

Multiculturalism/Multicultural Britain - Essay

For a long time the UK has been a multicultural state composed of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. And as far back as the 1000s they had the Celts, the Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans. Now it is also a multicultural society containing diverse cultures and identities. In a way, Britain can call itself multicultural, but to be a truly multicultural country, Britain has to embrace and accept other cultures. It is in this point Britain fails. If UK decides to declare itself multicultural, this will be the next step in the process of mutual respect, and understanding.

People like to define multiculturalism in two ways. One of the definitions is when ethnic, racial, religious or cultural groups live in harmony together. It is also the idea that it is good for a society to contain more than one culture. There is another way to define multiculturalism, where people have their own cultural beliefs and they happily live together, but there is a common threat of Britishness to hold society together. Britishness, or the British way of life is an idea where Britain society has one mother culture. This culture can protect the needs of minority cultures but they must be subordinate to the mother culture. In other words the immigrants need to respect the laws, the parliamentary and democratic political structures, traditional values of mutual tolerance, and the respect for equal rights. When they become a part of Britain, they need to become a part of the culture.

Faced with the massive task of reconstruction after Second World War and acute labour shortages, the British government encouraged immigration, first from among European refugees and then from Ireland and the Commonwealth.

Moreover, there are two kind of behaviour of immigrants, assimilation and integration and both have their positive and negative effects.

Assimilation means that an immigrant tries strongly to adapt to the beliefs and culture of the new country.

On the one hand, there are the positive effects by assimilation like acceptance in the new country, a better job and a better life, you can be part of the community and have better chances and possibilities.

On the other hand, there are negative effects caused by assimilation like the loss of cultural identity, racism, ignorance, discrimination and that there are no individuals in each country.

Integration means to stick to your own beliefs, religion and culture but to be open-minded for the new culture in the new country, too, and to partly adapt to the new lifestyle.

Multiculturalism all in all has its advantages and disadvantages, too, whereas it does not work everywhere.

Positive aspects of multiculturalism are that for instance people get information and experience about different states and their religion and traditions.

Besides they learn about different food and languages and can become an open minded society, while it causes also an economic boost and promotes individuality.

Negative aspects of multiculturalism in certain countries can be racism and discrimination against ethnic minorities , while it can cause conflicts between populations.

Language lacks can also cause conflicts between nationalities, and multiculturalism isolated communities and may lead to ghettoisation.

Finally multiculturalism means that ethnic minorities can live in harmony with the rest of a population in a certain country, if this is not guaranteed a state should not be/stay multicultural and protect its own culture and identity , because of the just named negative sides of multiculturalism.

In my opinion multicultural states are modern and represent the present time. We live in a long time modernised world and should be competent to live with any nation peacefully together.

In some cases this cannot be promised. In this circumstance a state should not become multicultural and try to live peacefully beside his neighbor-countries. All in all I think multiculturalism is a progressive lifestyle of states at the time and I assess it to be for the most part necessary and helpful of course for our globalised world of today.