

Creating **Multiculturalism**:  
Legislating Racial and Ethnic Identities  
in Canada

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**Canada?**



# Objectives

- Examine the link between multiculturalism, immigration, and race and ethnic relations in Canada
- Multiculturalism = Power?
- Situate theories of identity, most notably racialized and Black identity, within a Canadian multicultural framework

# Paper Outline

- Defining Multiculturalism: Legislating Ambiguity
- The History of Immigration: A Positive Good or Necessary Evil?
- Canada: A Racialized and Ethnicized State?
- Intellectualization and Marginalization of Visible Minority and Black identity

# Defining Multiculturalism



# An ambiguous muddle of rhetorical jargon

- *Howard Brotz*: MC obsolete – all Canadians want a bourgeois culture
- *Joseph Garcea*: Laissez-Faire, Anti, and Reform Multiculturalists
- *Roberts and Clifton*: No government support for symbolic ethnicity
- *Enoch Padolsky*: Legislated hegemonic societal controlling agents
- *Fleras and Elliott*: Unity in Ambiguity

# Neil Bissoondath

- Psychology of Separation – “Psychic Apartheid”
- Ghettoized Toleration



# Will Kymlicka

- Lack of Confidence?
- Lack of Power?
- White Estrangement: “Whites feel estranged from mainstream institutions that are becoming increasingly plurastic”



# Multiculturalism: Defining Race and Ethnicity



# Peter S. Li

- “Ethnic and racial groups in Canada are produced and sustained not just by apparent cultural differences among people but by many societal forces pertaining to nationhood formation, linguistic competition, and political contests.”

# Creating Canadians?



Mount Elgin Residential School – South West Oxford, Ontario

- Quebec Act, 1774
- Indian Act, 1876
- Official Languages Act, 1969
- Canada Act, 1982
- Multiculturalism Act, 1988

# Barring Immigration

- Clifford Sifton, Frank Oliver, William Scott
- Blacks “unsuited to the climate”
  - Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Climate Discrimination



Comments/Questions?



Thank you!