

Question: 2

America is a 'Melting Pot' or a mosaic/salad bowl?

Answer - 2:

1. Introduction:

The United States of America (USA), emerged as a result of the struggle, voyage, and exploration adventures of the foreigners, who sought 'God, glory, gold' and trade. The country maintained its foundational spirit and it has remained a hub of those who seek freedom and success. The country is an attraction for the world talent because of its educational and employment opportunities, assurance of social security and the religious and cultural freedom that it offers. Moreover, USA is a home to different identities who are blended now as Americans. Therefore, America is Melting Pot rather than a mixing bowl.

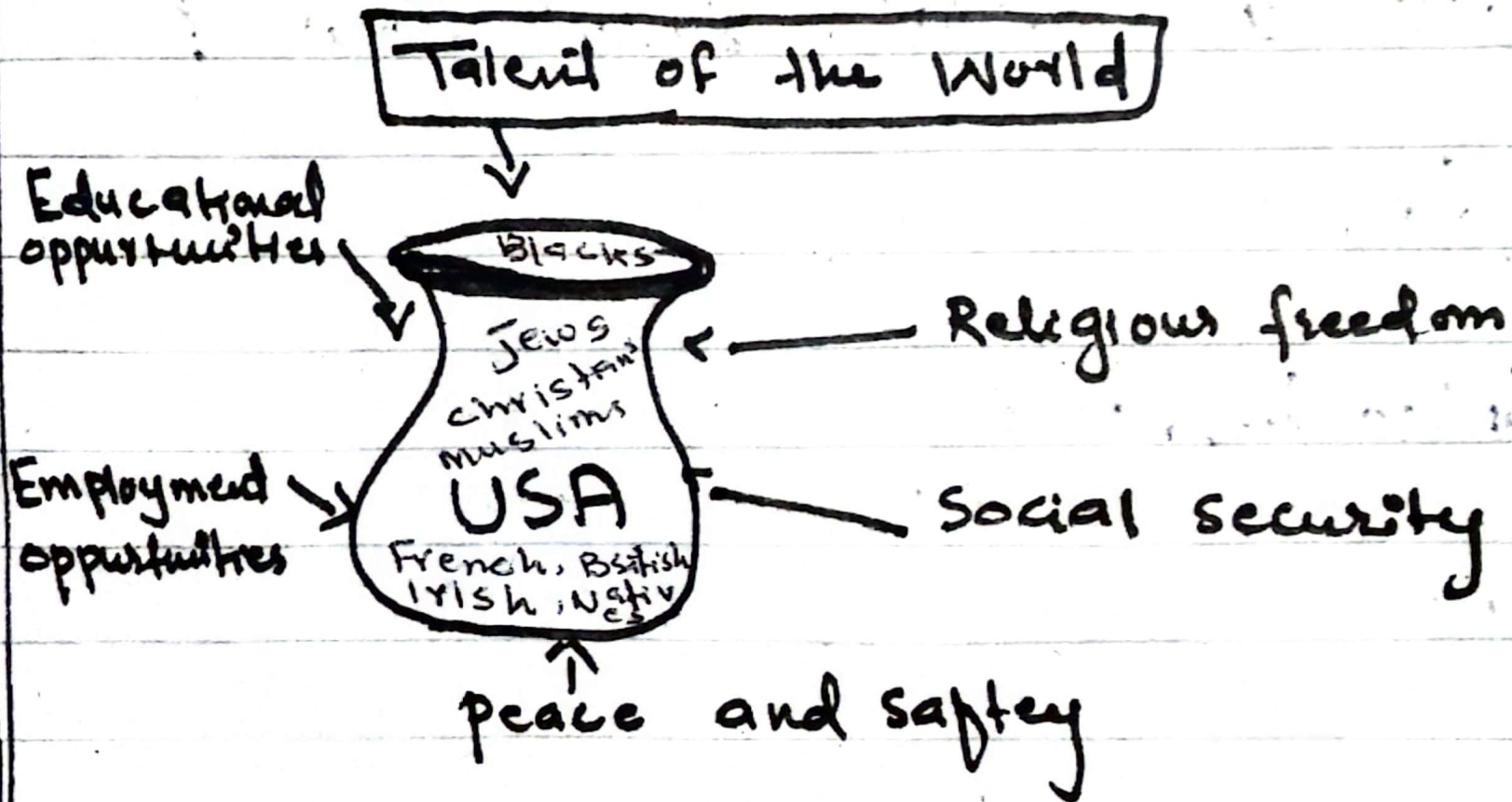
Q. What is 'Melting Pot'?

The 'Melting Pot' is an analogy used for USA to describe that immigrants of different cultures assimilate in order to become one common culture -

"American". Melting Pot analogy is taken from Israel Zangwill's play 'The Melting Pot' (1908). In the play the hero a refugee from persecution in Russia escapes to USA and in final scene he speaks with enthusiasm about the mixture of people in his new homeland.

referring to it as the great Melting
Pot.

3. How USA is a 'melting pot' of different nationalities and cultures?



3.1: USA attracts students from across the world by offering worldclass educational opportunities:

USA is a home to a world class educational institutions like Harvard university, Stanford university, Princeton and Yale University. In 2022/23 15 million students from 210 origins enrolled in USA. These students acquire with them US culture, language and traditions and intermingle with locals.

3.2: USA as the center of decent employment:

USA provides vast

opportunities to the talent from across the world. It is known for abundance of career development opportunities. In 2023 present 30.21 million foreign born employed were working in US.

"... The American dream is that every man must be free to become whatever God intends he should become."
- Ronald Reagan -

3.3: US citizenship is another name of social security:

Social security is another merit associated to US citizenship. Strong state ownership and patronage is what makes US strongly attractive. In 2023 0.87 million people became US citizens.

3.4: In the turbulent world conditions, USA is a peaceful heaven (particularly for people of developing countries):

USA offers a peaceful

home to the people who seek
refugee against the vulnerabilities
brought to them by terrorism
and low law and order.
These refugees find a safe
home in United States because
it guarantees safety and
freedom.

"Give me your tired, your
poor, your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free,
the wretched refuse of
your teeming shores send
these, the homeless, tempest-
tossed, to me: I lift my lamp
beride the golden door."

- Emma Lazarus, poem on
Statue of Liberty -

4. America as a 'Melting Pot'

4.1: Amalgamation of different identities:

"Not merely a nation but a nation of nations"
- Lyndon B. Johnson

America is the host of

different racial, cultural, religious and linguistic identities. It has its own indigenous civilizations like Aztecs, Incas, Mayas and Red Indians, before European's arrival. Then Columbus' discovery opened door for other nationalities as Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, French and British after 1492. These people brought their languages and religions alongwith themselves.

According to cultural geographer Colin Woodward there are as many as eleven cultural areas of the US, which spring from their settlement history. However, these cultures blended into one identity: American.

4.2: Common Set of Shared Values and Ideals:

Americans share a common set of values and ideals despite diverse cultural backgrounds. These ^{shared} values and ideals are crucial concept of melting pot and unite them. British people migrated to USA for religious freedom and equality. This is the notion that US constitution also advocates in the fifth amendment that ^{ter} "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty and property without due process of law." Similarly, Americans share same doctrine of democracy. This belief united Americans under the slogan of 'Manifest Destiny' that God has chosen Americans to expand liberty and democracy. American constitution also demonstrate these shared values as, "We the People of US, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure

domestic tranquility, provide for the
common defence, promote the general
welfare, and secure the blessings
of liberty to ourselves and ^{our} posterity.
do ordain and establish this
Constitution for USA:-

5- What does mixing bowl model says?

United but with original identity

Ethnic distribution



Multiculturalism

Resistant to exogamy

Strong prejudice

America as a mixing bowl:

This model emphasises that people of different backgrounds live together in USA but have not lost their original identity. USA is a multicultural society which promotes diversity and tolerance. African Americans were considered as slaves for a long time, neither they were given right to vote, property, movement nor intermarry. Alongwith this USA resembles a mosaic as south is black, west is Asian, Hispanic and native.

The report of council of Economic advisors indicates that different ethnic groups choose not only different parts of the country to live in, but also different parts of metropolitan areas. The separation between ethnic groups involves the distribution of jobs as well. For instance in California, Mexicans work as gardeners, domestics, cooks and food preparers. Koreans open small businesses. Filipinos become nurses and medical technicians. African

Americans work in government jobs. The immigrants have equal rights as other citizens but the prejudice against them is still strong. There is a differentiating line between blacks and whites despite the eradication of slavery. Therefore Blacks are resistant to exogamy too. Such marriages are regarded as betrayal of one's own race. Therefore, the believers of mixing models cogitate that though America host largest immigrant number, they are not a single nation still.

6. Critical Analysis:

United States of America is the biggest immigrant host in the world. It hosts different cultures, nationalities, religions and beliefs. However, America as 'Melting Pot' leads to cultural homogenization and turn a blind eye to unique experiences and identities of ^{new} comers. It also fosters assimilation of minor cultures into dominant society.

which is more favourable to indigenous people and their interests. This will further increase inequality and power dynamics.

But for these reasons 'Melting Pot' status of America cannot be denied. Because as a 'Melting Pot', USA facilitates cultural exchange, inclusive National identity and safety to the vulnerable masses. This promotes social cohesion by reducing fragmentation and conflict. Constitution of USA grants equal rights to everyone, therefore whatever the attitudes people have they could be personal not national.

7. Conclusion:

United States of America is a 'Melting Pot' of different cultures, identities and ideologies living together as one nation. It grants education, high level employment and freedom of religion and liberty to people living in it irrespective of their background. Therefore Barack Obama rightly said, "America is the nation of nations".