

# Pluralism (1): Through the Lens of Multiculturalism

Multi-Ethnic Society (5)  
(May 15, 2014)

# Email assignment

- Assimilation as a mode and process (not as a goal): to which extent should we be “the same”?
- Spontaneous changes and policy-inductive changes
- Importance of social participation (structural assimilation): class, generation, and gender

# What is Multiculturalism?

- Some definitions

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiculturalism>

<http://urx.nu/8fG1>

- Introduced in Australia and Canada, etc. as their national policy (in Japan it is called “multicultural coexistence / 多文化共生” or alike)
- Types: liberal, corporate, critical, etc.

# Pluralism in Malaysian Context: Before Independence

- Plural society (by Furnivall): existence of different ethnic groups without intermingling

@Cf. Dual economy (by Boeke)

→ Who was dominant, why Chinese and Indians?

→ Do you identify this situation as Multiculturalism”?

# Pluralism in Malaysian Context: After Independence (1)

- Big conflict between Malaysian and Chinese (in 1969)→ sensitive issue
  - Bumiputera: affirmative actions for Malay (Malaysian Malaysia, OneMalaysia)= New Economic Policy, Malay as national language, Islam as official religion, etc.
- Who are the Bumiputera?
- How do you characterize this situation?

# Pluralism in Malaysian Context: After Independence (2)

- Emergence of multi-ethnic middle class as a political force (Aziz 2012)
- Multicultural-like discourse (Yoshino 2002) and representations (in tourism “Truly Asia” meaning having “Asia’s three major races, plus various other ethnic groups”)

<http://urx.nu/8fRC>

- How do you characterize this situation?
- Wawasan (vision) 2020: more national integration

# Multiculturalism in Australia (1)

- White Australia / 白豪主義
  - How had the indigenous peoples been dealt with?
- Australia as an Asian country: shift of national identity and policy after WW II
  - When and what was the turning point?

# Multiculturalism in Australia (2)

- Different ethnic groups are:
  - Anglo-Saxons
  - Other Europeans
  - Asians
  - Indigenous peoples
- What kind of policies and why?

# Comparison and Discussion

- How to overcome colonial rules?
  - Malaysia: building unity with diversity
  - Australia: is colonizer's mentality (White Australia) overcome?
- What are the international context if any?
- What are the reasons for affirmative actions?

# References

- Aziz, Rahiman Abdul, 2012, “New Economic Policy and the Malaysian multiethnic middle class,” *Asian Ethnicity* 13(1)
- Balasubramaniam, Vejai, 2007, “A Divided Nation: Malay Political Dominance, Bumiputera Material Advancement and National Identity in Malaysia,” *National Identities*, 9(1)
- Haque, Shamusul M., 2003, “The Role of the State in Managing Ethnic Tensions in Malaysia,” *The American Behavioral Scientist*, 47
- Yoshino, Kosaku (吉野耕作), 2002, 「エスニシズムとマルチエスニシテイ——マレーシアにおけるナショナリズムの二つの方向性」小倉充夫・加納弘勝編『講座社会学16 国際社会』東京大学出版会

## 【Email assignment】

Give an example of society/country which incorporates a system to respect ethnic diversity, though it is not named multiculturalism.

## 【Preparation】

What are the effectiveness and (theoretical) backgrounds of affirmative action (and the like)? You may discover examples of affirmative actions in other countries.