

Unitarian Church of Calgary
Lay service - July 4, 2010.
Ramesh Joshi

“New Face of Canada- Demography & Diversity”

Topics:

Human evolution/ Migration
Migration / Immigration- Example of India
Immigration & Multicultural Policy and Practice
Possible solutions- For discussion

Presentation:

History of Human Evolution:

Humans are the only ones who have been able to develop written and spoken language to pass on the happenings, myths, knowledge and skills to future generations. The description of such things is called History. The history is to learn lessons and not to hold grudges. What has happened can not be changed.

Modern Human as we see today possibly evolved either in SW region of Africa or at relatively same time at different places as per Multi Regional Theory. It is still being debated. But there is general consensus that about 17000 ago humans started living in larger groups as they found ways to grow crops to sustain rather than being just hunter gatherers.

Greek Historian Thucydides in 5 BC or 2500 BP declared that “Nothing of importance had happened before his time”. But the archeological discoveries since then suggest that empires and civilizations started developing some time between 6 to 10 century BC and about 8000 to 12000 years BP. There may be a difference of opinion on the date but we surely did not have highly developed technological societies as well as artists and philosophers until about that time. The written language was developed around 5000 years ago which allowed people to preserve the knowledge and historical records for coming generations, In some cases unknowingly as they made marks or wrote names and stories for posterity. There are about 6000 spoken languages and many more extinct.

Recent DNA sequencing studies on lice which live on us humans suggest that there was a sudden mutation in humans around 20,000 years or so ago. From that and other studies it was implied that we may have changed from hunter gathering homosapiens nomadic peoples to cave dwellers and village and community builders. The presence of intricate drawings of animals and other objects in caves around that time suggest the development of artistic qualities in humans around that time.

Humans are noted for their desire to understand and influence their environment, seeking to explain and manipulate natural phenomena through science, philosophy, mythology and religion. This natural curiosity has led to the development of advanced tools and skills, which are passed down [culturally](#); humans are the only animal species known to build [fires](#), [cook their food](#), [clothe](#) themselves, and use numerous other [technologies](#).

We humans learned to cooperate for survival and developed tools and technology to hunt and as we learned to farm we settled into villages or communities. Such communal living must have required the formation of some rules as well as caring of those in need. As the population grew people had to move away or migrate and find better land either to hunt or farm. It was a full time effort to farm or hunt for self survival and also for the family and the society.

But we did evolve into caring, compassionate and altruistic only recently in the history of mankind and has no correlation to the intelligent design.

East knew not the West nor vice versa. It prevails even today. This evolution took place at different stages in various parts of the world similar to the evolution of other creatures. Environment and opportunities made us what we are today in different countries.

It is worth pointing out that war at different stages on human development gave the impetus for many of the new inventions in the west but not so in the east. The gun powder was invented in China but never used for fighting or hunting there. The guns introduced in Japan by the west were eliminated after a while by the Japanese society since its use was considered cowardice.

There may have been differences in the intelligence amongst various people as it is today and the more intelligent ones and also possibly strong ones became leaders. But most leaders could not possibly answer all the questions asked by the others, as happens even today, and took the shelter of the so called unknown but omnipotent, omnipresent, yet not visible God. That is how the religions possibly came into being. But the innate nature of humans being caring, compassion, and altruistic has existed much before the religion came into being as is observed from the behavior of those who never were exposed to the idea of the existence of God. Many young ones who grew up in communist china without God show this very clearly.

The community and or society had to maintain order and that could be done only by taking shelter of the unknown or the creator. In the East the religions even invented the reincarnation and the results of actions in the past life to explain the pain, loss, suffering and even the health and wealth. That allowed the masses to follow certain rules.

The religions so invented by different societies along with the increase in population gave an impetus to the formation of tribes, communities, villages, states, countries and empires.

Migration/Immigration

Humans have been migrating even before communities were formed and have populated different parts of the planet. Since the formation of countries the idea of migration almost vanished and the states controlled the immigration for various reasons. In the prehistoric or even historic past people migrated to India with little or no restriction. It is why the color, height and features of people in India vary from one region to the other. Even the Gods preferentially worshipped also vary from region to region and with in the regions. So people migrated to India without any control.

The conquerors also settled in countries like India where the land was fertile and climate was mild. Swami Viveka Nand even postulated that the cast system possibly started by such differences and migration trends in India. None the less the migration did bring in large populations of Parsees or Iranians who followed a religion which is considered precursor of Judaism. The Huns, Shuks, Afghans, and many other invaders came to India and many of them or the ones who chose to do so settled there. The result is that India is country with almost all imaginable religions. Even during the last 60 years about 15 million Bangladeshis, several hundred thousand Tibetans and Bahais have also migrated or immigrated to India.

Some have been allowed as refugees and others have migrated illegally as have the Mexicans in the USA. Illegal immigration to Canada is not an unknown secret.

As per Jerrod Diamond the people of the first nations migrated to the Americas around 12000 years ago and settled here. So this planet has seen migration and immigration of millions depending on the circumstances. The Europeans came to this continent in 15th century and many millions have since then immigrated. Vikings even ventured into Labrador much earlier than Columbus, who called the native people as Indians.

The first nation's people migrated to seek better hunting grounds. They followed the prey and later settled and built cities and empires. The civilization developed by the migrating natives rivaled the rest in other parts of the world at that time. It was just a matter of time difference and the environment that Native Americans did not venture out side the continental Americas.

Now people in the over populated countries wish to move or immigrate dreaming of greener pastures as the Europeans did in the past. At the same time the industrialize countries need people to meet the labor demands and give impetus to migration / immigration.

Leaving aside the politics of colonization it can be said that the Europeans colonized and conquered the native lands and entered into treaties with different First Nations so as to bring more and more of Europeans to populate the land. This mass migration or immigration to the conquered land allowed millions of people to enter Canada of today. The original owners of land are now in minority and the face of Canada has changed significantly. The current economic migration is based on the need of the nation and is equally accentuated by those willing to move from the over populated countries.

The immigration as well as the confinement of the First Nations Peoples on the reserves and laws and rules made to separate children from families deprived them of their culture, religion, and traditions. Many of the children so separated also suffered inhuman physical and or sexual abuse and caused permanent harm and change in the behavior of many if not all such children for which the Federal Government apologized recently. Hopefully the future for the people of the first nations will bring prosperity and peace of mind.

I believe the First Nations People need to be represented in the Universities in proportion to their population for the good of this nation. It is unfortunate that many of the immigrants who arrived here with nothing more than clothes on their bodies in 16th to 20th century BC have prospered but a vast

majority of the Natives have been left behind from the fruits of prosperity this nation has created in exploiting the mineral resources.

Population:

The population of Canada was only about 3.5 m at the time of the formation of the confederation. Today the population stands at 34 m as per the latest figures.

Until 1962 when the immigration policy was changed to the point system based on education, age, and other such criteria to meet the needs as per the request of the provincial Governments very few people if any were allowed to enter from so called non white countries.

During the last 50 years the birth rate in Canada as well as the rest of the Western countries has dropped significantly. Even the families in Quebec who are by and large of Catholic faith do not have children even to replenish the ones who die by natural causes. Quebec has the lowest birth rate of all the provinces. On top of that the industry has expanded significantly over the years. Therefore, to meet the labor needs (including professionals and all others) have to be met by immigration.

The Net migration rate for the country is 5.63 migrant(s)/1,000 populations (2009 EST.). In the last 10 years or so about 250,000 immigrants have been drawn to our shores in response to the revised and need based labor force.

Statistics Canada projects that, by [2031](#), approximately 28% of the population will be foreign-born. The number of people belonging to [visible minority](#) groups will double and make up the majority of the population in Toronto and Vancouver.

The new immigration policy has attracted people from all lands. Canada is no doubt the envy of every country. Even one in 3 Americans will like to immigrate and live here if given a chance. But the new rules allow only the educated except for those allowed for family reunion.

The result is that we now have people from all over the world. Since China, India and the rest of the South East Asian countries account for almost two third of the population of the world similar proportion of all the current immigrants also come from those countries. The remaining one third of the immigrants comes from Africa, Latin American Countries, Europe and the Middle East. Sure we also have Americans, some of whom including myself have chosen to become citizens of Canada despite no pressure to do so. I believe it is because of the fact that many of us like the idea of community and society first rather than the individual in all the cases and still maintain the dignity and rights of the individual.

The new immigrants have also brought some things which are very valuable besides their education and diligence and language. In this age of global trade nation can use all that.

But many of the immigrants have also brought some habits, traditions which do not necessarily fit in the norms of the Canadian Society.

Many say we have to be tolerant or respectful of the culture different than ours. Yes we should be. But the laws made for the benefit of all can not be altered to meet the needs or whims of some people under the disguise of culture or tradition.

I remember when the Constituent Assembly of India was debating the constitution of free India a prominent freedom fighter, Mr. Rafi Ahamed Kidwai attempted to make the clothing or any other special way of showing their religion unacceptable for those who wish to work in public service. His argument was that a citizen approaches any public servant with a complaint or need to be attended in any office or any elected leader he should see an Indian and not a Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, or Parsee. The religion should not be for show but for practicing in private. This he insisted must be mandatory for all public servants.

Alas his argument was voted down because of the political considerations. He was a Muslim but he did not want any one including Muslims to exhibit their religions in public service.

Likewise the tradition of arranged marriage against the will of the couple, particularly the females is rather a disease in India and almost all the Islamic countries. In the last few months 80 or so couples, who chose to live in love and marry, have been murdered in India by the families and or some so called self elected Panchayat people.

Similar things have happened in Canada. The so called honor killings should be called murders and not any thing else.

I have known of students who were afraid of their parents and could not talk about things they wish to do and were doing so and were living in the fear of reprisals. The music, dance, and other means of entertainment are prohibited and creativity of the child and even those of the adults is rather suppressed and even killed.

Full body or any other kind of face cover by tradition has become a show of religion. One thing such a dictate does not really seem to exist in the scriptures. But the kids are brain washed to believe that it is so. As a result the same kids when they grow up start believing in other traditions.

Genital mutation of females or multiple wives are other crimes as per common law and must be looked upon accordingly.

As per the current practice of multicultural policy the other most important thing which I am expected to make allowance and respect for the other even if it is against my conscience. Free speech I am supposed to refrain from even if I see and hear some thing wrong. The political correctness seem to have permeated into the conscience of the society in accepting such an attitude for accepting what is not good for the society.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali (The former MP in Netherlands and now hounded by the fundamentalists for speaking out) said it more effectively than any one else could when people claim that you are morally or religiously offended by my speech, therefore, I should not have the right to express it, is a form of bullying. Her actual words are "Demanding that who do not accept Muhammad's teaching should

refrain from drawing him is not a request but a demand for submission”. Artists and common man like you and me all the time make comments about Christ, Moses, and Hindu Gods with no fear or ridicule.

Unlike other religions Islam is a political and religious way of accepting a way of living and is not tuned to democracy. I have been to Turkey and I heard it loud and clear that the secular Turkey was envisioned by Ata Turk and he never wanted the religious people to be part of the Government or the universities. But in recent years things have changed. There is not other democratic government in the Islamic countries. That is the reason they are so far behind in social and political development and democratic institutions. Some Muslims have started speaking despite all the threats from the ignorant who believe in unbelievable.

I am not sure whether you know it or not but Sharia law almost passed in Ontario. Had it not been for the women, some even of Islamic faith, the law would have certainly passed.

We need to be on watch for imposition of laws and constraints on free speech no matter what. It is the corner stone of democracy and freedom to live without tyranny.

Had 329 white Canadians died in the plane crash by a terrorist attack there would have been a hue a cry and many heads would have rolled. But most people did not care. Even two media people, who wrote about the tragedy and attempted to expose the culprit, were murdered. Most of the common public did not care.

The bombing of Air India and attitude of successive governments to protect the vote banks of Sikhs has been a blemish on our democratic way of life for which the Prime Minister recently apologized. For the last quarter of century people lived with pain and deep hurt for the loss of life of the loved ones knowing the Government did not care.

The so called places of worship built to a great extent by government assistance and charitable contributions have become hot beds for terrorist activities. Some of the buildings so built have been converted into private clubs and are now controlled by terrorist sympathizers as disclosed by the journalists who know the details of such activities. Yet the value of vote and laws of our free society allow them to function and train or brainwash the children to be sympathizers of the terrorists.

Almost in every city in Canada certain factions of the Sikh community take out processions with photos of the so called martyrs (who were the terrorists and killed in India while battling with the Indian forces). Some people from that community donate blood in the name of martyrs and the media gives them publicity knowing that the terrorists are being honored by these blood donors.

If we let things happen because they do not affect us then we will all suffer.

Would you believe the Government spends money on teaching kids of immigrants, born and raised here in Canada, languages of their parents’ motherland or even mother province in the country from where their parents immigrated? This kind of education simply creates a new class of citizens who are not similar to the ones b

Canada will become other India if we do not keep an eye on such things in the name of religious or language accommodation.

As suggested by Mr. Luttwak on the Ideas program Friday July 2nd 2010, it is time to understand that Islam is again on the move as it was from 6th century to about 16th century. The colonization of Islamic lands by Europeans kept it under wraps. But now due to lack of education a vast majority of the population in Islamic countries is rather devoted to the idea of infallibility of Koran and the dictates in other scriptures related to it.

What is the solution?

Violence is not a solution to any problem. But those who propagate violence and attempt to shun others free speech need to be dealt. Every one needs to learn to listen and solve problem by civil discourse. The laws of the land can not be sacrificed for any one or culture or religion.

A possible solution could be compulsory elementary to middle class education for all the Children before education in private or religious schools is allowed. Yes it looks like a call against the private schooling, particularly the religious school education of any kind.

Plato in his discourse on Republic mentions about early education of children in very specific terms.

It is time to read his discourse and try to understand why he insisted on censoring any thing unwanted or undesirable or harmful to the kids in school. That is the only place he advocates censorship. Even our constitution places limits on hate speech. Why not limit the brain washing of children in the name of religion. I know it sounds a little too harsh but the nation needs to look for its future and its kids to maintain peace here and abroad.

As per discourse by Plato in the Republic he says: We must teach children music {which includes art, stories (literature), drama etc}. He suggests telling stories which, though not wholly destitute of truth, are in the main fictitious; and those stories are told them when they are not of age to learn gymnastic.

Thanks.

Ramesh

VANCOUVER (Reuters) - A Toronto man was convicted on Tuesday of attempting to illegally export nuclear-related technology to Iran, in the first Canadian criminal case resulting from UN sanctions against the Middle East nation.

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An Ontario judge found Mahmoud Yadegari guilty of attempting to export pressure transducers, which can be used in the building of both nuclear plants and weapons, according to Canada's Public Prosecutors Service.

Yadegari, 36, was arrested last year on a variety of charges, including violating Canada's agreements banning exports of technology prohibited under United Nations sanctions aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear program.

The trial never heard evidence of what the equipment was to be used for and the judge who convicted Yadegari said it was not a sophisticated operation, according to Toronto-area media.

Yadegari, a businessman who had immigrated to Canada from Iran, faces a prison term of up to 10 year years and fines of up to C\$500,000 (\$476,000). He will be sentenced on July 29.

(Reporting Allan Dowd; editing by Rob Wilson)