

7. National Culture and Cultural Diversity

This topic attempts to clarify the difference between a national culture, shared by citizens of geographically bounded nation, and cultural diversity of various ethnic and cultural groups that mix with one another, that are not pure and may not be locally bounded. The source 1 explains the terminology. The American national culture is built on the myth of one nation and national values shared by all Americans (read source 2). The myth of one American national culture tries to suppress the reality of cultural diversity. Learning about American or any other culture should not mean to study one (American) national culture, but to explore the diversity of cultures within the given nation.

Today's diversities in cultures and ethnic groups are threatened, however, by assimilative tendencies, that erase cultural differences in favor of one major culture, or by extremist nationalism of Ku Klux Klan and other Neo-Nazi groups that call for destruction of minorities and their cultural groups. Read source 3 to learn more about these and other theories of national culture and cultural diversity.