

The Failure of Both Multiculturalism and Assimilation, and the New Path of ‘Omniculturalism’*

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1. ‘Fractured globalization’, and opposing global movements: the first toward assimilation, the death or decline of minority cultures and languages, the emergence of the global village; the second toward differentiation, fragmentation, separatism, radicalization of ‘identity movements’. Challenges facing open societies. The need for a macro perspective: global and evolutionary.

2. *Global*: Globalization in the ideal and globalization in practice. *Evolutionary*: Sudden contact and ‘catastrophic evolution’ in human and non-human groups; reactions to perceived decline in cultural and linguistic diversity; radicalization, torture, and terrorism.

3. In considering policies, limits to change must be considered: Examples of psychological limits to change: social categorization, size of unit, and micro/macro rule of change.

4. *Assimilation policy*. 4A. Varieties of assimilation: Minority assimilation, Melting-pot assimilation. 4B. Psychological assumptions underlying assimilation: Similarity-attraction, Meritocracy (‘level playing field’), Brings benefits through increased contact 4C. Re-assessing assimilation: How does a ‘need for distinctiveness’ and ‘differentiation’ fit in with assimilation/globalization? Evidence from minimal group studies. Conditions necessary for contact to have positive outcome: Is contact enough?

5. *Multiculturalism policy*: The case of Canada, a policy of multiculturalism within a bilingual framework (1972); The multiculturalism hypothesis. 5A. Varieties of multiculturalism: Laissez faire multiculturalism; Active multiculturalism 6A. Psychological assumptions underlying multiculturalism: Assumed desire on the part of minorities to maintain heritage culture/language; Assumed link between esteem and acceptance of out-groups; Cultural relativism, value of local rather than universal ways of life

6. Toward solutions: The new path of ‘*Omniculturalism*’: Stage one, focus on human commonalities (primary identity); Stage two, exploration of intergroup differences and distinctiveness (secondary identity). A survey of 4,000 national sample of American adults showed that slightly more than three out of five preferred omnicultural policy (Moghaddam & Breckenridge, forthcoming).

*Lecture based on the following books:

*Moghaddam, F. M. (2008). *Multiculturalism and intergroup relations: Implications for Democracy in Global Context*. Washington, DC.: American Psychological Association Press.

*Moghaddam, F. M. (2008). *How globalization spurs terrorism*. Westport, CT.: Praeger.