

## Topic 16.3 Multiculturalism

- **integrate** (integrates, integrating, integrated) VERB  
**integration** N-UNCOUNT

When someone is **integrated** into a community, he/she becomes a member of it and participates actively in it. **Integration** is the action of incorporating a racial or religious group into a community.

*Barriers to the integration of newly arrived South Asian Muslim women in Britain were identified as cultural differences, isolation and illiteracy.*

- **assimilate** (assimilates, assimilating, assimilated) VERB  
**assimilation** N-UNCOUNT

When someone **assimilates** to another culture he/she takes on the cultural values of that culture.

*Let's say you're very unhappy that a high proportion of the members of your minority group are losing their identity and assimilating into British society.*

- **core value** N-COUNT

**Core values** can be held by organisations, groups, and people. A person's **core values** are moral beliefs held by the citizen that underlie his/her attitudes toward political and other issues. As integral parts of an individual's identity, these beliefs are stable and resistant to change. An organisation's **core values** are the underlying beliefs that support the vision, shape the culture and reflect what the company believes is important.

*In future articles, we will take a look at some of the interesting anomalies, including what appears to be a disconnect from the core values in sales and marketing departments, and the need for better organizational dialogue when cultures clash.*

- **ethnicity** N-UNCOUNT  
**ethnic** ADJ

A person's **ethnicity** refers to their identity with a group of people that share distinct physical and mental traits as a product of common heredity and cultural traditions.

*New labour market data show that while unemployment levels in the UK have remained stable over the past year, for most ethnic minorities they have risen.*

- **homogenous** ADJ  
**heterogeneous** ADJ

If a group is **homogenous** it is uniform in kind or nature. A **heterogeneous** group is made up of different kinds of individuals or unrelated elements.

*While Indonesia is extremely heterogeneous, China is remarkably homogeneous, dominated as it is by one ethnic group.*

- **stereotype** N-COUNT  
**stereotypical** ADJ

A **stereotype** is a generalized belief about a group of people and it is usually negative.

- **multiculturalism** N-UNCOUNT  
**multicultural** ADJ

A **multicultural** society is one in which several different cultures co-exist peacefully and equitably.

*The German chancellor, Angela Merkel, has courted growing anti-immigrant opinion in Germany by claiming the country's attempts to create a multicultural society have "utterly failed".*

- **cultural globalization** N-UNCOUNT

Cultural globalization refers to the spread of a set of beliefs, values, norms, language, and meaning systems that are shared by people who participate in this global community.

- **majority group** N-COUNT  
**minority group** N-COUNT  
**minority** N-COUNT

The **majority group** is the group of people who makes up the largest percentage of the population in a country or society. A **minority** or **minority group** is any group of people who do not make up the largest percentage of the population in a country

- **culture** N-VAR  
**cultural** ADJ

**Culture** encompasses all the knowledge and values shared by a group or society.

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1. Use the terms in the box to complete the paragraph.

ethnic minority	integration (2x)	multicultural	cultural diversity
assimilation (3x)	integrated		

Inevitably, in the wake of the bomb attacks on London, some voices have been calling on the government to look again at Britain's \_\_\_\_\_ policies. There have been calls in the past, most recently by Trevor Phillips, the chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, who believes the current approach has divided, separated and marginalised \_\_\_\_\_ communities by excluding them from places where it really matters. But the new voices now being heard are not as well-intentioned to minorities as Mr Phillips. What some have been asking is why the British could not be more like the French and require ethnic minorities to assimilate. They are failing to recognise history as well as reality.

There is an important distinction between British pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_ and French efforts to achieve \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_. An \_\_\_\_\_ society aims to respect \_\_\_\_\_, widen understanding between communities, reduce hate and give people a sense of belonging. We are a long way still from achieving these aims but they are the right goals. \_\_\_\_\_ goes much further attempting to absorb differences. The problem with "melting pots" is that the dominant culture dominates. A self-confident democracy should be able to celebrate diversity.

*The Guardian*, 1 August 2005

2. Match each term on the left with a description on the right.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. minority group         | a. Europe is now home to millions of people from non-European backgrounds, many religious and cultural dispositions and many networks of attachment based on diaspora connections and cultural influences from around the world. Europe is as much a site of longings rooted in tradition - regional, national and European - as it is a site of trans-national and trans-European attachments.  |
| 2. multicultural society  | b. Hispanics comprise 13% of the US population compared with 12.7% for African-Americans.  |
| 3. homogenous society     | c. Football is the biggest sport in North Korea, and the streets of Pyongyang go quiet each Sunday when the state broadcaster airs games (never live) from the English Premiership, Italian Serie A or eastern European leagues. Drinking is popular there too, and, while knocking back chunky bottles of Taedong beer, locals stand around in bars to discuss scores and the occasional match reports they read in the state-run sports paper. |
| 4. cultural globalisation | d. Finland is a nation of mostly blond ethnic Finns, and, altogether, immigrants constitute barely 2% of the population of 5.2 million.  |
| 5. heterogeneous group    | e. In Britain Asian and African communities understand the importance of sacrifices and look after their aging relatives rather than put them in an old people's home.   |
| 6. stereotype             | f. There are roughly 660 detainees in Guantanamo prison. Most were arrested in Afghanistan but many were handed over to the US by other countries. "There are some 40 different nationalities, there's 18 different languages," says Daryl Matthews, a forensic psychiatrist based in Hawaii who spent a week at the Guantanamo prison camp in May.  |

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