

Modern Cultural Imperialism, Forced Assimilation, and Institutional Coercion

Union of Saints

Several terms may describe a situation in which one population enters an established community and attempts to impose its cultural practices, values, institutions, or social expectations upon the existing population. The most applicable term is **cultural imperialism**, which refers to the imposition of one group's language, values, customs, institutions, or worldview upon another population, particularly when the process involves pressure, unequal power, or coercion.

Colonialism refers to the domination of one population by another through political, economic, territorial, or institutional control. Colonial systems have often involved settlement, control of land and resources, and the restructuring of existing institutions. An outside population establishes a permanent presence and seeks to establish lasting control over territory, institutions, and political or social structures.

Forced assimilation describes circumstances in which a population is pressured or compelled to abandon aspects of its existing culture, identity, language, traditions, or social practices in favor of those imposed by a dominant group.

Cultural erasure describes the suppression, displacement, or destruction of a population's cultural identity, including its language, traditions, historical memory, religious practices, or community institutions.

Coercive assimilation is particularly relevant when cultural conformity is obtained through threats, penalties, exclusion, or the withdrawal of important opportunities or services. The defining feature is that individuals are not simply encouraged to participate in another culture; they are placed under pressure to conform.

Institutional coercion describes the use of institutional power to compel behavior by making access to employment, education, housing, public services, professional opportunities, or participation in community life dependent upon compliance with particular requirements.

For example, if members of an established community are effectively told, "**Accept our cultural practices or you will lose access to education, employment, community participation, or other essential opportunities,**" the conduct may be more accurately described as **coercive assimilation and institutional coercion** than as immigration alone.

Where those elements can be demonstrated, the issue is not simply that different cultures are interacting. It becomes a question of **power, coercion, institutional control, cultural autonomy, and the right of an existing community to maintain its own identity and social institutions without being compelled to surrender them.**

I do feel that the criteria has been met for our modern experience in America, particularly by the left and foreign political domain.