

Pluralism (1): Through the Lens of Multiculturalism

Multi-Ethnic Society (5)
(May 15, 2014)

Email assignment

- Assimilation as a mode and process (not as a goal): to which extent should we be “the same”?
- Spontaneous changes and policy-inductive changes
- Importance of social participation (structural assimilation): class, generation, and gender

What is Multiculturalism?

- Some definitions

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiculturalism>

<http://urx.nu/8fG1>

- Introduced in Australia and Canada, etc. as their national policy (in Japan it is called “multicultural coexistence / 多文化共生” or alike)
- Types: liberal, corporate, critical, etc.

Pluralism in Malaysian Context: Before Independence

- Plural society (by Furnivall): existence of different ethnic groups without intermingling

@Cf. Dual economy (by Boeke)

→ Who was dominant, why Chinese and Indians?

→ Do you identify this situation as Multiculturalism”?

Pluralism in Malaysian Context: After Independence (1)

- Big conflict between Malaysian and Chinese (in 1969)→ sensitive issue
 - Bumiputera: affirmative actions for Malay (Malaysian Malaysia, OneMalaysia)= New Economic Policy, Malay as national language, Islam as official religion, etc.
- Who are the Bumiputera?
- How do you characterize this situation?

Pluralism in Malaysian Context: After Independence (2)

- Emergence of multi-ethnic middle class as a political force (Aziz 2012)
- Multicultural-like discourse (Yoshino 2002) and representations (in tourism “Truly Asia” meaning having “Asia’s three major races, plus various other ethnic groups”)

<http://urx.nu/8fRC>

- How do you characterize this situation?
- Wawasan (vision) 2020: more national integration

Multiculturalism in Australia (1)

- White Australia / 白豪主義
 - How had the indigenous peoples been dealt with?
- Australia as an Asian country: shift of national identity and policy after WW II
 - When and what was the turning point?

Multiculturalism in Australia (2)

- Different ethnic groups are:
 - Anglo-Saxons
 - Other Europeans
 - Asians
 - Indigenous peoples
- What kind of policies and why?

Comparison and Discussion

- How to overcome colonial rules?
 - Malaysia: building unity with diversity
 - Australia: is colonizer's mentality (White Australia) overcome?
- What are the international context if any?
- What are the reasons for affirmative actions?

References

- Aziz, Rahiman Abdul, 2012, “New Economic Policy and the Malaysian multiethnic middle class,” *Asian Ethnicity* 13(1)
- Balasubramaniam, Vejai, 2007, “A Divided Nation: Malay Political Dominance, Bumiputera Material Advancement and National Identity in Malaysia,” *National Identities*, 9(1)
- Haque, Shamusul M., 2003, “The Role of the State in Managing Ethnic Tensions in Malaysia,” *The American Behavioral Scientist*, 47
- Yoshino, Kosaku (吉野耕作), 2002, 「エスニシズムとマルチエスニシティー——マレーシアにおけるナショナリズムの二つの方向性」小倉充夫・加納弘勝編『講座社会学16 国際社会』東京大学出版会

【Email assignment】

Give an example of society/country which incorporates a system to respect ethnic diversity, though it is not named multiculturalism.

【Preparation】

What are the effectiveness and (theoretical) backgrounds of affirmative action (and the like)? You may discover examples of affirmative actions in other countries.