

# Societal Fabric and Securitization of Immigration

By Naima Dawid

April 2024

7 + ( \* / 2 % \$ / 3 2 / , & < + 2 5 , =  
/ \$ %

Empowering Evidence-Based Solutions  
For a Better World



When examining the social fabric of the United States and Canada, it becomes clear that there are notable differences in the basic tenets of being an American or a Canadian. It is intriguing to witness the divergent methods employed in states that provide citizenship via birth, ancestry, and the process of becoming a citizen when it comes to incorporating immigrant communities. This study investigates the intricate relationship between the societal structures of destination nations and efforts to engage immigrant populations. This essay examines the abstract representation of a destination state as a melting pot and mosaic society and how it affects the relationships and affiliations of diaspora citizens. This research examines the impact of diversity and assimilation models on how the diaspora perceives opportunities and their ability to take action in the country they have migrated to. The objective of this study is to ascertain if a melting pot setting fosters assimilation and diminishes affiliations with home state, or if a mosaic society may foster the preservation of cultural identity and deeper links to the diaspora's homeland. Furthermore, the paper explores the potential securitization of diaspora groups as a result of their alignment with the objectives of the host nations. This article will specifically examine immigration post-9/11. We will analyze the process of incorporating the immigrant communities into the social and economic fabric of both the United States and Canada. We shall analyze where there is a rise in the securitization of this diaspora. The objective of my thesis is to examine how the structure and organization of society influence the degree to which immigration is treated as a matter of national security. Will the absence of adequate assimilation in a multicultural society result in heightened marginalization among immigrant communities? When examining mosaic societies, will it become apparent that the preservation of cultural identity and encouragement of variety might provide a path to attaining full integration while also addressing security concerns?

## Melting Pot Society

Similar to the United Kingdom and France, the United States has implemented a sort of societal integration called the assimilation method, which may be described as a melting pot. According to the European Center for Populism Studies, the idea of a melting pot refers to a theory of assimilation that postulates that various immigrant groups would gradually renounce their own traditions and ultimately integrating fully into the dominant society. In a varied society, the concept of a melting pot is sometimes seen as a means of achieving homogeneity. It may be described as the process of integrating immigrants into the United States. an enduring and frequently used idea that has been in existence and widely employed since 1908. In the United States, the concept of the melting pot involves incorporating elements from other individual cultures into the dominant culture. However, it also requires individuals to relinquish some features of their own culture to assimilate into the dominant culture. Essentially, this may also be seen as absorption. Robert Parks, a sociologist from the "Chicago School," provided a definition of assimilation in the context of race relations. He described it as a process of interpreting and merging where individuals and groups adopt the memories, emotions, and attitudes of other individuals or groups (Hirschman, 1983). By sharing their experiences and

histories, they become part of a shared cultural life. Currently, the term "melting pot" is seen negatively since it diminishes the richness and variety of many cultures (ECPS, n.d.). The process of fully integrating into communities can span around the four generations, contingent upon the rate at which the migrant group acquires proficiency in the local language of their host country as well as their educational achievement, which can be linked to their professional success.

## Mosaic Society

"Mosaic Society" is a term used to describe countries like Canada and Australia. The case I will present will examine Canada, a country that has officially embraced the ideology of multiculturalism. Jeffery Scott Mio defines a mosaic society as a diverse of several cultures coexisting in close proximity, which enhances the overall richness of the community (ECPS, n.d.). One may observe the manifestations of this social structure through the provision of financial support to institutions and organizations dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage. This is closely aligned with Canada's immigration policy, which strongly promotes immigration. In his analysis of the societal structure of the Mosaic and Melting Pot, George M. Fredrickson highlights that Canada's acknowledgement of several races promotes cultural variety, leading to more immigration. This does not provide conclusive evidence that the prevalence of racial and ethnic biases, as well as xenophobia, is lower in a multicultural society compared to a society that promotes cultural assimilation. However, it does indicate that Canadian integration policy actively promotes multiculturalism and cultural diversity (Fredrickson, 1999).

## Integration Policies: Socioeconomic Assistance, Aiding Language, Education, Health Care, and Social Benefits: United States and Canadian Context

Exploring the means of assessing whether the United States or Canada have a more favorable environment for facilitating immigrant integration into their respective societies. I would like to examine the integration practices of each state as well as the socioeconomic assistance they offer to immigrants. To understand the concept of integration policy, it refers to the policy outcome that results from the integration capabilities and aspirations of immigrants (Lutz, 2017). Lutz argues that neither multiculturalism nor an assimilation strategy has any impact on the efficacy of integrating immigrants into a state. According to Lutz (2017), increasing governmental incentives for immigrants to integrate is expected to enhance their likelihood of assimilating into the market, welfare, and culture of the state. Regarding the case study of Canada, the mosaic society implements integration programs that involve assisting immigrants in settling through language and workforce training, as well as providing other services. These programs also encourage immigrants to become citizens and support their active involvement in society through multiculturalism and associated policies (Griffith, 2017). In the context of the



## Socio Economic Exclusion of Immigrants

Social exclusion as an ambiguous concept Aadne Aasland and Tone Flotten describe encapsulates of what can lead to the challenging aspects of being an ethnic minority with a disadvantage in socio economic capital these groups. Aasland and Tone express that in social, political, economic capital this leaves minority groups vulnerable to social exclusion. They name three areas of living conditions that are results of social exclusion: (1) exclusion from participation in social and economic life; (2) exclusion from participation in political and social life; (3) exclusion from participation in cultural and leisure life.

model of lack or abundance of socioeconomic assistance in either a melting pot or mosaic society. For example in the civil society context, as an immigrant meltingpot of the United States, having an advanced level of English can lead immigrants with more job opportunities and higher wages. The 2009 ACS to estimate the impact of English language skills on relative wages of immigrants when new immigrants enter the labor market. Immigrants with advanced English language skills suffered less negative wage impact than did immigrants with poor English skills. For adults learning it as a second language, this makes it extremely difficult to integrate into this society which can lead to societal exclusion in civil society. The National Academies Press expressed that 19.9 percent of immigrants and 32.1 percent of children of immigrants 17 (under 18) lived in poverty, compared to 13.5 percent of native-born persons and 19.2 percent of children of native-born persons (National Press, 2015). This form of exclusion from the labor market can discourage immigrant workers and this can lead further into social isolation, due to depending on friends and family for goods and services (Aasland, Flotten, 2023). In mosaic societies, there is less social exclusion when compared to the push for socioeconomic assistant programs. The multicultural programs were introduced in 1982, there was a notable shift towards fostering diversity and ensuring fairness for everyone by addressing systemic issues. The government introduced policies to embrace diversity and combat discrimination at its roots. For instance, the Employment Equity Act was implemented to boost the involvement of women, indigenous communities, individuals with disabilities, and ethnic minorities in the workforce. Moving into the 1990s, the focus expanded to encompass civic engagement, societal development, and a sense of citizenship. Policymakers aimed to increase participation across all facets of society to diminish actual or potential exclusion. The earlier emphasis on eliminating economic barriers evolved into a broader commitment to inclusivity, with the metaphor shifting to one of fostering a sense of belonging (Griffith, 2017).

## Post 9/11 Securitization of Diaspora and How it Fits into Securitization Process

This leads me to the topic of if social and economic exclusion of immigrants reflect the societal fabric, Melting Pot and Mosaic societies and does this factor lead these minority groups to be











## Model 1

Model 1 is a flow chart spanning 4 sections. On the left side is Melting Pot Society and Mosaic Society which together form a Socioeconomic Assistance Level at low or high levels. This creates the concept of othering, also known as socioeconomic exclusion, which is shown at the

## WORKS CITED

Bloemraad, I., & de Graauw, E. (2011). *Immigrant Integration and Policy in the United States: A Loosely Stitched Patchwork*. UC Berkeley: Institute for Research on Labor and Employment. Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2nc0m8bm>

Colomé, J. (2021). Immigrants No More? The Securitization of Immigration in the National Security Strategies of the United States. *Journal of American Studies*, 55(1), 1-26. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23340460.2021.1888652>.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2017). *Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Retrieved from <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/assimilation-models-old-and>





## ABOUT THE GLOBAL POLICY HORIZONS RESEARCH LAB

The Global Policy Horizons Lab is a focused research entity where students, lab researchers, affiliated faculty, as well as members of the policy community across disciplines can explore national and global security issues, generate original research, as well as produce peer-reviewed policy papers and commentaries. The Lab pursues innovative research focusing on unconventional threats, identity and security, role of technology in security, economic security, as well as environmental and food security. The goal of the Lab is to become a knowledge hub that informs national governments and other members of the global policy community on contemporary and future security challenges.

The current Director of the Lab is Professor Dani Ben-El-Mechaieq, Ph.D.

