Pluralism (2): Affirmative Actions and Policy Debate

Multi-Ethnic Society (6)
（May 22, 2014）

Email assignment

- In which area, to which degree is diversity respected?: Difference between the existence of diversity and political respect (or people's wisdom rather than "policy"?)
- Principles, systems, backgrounds to respect diversity

What is "Racial Democracy" and Affirmative Action

- "racial democracy": belief that Brazil has escaped racism and racial discrimination

http://blog.danielflorencio.com/2007/06/14/raca-nao-existe/

- Affirmative action: policy of providing special opportunities for, and favoring members of, a disadvantaged group who suffer from discrimination or political sigma

@Quotas are just a part of affirmative action measures

Brief History in Brazil

- 1930s: "racial democracy" became the official ideology

- 1970s: social movements of Afro-Brazilians

- 1988: New constitution (multiculturalism officially incorporated)

- 1995: Cardoso's new policy

- 2001: preparations for the Durban Conference

→Afro-Brazilians more visualized (Suzuki 2009)

Factors of Policy Change

- Issue network
- Presidential initiative (very unlikely to occur in Japan!: how about in other countries?)
- International events: transplanting international conventions/norms etc. into national contexts

Importance of the Durban conference

- "Africans and Europeans clashed over slavery" (p.82): colonization still being questioned → what would happen if the same discussion had been brought into each country?

http://www.un.org/WCAR/

Controversy/Criticism on Affirmative Actions

- Who are to be beneficiaries?: "Who is black?"→self-declaration

- Reverse discrimination: "they are more privileged than us"

- Equality of opportunity or equality of results?

- Which matters, race or class? ("Poverty has a color in Brazil")

- On which principle?

Difficulties of Multiculturalism

- Different policies and different grounds for different groups
- Different multiculturalism for different groups: for whom multiculturalism exist? , for which purpose, conducts what kind of policy?
- Backlash from the dominant group

group	necessary measures
majority	
Ethnic groups "near" from majority	
Ethnic groups "far" from majority	
refugees	
indigenous	

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【Email assignment】

- If there are inequalities among different ethnic/racial groups, what kind of measures are to be taken? (regardless of whether named multiculturalism or not)

【Preparation】

- How people having no or multiple nationalities are created, what kind of different status exists among different types of residents in a country (contents of citizenship), whether different status is rational/irrational, different residence status (in Japan and in other countries)