

Chapter 5

Multiculturalism: The Optimal Organizational Model of European Society

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ABSTRACT

In modern political discourse, there is rarely a concept that causes such violent reactions and polarized assessments as multiculturalism. The range of assessments of multiculturalism varies from the recognition of a multi-ethnic society as the optimal structural form to the main cause of the current crisis of European values. It is a fact that multiculturalism has turned from an abstract concept and some specific practice into an optimal model of the organizational form of European society. During the last decade, European politicians and experts have argued that multiculturalism in their countries has failed. Many do not agree with the retreat of multiculturalism although there is a broad consensus that we do indeed live in an era of post-multiculturalism.

INTRODUCTION

In modern political discourse, there is rarely a concept that causes such violent reactions and polarized assessments as multiculturalism. The range of assessments of multiculturalism varies from the recognition of a multi-ethnic society as the optimal structural form to the main cause of the current crisis of European values. It is a fact that multiculturalism has turned from an abstract concept and some specific practice into an optimal model of the organizational form of European society.

During the last decade, European politicians and experts have argued that multiculturalism in their countries has failed. Many do not agree with the retreat of multiculturalism, although there is a broad consensus that we do indeed live in an era of post-multiculturalism (Kimlika, 2010).

Considering the rise and fall of multiculturalism requires an alternative framework. What alternative do we have for defining a sustainable model for a modern society that takes into account cultural diversity? Questions are also raised about the nature of the experiments carried out in the field of multiculturalism

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in the last 40 years. European countries have been significantly affected by anti-immigration political discourse and increased ultra-nationalist sentiment (Sayyid, 2017).

It is a fact that the dramatic international political and social dynamics of the last 10 years have led to a qualitative transformation of European society. An essential element of this transformation was the strengthening of sociocultural and value differences in European society. The traditional values characteristic of Western Europe, on which the EU policy is based on the formation of a common European identity, are called into question. The complex effects of the immigration boom play a key role in this process. From the very beginning, the policy of multiculturalism was aimed at solving the social and political problems caused by the immigration boom. Rising unemployment coupled with immigration exacerbated inequality and distrust in democratic institutions. The growing tension in society has become a good breeding ground for the rise of far-right and nationalist political groups. There is a crisis of democracy, which is further aggravated by the Russian-Ukrainian war and another powerful migration wave. Added to this is the fact that the progressive migration policy in Europe not only makes it difficult to focus on security aspects but also increases serious risks that work on xenophobic sentiments, nationalism, and populism (CORDIS, 2020). Consequently, there has been a less hospitable immigration policy and a failure of multiculturalism.

Our goal is to discuss the reasons for the failure of multiculturalism in Europe and analyze the issues of cultural identity in light of the accompanying social problems in the new multipolar space. People are mostly divided by cultural rather than ideological, political, or economic views. This is due to broad socio-economic and political changes that force people to identify themselves in the context of the culture and society to which they belong, and not in the society to which they aspire.

Using methods of empirical and theoretical research we will be analyzed the reasons that led to the different policies of the EU Member States concerning immigration and, consequently, multiculturalism. Finally, we discuss the consequences of the failure of the current model of multiculturalism and the future of European society.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The increasingly multicultural fabric of modern societies has given rise to many new issues and conflicts, as ethnic and national minorities demand recognition and support for their cultural identity. The theoretical framework of multiculturalism is given in W. Kymlicka's book *Multicultural citizenship: a liberal theory of minority rights* published in 1996. This book presents a new conception of the rights and status of minority cultures. It argues that certain sorts of rights for minority cultures are consistent with liberal democratic principles, and that standard liberal objections to recognizing such rights on the grounds of individual freedom, social justice, and national unity can be answered. However, no single formula can be applied to all groups, and the needs and aspirations of immigrants are very different from those of indigenous peoples and national minorities. The book analyses some of the issues, which, though central to an understanding of multicultural politics (such as language rights, group representation, land rights, federalism, and secession), has been surprisingly neglected in contemporary liberal theory.

The chapter of the book, *Cultural Diversity and Political Theory* (2010), *Theoretical Foundations of Multiculturalism* by C. Kukatas, also presents important conclusions about the two - soft and hard forms of the theoretical concept of multiculturalism. Kukatas supports the views of milder multiculturalists. Arguing his position, he uses the dichotomy of "new" and "old" liberalism: "soft multiculturalism"

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