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Ethnic Diversity in USA : a Challenge of Integration and Assimilation in a Melting Pot

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DEDICATION1

*I dedicate this work to my dearest parents, the source of my inspirations and i
thank for their devotion.*

To my brothers,

and my niece Amina may Allah protect her then, finally,

to all my friends and colleagues at the university of Tlemcen

Touria MORGHAD

DEDICATION2

I dedicate this work to my dear parents, the source of my inspirations.

To my dear husband and the jewel of life my son Ramzeddine,

to my brother and my sisters and their families,

to my mother and sisters in law then,

to all my friends especially Asma and Fatima.

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Abstract

This dissertation deals with ethnic and racial diversity in the United State of America this society is full of several ethnic groups with different histories, cultures, languages, religions and ways of life. This diversity made the United State of America a Melting Pot society which is a mixture of ethnic groups. .the study aims at focusing on United States as a diverse country in which we show that immigration was the main reason behind this diversity .Many immigrants from different ethnicities left their countries and motherlands heading towards the United States on account of many causes which prevented to stay there. However, they faced other problems and obstacles in the host country .The main results derived from this research are: first the different ethnic groups faced many impediments however they could come over them .Second these immigrants were assimilated and integrated in the United States society.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAE	African American. English
OCA	Orthodox Church of America
RC	Roman Catholic
9/11	September 11th 2001
DC	Washington District of Columbia
MAS	Muslim American Society
USA	United States of America
WASP	White Anglo Saxon Protestants

General Introduction

General introduction

This research is about the diversity and assimilation in the United States of America .It deals with the variety of ethnic and social groups which are different in terms of history, culture, language and religion. We have many groups such Africans, Chinese, Arabs and Jewish. Those groups escaped from their countries and came to America as immigrants, persecuted or forcibly transported. Yet, after their settled in USA they faced many difficulties and problems in host country in which they suffered from the slavery, racism, insularity, oppression, joblessness and violence from the society .They fought hard to be normal citizens with an independent identity .They strove to be absorbed and accepted as full citizen in the USA community in terms of rights whatever their cultural and ethnic differences.

The diversity in USA strengthened the country and helped the development and even made the United States a super power in the world .The motives that led us to choose this topic are :First we as researchers we are from the third world from which came the majority of the ethnic groups who settled America .Second the topic of ethnicity and multiplicity in America is interesting and rich topic. We deal with it in order to know more about the variety in America and how those groups immigrated to United States of America and the causes behind their immigration.

Diversity and assimilation in United States is a puzzling issue because America comprises of several racial groups which are absolutely different in all domains. But eventually, all those differences are unified to form a united nation that is USA .Thus; this issue leads us to ask two questions in order to find answers to this problematic:

- What is meant by diversity, ethnicity and how they reached in USA?
- To what extent do these ethnic groups fuse and integrated in USA and how?

The main purpose of this dissertation is to demonstrate that United States as a nation of immigration is an incontrovertible fact and Americans are ready to accept diversity as a source of unity ,in order to better deal with the issue of variety and to show how this diversity enhanced problem solving and increased productivity and that the power of America is based on unity and equality of opportunity and also in order to know how those groups immigrated to United States of America and the causes behind their immigration .

Thus, two chapters are included within this research .The first chapter presents an overview on ethnicity and diversity in the United States in which we dealt with diversity of ethnic groups, languages, religions and cultures .Whereas the second chapter includes the way this diversity appeared in United States through immigration, and the problems and difficulties the immigrants faced there and the way they absorb each other to be a unified society.

***Chapter one: Ethnic diversity
in USA: A literary review***

1.1. Introduction:

The United States is a nation of immigrants. There were sequent waves of immigrants from around the world. The American people come from every culture, religion, ethnicity, and speak different languages of the world. The first part of this study tries to show the historical backgrounds of ethnicity in America, talks about ethnic groups, and their assimilation in the American society and the diversity of religion in America.

1.2. Ethnicity

Ethnicity suggests a shared, receorigin, cultural heritage and way of life. Ethnicity is often a major exporter of social in coherence and social conflict. Ethnicity is associated by practices, perspectives, and distinctions. It is a part of one group of people. However, the main characteristics distinguishing several ethnic groups are ancestry, language, religion. The concept of ethnicity came back to the Greek word ethnos. Today's most countries consist of different ethnic groups. Hector Betancourt says: "The concept of ethnicity is related to the Greek concept of ethnos, which refers to the people of a nation or tribe, and ethnikos". (1993, P 631). Hector Betancourt explains that Ethnicity is linked to the the Greek, who indicates to the people of a nation or tribe .Ethnicity refers to the Ethnic quality or affiliation of a group that is characterized in terms of culture.

We can follow as the Sergio Romero view:

Another way in which social groups are similarly distinguished is through ethnicity a shared heritage defined by common characteristics such as language, religion, cultural practices and nationality that differentiate one group from other groups. (2014, P240).

Sergio Romero describes ethnicity as a part of heritage defined by common characteristics such as language, religion, cultural practices and nationality that distinguish one group from other groups.

Ethnicity covers an important role field of study for social scientist. In which, some expert see the ethnic issue of assimilation and integration is affect of homogenization to create a nation. The phenomenon of ethnicity has socio-political realities of multi-ethnic or plural cultural societies.

1.3. Ethnicity in U.S.A.

The United States is one of the most ethnically divers countries in the world. The people of the United States represent various ethnic groups with different cultural and religious backgrounds, all of whom help to explain the complex picture of what it means to be an American. The American society includes American Indians, Chinese, Arabs, African Americans, and European Americans. By going back to history of roots of ethnicity in America, which is characterized as a nation of immigrants? That is in part due to successive waves of immigrants from around the world. Hector Betancourt view: "Immigration and internal migration have greatly complicated most aspects of American life, economy, politics, and geography." (1993,p634).

1.3.1. Native American

Native Americans in the United States are the indigenous peoples from the regions of North America, and parts of Alaska. They include a large number of distinct tribes. The first inhabitants of the Americas are "American Indians" . It is a name given to Indian people by outsiders . They settled in different regions in the country California, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Alaska, Florida, North Carolina, and South Dakota that experienced the greatest growth of this ethnic group.

There are 567 tribes, including 229 Alaska Native communities, recognized by the federal government. The Bureau of Indian Affairs the primary federal agency in charge of relations with indigenous communities is also considering extending federal status to Native Hawaiian. Every of the federally recognized tribes is a nation unto itself, self-determining and self-governing that maintains a government-

to-government relationship with the United States. Native American tribes retain their cultural heritage such as sculpt, and even sew traditional clothes. Nevertheless, many Indian American communities live in poverty. (Barnhardt,p56).

The history of Native American began with the arrival of Columbus as the beginning of diseases, exploitation, enslavement, and genocide while settlers of European colonies started an aggressive policy of expansion based on weakening and wearing down Native Americans. Francis Flavin posits that:“In the nineteenth and early twentieth century’s native peoples either created texts of their own or allowed their testimonies to be transcribed by others”.

American Natives provide a distinct perspective on the formation of ethnic identity. American Indians are the only specific racial group to be mentioned in the Constitution they include an ethnic identity contains of many linguistic, cultural, and religious groups. Each group has its own political, legal, and police system, economy and land. Joane Nagel said that:

American Indian ethnicity is regulated can be both internal and external to native communities, and involves official membership in Indian tribes. In this case, tribal, state, and/ or federal governments recognize an individual as an "enrolled" member or not. (1950,p950).

Joane Nagel suggests that American Indian ethnicity is related both internal and external to native societies, and involves formal membership in Indian tribes. When Federal governments recognize an individual as an "enrolled" member or not.

Today, American Indians in the United States have all the rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution, could vote in elections, and run for political office. Controversies remain over how much the federal government has jurisdiction over tribal affairs, sovereignty, and cultural practices. Native American is an important a way to describe part of the history of America, of the colonization of the Americas and especially U.S.A.

1.3.2. African American

African Americans or Black Americans are terms used for citizens of the U.S from a native population of Africa. In addition, most of them are descend from enslaved Africans transported by the Atlantic Slave Trade. They brought from different ethnic groups from western and central Africa, who composed the third largest ethnic groups in the United States; they practiced a different array of religions, including Christianity, Islam, and various traditional faiths. They are called by different names by white American, such as colored and Negro, The term “Negro” used widely for African Americans, “Black” as the dominant name replaced that the term “Negro”. Nahum D Chandler wrote in his book “For, indeed, although it is rather typically assumed, too simplistically, that the grounds of historical and social existence and identification were placed in question for “Africans,” or “Negroes,” or “Blacks,” configured in this vortex”. The majority of them suffered of poverty, racism, discrimination and unemployment. They live in the South, in the largest cities, New York City, Chicago. Detroit, Philadelphia, and Houston.(Chandler,p347).

By going back to the history of America, the first African American came as slaves. They have been captured in Africa. The majority settled in the Mississippi valley and in the areas that became South Carolina and Mexico. In 1861 the outbreak of the American Civil War between the North and the South, as President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which abolished slavery in those states that had seceded. in 1865. Slavery was abolished throughout the United States.(Taylar,p1402).

The beginning of the 21st century, black men and women had taken seats in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. As a black man has got the presidency of the United States in 2008 his name “Barak Obama” .In fact, the average income of Blacks is still lower than that of Whites, particularly of young men, in fact, many African Americans are still in poverty and crime; they have influenced the social and economic standing of this group.

1.3.3. Arab American

Arab Americans include 22 countries; they live in all 50 states. Lebanon is the homeland of the most of Arab Americans, followed by Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Egypt, Yemen, and Jordan. Today, the demographics signalize that the Lebanese are still the single largest Arab-American sub-group in the United States. However, the naming of Lebanese today includes both Muslim and Christian Lebanese. In addition, Arab Americans shape and ethnicity made up of several waves of immigrants from the Arabic-speaking countries of southwestern Asia and North Africa. (Naber, p343).

The first Arabs immigrated to America around 1800s, they were mostly Christians from Greater Syria (present-day Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, Jordan and Syria), and Nadine Naber wrote her book “Although most Arabs are Muslim, the Arabs who immigrated to the U.S. During the first period (1880-1945) were predominantly Christian of the Eastern right sects of Greater Syria .They came to flee the economic hardships they were facing because of decline in the silk industry, which had been the basis of their economy. Most of these Arabs were poor, uneducated and unskilled. They believed themselves temporary settlers in American, kept to themselves, their way of life, and instituted their own churches, mosque or newspapers. Many were worked hawker. (Khalaf,p20).

The majority of Arabs immigrants meant to gain wealth and return to their country of origin, they came from what was known as greater Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Israel. These immigrants were both Christian and Muslim. Between 1917 and 1924, the United State Congress passed the Quota Act¹ and the Immigration Act². After World War II, This immigrates saw some Muslims to Christians, professionals, students, refugees from the 1948 Palestine War, and others. As the third immigration started after the Immigration Act of 1965 gave

¹ 1921 The Emergency Quota Act was a law signed by President Harding to restrict the levels of immigration to the United States by establishing a temporary quota system.

² The Immigration Act of 1924 limited the number of immigrants allowed entry into the United States through a national origins quota. The quota limited immigration visas to 2% of the total number of people of each nationality in the United States, according to the 1890 national census. All immigrants had to obtain a visa from an American consul in their country of origin.

equal access to immigrants who were not from Europe. A larger and more diverse group of Arab Americans. (Saliba.,p 35).

In fact, approximately 63% of Arab Americans are Christian, about 24% are Muslim, and others are unaffiliated. In the Middle East, near half of Lebanese people are Christian Arab American Christians belong to Roman Catholic, Eastern Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant churches along with other Americans They are among the many ethnic groups that shape the population of the United States. That population is noticed dramatically in the 20th century, that a longer numbers of them. (Naff, p33)

1.3.4. Jewish Americans

Jewish Americans are Americans who are Jews, by religion, ethnicity. Jewish ethnic group includes Sephardic Jews, Mizrahi³ Jews, and a smaller percentage of converts to Judaism. Jewish is an ethnic identity and a religious one. The United States is home to the largest or second largest Jewish community in the world.

During the sixteenth century the first Jewish immigrants to settle in the United States they arrived in New York where they established their synagogues in their tradition. Elkin stated “The history of the Jews of Latin America begins in the mid-nineteenth century with the arrival of Jews from Europe,” (2014,p21). Between 1840 to 1880 German Jews came to America in great numbers, because of persecution, restrictive laws, economic hardship, and the failure of movements. Waxman said that: “The Eastern European Jewish immigrants arrived at a point during which the United States was rapidly becoming urbanized, and they settled in the ethnic neighborhoods in the country's largest cities”. They have seen to America as a place of economic and social opportunity. A large number of Eastern European Jews started to immigrate to the United States.(Winter.p54).

³ Mizrahi Jews, is a socio-political term describing Jews from Arab and/or Muslim lands, including Jews from North Africa, the Middle East, and parts of the Caucasus.

In fact, America's Jewish community is largely Ashkenazic, it trace their ancestry to Germany and Eastern Europe. American Jewish ethnicity grew from a complex synthesis of Jewish immigrant and American life. German Jewish immigrants to the United States, who pioneered in developing ethnic Jewish fraternal associations, elaborated a religious definition of Jewish group identity.

1.3.5. Chinese American

Chinese-Americans are Americans of full Chinese ancestry. They shape one group of overseas Chinese and a subgroup of East Asian Americans, and participate a similar racial, ethnic and religious background. The largest Chinese populations in the United States are centered in the major metropolitan areas of: New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, Seattle, Chicago, Philadelphia and Portland. The Chinese American community is the largest Asian ethnic group in the US; it represents only 25% of all Asian Americans.

During the nineteenth century, The Chinese had immigrated in significant numbers to Washington State. However, they established some communities; particularly in California and Hawaii. Because, they faced economic and political troubles in China. The majority of them came to the United States due to poverty and they wanted to make more money to send back to their poor families. In addition, Numbers of them. They entered to the United States illegally during the period of exclusion⁴. (Hooper & Batalova,p58)

Chinese Immigration to America started with the California Gold Rush⁵. The majority of immigrants have been come to settle in the United States permanently.

⁴ The Chinese Exclusion Act was passed by Congress and signed by Pres. Chester A. Arthur in 1882. It lasted for 10 years and was extended for another 10 years by the 1892 Geary Act, which also required that people of Chinese origin carry identification certificates or face deportation.

⁵ The California Gold Rush: The California Gold Rush (1848–1855) started on January 24, 1848 and attracted 300,000 prospectors when gold was discovered by James W. Marshall at Sutter's Lumber Mill in Coloma, California. The prospectors and gold seekers were called "forty-niners" or the "49ers" as the majority of them reached the location of the gold Fields in 1849 in search of instant wealth and riches beyond their wildest dreams.

Chinese workers migrated to the United States, to work in the gold mines, as agricultural laborers, on railroad construction and in low-paying industrial jobs; a number of them became entrepreneurs in their own right. They opened their own businesses such as restaurants, laundries (Zhou & Lee,p416).

According to, Act of 1965⁶ the Immigration and Naturalization that law changed the path the U.S. Calculated its immigrant population. Where allowed far more skilled workers and family members to enter the country than ever before, and eliminated the old quota system that gave preference to western Europeans. Chinese immigrants and Chinese-Americans have been contributed much to the U.S. economy. In 2002, there were over 286,000 Chinese-owned firms in the U.S., employing more than 649,100 workers, and generating more than \$105 billion in revenue. . However, it is still a distrust of Chinese and Chinese-Americans.

1.4. The Diversity of Religions in USA

Religion in the United States is characterized by both a wide diversity in religious beliefs and practices and by a high adherence level. A majority of Americans report that religion plays a "very important" role in their lives; many faiths have flourished in the United States that becomes one of the most religiously diverse countries in the world.

The issue of religious freedom has played a significant role in the history of the United States and the rest of North America. Europeans came to America to escape religious oppression and forced beliefs by such state-affiliated Christian churches as the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England. That civil unrest fueled the desire of America's ancestors to establish the organization of a country in which the separation of church and state, and the freedom to practice

⁶ Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 :A piece of U.S. legislation that abolished the national origins quota system that had composed American immigration policy since the 1920s, replacing it with a preference system that focused on immigrants' skills and family relationships with citizens or U.S. residents

one's faith without fear of persecution, was guaranteed. That guarantee was enshrined in the First Amendment¹³ to the Constitution. (Garnett,p40).

The First Amendment⁷ includes the separation of church and state; a phrase coined by Thomas Jefferson in an 1802 letter to a religious minority in Connecticut, the Danbury Baptists: "The First Amendment ensures the separation of church and state; a phrase coined by Thomas Jefferson in an 1802 letter to a religious minority in Connecticut".

The United States is a nation instituted on religious conflict. Where the colonies were established by those escaping religious persecution in Europe. According to some evidence that religion played a major role in the American Revolution. The United States under the First Amendment allows people to practice their religious beliefs, despite differences in creed or culture. Indeed the United States is very religiously diverse. (Emerson ,p39)

The Pew Research Center, 70.6% of the American populace recognized themselves as Christians, with 46.5% claiming Protestant, and 20.8% Catholic. The same study says that several religions Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism largely make up around 6% of the populace. America kept a country with no official religion.(Chong,p259).

1.4.1. Islam

Islam is the third largest religion in the United States after Christianity and Judaism, Islam is the fastest-growing religion in the world. As the second-largest religion after Christianity, Muslims are more than 20% of the world's population. Muslims consider their faith to be an extension of Abrahamic traditions, In Islam.

On the other hand, American Islam effectively started with the arrival of African slaves. It is estimated that about 10% of African slaves transported to the

⁷ The First Amendment of the United States Constitution prevents the government from setting up or establishing an official religion of the country. American Citizens have the freedom to attend a church, mosque, synagogue, temple, or other house of worship of their choice. They can also choose to not be involved in any religion as well. Because of the First Amendment, we can practice our religion however, we want *to*. www.thefreedictionary.com/First+Amendment

United States were Muslim. Research maintains that Muslims in the United States are generally more assimilated and prosperous than Muslims in Europe. Michael Suleiman says: «The first Muslims in North America were natives of West Africa, who arrived in the Sixteenth Century as slaves.»(1999.p41). Between 1880s and 1914, several thousand Muslims immigrated to the United States from the former territories of the Ottoman Empire and the former Mughal Empire. The Muslim population of the U.S. increased dramatically in the 20th century. They mostly originated from rural distinct of the Syrian province and escaped poor economic conditions.. In 1924, the National Origins Act limited Middle Eastern immigration to 100 persons yearly.(Suleiman,p72).

Islam is largely an immigrant faith, with 33% of adherents from South Asia, 27% from Arab countries, 9% from Africa, and 7% from other lands. As with other immigrants, Muslims tended to establish in urban areas and especially along the coasts of the Northeast and California. African-American Muslims are likewise urbanites meanwhile; the growth of the Muslim American community fostered the development of a variety of religious, political, cultural, economic, social, ethnic, and professional organizations (.Cainkar , p53).

Muslim Americans were affected by The September 11 attacks said to be led by Muslim terrorists; the situation became worse in their relationship with either American citizens or American government. Since Muslim Americans are part of American, society, this period was characterized by a drastic shift in US foreign policy ,giving birth to new laws against terrorism and military actions. (Grewal,p 13).

1.4.2. Christianity

The largest religion in the United States is Christianity, practiced by the majority of the population, Due to its large population and history, which has numerically more Christians and Protestants than any other country in the world. Today, Christianity has grown into an influential force throughout the world, especially in the West.

Meanwhile, by going back to American history, many of the colonies in 1776 that later became the United States of America were established by men and women most colonists believed themselves Christians. The broad Christian category includes Catholics, Protestants, Mormons and non-denominational Christians. Roman Catholicism arrived in what is now the United States during the first days of the European colonization of America the number of Catholics grew during 19th century due to immigration from Europe; they made Catholicism the largest Christian denomination in the United States. Gary Demar said: "all the colonies were founded on the religious precepts of Christianity, with the Bible as their statute book" (Garnett,p21).

The oldest Christian churches: Roman Catholicism, Anglicanism, and Eastern Orthodoxy, have left their unique stamp on the history of religion in America. Called "liturgical" for their adherence to an elaborate, set form of ritualistic worship practices, most of those churches observe seven sacraments throughout their members' lives. However, Roman Catholicism was not the first to arrive in the colonies, Roman Catholics ranks as the largest Christian tradition in the U.S. with 25.6 million members, or 23% of the population.(Marty,p41).

The Pew Research Center said in 2015, 24% of Americans identify as Catholic, 50% as Protestant or as members of another non-Catholic Christian religion, and 2% as Mormon. (Cainkar ,p78).

1.4.3. Judaism

Judaism is the third-largest religious affiliation in the United States. A significant number of people identify themselves as American Jews on ethnic and cultural grounds.

In the sixteenth century. The Jewish immigrants settled in the United States who arrived in New York. Tracing their root to Spain and Portugal, who established

their synagogues in that tradition. From 1840 to 1880, German Jews and east of Europe immigrated to America, because of escaping religious persecution, restrictive laws, economic hardship, and the failure of movements. They looked to America as a place of economic and religion freedom. (Waxman ,1999,p13).

Orthodox Jewish life in America brought about split among several communities of Orthodox Jews. Nevertheless, American Orthodox Jews were ethnically and culturally various. Congregations and religious foundations were created along lines of national and cultural background. Sephardic, German, Lithuanian, Polish, Hungarian, and Galician congregations were only some of the distinct communities represented in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other cities throughout the United States. They also differed in such matters as the modernization of synagogue services. (Hawk,p68).

According to, The Pew Research Center report on American Judaism revealed that 22% of Jewish Americans said that "no religion" and the majority of respondents do not see religion as the primary constituent of Jewish identity.(Arther,p193).

1.4.4. Buddhism

Buddhism is the fourth-largest religion in the world, after Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.It was established in Northern India by Siddhartha Gautama (circa 563 to 460 BCE) and has spread into much of the Far East. It is making major inroads into North America. American Buddhists includes many Asian Americans, a large number of converts of other ethnicities. Buddhism is a social morality that emphasizes the law of Karma, the total of good and evil done in this life and in previous ones which determines one's fate in life and rebirth in the next Stephen Spiro explains: "It is through morality that one increases one's store of merit; it is one's merit that determines one's karma; and it is one's karma that determines one's rebirth" (1967,p258).

By the beginning the 19th century , Buddhism first entered to the US out of Chinese immigrants who stabilized in the western parts of the United States in

addition by North Americans and Europeans who traveled to Asia and brought back with them Buddhist texts. In the latter part of the 1800s, the influence of Buddhist thought started in the literary works of Walt Whitman, such as, Henry Thoreau, and Ralph Waldo Emerson. In 1853, Chinese Americans founded the first Buddhist temple in San Francisco. While a most of the

Buddhist Churches of America's which they are ethnically Japanese, several members have non-Asian backgrounds. (Seager, p136).

In fact; no accurate figures are available, however the majority agree that there are about two million Buddhists in the US. They are what may be called ethnic Asian Buddhists. But they belong to an ethnically identified temple (Singhalese, Thai, Laotian, Chinese, etc.), and services are usually made in their native language. These groups serve as important centers for social adjustment and cultural conservation.

1.4.5. Hinduism

Hinduism the world's third largest religion, behind Christianity and Islam. Hinduism is the religion of the Hindus; it is the oldest of religions. That is one of the largest religions in the United States. The vast groups of Hindus have emigrated from India and other Asian countries since the enactment of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 opened the United States to migration from India once again. They live 2.5 million in North America.

During this period, Indian Hindus emigrated in significant numbers. Who were accepted mostly trained workers with technological skills in engineering, medicine, and computer science. These immigrants reached, they found limited resources for the expression of traditional kinds of Hinduism available in the United States. They often found themselves bounded by stereotypes of their ethnic and religious heritage and sometimes they suffered by institutionalized racism (Choe, p95).

The history of Hindu temples in the United States began with the one event that made Americans conscious of and raised shine about this religion. They indicate to the famous speech given by the legendary Hindu saint, Swami Vivekananda at the 1893 - who stressed on the genius of Hinduism, Temple building became one of the primary means by which Indian Hindu groups sought to confirm their public in the American religious landscape and support centers for the term of cultural and religious values. According to a study by the Pew Research Center, the United States Hindu population has reached 2.23 million, an increase of about one million or 85.8 percent since 2007, making Hinduism the fourth-largest faith (McNaly, p73).

1.4.6 Sikhism

Sikhism the fifth largest religion in the world was founded by Guru Nanak, The term Sikhism derives from Sikh that means a powerful and able disciple. There are about 23 million Sikhs worldwide large populations of Sikhs can be found in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. Sikhs regard their faith as an authentic, new divine revelation. Sikhs do not cut their hair, and cover their heads with turbans. Sikhism is different from Islam and Hinduism, Sikhism is an independent spiritual path with its own precepts, social principles and organization. Sikh Americans are part of the American fabric, working in every profession, Serving in our armed forces, and holding important positions in American political and civic life.

During the 16th century Sikhism emerged in India when there were many conflicts among the Hindu and Muslim religions. That was affected by repair movements in Hinduism. In addition, to some Sufi Muslim influences. While Sikhism reflects its cultural context, it advanced into a unique movement in India. This was introduced into the United States. That arrived in significant numbers to labor on farms in California. They were the first community to come from India to the US in massive numbers lived on the East and West Coasts, with populations in Detroit, Chicago, New York City Atlanta. (Patterson, p43).

Today, there are an estimated 700,000 Sikhs in the United States with Gurdwaras across the country. Despite their long history and contributions to the U.S., Sikh Americans have been the purpose of discrimination, following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Violence against Sikhs has seen a troubling rise, often accompanied by the attacker accusing the victims of belonging to al Qaeda or other Islamic terrorist groups. Sikh Americans continue to experience hate crimes, job discrimination, school bullying, and racism.

1.4.7. Irreligious Americans

Americans without a religious affiliation represent about 20% or more of the population and since the early 1990s, independent polls have shown their rapid growth. They include agnostics, atheists, and humanists. The proportion of Americans who say that they have no religious affiliation has increased. However, the pace of change quickened in the 1990s. This trend has received much media attention. According to the Pew Research Center In 2012, reported that 23% of Americans who affiliated with a religion were not religious. The religiously affiliated were 79% of the population, and the unaffiliated were 19.6%, including 6% atheist or agnostic in 2014, 22.8% of the American population does not identify with a religion, including atheists 3.1% and agnostics. (Kosmin ,p88).

1.5. The Concept of Melting Pot as an American Identifier

The term melting pot indicates to the concept that societies established by immigrant cultures, religions, and ethnic groups, that it is most commonly associated with America however, it is specially used to depict the assimilation of immigrants and became one homogenous group to the United State. J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur says:

Retreated from his earlier position on racial and religious mixture. Also rejects the idea of a single melting pot model for immigrant assimilation.

She argues that immigrants (including the Irish) retained important aspects of their heritages through succeeding generations. (letter III, 1782.).

The melting pot was written by J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur in 1782. His vision was to create a new community with European immigrants in America. Nevertheless, His idea has been very popular with many famous people in the past centuries. Crevecoeur declared that European will be living their ancient prejudice and manners and they will receive new ones in America. Here individuals of all nations are melted into a new race of men this representation caused many conflicts in the United States.

What then is the American, this new man?" that the American is one who leaving behind him all his ancient prejudices and manners, receives new ones from the new mode of life he has embraced, the government he obeys (,letter III, 1782).

J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur describes what he has seen upon coming to America and how different it would be from Europe. America has a far smaller gap between rich and poor and titles, based on class and honor. For the most part the people living in America are farmers and live in comfortable but modest houses. It is clear from the author's words that he thinks America is great place to live.

The conception came into being right after the American Revolution and is illustrated in Crevecoeur's description of what it meant to be an American in his "letters from an American farmer", the idea of the United States as a "melting pot" was strongly supported by people like the one Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote in 1845.

During this period 1902 and 1914. The term 'melting pot' began to be used more extensively than ever before, due to both the play *The Melting Pot* by Israel Zangwill that premiered in 1908 and the vast amount of immigrants that entered America. The conception of America as a melting pot suggests that emigrants can 'melt' into one homogeneous group and become Americans by assimilating to the dominant culture. The United States is referred to as a "melting pot" of people from a wide diversity of backgrounds. It is an assimilation of cultures, ethnic groups,

religions, ideas and traditions. That everyone who lives in the United States becomes a section of a larger culture that is American. (Milto,1964,p133).

1.5.1. Multiplicity In U.S.A.: A Colorful Panorama

1.5.1.1 As a Cultural Phenomenon

United States is the most diverse country in the world, races, ethnic groups, religion and languages. It refers to an ideology that is considered a benefit to the community. However, diversity remains an imperative factor for the United States. Diversity is a process towards which most Americans express powerful agreement is a source of American pride. Cultural diversity in colonial America was among new arrival who came from different backgrounds and spoke various languages. Consequently, these newcomer groups existed in several identity categories, these identities are differentiated from one another according to language, culture, race, ethnicity, and religion. Religious toleration is one legacy from America's multicultural past as the proliferation of sects and religious groups created numerous sub-cultures. Estimates of the divergent religious beliefs .American cultural and racial diversity has greatly increased as a result of immigration policies (Nadal ,p84).

1.5.1.2. Language of Black Ebonics.

Black-American English is a kind of language which has been identified at different times in dialectology as Black English, black dialect, and Negro English. Since the late 1980.it is called Ebonics that is the result of Black Slaves and their descendants who had to learn how to speak the English language. The English language of their White slave Masters. When Africans were brought over to America as slaves, they did not speak English. They only spoke African "tribal languages" the majority of the slaves were sent to southern states. This English is what many Black-Americans speak among themselves, just like many other people speak another language besides English inside their homes.(Chandle,p67)

1.5.1.3. Language of Jewish.

Most American Jews today are native English speakers. A variety of other languages are still spoken within some American Jewish communities, communities that are representative of the various Jewish ethnic divisions from around the world that have come together to make up America's Jewish population. but, Hebrew was the everyday language of Jews Hebrew continued to be spoken and read, but primarily in sacred contexts. Jewish English has a Modern Hebrew component, which is likely to be present in all Jewish languages developing in contemporary times. (p114)

1.5.1.4. Language of Arab.

The Arabic language is the fastest-growing foreign language taught at U.S. colleges and universities, growing 12.9% from 2002 to 2006 and another 6.6% from 2006 to 2009 as the result of immigration from different parts of the Arabs world, they speak different dialects of arabic. There are many different types of major Arabic dialects That are used for daily communication and are acquired naturally as the mother tongue .they speak inside at home. (Naff,p45)

1.5.1.5 Language of Chinese.

Most Chinese arrived in the United States knowing only the various dialects, after World War II, all major Chinese dialects were brought to America. Such as Cantonese, Putonghua, Minnan, Chaozhou, Shanghai, and Kejia. Today, Chinese is preserved through homes, community language schools, newspapers, radio, and television, and increasingly, through foreign language classes at mainstream schools and universities.

1.5.2. Assimilation: a concept of integration

Assimilation refers to the process which individuals and groups takes on the characteristics of the dominant culture. Assimilation is a opposed term, especially in

a multiethnic and racial dynamic society as the United States of America. The recent debates over American national identity and the changing realities of the United States, point; to the need to consider the concept as a social process stemming from immigration. The sociologist Nathan Glazer describes assimilation in relation to the American experience, he says:“Assimilation is not a popular term. Recently I asked a group of Harvard students taking a class on race and ethnicity in the United States what their attitude was to the term “assimilation”(1920.96).

Assimilation was favored during the great immigration in 1900s planned to make the United States their new home and through the Second World War. Since early colonial times the English followed by the Germans, Irish, Italians, and Russians dominated .Many researcher have explained the assimilation rate for post 1965 immigrants in the United States with experiences of immigrants who entered the United States between 1880 and 1920.Milton Gordon is a major name in the field of assimilation studies with his landmark “Assimilation in America Life” 1964. (Milton,p150).

1.6. Conclusion

We saw in this chapter how the United States is a nation of immigrants. Which have different ethnic group that formed an important community and established several institutions to practice their cultures, their languages, and their religious. However, diversity is not all the time negative. Ethnic diversity in U.S.A. is enrichment to the country .The power of America has always been in its people .Ethnic groups have contributed into the making of the most powerful nation. However, different immigrant groups regardless of their races, religions try to live in harmony in the land where their dreams can come true. Assimilation have been dealt realities throughout the history minorities relations in the U.S.A.

Chapter two: Assimilation
a game of fusion

2.1. Introduction

This chapter is devoted to immigration to the United States of America .It comprises the way of and the causes behind the immigration of some ethnic minorities as Black African Americans ,Chinese Americans ,Jewish Americans and Arab Americans .It deals with the suffering of those immigrants groups and their strife with the host country to be normal citizens ;this chapter tackles also the assimilation in the United States of America in which although America is a mixture of several ethnic groups with different cultures,traditions ,languages , way of behaving and many differences between them, they could assimilate and fuse with each other and became one nation followed one culture and one civilization.

2.2. Sources of multiplicity in USA

Multiplicity is the term used by government policies that promote pluralism .It is a political response which assumes different ethnicities in the sense of coherent clusters of beliefs ,traditions ,customs ,values and observances .It is obvious that the United States of America is a heterogeneous society ,home to a wide variety of ethnic groups .This multiplicity and diversity made America a diverse country because of many sources which made those ethnic groups settled to the USA and the main one was the immigration .But also the immigration was different from one ethnic group to another .There are some groups which they leave their countries with their desire and consensus such as the Arabs and Chinese who immigrated to America the land of dreams as they thought it searching for a better life than their lives in their mother lands with more opportunities and to get new chances. Others were oppressed to leave their countries such as Africans or Blacks were taken as slaves forcibly to U.S.A through slave trade because they were wellknown of their hard working abilities and different skills and professions .Then the Jewish also quitted their motherlands because of different reasons as famine ,starvation,desease and terrible poverty and the main one is the religious oppression from the Christians

in Europe .they obliged them wether to believe with Christianity or leave the country .Thus, they preffered to immigrate escaping from political persecution.

2.3.Immigration to the United States of America:

2.3.1. Black African American immigration :

In the 360 years between 1500 and the end of the slave trade in the 1860s, at least 12 million Africans were forcibly taken to America .This forcible immigration in human history conveys some 50 ethnic and linguistic groups. The majority went to South America and the Caribbean. In the mid 1600s, Africans predominated Europeans in budding cities .

Slavery in America started in the early 17th century when the first African thralls were transported to Virginia in 1619 to help in the production of some gainful products such as tobacco and cotton. Slavery was executed by the American colonies throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. African American slaves played a great role in the construction of the economic establishments of the new nation. The invention of the cotton gin in 1793 settled the great significance of slavery in the economy of the South so with the growing of demand of the products the slaves became the foundation of the economy (black history slavery in America)

In the late 18th century, the abolitionist movement in the United States of America was a trial to stop slavery in a state that estimated personal freedom and knew that all men are created equal. Through time, abolitionists became more strict and severe in their requests, and this establishment of slave holders was the principle cause of regional divisiveness that at the end led to the American Civil war .

The abolitionist movement started in the North and the country began to divide over this affair between North and South. In 1820, the Missouri Compromise prohibited slavery in all new western regions, which Southern states considered as impedance to the establishment of slavery itself. In 1857, the Supreme Court decision known as the Dred Scott Decision said that:

"Negroes or blacks were not citizens and had no rights of citizenship and slaves that escaped to free states were not free but remained the property of their owners and must be returned to them".

The decision made an antagonism between many Northerners and brought new breath and new life into the blunder Abolition Movement (curry, may 2007, issue of the british heritage magazine)

The election of Abraham Lincoln the member of the anti-slavery Republican Party and was the 16th president of the United States of America in 1860, he is the leader who prosecuted the civil war to protect the nation. Lincoln satisfied to convince many Southerners that slavery would never be allowed to widen into new territories obtained by the US government and might be eliminated at the end. Eleven Southern states tried to secede from the Union, accelerating the Civil War.

During the war, Abraham Lincoln released his well known Emancipation Proclamation in which he granted freedom to slaves in all areas of the country that were at that time in rebellion and still did not recognize his authority . This war measure aided the deny of prevent European involvement on the side of the South and made the Union army and navy officers free and the escaped slaves returned to their owners, but until after the Union had prevailed the war and the later passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution were the American slaves obtained their freedom and became free officially (civil war magazine)⁸

After the declaration of the end of slavery and the North won the war, slaves became free; some of them chose to leave plantations and others moved up to the North to work on the railroads or as nannies, cooks or house cleaners and others wanted to start and create their own business and work .Some people went out West to be settlers or cowboys in contrast to others who wanted to go back to Africa (K.E.CARR,p14)

After the freedom of slaves, the Whites did not accept them. The Blacks still did not have any land to farm or owned any other properties and if they tried to get

⁸ Civil war magazine: [www.historynet.com/Abraham Lincoln /North America/after1500/black people htm](http://www.historynet.com/Abraham%20Lincoln%20/North%20America/after1500/black%20people%20htm)

something, the white people attacked them so most of them stayed on their works of planting and picking cotton but instead of slaves they were sharecroppers. Although, they took their freedom but the white people still frightened black people by killing them without any reason and for nothing.

For the whites, no one can condemn or judge them in the South but the black people indicted of crimes were often killed without judgment .White Workers Federations did not let the black people join them and the white owners always gave them hard and tiring works and paid them very lower wages. Therefore Black people decided to form their own unions or joined new unions as the STFU (The Southern Tenant Farmers Union) which is an association that had both White and Black members who aided them to obtain good salaries and better working settlements (karr,departement of history portland state university,April 2016,p16)

Du Bois proclaimed that:

"The history of the American Negro is the history of this strife, this longing to attain self-conscious manhood, to merge his double self into a better and truer self. In this merging he wishes neither of the older selves to be lost... He simply wishes to make it possible for a man to be both a Negro and an American..." W.E.B. Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk & Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt 1933-1945 & Movements of the New Left 1950-1975*

2.3.2.Chinese Americans:

Chinese Americans are the oldest and largest ethnic group of Asian origin in the United States and the third foreign group in the United States after Mexicans and Indians. In the mid of 19th century, most Chinese immigrants came to the united states mainland as contracted workers in manufacturing , construction and service industries. They worked also on plantation and farm economy in Hawaii and in the mining factory on the West Coast and later they worked in Rocky Mountains on the transcontinental railroads. Some of them recognized their gold dreams and started thinking to find to themselves easy ways and goals in which they draw their own independent identity and they began the development of their situation day by day.

In the 1870s, white workers were defeated because of an economic adversity, business market and certainly capitalist imposition transformed to an enmity and racist offensives against the Chinese which named them the "yellow peril" . They suffered from a long period of settlement and migration in 1840s which included about 60 years of legal insularity. (Lai and Argüelles Asian week magazine,p 6)

Legal insularity⁹ or exclusion increased by extralegal oppression and the violence against Chinese led the Chinese out of the farms, mines and astrologers, woolen mills and factories, and industries on the West Coast. As a consequence, many Chinese workers in the United States lost prospect and hope of ever realizing their goals and dreams and came back to china permanently. Similarly, the others who could not endure or were very timid to return to China; they turned towards Chinatown in San Francisco to protect themselves .

When they went to Chinatown, they were separated and isolated from the rest of the population. It was very difficult and impossible to assimilate into the whole society. Thus, Chinese were criticized because of their alleged unassimilability and after Chinese workers were prohibited from immigrating to America by the Chinese exclusion act of 1882¹⁰. Its passage was a turning point event the happened in the American history. The act also signed a crucial departure from the conventional American policy of the absolute and unrestricted immigration (Wei,p25)

After China became a Confederate¹¹ during World War II, the exclusion laws demonstrated and proved to be confusion and were finally canceled and prohibited by the Magnuson Act¹² in 1943. This bill made Chinese naturalized citizens and gave them an annual quota of 105 immigrants.(New York Antheneum 1963, p25) While the bill stopped an unfairness which perpetrated a long duration

⁹ Legal insularity or legal exclusion is the act committed against chinese which augmented by extralegal persecution and anti-chinese violence

¹⁰Chinese exclusion act of 1882:is the act which forced Chinese to flee to Chinatowns

¹¹ Confederate:is that China became an ally in the first world war

¹² Magnuson Act is the exclusion laws proved to be finally the Magnuson act to make it possible for Chinese to become naturalized citizens

of sixty one years in which harm and damage to the Chinese community had already been done.

Between the 1890s and 1920s, the Chinese Americans refused, but the worst impact was to undermine the most important thing to the Chinese which is their families. Chinese men were obliged to live alone and bachelors in their lived in the China town which was a male dominated society. Meanwhile, wives and children were obliged to stay in China and rarely they saw their fathers and husbands. This kind of splits made the preservation of the strong family members very difficult and hard (New York Antheneum, p25)

The new immigration law varied in United States. The Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965¹³ allowed for more skillful laborers and family members to enter the country and removed the old quota system. There was a resulting surge in the Chinese American population in almost ten years. These new groups of immigrants were not as immigrants of 1800s and 1900s who they came from the rural areas.

The new immigrants came from urban cities such as Hong Kong and Taiwan, and they had very great anticipations of social mobility. Some of them were professionals. They and their families inserted easily in cities throughout the United States. (Golden venture documentary 2006).

From the 1980s, many Chinese joined the migrating waves to United States , particularly from the province of Fujian. The Fujianese immigrants have renewed the Chinatowns notion. In New York, the Fujianese clustered around E. Broadway, which is the national center for immigrants from Fujian. Immigrants went to the employment agencies along E. Broadway to find restaurant jobs in other parts of the country. Whole sale restaurant business in New York supplied the great number of Chinese restaurants around the US. As the flow of immigrants from Taiwan, China, and Hong Kong the Chinese-American communities in both large cities and

¹³ Act of 1965:is the act which abolished the quota system and allowed Chinese to emigrate to United States of America

suburbs continued to conform to the challenges that came with a growing nation full of diversity (a documentary about the US immigration crisis,2015)

2.3.3. Jewish American immigration :

In the Middle Ages by the 10th century almost of Europe was under the command and rules of Christian monarchs imposed Christianity the faith and the belief of their territories .This caused an oppression and ejection of Jews from European countries. Because of this Jewish must practice Judaism in private to avoid persecution. Therefore, England became completely unforgivable towards Jews. On July 18, 1290, King Edward I imposed the decree of Expulsion that expelled all Jews living in England. The Jews were permanently permitted to live in England again until 1656. Other European countries went after this resolution as Spain, France, Germany, Austria and Italy that also drove out Jews. The refugees from Western Europe escaped mostly to Poland and Lithuania, and from there moved to the rest of Eastern Europe. Poland became land of the greatest and most considerable Jewish community in the world.(jewish immigration to america by Linda Alchin 2017)

The main reason behind the immigration of jews to United States was a religious oppression and the persecution practiced by the Christian rules that dominated countries of Europe. And also some other important reasons for their immigration which were the escaping from the starvation and the famine, disease and terrible poverty of their countries. The religious injustice and political disorder by the highly tyrannical class systems and monarchies drove to revolutions,cruelty, violence and social cluster. Immigration to the United States of America displayed escapers from persecution to safety and to new chances and opportunities .The first Jewish migrants toward the United States of America came from Spain and Portugal. A small number of Jews participated in the protests when the Spanish Inquisition demanded transformation and diversion to Catholicism, made the living in those countries an impossibility. The great number of the Jewish migrants to United States of America who came firstly are from Holland which was virtually

the only Jewish refuge and shelter in Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries. The forgiveness and the tolerance of Holland towards Jews was expanded to her dominions in the New World. In 1614 the first Dutch explorers demanded the land which became recognized as New Netherland. That included and comprised areas of the Mid-Atlantic States which become known as New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Delaware, and Connecticut. Among the effective stock holders of the Dutch West India Company which was established in 1620, were a number of Jews. In 1624, Dutch traders working with the Dutch West India Company traveled to America and founded trading jobs and adjustment. This phase of Jewish immigration resulted in an established development of the great New York Jewish community (Jewish immigration to America by Linda Alchin 2017)

In 1880, the Jewish population had reached approximately 250,000, after 40 years, in a community which had arrived about four million equivalent to 90 percent emigrant came from Eastern Europe to the United States. This large wave of immigration had an enormous influence on the American Jewish community. The newcomers immigrants tended to cluster and wanted to live in the poorer regions of the capitals. Most of them stayed in the great commercial, industrial, and cultural centers of New York firstly, then Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore and of the Midwest in particular Chicago. Certain districts in these towns became full of Jewish and exclusively for them, crowded and bustling with a wealthy and typically and regularly Jewish way of life. (Jewish immigration from Europe. How the Jews changed America and America changed the Jews. by ELI BARNAVI).

The catastrophes which touched East European Jewry during World War I, and after the consequences of this war they expedited the progress of American Jewish charitable organizations. The principal Jewish charity and aid organization is "The Joint" (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee), founded in November 1914, marshaled large-scale financial, medical, and social relief for their Jewish brethren in Europe. The oldest Jewish defense organization in the United States, the American Jewish Committee, was afraid to be indicted or accused of

double fidelity and loyalty, was content to pursue and practice a politics of separated diplomacy.

The postwar period testified the expansion of the American Zionist movement which was improving a completely various soul from the revolutionary type and brand of European Zionism. Under the leading by Louis D. Brandeis from August 1914, He joined Zionist sincerity with respect for American multiplicity and for the democratic and progressive ideals of American culture largely.

Anti-Semitism started bringing up its offensive head in America in the 1890s. The well-settled white Christian society misprized the masses of poor immigrants who flocked and assembled to the United States. It comprised the East European Jews, and considered them as an impudence and threat to the American way of life and mode of government. From another part the progress of the German Jews, excited animosity and enmity between Christians and Jewish Americans.

All these ideological moves and activities, social stress, religious influxes, institutions, and organization did not stop and prohibit the progress of solidarity and a strong group realization among American Jews advanced in every field and domain as Bankers, scholars, judges, artists, and writers carried on the prominence and importance that made their influence and impact on American life. (my Jewish learning american jews by ELI BARNAVI)

2.3.4. Arabs American immigration :

The first Arabs immigrants to America came almost 1880s. Most of them were Christians from Greater Syria which is nowadays (Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, Jordan and Syria), They came in order to escape from the economic hardships which they faced as a consequence of the fall in the silk manufacture. which was the foundation of their economy and the basis of their industry. The plurality of these early Arabs were indigent and poor, uncultivated, uneducated and unskilled. They deemed themselves temporal settlers in America as they called themselves al-nizala, they created their own community by establishing their churches, clubs or

newspapers. Many among the Arabs were street hawkers. The size of this community was evaluated and estimated between 130,000-350,000 by the late 1930s.(Suleiman,Arabs in America, Temple University Press, p14).

Initially , Arab immigrants were all categorized as Turks because they came from lands which are under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. The debacle of the Ottoman Empire at the end of first World War led a new label,in stand to “Turks” they were renamed “Syrians,” or sometimes “Arabians” Arab immigrants struggled hardly to be assorted and classified as “Whites”.In their efforts to insure their naturalization and treated and considered completely as “Whites”, the early Arab or Syrian-Lebanese immigrants worked hard at absorbing and assimilating, presented on citizenship classes, They Americanized their names and did not teach Arabic to their children and careless to instill and inform them about their heritage .

The next wave of Arab immigration to America by 1945 came from all regions and parts of the Arab world. They were increasingly Muslims, were relatively rich and wealthy, had a high level of education, professionals, engineers and doctors. They immigrated to the United States of America because of territorial strives and conflicts as the the creation of Israel and its effect on the surrounding region, civil wars as Lebanon, and political or economic discomfort and harassment.These Arab immigrants were politically active. They considered themselves as Arabs and were passionate to take part in American politics from the beggining.

The name “Arab-American” was taken into consideration in the 1960s, and was a mark of the awakening and renaissance of recent waves of immigrants to their Arab origins. It also indicated the refusal of their automatic racial classification as “White”, Arab Americans are a more convinced and established group who today seeks to enclose and unite the Arab-American community because they are politically ,they speaks and defend about their opinions, and swollen with their dual cultures and dual identity. They proudly affirm their right to be both Arab and American. (Suleiman,Arabs in America ,Temple University Press, 1999).

2.4. The Americanization movement

Americanization is the process of integration by which immigrants accommodate themselves to the character, moral, and culture of the United States. In this regard, Americanization movement aimed at compelling immigrants and their off springs to substitute all their own native traits, cultures, and loyalties for an exclusive American one. As the sociologist Nathan Glazer states:

Americanization is the science of racial relations in America, dealing with the assimilation and amalgamation of diverse races in equity into an integral part of the national life. By "assimilation" is meant the indistinguishable incorporation of the races into the substance of American life. (Glazer,we are all multiculturalists,p103).

Whatever the precise word that is America is a concept of assimilation have been central to the understanding of the American experience with immigration . the assimilation process.The immigrants had to pass through some steps in order to fully assimilate in the receiving society. And those steps are as follows : acculturation, structural assimilation, marital assimilation,identificational assimilation, behavioral and receptional assimilation, and civic assimilation.those steps were criticized because of the fact that the only considered feature is the reciprocal relation between the immigrants and the core society and not relations between immigrants and other groups, or relation between members of different ethnic minorities of the community.(Nee and Alba,p27)

Americanization encouraged the American society to incorporate into the American life by means as the English language teaching and classes in American customs, citizenship and American history. Despite the fact that the main purpose of Americanization was to welcome new immigrants and help them to assimilate in the American mainstream, it took increasingly a harsher and a stronger tone by disseminating educational program designed to teach them American political institutions, and make them embrace patriotic sentiments culminating into

enormous pressures of 100 percent Americanism for immigrants who were asked to strip of their own cultures and attachments. Winds of Americanization programs continued to raise concerns of suspicion over the loyalty and assimilation of newcomers, John Higham's words show how harsh the Americanization movement was:

By threat and rhetoric 100 percent Americanizes opened a frontal assault on foreign influence in American life. They set about to stampede immigrants into citizenship, into adoption of the English language, and into an unquestioning reverence for existing American institutions. They bade them abandon entirely their Old World loyalties, customs, and memories. They used high-pressure, steam-roller tactics. They cajoled and they commanded (Higham ,p100).

Such vigorous Americanization compains aimed at compelling newcomers and theirOff springs to substitute all their native traits and loyalties for exclusive American one. This exclusive American is the result of the amalgamation of all immigrant races that are melted into a new race, into a newman. As J.Hector St. John Crèvecoeur comment in Letters from an American Farmer of 1782

What, then, is the American, this new man? He is neither a European nor the descendant of a European; hence that strange mixture of blood, which you will find in no other country. I could point out to you a family whose grandfather was an Englishman, whose wife was Dutch, whose son married a French woman, and whose present four sons have now four wives of different nations. He is an American, who, leaving behind him all his ancient prejudices and manners, receives new ones from the new mode of life he has embraced, the new government he obeys, and the new rank he holds (Hector and Crevecoeur ,2005).

The melting pot was certainly an alluding symbol that embraced and promoted the American destiny, however its realization was not neither entirely clear nor easy. Indeed, the scholar Philip Gleason draws attention to the paradox surrounding the Melting Pot by raising the question: "If the melting pot was a symbol of fusion or confusion." Hence, the unclarity of the melting pot metaphor

lies on the assumption of whether it was intended to achieve a homogeneous polity by embracing a single cultural dominance of the Anglo-Saxons or one with identifiable origins as a result of crossing racial traits through intermarriage that would inexorably give rise to an entirely new and unique culture. In fact, the melting pot was a deception and a way of encouraging immigrants to conform to the existing American norms through reciprocal changes and concerted efforts. It was clear that the melting pot was never intended to become a reality since the popular notion of America as a melting pot did not take into account non-white racial minorities, and because the melting accrued only among white ethnic minorities. Nowadays, proponents of Americanization attempt to clean up its meaning, and state that the Americanization movement does not mean stripping immigrants of their ethnic cultures, traditions, and native languages. Current proponents look to Americanization as a movement which does not mean to be coercive, harsh, threatening or violent, but rather it means adopting the American civic values and history as their own Americanization movement .

2.5. Assimilation in the United States of America

Assimilation is the process by which immigrants of the United States become part of mainstream American culture, decreasing the uniqueness between the different ethnic and racial groups. There are many features and several characteristics in which assimilation of an individual or group is measured, including the proficiency in language , the decision to become a citizen, and the focus of ethnic groups in any one geographic region or original area. Emmigrants are categorized as those who have relocated from their country of birth to live and work in another country. The immigration rate in the United States is measured by the percentage of those who were born outside of the country who are currently residing in the United States, either legally or illegally (Wadsworth & Kubrin, 2007)

Immigration is a considerable issue during United States history and the way they live in USA , groups of immigrants coming for living and working in the

United States from all over the world. Many citizens from different countries have been forbidden from immigrating to the United States by several laws. Immigrant groups faced racism and negative treatment in the United States and, because those immigrants were different in ethnicity, skills, language, culture, religion and education they found a great difficulty to absorb each other.

Assimilation is a contested notion and especially in a varied and multiethnic society as the United States of America. The contemporary disputes over American national identity and the changing realities of the U.S.A. indicate to the necessity to consider the concept as a social procedure stemming from immigration. One of the earliest and most influential definition of assimilation was given by the sociologist Robert E. Park in the Encyclopedia of Science, he defines assimilation as:

The name given to the process or processes by which people of diverse racial origins and different cultural heritages, occupying a common territory, achieve a cultural solidarity sufficient at least to sustain a national existence. (Milton M. Gordon, p63)

The term assimilation is used to specify a social process of interpenetration and fusibility of ethnic meeting of people with different cultural backgrounds, in the sense that the cultural types of behaviors and changes take place when either two or more groups embrace the culture of another social group or the two cultures of both groups are modified and changed through a mutual impact of behavioral interaction, concerning this the sociologist Joseph Ficher defines assimilation as:

“A social process through which two or more persons or groups accept and perform one another’s pattern of behavior... a person, or a minority category, being assimilated into a group or a society, but here again this must not be interpreted as “one sided” process. It is a relation of interaction in which both parties reciprocally even though one may be much more affected than the other.” (Joseph H, p 229).

Assimilation is the gradual operation in which the newcomers or immigrants are inserted into the steward culture of the host country to such an

entire extent that their cultural diversities tend to appear without any identity or specific allegiance to their native culture. The several cultures of different ethnic groups are integrated in the similar unity with the same sentiments, traditions, loyalties and attitudes. Assimilation in United States succeeds with the sharing of experiences and the incorporation and blend of immigrant groups in a common life. Firstly, by the readiness of the steward group which may erect social borders and partitions to social life involvement. Secondly, by the desire of immigrants to enhance such social involvement. (Alba and Nee, p 217)

Assimilation at its extreme form is indicated to the process in which groups with variety of cultures come to have a common culture. The dictionary of American history definition defines assimilation as:

the absorption into a culture and being rendered similar (Herbst, p20)

The concept of assimilation, according to assimilationist views rests upon the faith in the importance of cultural differentiation within a frame of social unity. Assimilation paths of cultural pluralism not as if ethnic groups were staying under their own different colour whose current power stands under the diversity of the background of people, influenced variously by social sciences, politics, and psychology, have evoked different concepts regarding assimilation. Perhaps some of these where as the scholars meant merely to provide different concepts suitable or beneficial to their specific aims. The most relevant entry for integration is provided in the American Heritage Dictionary:

To absorb into an existing whole. To end the racial segregation of ethnic groups, give full, equal membership in group or society. To become racially integrated Through simple comparison of the terms

It can be said that assimilation indicates more to the notion of cultural adaptation of the predominant group while conjunction and blend refers to the readiness and requirement of a venous group of similar admission and treatment within the American society, While preserving competitions of the previous

culture. Assimilation is used by conservative organizations to make it equal with Americanization. (Jesse O. McKee, p.10)

Assimilation points to the blending of groups and their traditions into one culture .it also means that the groups adopt the principles into one culture .it is also the adopt on the rules of the prevalent culture absorption was preferable during the great immigration in 1900 (E.Lambert and M.Taylor p 25) and through the Second World War .The prevalent culture in the United States is that of WASP¹⁴ .Since early colonial times America was commanded by the English and after by the Germans,Irish,Italians and Russians .However,not all the ethnic groups were greeted and welcomed especially the Native born Americans ,Indians and the Blacks were eliminated because they have different physical appearance and seen as uncivilized good for working the land only.

Assimilation may be qualified as the first notion of social and cultural amendment in the United States where it has been settled to Anglo saxon accordance or the absorption of immigrants of non Anglo Saxon origins who had to dispose of their cultural heritage and become part of the American mainstream way of life .It was preferred by the first establishers as a path to evade clashes and troubles that variety can fetch through it largely benefited Some other minorities refused the idea and preferred to retain their specific markers. 66 percent of American respondents thought that immigration was a positive thing for the United States (Jones, 2012)

One of the theories of cultural adjustment in America is the melting pot .the idea suggests that America is a society which can include everyone and where the best traditions would be mixed so as to form a united nation . The idea of assimilation has been connected to the metaphor of a "melting pot," or a fogginess of diversities between several ethnic and racial groups, inspired a society where one group cannot necessarily be different from another. Conversely, the idea of pluralism encourages preserving ethnic differences, embracing various aspects of

¹⁴ WASP :White Anglo Saxon Protestants.

one's original ethnicity and culture, and celebrating the diversity as a unique feature to the United States society.

2.6.Conclusion

In a nutshell ,this chapter embodied the immigration and assimilation in the United States of America .This research is testified by some examples and quotes from the history of immigration toward America and of some Assimilationists .This it highlighted the immigration of some ethnic groups and the differences among them and the assimilation between them . The first part was accomplished mainly to show why those ethnic groups (Africans, Chinese, Jewish and Arabs)immigrated to other country and to what extent they suffered from violence and oppression .They were criticized and isolated from the American society and how much they fight to draw their identity among the society .The second part is about the assimilation of this ethnic groups in the United States of America and how they can be unified although all the differences between them .

General Conclusion

General conclusion

In general, race and ethnicity have always been debatable issues in the United States and elsewhere .For some, ethnicity and diversity have created clashes and divisiveness in and between populations and nations .Others believe that diversity does more good than harm and they tend to see diversity as a fact which had always existed and will continue to be part of the American society in the future.

This research paper has attempted to explore the subject of ethnic diversity and assimilation in United States of America, because several ethnic groups immigrated to this nation, which they saw it the land of dreams and opportunities. Therefore, in the first chapter, the work has tackled firstly what is meant by ethnicity and diversity with the mentioning of notions and concepts related to the issue of American diversity. It speaks also about different ethnic groups as Africans, Chinese, Jewish and Arabs with their languages, cultures and religions. The second chapter is about the way how the United States became a diverse country through immigration and other sources and how those immigrants absorb each other to be unified.

Probably the best metaphor to describe the United States of America today is its mosaic multiplicity because it is helpful and more precise than the melting pot .This theory is also known as the salad bowl ,cultural pluralism ,or multiculturalism which emphasizes the idea that America is strengthened by diversity .It views America as a“multiplicity in unity ,an archestration of mankind” (Horace M.kallen 1915).

America as a mosaic of cultures involves giving and taking and more importantly the sharing of and the mutual respect for ideas, customs, values, religious beliefs and languages. As if the whole world is summarized in one nation which is the first universal nation.

Finally, we can say that diversity and assimilation is not a recent phenomenon but an old one which continues to exist and this means that it enhanced America .Furthermore; we can say also that diversity and assimilation contributed to the welfare of this nation in all levels.

Glossary

Glossary

Christianity: the religion derived from Jesus Christ, based on the Bible as sacred scripture, and professed by Eastern, Roman Catholic, and Protestant bodies.

Judaism: the religion developed among the ancient Hebrews that stresses belief in God and faithfulness to the laws of the Torah.

Ottoman Empire : a former Turkish empire that was founded about 1300 by Osman and reached its greatest territorial extent under Suleiman in the 16th century; collapsed after World War I.

Pew Research Center : is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

Ethnicity shared culture, which may include heritage, language, religion, and more

Settler society a society historically based on colonization through foreign settlement and displacement of aboriginal inhabitants

Assimilation the process by which a minority individual or group takes on the characteristics of the dominant culture

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