

Culture diversity: is it beneficial, is it actually worth being “different” or far worse

In today's day and age, we wake up to see multiple different faces all around us that we adapted to embrace in our modern societies in our developed regions all around the globe. It is a given that countries in North America, Europe and so on, that the populations are comprised of mixed ethnic groups and nationalities and that we are in a multi-cultural society and there is no denying this claim. We see people of different skin tone, different religions, clothing, music, festivals, food, style, way of life and so much more that is different than your families, than your parents, and different from yourself. With multi-cultures, brings culture diversity, but in modern society are we truly “diverse” in culture or do we hide our presence of people culturally diverse as a small sense of personal persona and identity we keep to ourselves while we would leave the bulk of what we believe to assimilate into one large bound culture created by the modern world where similarity is praised. With this in mind we ask ourselves, is culture diversity truly beneficial to society.

Culture, this word and meaning can be derived and interpreted into several different meanings from millions of different people. It can be associated with race, religion, background, customs, norms, beliefs, food, music, clothes, and so on as the list is ever increasing. Culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, defined by everything from language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts as defined by the Webster's dictionary. The controversy of have culturally different societies has been in issues of human history for a while. We are all humans and a total random stranger on the street is 99.9% similar to you in biological makeup, and if you believe in the theory of human evolution, we all came from the same ancestor, and the same micro diverse life we evolved from today. As humans we all fall under one banner, but being different from one another has caused rifts in society for generations. Grand Duchess Anastasia of Russia in the early 1900's stated that “culture is something that unites people”, ironically almost half a century later, the world seen one of its darkest hours with one of the issues of cultural resentment with the Jews in the holocaust. World War 2 not only showed the persecution of Jews and Anti- Semitisms across the world, but with Nazi leaders dreaming of a master “Aryan Race” amongst the German people, viewing all other race and cultures inferior. Nazi Germany was not the only example, as issues of cultural diversity can be seen even farther in history with the Clashes of the ancient Christian and Muslims Kingdoms during the crusades, till todays modern wars and crisis's with the war on terror and the middle eastern wars we see today. Though culture differences are not the leading drives to these crises, but it is on driving cause of these certain issues.

If cultural resentment can last through history for this long and still have an impact today there should be an explanation. It is arguable that our society has evolved to be socially, racially, and culturally acceptable of all this cannot be said for a large majority of the population on the planet. A Social and Philosophical lens can be seen on why so culture diversity can be seen as an issue. According to a Research Article by the university of Croatia called "Institutions and Cultural Diversity: Effects of Democratic and Propaganda Processes on Local Convergence and Global Diversity" refers to one of the large issue of having a lack of diverse cultures or a resentment to one is by a term called "social influence". To simply summarize the process of social influence, the process is where certain influence figureheads, or person of power/groups who is either revered or respected in certain communities can make whole communities converge conform under their beliefs and ideology, making certain cultures acceptable while shunning others. People, groups or the popular end of the populace can influence and cause the process of social influence to initiate. A technical definition of social influence when everyone in a network is connected, a global monoculture is inevitable—all cultures converge to a global consensus and become homogenous (S1). If our society constantly becomes blind followers of certain global consensus created by individuals, a celebrity for example, we tend to stray from culture diversity to now become a homogenous one as certain standards has changed norms and trends of society which people feel obliged to follow to become a monoculture, where culture is dependent and ruled against one term. If this Persist of course people will be looked down upon and feel ostracized as their cultures aren't on par with the rest of society, so they are either resented by others or slowly feel the need to join in with the monoculture certain societies have created. Aside from Social influence, Homophily can also lead to a lack of diversity as Homophily promotes views of resentment towards others of different cultures, promotes a view of inequality, and racist views can often stem from Homophily. Homophily can be derived as meaning "love of the same, or love of our own", where we only associate and enjoy being around people who share the same beliefs and ideas as we do. A German Philosophers named Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling (1775-1854) postulated that Homophily in certain in certain Individuals promotes segregation and the ostracizing of culturally different individuals and communities. The principle of Homophily also states that "like attracts like" and that the more similarities between two people will greater increase the chance influence over each other. Schelling gave an example that in a community of neighbors, where if one of the community members shares a certain dislike with another member about the new family moving in that, they potentially have the power to permanently shun the new family and completely isolate and segregate them. The more culturally diverse certain communities are, the more consequences can arise as differences in cultural norms can lead to racism, hate and isolation, which in no way is beneficial to any society.

Being in a modern era can change a lot of views on subjects like cultures as we are now technologically advanced more than ever giving us the power to connect worldwide and interact with one another and understand and be more lenient to different cultures. Now you might be wondering "how does tech influence culture", well not technology itself but, the effect on Media on culture diversity and how it has only got bigger and arguably worse with the rise of tech. As explained in the previous lens about social influence and Homophily created a homogeneous and Monoculture, those processes usually have limitations based on certain local communities and areas. The media not only helps processes like these now lift limitations by giving access to entire population of people in ways in can promote culture segregation. The can often be heard about talking of benefits to culture on society and praising culture diversity, they do little to physically reinforce the diversity of cultures, the media can "talk the talk" about diversity but they cannot "walk the walk". Not only this the media can stem bias on communities and unemotionally promote segregation of cultures and promote racism, due to the constant habit of media outlets always posting stories and articles of the negative aspects of certain cultures, or what crime this certain ethnic person has done. Always posting the cons of issues involving culture rather the pros. With the majority of the populations always following forms of media, whether it be the news channel or Facebook, they will view their own biases on certain cultures. If you constantly see stories of Muslim men blowing each other up in media, then of course people will have a negative bias on Muslim culture because that's all they hear. Medias will never post anything on how Muslim culture has helped Europe prosper in the 1500-1600's or how certain scholars of the Muslim religion has paved the way of modern math's and astronomy, instead of viewing this in media, it's always the negative aspects of culture. I also explained how Media can help spread social influence, Homophily and Monoculture, to elaborate the media connects the world and in present time the media is a powerhouse in society in every way possible. With this celebrities, music, dance, politicians, you name it can be famous worldwide and be popular in an instant. A simple phrase shared amongst social media can become instantly famous and a global phenomenon in a single day and then you have kids, teens, and adults including these trends constantly in their lives. This in a way creates a homogenous culture worldwide. If a famous celebrity releases a popular song, in a way you must know to "fit in". The new Iphone came out, the new call of duty video game, the new Jordan shoes, etc. All these items become famous with the help of media and the global consensus of a monoculture become defined by these obsolete trends. If you don't have one these items, you feel left out and alone, being different may not be what people want, so diversity could be the last thing people care about as this global monoculture has as all being the same. Diversity will create inequality and differences, and who wants differences in society. In the early 2000's kids would never get a mobile device till high school or even college, but now kids young as 10 years or younger all have phones and ipads, and if your child doesn't have any they may pester and cry claiming all their friends may have one, but they don't showing a sense of being excluded in school, simply because they don't have these certain items and aren't followed in this modern culture, where diversity can possibly be the worse, and with the rise of tech and media, the more diverse we get it possibly is the worse.

For one final lens I would like to see how Geography can affect the views of culture diversity, how certain cultures can view others, or whether how certain populations and countries view the concept of diverse cultures. The most diverse cultures to date are those of developed first world nations, having the most multi cultures in their populations for reasons, such as a better quality of life and education. A child born in today's developed nation will see and grow up around people of different cultures, and this child will grow into understanding culture diversity, and may support diverse cultures with open arms, this cannot be said for others. As the majority of the world's population are in developing nations, and most countries are in fact developing than developed. These populations may not experience diverse cultures or multi cultured people. For eg in a certain society and community in a developing nation like India, this community may never have had any other race or culture other than their own Indian culture and people, and have had so for many years. Their community is already a monoculture and is homogenous, so if they had different races and cultures being integrated in their society, they may segregate these people as it does not comply with the populace culture and norms and will deny any diversity what so ever. Not only does certain location matters, but also certain cultures and teachings can subsequently affect the acceptance of other cultures. Some cultures may promote and accept other cultures and promote while others may not as some culture may view their own as superior to all which can stem anti-Semitic and racist views of others however for the geographical lens there are also many limitations to this as population size and the explicit culture may be taken into consideration, how people were taught to view others and many more.

In conclusion, having a cultural diverse society may not be as adverse and beneficial to society in its self as a whole, a diverse society in culture may seem very far to achieve as our global society is not ready to directly accept different cultures all across the globe for many reasons, as diverse cultures can in fact stem and create racisms, bias, segregation so we are simply not ready to openly accept one another. This can be seen through the social implications of the process of social influence and Homophily, how the media can worsen the condition of cultural diversity and how it depends on where and how you were taught about other cultures. If we constantly deny accepting diverse cultures, the more and more cultures will continue to die and with one single being gone a lot be at stake and simply disappear of the face of the earth before we realize it's too late, but maybe one day we will truly learn to get over our differences and get along with one another once and for embracing anything they have to share, then truly a diverse culturally society may prosper.

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