

Q: Discuss Ethnic Homogenization. What contemporary mechanisms are used by the state for ethnic homogenization? Explain.

# Ethnic Homogenization

Ethnic homogenization is defined as the process in which state or dominant group seeks to establish uniform ethnic identity within its borders, often at the expense of ethnic minorities. The modern states use different mechanisms like cultural assimilation policies, strict immigration policies, citizenship laws, coercive measures and surveillance and policing for ethnic homogenization.

## 1- Examples Of Ethnic Homogenization

Following are the examples of ethnic homogenization :-

### i- Soviet Russification Under Stalin

Soviet Russification under Stalin is an example of forced or involuntary ethnic homogenization process in which minorities were forced to leave behind their cultural norms, religion and language during 1930s till 1980s. The government of state forced ethnic minorities to adopt Russian language and Soviet norms and values.

## ii- Korean Immigrants in the U.S.

The United States uses cultural assimilation policies to assimilate Korean immigrants into American society. The state uses such policies to establish uniform ethnic identity within the borders of U.S.; that is why Korean immigrants leave their own cultural identity and speak American ~~and~~ <sup>language</sup> instead of Korean language to be accepted by U.S. society that prioritize cultural homogeneity. In this way, U.S. society serve an example of ethnic homogenization.

## iii- North African Immigrants in France

Another example of ethnic homogenization is prominent in France. France uses cultural assimilation policies and control on education for ethnic homogenization. North African Immigrants give up their Arabic language and traditional Islamic clothing to fit into workplace and educational institutions of France. So, France is a contemporary example of ethnic homogenization.

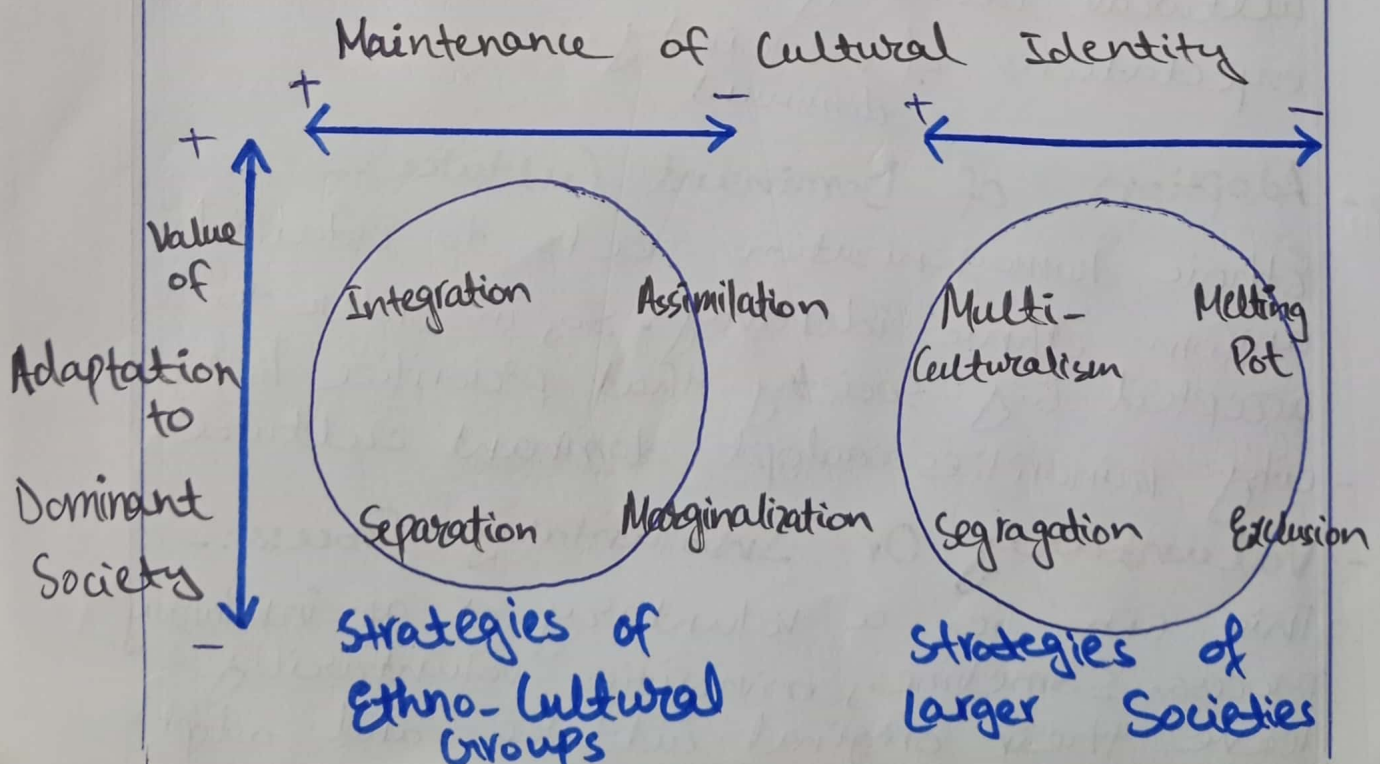
## iv- Japanese Brazilians In Japan

Japan also serves an example of ethnic homogenization. As Japan uses strict immigration policies to assimilate immigrants or minorities into dominant culture. For this purpose, Japanese-Brazilians who migrate to Japan distance from their cultural roots of

Brazilian identity. These immigrants are <sup>compelled to</sup> aspects of their Brazilian cultural to fit into Japanese society. This shows that Japanese government has established such principles in institutions that force Japanese Brazilians to distance from their Brazilian identity, ensuring ethnic homogenization in Japan.

## 2- Explicating Ethnic Homogenization In the Light of John Berry's Model of Acculturation

Ethnic homogenization can be explained in a better way in the light of John Berry's model of acculturation. This model explains the concept of Assimilation which helps to understand ethnic homogenization.



## Assimilation :

“Assimilation is an acculturation strategy ~~that~~ <sup>in</sup> which individuals or groups adopt the dominant culture and abandon their original culture.”

The outcome of assimilation is ethnic homogenization.

## 3. Characteristics Of Ethnic Homogenization

Following are the characteristics of ethnic homogenization.

### a- Loss Of <sup>Own</sup> Cultural Identity:-

In ethnic homogenization, individuals of ethnic minority groups lose their own cultural identity to come upto the expectations of <sub>dominant</sub> society.

### b- Adoption Of Dominant Culture:-

Ethnic homogenization seeks to establish uniform ethnic identity. So, in order to be accepted by society that prioritize homogeneity minorities adopt dominant culture.

### c- Voluntary Or Involuntary Process:-

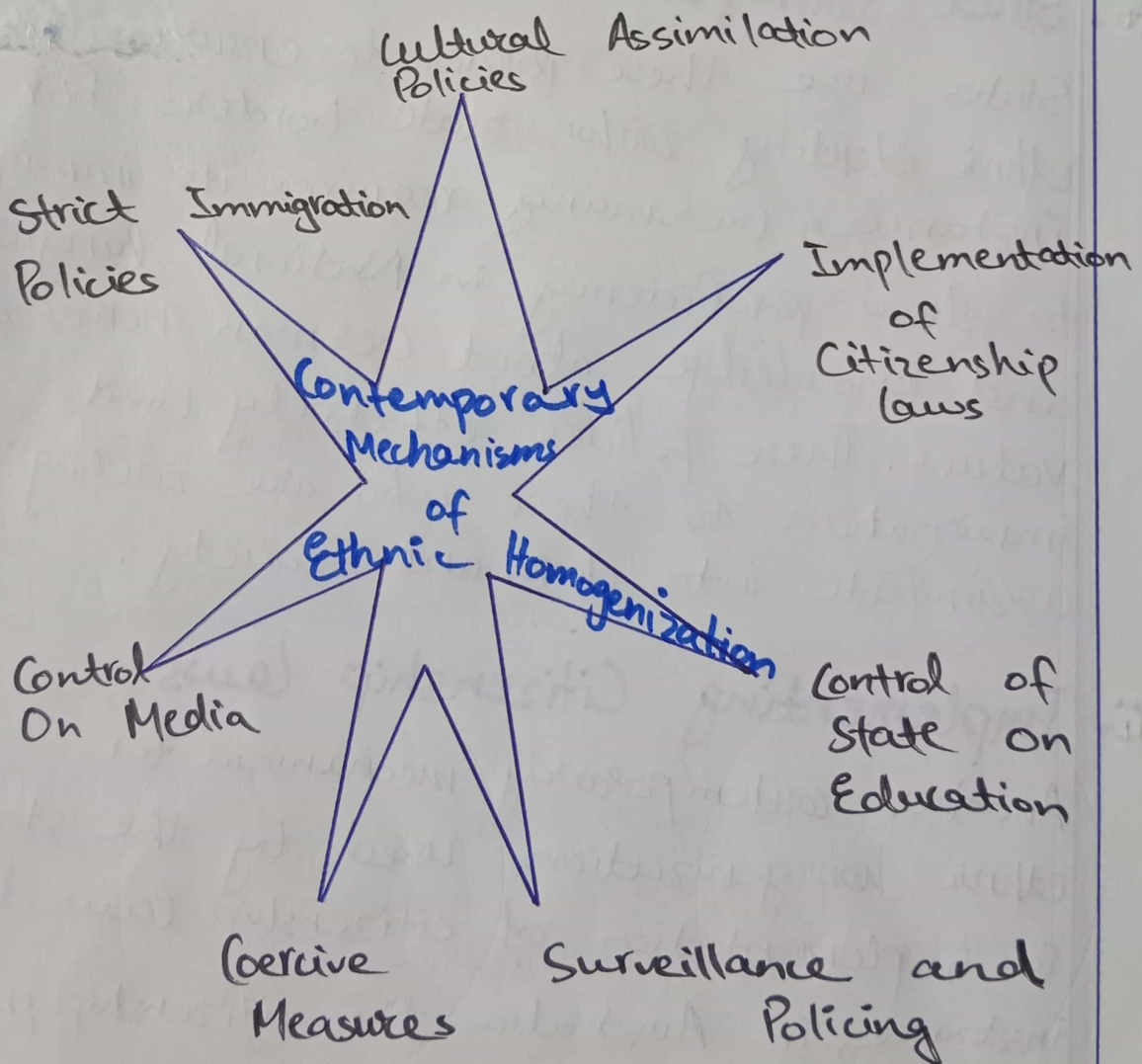
This can be a voluntary or an involuntary process. Sometimes, minorities voluntarily leave their original culture and adopt

the dominant culture; and sometimes they are forced by state or dominant group to do so.

## 4. Contemporary Mechanisms of Ethnic Homogenization Used by States

Following are the contemporary mechanisms of ethnic homogenization used by states.

a.



## i- Cultural Assimilation Policies

Modern states use cultural assimilation policies for ethnic homogenization. For instance, France uses all these policies to prevent the minority culture from influencing dominant culture. Talal Asad has studied how French secular society impose allegations on Muslims in wearing Hijab through cultural assimilation policies for ensuring uniform ethnic identity in France.

## ii- Strict Immigration Policies

States use these policies to ensure uniform ethnic identity within state borders. For instance, Germany requires its immigrants to show proficiency in National language and knowledge about German norms and values. These policies effectively limit immigration to those who are willing to assimilate into dominant society.

## iii- Implementing Citizenship Laws

Another contemporary mechanism for ethnic homogenization used by the states is implementation of citizenship laws. For instance, in Australia the citizenship process assesses applicants on the basis of their understanding to history, culture

norms and values of Australia. This process inadvertently favors those who are already familiar with culture of dominant society. In this way, these laws help in ethnic homogenization.

#### iv. Control On Education

Various states such as China exercises control on education for ethnic homogenization.

In various regions like Xinjiang, Chinese government exercises control on curriculum for promoting Mandarin language and Han Chinese culture while omitting the Uyghur culture. These steps aim at promoting uniform ethnic identity within China.

#### v. Control of State On Media

Modern states also use control on media for ethnic homogenization. For instance <sup>in</sup> Türkiye the government controls media for promoting Turkish nationalism at the expense of ethnic minorities like Kurds. Similarly, in Russia there is firm control of government on media that glorifies Russian nationalism while negatively portraying the ethnic minorities.

## vi- Use of Coercive Measures

Modern states use coercive measures to ensure uniform ethnic identity within the state borders. For instance, India's BJP under Narendra Modi is collaborating with RSS that harbor anti-Muslim sentiments and commit Muslim genocide for establishing uniform ethnic identity and executing Hindutva policy.

## vii- Surveillance and Policing

Another contemporary mechanism used by ~~the~~ states for ethnic homogenization is surveillance and policing. For instance, the Rohingya crisis of 2017 is an example in this regard. The state controls and monitors this Muslim minority population in Buddhist Myanmar using security personnel in Rakhine state for ensuring uniform ethnic identity.



# Conclusion

Ethnic homogenization is a process that establishes uniform ethnic identity at the expense of minorities. This process uses coercive measures that can create hate in ethnic minorities and raise anti-state actors. All mechanisms used by state for ethnic homogenization reduces cultural diversity in the state.