Lecture: Multiculturalism in Western Europe and North America - Lecturer: Dr. Antonin Mikes

Student: Juliana Goldman

AQCI #1: Anthony Birch (1989) Nationalism and National Integration, London: Unwin Hyman Ltd, chapter 4: National integration, pp 36-51.

1. **Central Quotation**

"This process [national integration] can be admired or regretted, according to the outlook of the observer. The change of emphasis in recent thinking makes it appropriate, however, to break down the concept of integration into smaller categories. Irrespective of personal values, it was clearly too simple to equate integration with assimilation, just like that." (Birch, pp 48, 49)

**2. Argument**

In this specific chapter, Birch explains the national integration process within ethnic and cultural groups that were in some degree incorporated into national states. The author presents four arguments from different authors in favor of the process of national integration and main criticism towards it, following the actual practice of nation-building, and how the different factors like language, government's measures and national identity influence this process. The author's main argument is that the notions of integration are much more complex than assimilation and that there are three main experiences of national integration: social, economic and political.

**3. Question**

One question that could be raised within the arguments and historical background to national integration would be the extend repercussion of colonial influence in national integration of former colonies. The author shows the example of the British policy in Canada in order to assimilate and anglicize the French-Canadian community, but it would be interesting to discuss other types of colonial powers and influences within the assimilation process of colonies and former colonies, and what was the relationship between colonialist countries and the political organization of the national state after independence.

**4. Experiential Connection**

As I moved to Israel 3 years ago, a country in which national integration is only available for immigrants that meet a certain criteria (being Jewish or having Jewish heritage), I witnessed different attempts of the government's national integration efforts. Even immigrants that would meet the criteria would still build separate minority communities within the nation (example: the Russian community in Israel - 20% of the population - is still considered 'the other' according to members of the Israeli Government), made me realize what a complex process integration really is. Even though this immigrants are integrated in the political and economic sphere, not being integrated in the social aspect creates a notion of different national values, even if this group holds citizenship and participates in the country's politics and labour market.

**5. Textual Connection**

In "Western Political Theory and Ethnic Relations in Eastern Europe"¹, Will Kymlicka refers to the integration process as being really simplistic as "Virtually all other ethnocultural minorities, however, seek to participate in modern world, and to do so, they must either integrate into the majority society or seek the self-government needed to create and sustain their own modern institutions". Compared to Birch's argument, Kymlicka's vision of integration is vague and presents integration as an unilateral process, contrary to the other text, that presents the different layers of integration and it as a bilateral process.

**6. Implication**

In the text the author discuss the importance of understanding integration as a layered process. Integration is a bilateral development, not only from the minority/immigrant spectrum, but also from the host community. It is of maximum importance that minorities feel a sense of belonging within the majority population, and a multicultural integration approach would be the most suitable. It is crucial that this population is included in the three spectrums of integration, social, political and economic and have an active participation. This can be achieved by implementing non discrimination policies and to nationally recognize the participation and added value of minorities, refugees and immigrants.

¹ Kymlicka, Will (2001)” Western Political Theory and Ethnic Relations in Eastern Europe”, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.19



**Sample Self assessment form**

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**AQCI ASSESSMENT FORM**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Student’s name: | Juliana Goldman | Name of assessor: |  | Date: | 08/03/2019 |
| Essay title: |  | | | | |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Excellent | Good | Average | Poor | Not acceptable | Comments |
| 1) Is the chosen **quotation** central to the author’s argument? | + |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2) Has the main **argument** been fully understood (including its ‘for’ and ‘against’ sides, if applicable)? |  | + |  |  |  |  |
| 3a) Is the **question** raised important/relevant/interesting? |  | + |  |  |  |  |
| 3b) Has this **question** not been fully answered in the text? | + |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4) Is the **experiential connection** relevant/interesting? |  | + |  |  |  |  |
| 5a) Is the **textual connection** relevant/interesting? | + |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5b) Has it been cited properly? | + |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5c) Has it been adequately explained how the present text's argument contrasts with, contradicts, confirms, clarifies, or elaborates the other text's argument or point? |  | + |  |  |  |  |
| 6) Have the **implications** been well understood, can they have a practical impact for policy making? |  | + |  |  |  |  |
| **7) Expression/Presentation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| a) Are the style, grammar and general use of English adequate? | + |  |  |  |  |  |
| b) Is the AQCI professionally presented? | + |  |  |  |  |  |

Essay grade:

Further comments: