"Assessing the Efficacy of Integration Strategies for Immigrant Communities: A Case Study of the United States and France"

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CUNY City College

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Assessing the Efficacy of Integration Strategies for Immigrant Communities:  
A Case Study of the United States and France

Andres E. Gallo

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Master’s Thesis
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Advisor: Dr. Jean Krasno
Second Advisor: Dr. Jeffrey Kucik
Abstract

The movement of peoples across borders has often been a prominent issue in the context of international relations, both historically when looking at the mass waves of European immigration throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, and even more so in the current context of our globalized society with its increasingly complex migration patterns. As present-day crises and hardships continue to force individuals to flee their home countries, receiving states must address the various ramifications associated with granting entrance to the new influx of migrants. Regardless of the causal factors that prompt immigrant groups to leave their home countries, they are for the most part subject to uncoordinated integration programs, if any, that the receiving states may have in place. International protocol designates certain immigrant categories such as asylum-seekers or refugees as temporary, yet the reality is that the vast majority of immigrants are unlikely to return home, but rather establish roots in the countries to which they migrate. Upon arrival to the receiving state, immigrants are confronted by immediate barriers such as language and discrimination, which impede and delay an expeditious integration process. While the goal of complete integration includes many different facets of development and is dependent upon on multiple factors, receiving states should strive to adopt and implement coordinated and comprehensive integration mechanisms. These policies should allow immigrants to attain equal opportunities to those of their native-born counterparts, with frameworks that allow for increased access to education, economic mobility and social inclusion among other prime factors of integration. In my thesis, I will study the differences that exist between multiculturalism and assimilation in a comparison study.
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Chapter 1: Introduction

Our highly globalized world has facilitated the movement of peoples across borders, both in terms of authorized and increasingly unauthorized immigration, which has led to a surge of migrants arriving in otherwise homogenous cultures. The large influx of immigrants to a receiving state most often leads to the creation of immigrant enclaves or communities that are comprised of various different types of migrants.\(^1\) While the composition of immigrant communities may include a wide range of both authorized and unauthorized migrants with varying reasons for having emigrated, the immigrant body as a whole is most often subject to the same applicable integration program that the receiving state may have in place.

The purpose of this study is to assess the efficacy of the present-day integration systems utilized by the United States and France for their immigrant communities. I will look at the different approach that each country has taken with respect to its integration policies, and how that approach has shaped the present policies, the opinion of the general public, and any consequences or predispositions related to having utilized that approach versus another. While sharing similar traits of politics, religion and culture, the United States and France fundamentally differ in their perspective on immigrants and consequently their approach on how to best integrate them into their societies. This can be attributed in part to the the unique history of each country, the makeup of their populations, and their present-day issues surrounding immigration.

In this case study, I will look at the different approaches that these two countries

have employed to the same issue of immigrant integration over extended periods of time, and analyze the vastly different outcomes that each has experienced. Each approach has both positive and negative aspects in its application, some being more effective than others depending on the environment in which they are applied. Therefore, given that receiving countries must adapt in order to best accommodate their unique immigrant populations, one of the aims of this study is to identify and analyze the key successes and failures of existing strategies in order to aid the future development of integration models.

A country founded and built by immigrants, the United States has mostly abided by a loose definition of the multiculturalist approach with respect to immigrant integration throughout its history, versus its European counterpart, France, who instead has resorted to an assimilationist approach. My case study of the United States and France represents two receiving states with significant immigrant communities, the latter having recently encountered more difficulty in implementing a successful integration program. The United States, with an immigrant population of 45,955,748, is the world’s largest recipient of immigrants, representing 14.3% of its total population\(^2\). France is the second largest recipient of immigrants in the European Union, representing 11.6% of its population\(^3\). Although both the United States and France have a history of receiving immigrants, they have experienced quite different outcomes subject to the integration systems that each has in place.

My case study will specifically focus on the most recent waves of immigration for both countries, while also using historical data on previous waves to draw comparisons

\(^3\) ibid
on the reception and integration process. For the United States, I will focus on the largest and most recent wave which is of Hispanic immigration, primarily composed of Mexican immigrants\(^4\). In 2014, the estimated population of Hispanics in the United States was an estimated 55.4 million, making up 17.4% of the total population. While the overarching term used in the United States of “Latino” or “Hispanic” is seen as a singular unit within the population, the population group is incredibly diverse, with over 20 different countries of origin.\(^5\)


Available data on the Hispanic population within the United States can be varied, given that it encompasses a diverse representation of foreign-born nationals, authorized immigrants, unauthorized immigrants (when applicable), and American citizens who identify as Hispanic, primarily constituting the second and third generation children of immigrants. New Hispanic immigrants form part of a fourth wave of immigration to the United States, along with immigrants from Asia and the Caribbean. Historically, and still valid in the most recent wave of immigration, people of Mexican origin and those who identify as Mexican, overwhelmingly comprise over 64% of the present-day Hispanic population in the United States, with this figure having reached an estimated peak of 80% during the early 20th century. The concentration of the Hispanic population that identifies with a Mexican background can largely be found in gateway states such as California, New York, Texas, and to a lesser extent Florida, coinciding with the existing immigrant populations within those communities. The concept of a gateway state represents the rise of immigrant enclaves in the United States, and their role as support systems for new immigrants. The result of an insubstantial immigrant integration mechanism forces recently arrived immigrants to concentrate in areas where individuals of their own culture and background already inhabit. The communities supplant the role of an overarching government system, helping recently arrived immigrants acclimate to the new environment. It is expected that when the newly arrived capacitate themselves and have been able to satisfy basic needs such as housing, food, and basic subsistence, they will leave the immigrant enclave in order to improve their quality of life.

Hispanic Population Growth

U.S. Hispanic population, in millions

Note: 1990-2014 estimates are for July 1.

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(in thousands)

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<th>Origin</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>% of Hispanics</th>
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Note: Total U.S. population is 311,592,000 (rounded to the nearest thousand).
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 ACS (1% PUMS)

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For France, I will focus on the largest and most recent wave which is of Maghreb immigration, inclusive of the countries of Northwestern Africa: primarily Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria, among other Arab states. In comparing both countries, the United States can be said to have a multiculturalist approach, while France utilizes an assimilationist approach, yet both have encountered difficulties in properly integrating their most recent wave of immigrants, albeit for different reasons. A key aspect of immigrant integration in the United States is the laissez-faire approach of the federal government. This lax approach has resulted in limited government programs addressing the issue of integration, and instead obliging local government such as the state and city, along with community organizations to tackle the issue. A vital component of immigrant integration in France involves the legally binding implications of a compulsory integration contract that newly arrived immigrants enter into with the French state, which bears upon them both rights and responsibilities.
I will argue that the multiculturalist approach has had the greatest success in ensuring high levels of integration according to attested indicators. However, there continue to exist issues within that approach that impede complete integration, of which I hope to identify in order to further improve said model. In discussing integration, a basic context must be established with respect to the definition of integration and the target group of the integration policies. For the purposes of my study, I will look at the integration of existing immigrant communities who would be eligible to navigate a structured integration mechanism if one were to be defined and implemented by a receiving state. My definition of integration entails the accessibility that immigrants have in achieving similar levels of social, economic and political participation as their native-born counterparts. In order to accurately account for this, inter-generational success must be examined in order to evaluate progression across generations, as well as the extent to which the receiving state has countered or eliminated barriers that may impede accessibility to those areas.

In order to assess the efficacy of the integration systems in place, I will utilize specific indicators in order to draw comparisons. According to a 1995 study completed by the Directorate of Social and Economic Affairs of the Council of Europe, the following indicators among others were highlighted as being critical throughout the integration process of newly arrived immigrants: residence, access to the labor market, family reunion, pathway to naturalization and the “second generation.”7 The “second generation” can be defined as the children of immigrants in a receiving state, who in the

case of the United States would automatically be American citizens due to citizenship laws. An updated study prepared for the European Commission in 2013 highlights similar characteristics known as the Zaragoza Indicators as being crucial to the integration process, which include: access to employment, education, social inclusion, active citizenship, and a welcoming society. By comparing objective measures and quantifiable data on these specific socio-economic indicators of immigrant communities throughout their period of integration, including but not limited to: income, level of education attained, degrees of assimilation and subsequent naturalization, I hope to be able to explore the positive and negative characteristics within each system.

To evaluate the impact of integration policy in both countries, I will use data from a combination of government entities and non-governmental organizations. Through my research, I hope to identify the gap that exists between a fully comprehensive integration strategy and the currently fragmented systems that are currently in place. Considering the limitations of international and comparative research, the goal of my case study is to contribute to the on-going debate and research on immigrant integration, from which state actors can then develop and implement appropriate policy to address the gap that exists.

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Chapter 2: Literature Review

In 1995, the Council of Europe published an extensive and detailed report on the measurements and indicators to be used when assessing the progress of an immigrant’s integration. Some of the primary factors that were considered include: residence, access to labor market, family reunion, naturalization and the “second generation.” One of the primary and most important aspects that carry significant weight amongst the majority of EU states is the issuing of legal residency documents to immigrants. If and when an immigrant is granted legal residency, the second most important factor is the availability of jobs and the access that the new residents have to the labor market, while taking into consideration the many obstacles that might exist, such as language barriers and discrimination. In compliance with human rights, the third factor to be considered is the extent to which each European country will facilitate family reunification, in the sense that only members from the nucleus of the immigrant’s family be granted the right to either visit and perhaps even have the opportunity to apply for legal residency.

With an overwhelming majority of immigrants looking for a permanent option to settle in their new country, the fourth point is a focus on naturalization. The process of naturalization is one of the final steps on the path to citizenship that can be offered to immigrants, making the availability of such amongst EU countries an integral part to assessing the efficacy of their integration systems. The last and final consideration that was studied in the overall long-term efficacy of an integration system included an overall analysis of the same set of factors applied to the second generation. The term “second generation” applied to those individuals born in the receiving country, whose parents
were most often naturalized immigrants.\(^9\)

In analyzing the integration of immigrant communities, most literature in the field takes a step back in order to understand the history of the receiving state and better establish a context to answer the question of why international migrants leave their countries of origin. In the case of France, Vincent Viet takes on a historical approach in his book, *A History of the French from Abroad; 1850 to our Present-day* (Histoire des Français venus d’ailleurs, de 1850 à nos jours) to the various waves of immigration that began arriving in France and their subsequent assimilation into the main population. Viet highlights the historic importance of foreigners in France as a need to fill a void of manual labor created by the emergence of France’s rapid industrialization during the 19th century. Viet identifies colonization of other lands and the arrival of foreign workers on French soil as the first instance in which a line of separation is created between “us and them” or “native Frenchmen versus the others.”\(^10\)

The rapid industrialization of France during the 19th century was accompanied by an increased perception of nationalism, fueled by the expanding state-government. The affirmation of nationalism throughout the 19th century, established the philosophical concept of “alterité,” in which the “other” is the entity in contrast to which an identity is constructed. Viet discusses the metamorphosis of the French language being influenced by many different forces such as foreigners, as well as countrymen. By 1851, France was one of the most populous countries in Europe with an estimated 379,000 people.\(^11\) Some

\(^11\) ibid, 80-98
of the strongest periods of rapid industrialization took place between 1861-1866 and 1876-1881, also known as the “weapons of heavy industrialization,” in which Viet highlights an important point of how “the most pitiful and dangerous jobs were entrusted to the foreigners…given that the French refused to work hard.”  

Of particular importance is the fact that Viet surfaces how even fellow Frenchmen felt so different from one another, considering that many were coming from within “The Hexagon,” in a colloquial reference to France proper. He highlights how amongst neighboring regions: “The French felt and were, in reality, strangers amongst each other, separated by indestructible barriers between urban and rural, between villages, between countries, between provinces and capital cities.” The acknowledgement of a heterogeneous population amongst Frenchmen themselves foreshadows the difficulty in integrating foreigners in that there is already a drastic schism within the French population itself, not to mention those who are not French. This separation is further exacerbated when in an 1863 official survey, over 25% of the French population did not speak proper French, “French was a foreign language for a large number of Frenchmen.”

When looking at the modern composition of immigrant populations in France, it can be said that the conquest of African colonies and systematic spread of French culture may have originated from a similar ideology as that of the modernization of rural France. Today the most recent and numerous wave of immigrants in France is comprised of people of Maghreb origin, in large part due to the establishment of French colonies and

\[\text{\textsuperscript{12} ibid, 9-25}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{13} ibid, 9-25}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{14} ibid, 17-26}\]
protectorates in the North African countries of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia during the 1960s. The fostering of such close cultural ties and trade relationships beckoned migrants from these colonies to ultimately look to France as a new frontier. Present-day France is home to the largest group of Maghreb immigrants and foreign-born nationals of Maghreb origin within the EU, with large cities such as Paris and Marseille having arrondissements comprised with as high as 40% Maghreb and African origin populations.

In his book, “Exodus, How Migration is Changing Our World,” Paul Collier discuss assimilation as an effective way of more rapidly integrating immigrants, citing how it reinforces a common self-image of American exceptionalism. He states how assimilation, specifically that of linguistic assimilation to the receiving countries predominant language, ensures an increased level of communication which allows immigrants to more readily participate in the host society. The importance of language as an aspect of social integration is reiterated throughout literature in the field, and also similarly agreed upon as an entry point for the immigrant to further engage with the host society.

This can be seen in various resources of integration indicators, including the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX), PEW Hispanic Research Center, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). MIPEX specifically looks at migrant integration in all EU Member States, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA. With over 167


16 OECD/European Union (2015), Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2015: Settling In,
different indicators, they have been recognized as a trustworthy source within the EU. MIPEX along with similar reports prepared by the OECD such as Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2015, provide the statistical data which state actors can then analyze in order to implement policy.

In analyzing the Mexican-majority Hispanic population in the United States, I will utilize in part, research by Tomas R. Jimenez, whose focus on Mexican immigrant communities in the Southwestern United States surfaces a wide array of characteristics of their day-to-day lives. Although my case study looks at the Hispanic population in the United States as a whole, the overwhelming majority are of Mexican origin and therefore any behavioral derivatives observed amongst the Mexican immigrant group, will inevitably influence the data set of the larger Hispanic population group. Jimenez discusses integration of Mexican immigrants and the second generation into American society, comparing them to the previous waves of European immigrants that arrived throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Jimenez suggests that with the succession of every generation, through progressive assimilation, the discriminatory and racialized terms that are currently associated with Mexicans will begin to fade and eventually cease to be used, just as they did for their European counterparts.

Nancy Foner highlights the attitudes of Americans towards newly arrived immigrants in the early 20th century as largely negative, with such connotations towards Eastern and Southern Europeans as: “repulsive creatures who menaced the very

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264234024-en
foundations of American civilization.” These attitudes took generations to dissolve, and they did not pass without much discrimination and barriers to entry for said group of immigrants. Today in the United States, Greeks and Italians, along with their children are regarded as ethnically white and easy integrated into American society. This reinforces the characteristic of American society as transient in that it is always evolving and always adapting to the new cultures that arrive at its shores. This can lead us to assume that the present discrimination against Hispanic immigrants will eventually fade as did that of previous waves of immigration. As the United States population becomes more diverse, the mainstream culture to which integration occurs changes, normalizing characteristics that were initially considered “foreign” or “un-American.”

In comparing the types of integration approaches that different states take, Irene Bloemraad compares the interventionist approach of Canada to the laissez-faire approach of the United States. The United States has long been recognized for not taking a strong role in the integration of its immigrants. Given the lack of social benefits and a structured system to navigate upon arrival, immigrants must fend for themselves and look to community-support structures in order to succeed. The American government credits the success of immigrants to the economic conditions that are sustained in the United States, which provide immigrants the opportunities to move ahead. The French on the other hand, assume an Assimilationist approach as stated by French law, in their endeavor to homogenize all incoming immigrants into systematic French citizens sharing the same

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values. This approach of homogenizing immigrants has existed in French culture prior to the Northern states expanding and dominating the South. It is again repeated when France expands its territory through colonization in Africa, spreading its culture and language amongst all its territories. Present-day African countries who were previously French colonies still maintain French as their official language, and continue to see France as a new horizon given the shared linguistic trait.

An overall view of the entire path that immigrants traverse in their journey from arrival to initial accommodation in the host society and eventually to the second generation, is discussed by Richard Alba and Nancy Foner in their book, “Strangers No More.” Their comparative research between North America and Western Europe, highlights the advantages and disadvantages experienced by most countries and their immigrant communities. The title of the book reveals the inevitable transition that all immigrants will eventually make, ceasing to become strangers and joining the native population, especially for the second and third generation. It is only a matter of time, as proven with previous waves of immigration to the United States, yet learning from experience there are certain adaptations that can be made in order to ensure a smooth process. A key difference that they highlight, which most research does not delve into, is differentiating the immigrant groups. In the case of the United States, although the majority of immigrants are of Mexican origin and share a different language, they are culturally similar to the mainstream American population. Culturally, they both share a Christian religion which instantly erodes numerous barriers that might otherwise impede integration, while physically in appearance, Hispanics can be ethnically white. Alba and Foner attribute these similarities as subconscious factors that influence Americans’
opinions on the southern neighbors. On the other hand, the Muslim immigrants arriving to Western Europe hold a different religious ideology than the majority of their Western European counterparts, creating friction in a state such as France that reiterates the importance of secularism. Alba and Foner identify this as an additional barrier towards integration that Western Europe must overcome in order to ensure successful integration. With much optimism, Alba and Foner compare how American society overcame the “Catholic menace” with the arrival of Irish and Italian immigrants during the 19\textsuperscript{th} and 20\textsuperscript{th} centuries, and that perhaps in the middle of this century we might very well refer to the United States as an “Abrahamic civilization,”\textsuperscript{19} having incorporated Muslims into mainstream American society.

Through my research I hope to identify the gaps that exist in the application of strategies for both the United States and France that is preventing the incorporation of a comprehensive integration system. My analysis identifies the gaps that exist between the responsibility of the government at the federal level and the local community level where non-governmental organizations currently fill the gaps in most cases. I address that the American government in order to not assume complete responsibility for the immigrant population, does not provide them with any robust social benefits package as does France. I also look into why France, who does provide a robust social benefits package, still experiences friction with the immigrant population and backlash from the second generation, while having provided a social safety net.

\textsuperscript{19} Richard Alba and Nancy Foner, \textit{Strangers No More: Immigration and the Challenges of Integration in North America and Western Europe} (Princeton: Princeton, 2015), 118-142
By analyzing integration indicators, I attribute that language acquisition occurs mostly outside the home with the native population, not at home. In highlighting key social indicators, more emphasis can be placed on the areas that do influence integration, particularly that of the younger immigrant generations or children of immigrants. With respect to the children of migrants and the young immigrants who fall into the same age group, it is imperative that a national mechanism exist to ensure successful integration. By influencing the immigrant community in key areas of social development, a smooth assimilation process can be expected. Presently given the Syrian refugee crisis, Germany has opened its doors to accept this wave of immigration, and has demonstrated a keen interest in the potential of the Syrian youth. By providing them German language lessons and formulating specific programs for their incorporation into German society, they are building for the future with good-willed and productive citizenship.
Chapter 3: Definitions

Integration

The definition of integration varies over a wide spectrum and is largely left open to interpretation given the considerable number of variables that depend upon the socio-political and historical context of different countries. For the functional purpose of discussing integration in a legal capacity with potential policy implications, governmental bodies such as the EU utilize a practical interpretation of the definition: “joining parts to an entity.” Within a more liberal context, discourse on integration universally recognizes in its most basic definition in that it is a “dynamic, two-way process of mutual accommodation.”\(^{20}\) The corresponding interpretations of these definitions largely vary depending on the context of the host country. The American interpretation of integration might consist of absorbing immigrants into American society while under a multiculturalist approach, while the French interpretation of integration would entail those same immigrants having to go undergo assimilation before they can be considered part of French society.

In contrast to French attitudes, the majority of American scholarly literature lauds integration, specifically multiculturalism, given the success rate with previous waves of immigration throughout American history. This can also be taken to account for the lack of responsibility that the American state assumes in aiding recently arrived immigrants with social benefits or the like. Therefore, a multiculturalist approach benefits the American state in that it cannot impose obligations upon the immigrants, yet also does not have to provide a social safety net or expend much monetarily on these communities.

In some cases, the American government actually benefits from the indirect barriers imposed upon immigrants, such as undocumented Mexican immigrants who utilize false social security numbers in order to attain certain jobs. In many cases, the unauthorized immigrants who are employed under a false social security number, are withheld taxes which they will never benefit from. Given the estimated undocumented population of immigrants at over 11 million\textsuperscript{21}, the surplus of tax funds which the American receives yet does not appropriate is astounding. This among many other reasons, brings into question the continued failure of the American government to remedy situations like the aforementioned.

Widely consistent amongst American scholarly literature on integration is the widespread acknowledgment of the transient property of the mainstream culture. With every wave of immigration that arrives to the United States, the mainstream culture absorbs new qualities, thereby slightly changing the core culture. Therefore, the reference culture toward which integration occurs is not static and should not be constrained given its constant evolution. Southern European immigrants who were arriving to the United States throughout the 19\textsuperscript{th} and 20\textsuperscript{th} centuries, were faced with a largely white, Northern European and Protestant population. The most recent wave of immigrants is confronted with a largely Christian nation of mixed origins, with large cities that are already quite diverse with respect to their ethnic makeup. The recognition of this aspect of integration within American culture has helped to mold its current interpretation, along with the policies and general attitudes of Americans. The majority of Americans place more importance on the legal status of an immigrant, rather than the country of origin or

\textsuperscript{21} Jiménez, Tomás R. \textit{Immigrants in the United States: How Well Are They Integrating into Society?} Migration Policy Institute, 2011
successful assimilation.

Assimilation

Different types of approaches on integration strategies exist, with the two most common being the Assimilationist approach and the Multiculturalist approach. Rogers Brubaker identifies two types of definitions of assimilation, as being either general and abstract or specific and organic. Brubaker highlights the importance of the “reference population” towards which assimilation is said to occur, stating that the core-culture must be universally acknowledged in order for it to then assume the role of the reference population, thereby leading to a “blanket endorsement of assimilation.” This concept holds truth in that without a definition of what it means to be “French” or “American,” then assimilation could not occur. Being “French” or “American” entails having a loose set of characteristics which roughly define the group in which assimilation will occur towards, this being the case in mostly homogenous populations where the majority of people share similar traits. It is in part with this definition of assimilation that France is able to impose upon new immigrants the requirement of learning French values, given that the reference population is largely homogenous and therefore agrees upon the characteristics of French culture through a “blanket endorsement.”

Another interesting point made by Brubaker is the acknowledgement of the different levels of assimilation that exist, one of the most important being “linguistic


23 ibid
assimilation\textsuperscript{24}: through which there is an intergenerational acquisition of the reference language at sufficient levels to permit success in schooling, occupations, social mobility and full participation in public life.\textsuperscript{25} At the same time, while linguistic assimilation is encouraged in order to hopefully improve the expected quality of life of the immigrant, Brubaker also points out the importance of not engaging in “subtractive linguistic assimilation,” which would mean immigrants losing their own language while acquiring the new one. The different levels of assimilation entail all aspects of the host country’s culture, including its ideology. The complete assimilation of immigrants fosters a relationship of trust and cooperation between the immigrants and the native population, eliminating the concept of the “other” and parallel communities within a society.\textsuperscript{26}

According to the 1995 Measures and Indicators of Integration report, assimilation can be defined as a “one sided process of adaption, in which migrants have to give up their distinctive linguistic, cultural or social characteristics and become indistinguishable from the major population.”\textsuperscript{27} This definition is not identified as an ideal goal, but rather establishes the incorrect notion that integration is a one-sided process. Given that this report was prepared for the European Union in the early stages of its first coordinated talks on unified immigrant integration, it helped unify the ideology amongst member states that integrating new immigrants into European society would entail a cooperative

\textsuperscript{24} ibid
\textsuperscript{25} ibid
\textsuperscript{27} Measurement and Indicators of Integration. Directorate of Social and Economic Affairs - Council of Europe, 1995.
effort of both sides. In contrast, it defines integration as a process of mutual accommodation between immigrants and the native majority population. The concept implies that immigrant groups will cease to be distinctive in culture and behavior over time, but sees the adaptation as a two-way process in which minority and majority groups learn from each other, absorbing aspects of the other's culture. On the part of the European states, defining integration and the establishment of indicators has helped to readily identify the infrastructure that immigration to Europe necessitates in order to better address the issues of integration.

Multiculturalism

Multiculturalism refers to the “development of immigrant populations into ethnic communities which remain distinguishable from the majority population with regard to language, culture, social behavior and autonomous associations over a long period (usually several generations).”28 The multicultural model is based on a respect for cultural diversity and protection for the identity of the immigrant community.29 A variation on multiculturalism defines it as the coexistence of separate cultural communities with equal legal and social status.30

An example of multiculturalism being applied to linguistic assimilation, would allow for the immigrant to retain their native tongue, while still being able to acquire the

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28 ibid

29 Boyer, Spencer P. Learning from Each Other: The Integration of Immigrant and Minority Groups in the United States and Europe. Center for American Progress

new language, achieving sufficient levels of communication in both. In this case, the immigrant is encouraged to keep his or her culture, while at the same time assimilating to the core-culture by learning new traits. In a multicultural approach to integration, newly arrived immigrants are not obliged to assimilate to the core culture of the host country. This is not to say that with a multiculturalist approach immigrants do not assimilate to the core-culture, but rather that they are not legally or socially expected to do so. Yet under the Assimilationist approach adopted by France, immigrants are required to assimilate in order to receive social benefits and to maintain their residency permit.

While having positive and negative aspects, multiculturalism has not been viewed as the most efficient model by European leaders and the European general public. Given that the context of the application of the approach largely affects how it will unfold, Europe has experienced a negative backlash with their immigrant communities. Examples of supposedly “failed” multiculturalism include the “banlieues” or suburbs of Paris where immigrant enclaves have established themselves and suffer from a wide array of cyclical poverty and segregation from mainstream French society amongst other detractive factors. Even in the United States, “failed” examples of multiculturalism include spatial segregation of poor immigrant communities who experience decreased access to quality public services. Yet these examples are not of “failed” multiculturalist attempts at integration, but the result of uncoordinated government policies conflicting within the overarching approach. If in certain locales, the dissonance between policy and integration strategy may result in limited public resources for immigrant communities, it is a result of the lack of policy implementation to cover the programmatic gaps. In areas where communities and non-governmental organizations bridge the gap, there is little
occurrence of the aforementioned problem.

While the definitions of each approach seem clear-cut and exclusive of the others, in practice it is the overarching approach that the state assumes that will then foster a unique environment for immigrant integration. An example of this being in the United States where according to the definition of multiculturalism, the newly arrived immigrants would not learn the core-culture’s language, which in this case would be English, and would instead segregate themselves to immigrant enclaves within the host society. By living within the immigrant enclaves with their own support systems, the immigrants would not look towards the state for assistance and therefore would eliminate the need to learn the mainstream language. Yet the unique combination of multiculturalism with an environment that promulgates American culture and values, entices immigrants to assimilate on their own accord.

The laissez-faire approach\textsuperscript{31} of the American government does not impose the requirement of English language learning upon immigrants or their children, yet an overwhelming majority choose to assimilate and even engage in subtractive linguistic assimilation in an effort to fully immerse themselves and their children in American culture. Perhaps the crucial element of providing freedom of choice to immigrants with respect to assimilation, removes the pressure associated with forced assimilation, thereby fostering an organic determination on part of the immigrant to assimilate. In the context of American culture, multiculturalism can be seen as the essence of our nation’s DNA,

\textsuperscript{31} Jiménez, Tomás R. \textit{Immigrants in the United States: How Well Are They Integrating into Society?} Migration Policy Institute, 2011.
promoting the universal acceptance of all cultures and adapting to change. The indirect benefit of multiculturalism is the absorption of new characteristics from a foreign culture to that of our own. With every wave of immigrants that arrive to the United States, aspects of immigrant culture are absorbed, further molding the uniquely dynamic American culture.
Chapter 4: Current laws and policies

Established in 1933, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was the sole bureau responsible for immigrant affairs with the United States federal government for over 70 years. In 2003, the Bush Administration created the new Department of Homeland Security and created three different departments to distribute the tasks of the INS. Housed within the Department of Homeland Security is the agency of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP).

In 2003, the Office of Citizenship was created within USCIS in order to streamline matters of integration. The Office of Citizenship promotes English language learning and education on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in order to encourage U.S. citizenship. In 2014, USCIS allocated $10 Million dollars towards the Citizenship and Integration Grant program, which “supports immigrant civic integration through the naturalization preparation process.” Given the laissez-faire approach of the United States government with respect to integration, the USCIS does not provide any comprehensive programs to immigrants, rather it supports partners at the local and community level in order to promote resources for immigrants. This indirect assistance is achieved through cooperation with local community organizations that already have expansive networks in place within the immigrant community. These established networks exist within religious or educational institutions, and are highly effective in reaching immigrants given their long term existence within the communities.

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33 ibid
centers located in churches or after-school programs can then offer English classes to prepare immigrants for the naturalization process. No official U.S. policy wholly addresses immigrant integration, yet scattered funding across various government agencies has helped develop programs that address specific instances of integration.

The only group of immigrants that is ushered through a coordinated public assistance program for the first five to nine years upon their arrival are refugees. This can be seen in the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the Department of Health and Human Services, where a coordinated integration policy provides funds for “among other benefits and services, cash and medical assistance, employment preparation and job placement, skills training, English-language training, social adjustment, and aid for victims of torture.” Unfortunately, the aforementioned integration programs and their funding is reserved for only 15% of all immigrants received each year that are categorized as refugees or asylum-seekers. The laissez-faire approach of the American government with respect to integration, leaves the remaining majority of immigrants without a framework to navigate, further impeding the integration process. Given the lack of federal assistance, immigrants are expected to utilize practical resources such as community networks and assistance from private community organizations in order to subsist. 34

With no overarching Federal laws that comprehensively address integration in its entirety, sub-national entities such as states, cities and local communities have been to create and implement their own programs. Not surprisingly, larger cities with higher immigrant populations in states such as New York, Florida and California, have taken the

34 The United States Office of Refugee Resettlement, 2015.
initiative to propose legislation in order to address immigrant-specific issues. With an estimated 3 million immigrants living in New York City and no comprehensive federal regulations to address the immediate concerns of these individuals, the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) was created in order to provide a mix of governmental and non-profit resources to immigrants. Along with providing free services such as health clinics, domestic violence protection, and legal services, the Mayor’s Office of New York City has also passed local laws and executive orders to enact a variety of services and address significant gaps at federal and state level.\textsuperscript{35} Such as is the case in France, what can be observed is that the gaps that exist between the Federal government and the actual needs of the immigrant communities, are being filled at the local level.

As mentioned before, given that the Federal government does not impose any responsibilities upon its immigrants, it also does not provide social benefits to the same extent as its European counterpart, France. Given that the issues confronting immigrant communities would affect the entire city at the local level, non-governmental organizations have stepped-in to fill the gap. Local officials would most likely agree that by allowing the immigrant community to participate with the mainstream culture, there will be an increased development of positive relationships which will then foster community partnerships. By accessing these community networks, the local municipality or government can then disseminate information easier, provide more services and increase the overall quality of life of the immigrant communities. For those immigrant communities with younger populations of school-aged children, the local public education system is confronted with the same set of issues as the local government. By

\textsuperscript{35} Mayor’s Office of the Immigrant Affairs, 2015: A Blueprint for Immigrant Integration
further increasing participation of the immigrant communities in local public services such as education, integration can more easily be achieved.

**France**

In contrast to the United States, a majority of European countries have generous welfare systems that provide social benefits to newly arrived immigrants with limited barriers if any. France has been successful in the broad provision of social benefits that it provides to its immigrants upon arrival, the most important being housing. Apart from being given a residence, immigrants are provided a monthly stipend for food and monetary assistance for their children. School-aged children are also immediately enrolled in French public schools, where interaction with the mainstream population expedites the language acquisition process and social interactions of the immigrants.

Within the French government, the Interior Ministry is primarily responsible for all official immigrant matters. Located within the Interior Ministry, The Office of Reception, Integration and Citizenship (Direction de l’accueil, de l’intégration, et de la citoyenneté, DAIC), is specifically responsible for the integration of immigrants. After an immigrant’s first five years in France, all matters are then addressed through French law, which demonstrates a tendency to mainstream immigrants after said period.

Since January of 2007, French law dictates that all legal and newly arrived immigrants to France must sign a legally binding contract known as the “Contrat d’accueil et d’intégration (CAI),” which represents a contractual engagement on an individual basis with the French authorities. The signing of the CAI upon arrival allows legal immigrants to obtain a residence card if they agree to participate in language

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36 French Directorate of Reception, Integration and Citizenship, 2015
37 Loi n° 2006-911 du 24 juillet 2006 relative à l’immigration et à l’intégration
training and instruction on the values of French society. Successful completion of the language and culture training results in the immigrant being awarded a 10-year residence permit, while unsuccessful completion only earns a 1-year residence permit. The bureaucratic system that requires the involvement of France’s public offices is difficult to navigate for most newly arrived immigrants, resulting in hours of long lines, waiting for assistance for the simplest of processes such as the change of address on an ID Card.

The most basic concepts of the CAI can be found within Law 911/2006 of the 24\textsuperscript{th} of July\textsuperscript{38}, in which its principal objectives and legally binding responsibilities are outlined. The CAI requires that the laws and values of the French Republic be respected and followed, along with following civil procedure for the newly arrived. The CAI also seeks to make known the individual rights that are available to immigrants, as well as reinforce the importance of learning and acquiring the French language. With respect to language acquisition, the CAI also outlines that the state reserves the right to aid the newly arrived in their linguistic assimilation. Immigrants are therefore under grave pressure to learn French language and values of the Republic, for fear that their residency permits will be withdrawn and they will be deported.

The French Office of Immigration and Integration (L’office Français de l’immigration et de l’intégration)\textsuperscript{39} is responsible for the implementation of the CAI for legal immigrants who look to acquire residency. The OFII also acts in a sense as the mediator by which the rights of immigrants are made known to them, such as the right to the accessibility to many aspects of public life, including government services and day-to-day civil procedures. As with other government offices at the local level, participation

\textsuperscript{38} Loi n° 2006-911 du 24 juillet 2006 relative à l’immigration et à l’intégration
\textsuperscript{39} French Office of Immigration and Integration, 2015
with local community groups is essentially for the dissemination of information. Apart from local community groups, the local prefecture also serves as a community center where immigrants may access information relating to public services.

With respect to integration programs, the larger Directions and Offices delegate a substantial portion of funding to sub-agencies such as the Agency for Social Cohesion and Equal Opportunity (ACSE or l’Agence pour la cohesion sociale et l’égalité des chances). In 2013, ACSE was allocated a budget of 360 million euros, of which it then dispersed amongst non-profit organizations who already function at the local level, such as through local government office or prefects. A significant portion of the French integration policy relies heavily on private institutions such as the Red Cross and FASTI (Federation of Associations of Solidarity with Migrant Workers). The reason for this is to take advantage and utilize the existing social infrastructures of the non-governmental organizations that have established roots in local communities, rather than expend public funds inefficiently. Yet given the socialist nature of French institutions, the state closely monitors and intervenes in the activities of private and nongovernmental organizations, especially when involving expenditures with state funds.
Chapter 5: Indicators of Integration

The most widely accepted system of indicators to assess immigrant integration was established by the EU in 2004 as The Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration, also known as the Zaragoza Indicators. The Zaragoza Indicators incorporate a wide array of data on economic, social, and political criteria in order to best gauge the level of integration that an immigrant has experienced in a host country, including: employment, education, social inclusion, active citizenship, and a welcoming society. A similar structure does not exist for the United States given the lack of Federal participation in these aspects of immigrant integration. Independent non-governmental organizations have utilized similar criteria to the Zaragoza Indicators in order to assess immigrant data in the United States.

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The indicators do not intend to assess the performance of the immigrant individual or host country in a singular manner, but rather the overall performance in an environment as a result of the combination of factors put in place by the state. In the United States, the lack of federal controls to regulate immigrant integration have resulted in local government, community organizations, and non-profits collaborating to bridge the gap in terms of programmatic resources for immigrants. The federal government, while not providing a social safety net for its immigrants, has fostered the economic
environment with minimal barriers of entry which facilitates participation for the newly arrived. This would mean that an unauthorized immigrant in the aforementioned environment might have increased accessibility to employment opportunities. This immediate entry into the labor market could potentially act as a catalyst for success with other indicators of integration. In the case of France, the generous welfare state would provide a social safety net for the immigrant, yet the high barriers for entry into the labor market might impede success in other factors of integration. Therefore, there is high volatility within each unique environment, given the factors at play. The goal would be to address the potential gaps that exist in order to ensure immigrants are offered equal opportunities as their native-born counterparts, taking into consideration barriers of entry such as issuance of work permits and discrimination.

Economic Indicators

The economic integration of immigrants is one of the key areas which most countries look to improve upon. This can be expected given that an increase in the economic status of an immigrant will make them more self-sufficient, increase their personal income and thereby decrease their dependence on the state and its social benefits. The economic factor of integration most commonly refers to the employment and labor market participation rate that immigrants have in comparison to the native-born population. An accurate depiction would entail analyzing the employment rate, unemployment rate and participation rate. The employment rate can be defined as the “share of persons between 20-64 who, during the reference week, performed work, even

for just one hour, for pay, profit or family gain or were not at work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of, e.g. illness, holidays, industrial dispute, education or training.” By accounting for the amount of people within the immigrant group that are employed versus those that are unemployed, the activity rate can be calculated, which is defined as the “share of unemployed or employed persons as a percentage of the total population of the same age group.”

Also related to economic integration are the types of jobs available to immigrants and the over-qualification of job candidates who then experience higher rates of unemployment and longer periods of inactivity than lower-skilled immigrants. A third category for employment involves those who are self-employed, inclusive of entrepreneurs and business-owners. The indicators for this sub-category take into consideration the barriers of entry for a potential business owner, such as immigrant status in applying for permits, discrimination, and language. When analyzing employment data, we must keep in mind the manner by which it was obtained and therefore the difficulty to accurately account for the significant proportion of immigrants who participate in the illicit labor market and are thus not reported in the corresponding data set.

With respect to economic indicators of integration, Hispanic immigrants fare well when compared to their native-born counterparts, in terms of employment activity and participation in the labor market. In 2014, Hispanic foreign-born workers had a 68.9%


43 ibid
labor force participation rate, along with a 5.9% unemployment rate.\textsuperscript{44} The native-born population attained only a 62.3% labor force participation rate, and a higher 6.3% unemployment rate than foreign-born Hispanics. With respect to economic indicators of integration, France’s immigrant population, particularly of Maghreb origin, fare poorly when compared to their American counterparts. Available data on employment rates of Maghreb origin is most often incorporated within the larger “immigrant”, or “foreign-born” population statistics. An analysis by theMigration Policy Institute indicates that the immigrants of North-African origin had unemployment rates that hovered around 25%, consistently two to three times higher than that of their native-born counterparts. Unofficial surveys of unemployed Maghreb youth in Paris’ “banlieue,” estimate figures of up to 50%.\textsuperscript{45} High barriers of entry to the labor market, were coupled with poor performance with social indicators of integration amongst immigrants of Maghreb origin.

\textsuperscript{44}Simon, Patrick and Elsa Steichen, The Labor Market Integration of New Immigrants in France, May 2014. Report.

Figure 11. Unemployment Rates by Nativity and Region of Origin, 2003-11
Social Indicators

Equally if not more vital to the overall success of an immigrant is that of social integration, encompassing such factors as: education and social inclusion. The level of education attained by an immigrant prior to arriving at the receiving country greatly influences many of the factors of integration, including employment, level of income and social interaction with the host society. Interaction with the host society relates to the cultural aspects which immigrants experience, such as language, history, general public opinions. A consequence of poor social integration would result in an increased risk of social exclusion.46 This is of particular importance in the context of our global society today given recent occurrences with respect to terrorist activity. Social exclusion has recently been included in discussions of instances of radicalization of immigrant individuals in Europe. In the case of both the United States and France, social exclusion has been cited as a detrimental factor that hinders integration amongst all immigrant categories.

In terms of social integration, linguistic assimilation was noted as an integral part of the integration process, where results show that specifically for the foreign-born Hispanic population under the age of 18, English language acquisition is extremely high, outpacing other immigrant-origin groups. Particularly in the data of Mexican foreign-born immigrants under the age of 18, 69% spoke English “very well,” yet English is not the primary language spoken at home. These type of results might indicate a significant

influence in the social interaction that foreign-born children have with the native-born population outside of the home. It also stands to suggest that existing discrimination against Hispanics, most common in homogenous communities with scare exposure to diversity, is ineffective and misconstrued given the overall success rates of the group.

### Language Spoken at Home and English-Speaking Ability, by Age and Region of Birth: 2012

**Universe:** 2012 resident population ages 5 and older

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Younger Than 18</th>
<th>18 and Older</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Only English</td>
<td>English spoken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>spoken at home</td>
<td>very well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All native born</td>
<td>41,418,780</td>
<td>8,220,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>14,797</td>
<td>490,913</td>
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<tr>
<td>South and East Asia</td>
<td>160,371</td>
<td>257,024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>46,136</td>
<td>67,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>29,521</td>
<td>89,356</td>
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<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>19,321</td>
<td>108,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>11,203</td>
<td>66,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>161,888</td>
<td>167,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>41,868,827</td>
<td>9,479,352</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Percent Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Native born</th>
<th>18 and Older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>91.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All foreign born</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South and East Asia</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>15.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>36.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Middle East consists of Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Yemen, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Sudan.

**Source:** Pew Research Center’s Hispanic Trends Project tabulations of 2012 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS)
Apart from the social integration that improves, bilingualism has been to show positively aid the educational development of children, allowing them to succeed further in schooling. The environment that regularly allows for this interaction is the public school system, significantly contributing to the social integration of foreign-born children. In terms of linguistic assimilation as an indicator of social integration, the majority of Maghreb immigrants came from former colonies, already possessing knowledge of the French language. This does not exclude the discrimination that might exist for mannerisms and accents that these immigrants may be victims of due to their

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variation on the French language. Historically it is widely known how even French
nationals born in Algeria were referred to as “Pied-noirs” or “black-footed” by their
fellow Frenchmen, for having African origins. Compilations of surveys conducted by the
OECD in 2015 to gauge different aspects of integration indicators, show that immigrants
in France felt that they were often discriminated against given their country of origin.\footnote{ibid}

**Political Indicators**

The political integration of immigrants takes into consideration the pathway to
citizenship that is offered, subsequent naturalization rate, and civic participation. In the
case of both the United States and France, the majority of newly arrived immigrants
would not be readily eligible to fully participate with local government until after
attaining residency and/or citizenship status. The accessibility and opportunity to
naturalization weighs heavily in the efficacy of a country’s integration process, in that the
culmination of the integration process is to become a new member of the host society. In
the case of the United States, the limited funding that is allocated by the USCIS is
towards naturalization efforts. Immigrants in the United States readily have the option to
become naturalized citizens, while the second generation are born as American citizens,
given the jus soli\footnote{Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Immigration Statistics. 2014. 2013
Statistics.} principle of birthright citizenship. Apart from the jus soli principle of
birthright citizenship, the “right of blood” or “jus sanguinis” is applicable in certain

48 ibid
situations. In France, barriers exist even for the second generation who is born on French soil. This can be seen as an isolating factor that may contribute to social exclusion given the separation distinguished between native-born French and children of immigrants. For both the United States and France, citizen participation in the democratic processes are of great importance. In the case of the United States, the aspect of political integration among immigrant integration has gained significant traction with respect to minority groups such as Hispanics that continue to grow in size and increase their representation within the eligible voting population.

As of 2011, California led the country with the highest Hispanic population, with over 14,358,000 individuals who identify themselves as Hispanic, comprising 38% of the state’s total population. Updated figures in 2015 estimate that the population of Hispanics has surpassed that of Whites, representing a significant and influential portion of the state’s population. Political integration amongst Hispanics varies widely by country of origin and the particular situation of the individual. When looking at naturalization rates of eligible foreign-born Hispanics, Mexicans participate significantly less than Hispanics from Central and South America, yet overall trends show an increase in the naturalization rates for the group as a whole. In terms of political integration, the rates of naturalization in France for all immigrant groups has decreased during the last 15 years, from 4.6% in the early 2000s to 2.4% in 2012. According to the data obtained by

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50 ibid
52 Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends. 2015.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264234024-en
various European and French governmental and non-governmental sources, France’s immigrant population as a whole performs poorly amongst integration indicators. Levels of unemployment amongst French immigrant youth in the banlieues are estimated to be anywhere from 25-50%, with a high level of delinquency contributing to an already rampant insecurity and widespread poverty.
Chapter 6: Conclusion

In the United States, our history has played a major role in the formation of the American general opinion on immigration. We constantly laud the successful waves of previous immigration from the Old World, attributing their triumph to the core American values of free-market Capitalism and competition serving as motivators fueling the ambitions and dreams of the newly arrived. The socio-economic and political climate of the United States is largely recognized for its ability to provide the newly arrived with countless opportunities to enter American society with minimal barriers of entry. Yet American integration policy specifically fails to address the most fundamental necessities of recently arrived immigrants, such as shelter, food, and basic health services. The establishment of a system that assists immigrants in satisfying these basic needs would allow them to more readily engage in the host society. While the solution is not in providing unrestricted access to social benefits, a structured system that begins to assist immigrants early on during their arrival period would significantly minimize dependence on massive long-term social benefits systems that immigrants might resort to if struggling to enter society.

Given that the United States recognizes the difficulty that previous waves had in integrating and the importance that they contributed to the country, a national system should assume the responsibility of providing new immigrants with the resources they need to enter into American society. By establishing such a system, the identity of the immigrant will be more protected in that it will be readily defined as an individual who is looking to incorporate themselves into American society. Transparency in such
legislation will in turn lead to the elimination of barriers such as discrimination towards immigrants, slowly molding the general public opinion.

Apart from the Federal system, local state and city efforts should be coordinated to make sure that no gaps exist in the support system. In discussing coordinated efforts between a national system and local government, the United States would benefit from a similar infrastructure as that of France. Presently, even the organizational distribution of immigrant programs in American government subconsciously denotes a negative connotation. Immigration should not exist under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security, being that the newly arrived immigrants are not a threat and should not be treated as such. A reformation and restructuring of the present government office of USCIS to encompass similar bodies to that of the French agency distribution would be an improvement. Along with the immediate assistance that can be offered to immigrants upon arrival and during the early years of their integration, separate mechanisms should seek to monitor the progress of second and third generation of immigrants.

It is imperative to continue to monitor the recently assimilated and new immigrants in order to ensure there is no fallout or detractive consequences. Although second and third generation of immigrants may already be citizens, the risk of social exclusion still exists. This is true of French second and third generation children who are born to immigrant parents, who due to the cyclical poverty and spatial separation from the native-born population, have isolated themselves within immigrant enclaves, more so than their predecessors and nullifying any progress made. While no international mechanism exists to monitor the integration of immigrants, as it is a matter of the
individual state, an international body such as the United Nations will step in when international security is of concern. An example of this being the United Nations counterterrorism department monitoring the French integration system, in order to investigate levels of social exclusion, which may contribute to radicalization and/or social extremism, upon which it ceases to become a matter of the French state, and elevates the issue to a matter of regional and global security.

Integration encompasses many different developmental facets and can be implemented in different ways, yet it is the direct contact and immersion within American society that best promotes such. Ensuring immigrant immersion into American society is achieved by a welcoming native-born population. Similar to their European counterparts, immigrants to the United States should be offered English-language classes in an effort to duly promote the acquisition of English, as well as to allow for improved communication. Taking into consideration the overarching approach of multiculturalism we can observe that without imposing American culture onto immigrants, the environment allows for assimilation to occur. As observed amongst Hispanic children, even though English was not spoken in the home and was therefore not imposed upon them, they were still able to learn English, outperforming any other immigrant group. This is also true of learned cultural habits, an area where young children and adolescents perform extremely well. From these results, it can be inferred that a combination of high levels of social interaction at school allowed for increased linguistic assimilation, along with acceptance and a welcoming society that did not discriminate throughout the learning process. Along with English-language learning, coordinated efforts between the local state public school system and the federal education system should seek to ensure a
unified education program for ESL (English as a Second Language) students. By providing the tools to succeed and implementing an effective system to cover learning gaps due to language barriers, we can expect a more expeditious integration process.

The overall performance of France with respect to MIPEX indicators of integration showed a dissonance amongst the second and third generation children of immigrants. While the first generation would expeditiously adapt to French culture, the second and third generation performed poorly in indicators of social inclusion, employment and civic participation. Given the assimilationist approach that France takes with respect to its integration policy, it should look instead to adapt a multiculturalist approach as does the United States, whereby immigrants are not obligated to learn the new culture. Rather, immigrants will be inclined to learn the new culture if a positive experience precedes.

The key difference between the implementation of policy was giving immigrants the choice to assimilate at their own pace. The possibility exists that if France eliminates the obligation to learn French culture and values, immigrants might be more keen to assimilate. By forcing assimilation, the state is indirectly belittling and diminishing the value of the immigrant’s native culture, which increases reluctance of the newly arrived to comply. Another factor that France needed to address was the spatial separation of their immigrant population in the outer suburbs or “banlieues.” By isolating the immigrant communities, who coincidentally incur the highest rates of poverty, a snowball effect may occur which may lead to absolute failure of these socially outcast pockets. In our present-day situation, the “banlieues” represent a large schism in French society which can only exacerbate and fuel tensions with its immigrant communities. Through the arduous, yet necessary task of increasing social inclusion of these outlier immigrant
neighborhoods, France may be able to reform its present approach in hopes of attracting more second and third generation outcasts back to the mainstream. A multiculturalist approach would aid France in beginning to accept that the homogenization and exclusion of other cultures will not necessarily result in compliance with the state, rather the opposite.

Just as many other European countries have transitioned from assimilation to multiculturalism, France should look to do the same, given that it’s present structure is not succeeding. As the definition entails, absolute assimilation requires immigrants to give up their culture and embody a new one. Multiculturalism as a type of integration, instead allows for the equal incorporation of different cultures within one society. Just as the core culture and definition of “being American” has evolved, so should that of being French. The struggle with assimilating “foreigners” in France can be traced back to the conquest of Southern France, where the countrymen themselves were seen as outsiders and did not even share the same language. France’s obliged homogenization of its immigrants has resulted in feelings of resentfulness, leading to social exclusion which increases tensions with the state. In an effort to bring the state to local and community levels, France should look to increase it’s the social inclusion of newly arrived immigrants, as well as that of the second and third generation. Just as the population of a country becomes more diverse and multi-faceted, so should its approach to integration. Perhaps, multiculturalism and assimilation will cease to be effective with a generation, given the pace at which our global society is growing. The reach of technology has already “globalized” or homogenized the human race with such common denominators as social media being a stable amongst the poorest countries with limited access to
technology. Historically, immigrants had very little contact with the population or culture of the host country, making the initial accommodation much more difficult. The introduction of platforms such as social media, has begun to erode spatial barriers such as distance and language and begin to standardize culture and general opinions. Accompanying the implementation of any integration mechanism, should exist a relationship built on mutual respect and tolerance, which would begin to change the general public opinion, fostering a more open, transparent and receptive society.
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