

Chapter 7: Diversity in Global Society

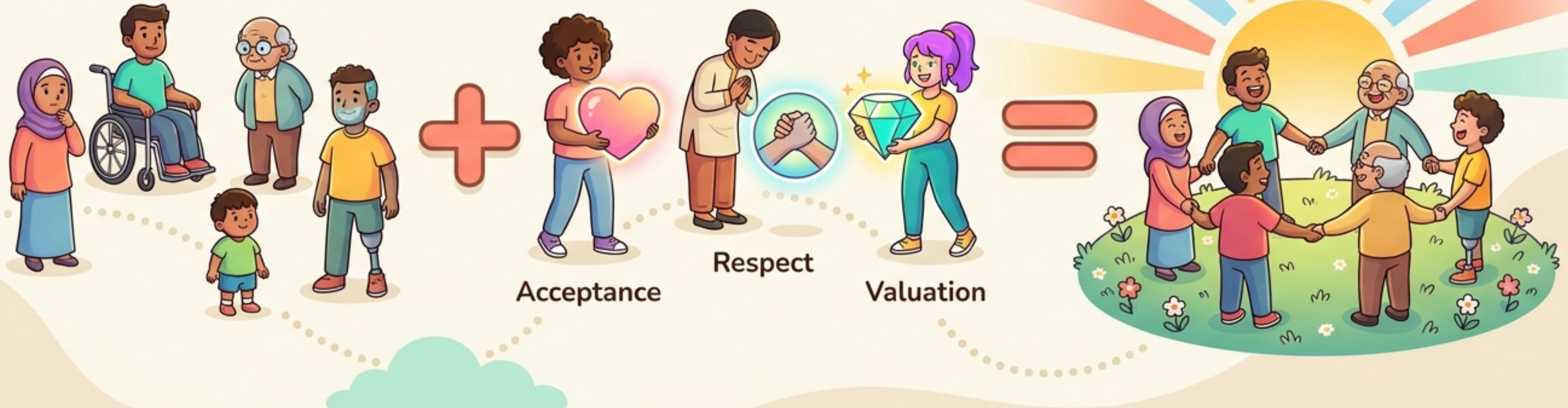
• SOI2305 Global Education •



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Rethinking Diversity: Beyond Just Existing Together

Diversity is a core concept in social sciences, humanities, and public policy because contemporary society is built on varied identities and experiences. It is not simply “different people in the same space.” It requires active engagement to achieve **equal and peaceful coexistence**.



The 7 Dimensions of Human Diversity

Diversity is multidimensional. Identities intersect, and individuals should never be judged by a single attribute.



Ethnic

Lineage, ethnic groups, identity



Language

National, local, and ethnic languages



Religion

Diverse beliefs requiring freedom



Cultural

Values, traditions, food, art, lifestyle



Gender

Sex, gender identity, expression



Age / Generation

Varying experiences and values



Physical & Mental

Abilities, disabilities, mental health



Embracing the richness of all dimensions leads to true understanding and belonging.

Why Diversity is a Resource, Not a Problem

In a borderless, globalized world where people and ideas move rapidly, diversity is an essential asset that must be managed, not eliminated.



Defining the Multicultural Society

Merely Coexisting

Rigid
Separation

Rigid
Separation



Limited
Interaction

A True Multicultural Society

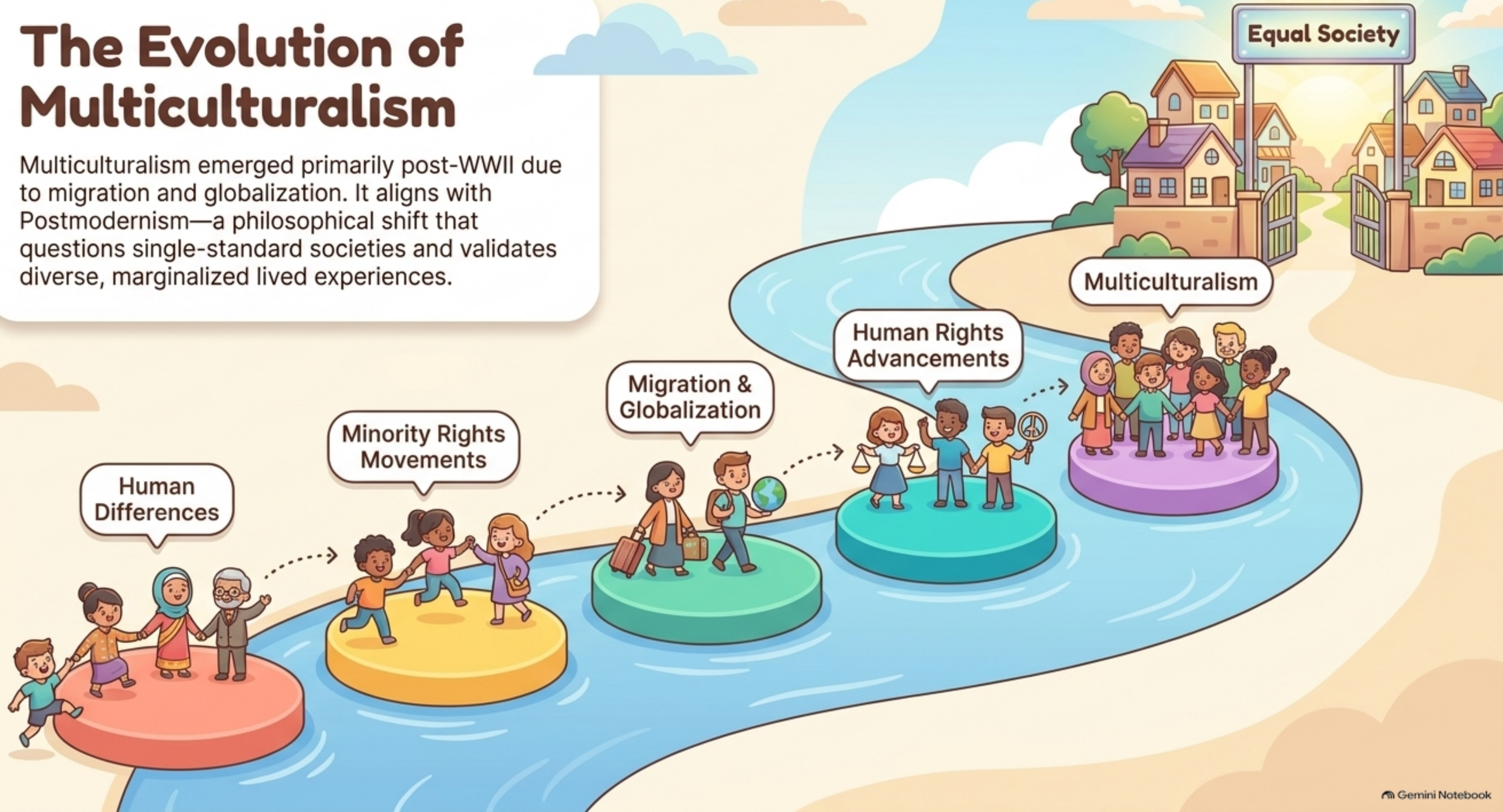


Core Requirements:

- Equality and mutual respect.
- Acceptance and dignity for all groups.
- The fundamental right to maintain one's unique identity.

The Evolution of Multiculturalism

Multiculturalism emerged primarily post-WWII due to migration and globalization. It aligns with Postmodernism—a philosophical shift that questions single-standard societies and validates diverse, marginalized lived experiences.



The 3 Dimensions of Multiculturalism

Value Framework:

All cultures have inherent value.

Political Process:

Active demand for rights and equality.

Social Reality:

Contemporary overlapping identities.

Maintaining Difference



Equal Coexistence

Multiculturalism in Thailand: A Long-Standing Reality

Thailand has always been fundamentally diverse. The modern challenge is ensuring this diversity leads to equal coexistence, not segregation.

North:



Unique identities facing citizenship & state-access barriers.

South:



Diverse religions & lifestyles sharing communities.



Urban Centers:



Deep economic & cultural integration.

Borders:



Growing linguistic & cultural diversity through labor.

Global Friction: Ethnic & Religious Discrimination

Ethnic Discrimination

Minorities and migrants face barriers to education, healthcare, and basic rights. Racism breeds global violence and distrust of the state.



Freedom of Religion
& Non-Discrimination



Hate, Bias, and
Forced Assimilation

Religious Discrimination

Religion is core to identity. The solution to religious tension is not forcing everyone to believe the same thing, but ensuring absolute freedom and non-discrimination.

Global Friction: Gender Discrimination

Despite global advancements in human rights, LGBTQ+ communities worldwide continue to face severe stigma, discrimination, and restricted rights. Gender identity is unjustly used as a tool to exclude individuals from social opportunities.



Impact on Thailand: Social Dynamics & Polarization

As Thailand integrates further into the global landscape, managing diverse groups becomes critical. Failing to understand diversity creates a toxic social loop, rapidly amplified by social media.



Impact on Thailand: Economy, Labor & Human Rights

Migrant workers are the backbone of Thai construction, industry, and services. Neighboring conflicts also bring refugees, raising humanitarian and security challenges.



The Final Verdict: Power or Problem?

Difference is a natural part of society. Whether that difference becomes a powerful asset or a destructive problem depends entirely on how society chooses to accept and manage diversity.



Unmanaged

Managed & Accepted