
GLOSSARY

Accommodation: Individuals and groups establish harmony in circumstances that arise as a result of competition and/or conflict and/or differences (often considered synonymous with ‘adaptation’). An example of accommodation is to acknowledge and observe different groups’ religious holidays.

Assimilation: The blending of two previously distinct groups into one (socially, culturally, and even economically). More often than not, however, the process involves the minority absorbing and incorporating into the culture of the majority group.

Colonialism: An imperial process in which one sovereign state gradually expands its territories by occupying and incorporating new territory and settling its people on those lands, frequently through political, psychological, and economic control. Often, this appropriated territory is not only geographically a long way away from the imperialist nation but is also equally distant from it culturally, economically, and politically. Traditional colonial practice was to take control over specific, circumscribed areas, purely in order to further colonists’ commercial (trading) interests and strategies.

Imperialism: Any process, including military aggression, through which a nation establishes and enforces her rule and control over others’ lands. Imperialist expansion is like a race to seize control over whole (often large) areas, even when there is no prospect of any immediate economic benefits for the conquerors (as was the case in many of the areas taken over in Africa in the late 19th century).

Conformity: Individuals live up to the expectations or rules of society. Those who break the rules of society, e.g., speaking or dressing differently from everyone else, threaten its strength and its ability to stick together (See: Unity).

Empire: A political unit having an extensive territory (typically gained through conquest) or comprising a number of territories or nations and ruled by a single supreme authority. Examples include the Akkadians, Babylonians, Persian, Romans, and Ottomans.

Freedom: The ability to think or speak or act without restraint or fear of punishment.

Integration: An additive bicultural strategy in which groups are able to preserve their religious, cultural, and linguistic identities while fully participating in their adopted home country’s civic and political life.

Nation: A large aggregate of people united by common descent, history, culture, religion, or language, inhabiting a particular country or territory with a clear geographical location and recognized borders.

Nationalism: Serves as a form of unity (See: Unity) within a state. Efforts are made to ensure that individuals are loyal and proud to be from the place they are from. An example includes reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tolerance: A way of treating others' individuality with respect. Accepting and appreciating the diversity of the world in an attempt to seek peace and harmony.

Unity: Ties in a group or society that bind people together as one. These ties are typically based on family relationships and/or shared values.

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