

U.K. and Italy. Further, if European countries continue to pursue restrictive immigration policies, Europe risks “shutting itself out” from skilled workers who would more readily immigrate to Canada and the United States.

European countries should increase their immigration intake and develop policies that more easily integrate newcomers. However, immigrants will not integrate without a policy that accords them full economic and political rights. In addition, European countries must move beyond ethnically-based concepts of nationality. Hence, the question of nationality must be resolved in terms of geography and belonging rather than ethnicity. Canada’s multicultural policy avails immigrants of the opportunity to retain elements of their own culture while acquiring full social and economic integration into Canadian society. As well, any conflict of values between ‘immigrant’ and ‘host’ cultures must be resolved through the rule of law.

However, the Canadian multicultural model may not be completely applicable in Europe, as ethnically-based perceptions of nationality may be difficult to change. As well, the notion that visible minorities are well-integrated in Canada has come under scrutiny; Canadian urban centres are not immune to ‘ghettoization.’ Also, some argue that immigrants to Canada express a desire to integrate, while immigrants to Europe wish to remain separated from the mainstream.

PRESERVING CULTURE IN AN ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

Concerns about the preservation of culture are becoming increasingly important for Canada and Europe. Since American culture and symbols are able to be disseminated more easily through the communication networks fostered by globalization, the preservation of other cultures remains an increasingly important shared challenge.

Policy Options

Canadian international cultural policy should focus on dialogue and exchange rather than the sale of popularized “Canadian” symbols. As well, some argue that the development of Canadian culture in Canada is needed.

In order to remedy a perceived imbalance between diplomacy, trade and culture in Canadian foreign policy, further emphasis should be made toward promoting Canadian culture and values abroad. Arts and culture could be used as tools to promote these values. As well, Canadian centres of culture, drawing on European examples like the British Council, could be established abroad to achieve this end. Furthermore, a culture promotion component could be added to Team Canada trade missions, using the expertise of Canadian artists. Further links should be created between Canadian cultural organizations in order to better promote the work of Canadian artists. Canada should also nurture cultural links with EU candidate countries.