Cultural Pluralism

Mosaic vs. Melting Pot

The exact term "melting pot" (everyone goes in, and whatever the majority is will surface) came into general usage in the United States after it was used as a metaphor describing a fusion of nationalities, cultures and ethnicity in the 1908 play of the same name.

Cultural Mosaic: The term mosaic traces its origins to John Murray Gibbon’s 1938 book, Canadian Mosaic: The Making of a Northern Nation. The idea of a mosaic, was presented as one in which each cultural group retained a distinct identity and still contributed to the nation as a whole; all are essential to its existence.

Cultural Pluralism

The two concepts remain powerful today because they are ideas about history. They contain a belief in collective belonging, upward mobility, and citizenship. The two phrases in fact describe national ideologies that embody how many Canadians and Americans think about integration as well as cultural and linguistic pluralism.

Cultural pluralism is a term used when smaller groups within a larger society maintain their unique cultural identities, and their values and practices are accepted by the wider culture provided they are consistent with the laws and values of the wider society.

Segmented assimilation is the experience of some immigrants who adopt aspects of their new culture. It asserts that social and economic barriers can be so severe that they cause downward mobility among certain immigrant groups and create oppositional forms of culture.

Cultural Diffusion: The movement of people and their cultural traditions from one culture to another. People spread their ideas of culture until new cultural elements are formed. This is one of the most primary ways culture evolves. Cultures have never been completely isolated from each other, diffusion has happened throughout history and continues today.

Cultural Fusion: When multiple cultural elements merging together such as religions, songs, food, music, dance, movies, languages etc.

Examples of blended cultures