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Is Multiculturalism Detrimental to Democracy?

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Download date	2026-03-06 20:51:46
Link to Item	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14694/7594

TITLE: Is Multiculturalism Detrimental to Democracy?

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The desire to understand the best kinds of conditions to guarantee democracy is one that has been well researched and discussed. Yet, surprisingly, despite sixty one percent of nations deemed democratic as of 2012, there is not always a consensus among the academic community of how to ensure democracy. One variable in particular that brings about debate in regards to democratization is multicultural populations. Literature claiming that multiculturalism, meaning diverse ethnic, linguist, and or religious groups, creates poor environments to instill democracy is abundant. However, the data used to determine conditions for democracy is not necessarily indicative of any significant relationship between the two. Therefore, in this paper, I argue that multiculturalism is not detrimental to democracy and that democracy can be cultivated in such conditions.

To do this, I will begin my analysis of the relationship between multiculturalism and democracy by exploring the importance and significance of democratic cultivation. In continuation, I will present previous arguments and literature. Additionally, I will introduce both the beneficial and challenging socio-economic factors of democratization that are discussed in academia. Furthermore, I will compare literature that claims multiculturalism is detrimental to democracy with socio-economic data used to determine democratic potential in order to recognize any significant relationships. Here I will also present the histories and current situations of select multicultural countries in order to expose potential patterns or shared social variables that either promote or hinder democratization. I will conclude by exploring ways to better implement democracy in multicultural societies, reasoning why literature on this subject is largely unsupported by data, and the impact such literature has on the potential for democratization and attitude s towards multiculturalism in the international community.