 2651-267X.

- Multiculturalism – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/multiculturalism/

- Multiculturalism – Science Direct https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/social-sciences/multiculturalism

- https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/politics/political-ideology/multiculturalism/

- Liberal multiculturalism as political philosophy: Will Kymlicka' - Frederik Stjernfelt, January 2012 , The Monist(Vol. 95, Issue 1), Oxford University Press https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA282214820&sid=googleScholar&v=2.1&it=r&linkaccess=abs&issn=00269662&p=AONE&sw=w&userGroupName=anon~7946f8b9&aty=open-web-entry