UNDERSTANDING “INTEGRATION”

The significance of evolving European models at national and local level

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Problems with “integration”

- Identity politics in Western European countries
- Contradiction: inclusion vs. exclusion
- Integration as “impossible” (nativism)
- The weight of national political traditions
Models of “integration”

• Axis 1 = National identity: political (France) vs. ethnic (Germany)

• Axis 2 = Rights: universal/individual (France) vs. group-based rights (UK, Netherlands)

• “Which model is the most efficient?”: Multiculturalism (accommodation logics) vs. Republicanism (assimilationist logics)
Definitional limits

• Misrecognizing group policies

• Policy rationales other than multiculturalism

• The risk of block-thinking (Charles Taylor)
Practical limits (quizz)

• In which country does the military Muslim chaplaincy organize every year the pilgrimage of Muslim soldiers to Mecca (Hajj)?
  • Netherlands
  • Britain
  • Canada
  • US
  • Sweden
  • France
  • Italy
  • Greece
Practical limits (answer)
Framing “integration”

• Production of equal members of societies
  • Society is integrated, not individuals (Durkheim)
  • Empowerment – “active” citizens
  • European integration and immigrant integration (postnational)
  • Local citizenship and pragmatism
• Roy Jenkins 1966: “not as a flattening process of assimilation but as equal opportunity, accompanied by cultural diversity, in an atmosphere of mutual tolerance”