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Multiculturalism in America

Over a long period of time, the concept of respect and acknowledgment of other people's culture, race, religion, and sex has been on the roll and still is. This is by the fact that it seems and looks easy a topic but not. Just to demystify, "multiculturalism the view that; cultures, races, and ethnicities, particularly those of minority groups, deserve special acknowledgment of their differences within a dominant political culture. In simple terms unity in diversity" (Staples 10). The begging question here is has multiculturalism brought good than bad, harmony in diversity? The response in my humble submission is NO. Multiculturalism has been and is still being used as a magical spell to strongly cement the so-called white dominance (Staples 24). For a long spell now it has been used in my view to blind many and sentry not to see and get the real truth underneath. Looked at it critically and deeper with an open mind despite the positive that multiculturalism ought to bring the opposite is true, it has created unchecked divisions socially, economically, and politically. From this angle of my perspective, I will argue against multiculturalism.

To start with multiculturalism an acute point of view, stands as a challenge to liberal democracy, by this I mean all citizens in any given country in America not being an exception is that all citizens have an inherent and exclusive right to equal treatment before the law. Despite the creation of this sound and prudent legislation, there exist lacunas, especially for the minority

races and cultures. On the surface of it, all things are pretty good but deep underneath the minority owns the brand. Gloria says “pachuco is a language of rebellion both against standard Spanish and standard English. It is a secret language” (Gloria 35). So, despite the noble idea of multiculturalism equal treatment lacks, she contrasts with how her American colleagues manipulate her to converse and how her Spanish pals wish her to converse to fit in the perceived dominant standard language. In this case, liberty to choose who you are as per your language of expression becomes a mountain to climb in a society that has a definition of a standard language to speak, failure to which you are viewed as others as in the case of Gloria.

Secondly, unity becomes elusive. With the existence of multiculturalism to foster unity among individuals in question that given that yearns to achieve in many instances it becomes a mirage. Mirage in the point of view that, members tend to see themselves as belonging to a given special race instead of being part of a larger community. At this point, it is inevitable for disunity not to occur, the dominant race will look down upon the minority. Brent Staples “just walking by” the choice of words for the title signifies that as a black man in America as you just go on with your duties, walks around places the white race sees you the black man as a walking risk for them (Staples 2). Further, a black male’s body is capable of altering public space which calls in the social practices of the Americans, this in itself I if it can brood unity. Individuals have to see and treat each other as citizens for unity to prosper not the other way round of racial supremacy.

On the third front, multiculturalism breeds competing interests amongst cultural entities all struggling to be recognized. In this scenario, the two or three competing races are normally the dominant ones overrides. There should not be competition in the face of multiculturalism instead the fact should be to promote a level ground for all. But when the competition takes the center stage it only but reinforces the dominance of the dominant culture or race. Brent staples

say "Black men have a firm place in New York mugging literature. I often witness that hunch posture, from women after dark on the streets of Brooklyn where I live" (Staples 61) this demonstrates that when the competition sets in on who is who and how it becomes nasty. Brent paints a grim picture of how black men are viewed and treated to present a stereotypical projection about blacks that they are inherently muggers and rapists. This in itself sells for the dominant race to stamp its authority against the blacks not necessarily that they are as perceived.

Moreover, multiculturalism, breeds discrimination as the fight for identity rages. Identity is key for an individual not in separation to strive in achieving it but in commonality. But as the more the minority group strives to be respected by all means necessary the dominant race or culture fears being overtaken, the desire to be the one in control, overtakes the common good (Doran and Singh 476). It can be detailed by the fact that when privileges of a certain group are given more attention than the other a point might be missed, by eliminating majority interests. By all respect, it should foster that elusive togetherness in diversity to bring about the much-needed harmony among individuals, to bring about acceptance, self-esteem building, and integrity among the human race. Mutual respect and understanding should be the guiding principle for co-existence, not division and discrimination.

Lastly, it tends to breed multicultural politics, this by the notion that multiculturalism has direct links with politics. (Chris and Oni 111- 118). When this happens, the main interest is to try to champion the needs of the individuals and align themselves to the public domain to proclaim their stance, need, and recognition. This rides on the fact every individual has a right on their own and that given right is not forthright per sey, which ignites the need to own it by force which should not be the case. For in the result recognition and redress of past inequalities is the driving force(Chris and Oni 111- 117). The expected point in this is that where multiculturalism exists

the fight for recognition should be easy which is the case one somewhere has to force it to happen, not the easy way though.

The above engagement on the multiculturalism that it stands as too liberal democracy, it makes unity elusive, privileges' the good of specific individuals over general interests, competition between cultural groups, and identity politics are enough facts to raise pertinent questions. The questions should be addressed to the citizens, public administrators, and most importantly the political class about the thorny never-ending issue of recognition. In almost every society there are a group of people who feel underprivileged because of race, religion, and sex which should be a pivotal point to champion interests of the diverse groups. When individuals in society feel equal, harmony is automatic and the aspect of stereotypical projection is minimized for the good of all. Thus by asking for recognition of and respect among and across races and religions multiculturalism will provide one major possible response to the need to appreciate, respect value, and increase the participation of the oppressed groups.

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