

The Changing Landscape of Multiculturalism in the US and UK

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Multiculturalism is understood as the existence of many different groups within one society, living together and keeping their own customs while also forming a Part of the wider society. The US and the UK have both become examples of multicultural societies. However, the concept of multiculturalism, its impacts, and experiences have differed across the two nations (Baykut et al., 2022). In this paper, we look at multiculturalism in the US and UK, focusing on the historical and immigration policies, as well as the immigration policies and the nexus between immigration policies and multiculturalism in both countries.

Historical Background and Immigration Trends

There have been several immigration waves in both the US and the UK, which, in turn, have shaped multiculturalism in these nations. The US has been dubbed a melting pot on account of its diverse population, which includes immigrants from Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa (Woldeab et al., 2021). In 1965, the Immigration and Nationality Act was enacted, and this legislation removed quotas that were based on national origins (Duleep et al., 2021). The United States became one of the most multicultural and diverse societies as a result of this legislation. The multiculturalism of the United States is often celebrated as a patchwork of people and cultures.

Having differing attitudes, the UK and the US have experienced multiculturalism differently. UK has experienced multiculturalism primarily as a 'mosaic' compartmentalization of different groups since the end of the Second World War and the arrival of immigrants from the Caribbean, India, Pakistan, and other former British colonies (Fomina, 2010). The Caribbean Windrush generation has been pivotal in shaping British multiculturalism. However, the UK's

multiculturalism is probably the most difficult in the world, primarily because of its implications for integration and national identity.

Changing Attitudes and Policies

The ideal of multiculturalism in the US has also been affected, but in different ways, primarily because of the increased debate concerning immigration and national identity, which has been particularly polarized in the 21st century. For example, with a far less inclusive vision of multiculturalism at the heart of US identity, former President Donald Trump's campaign, which placed great importance on immigration reform and the Americanization of immigrants, marked a significant shift (Campani et al., 2022). Nevertheless, it remains a multicultural society in which multiculturalism is deeply embedded in the nation's cultural, economic, and political life.

More recently, UK multiculturalism has come under the spotlight following the London bombings, Brexit, and the ongoing controversies surrounding them. According to some, multicultural policies are responsible for the disintegration of social cohesion in the UK because some members of affected communities remain outside the mainstream of social integration (Van Wart, 2023). Resentment toward immigrants, populism, and the British values debate have therefore led some citizens to reclaim their right to propose active policies on multiculturalism. This has caused some to question the UK's multiculturalism in favor of its more assimilative counterpart.

The Role of Globalization

The consequences of globalization continue to shape phenomena such as multiculturalism in the USA and the UK. The multiculturalism of the USA and UK is affected by the migration to the two countries as a result of the recent global economic crisis and the migration, political, and

military wars. For example, Latinx is the fastest-growing demographic in the USA (Frey, 2022). In the United States, the impacts of multiculturalism, driven by the Hispanic/Latin influence, and in the United Kingdom, with the Eastern European and Middle Eastern migrants, are all seen with the same lens of concern when it comes to the loss of certain cultures. Here, critics are of the opinion that it weakens, or in the other extreme, nullifies, certain values. On the other hand, and in stark contrast to the critiques, advocates profess that it promotes the social development of a society and makes it all the better by the addition of new cultures.

Conclusion

Multiculturalism is a policy and practice whose implementation in the U.S. and the UK has evolved due to historical context, immigration policies, and the globalization of the countries in question. The U.S. and the U.K. are both multicultural, and the challenges faced by these two countries are Part of the global conversation about multiculturalism. With the evolving multiculturalism in the U.S. and the U.K., multiculturalism will remain a pivotal and contentious element of the social fabric in both countries, necessitating adaptive social policies and practices to achieve maximal social inclusivity.

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