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# The Challenge of Diversity

Integration and Pluralism  
in Societies of Immigration

European Centre Vienna

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Immigration from diverse origins has not only changed the social composition of highly industrialized societies. It has also profoundly affected their cultural identities. Nations originating from immigration, such as the USA, Australia or Israel, have reluctantly abandoned the vision of a melting pot wherein all ethnic origins would be transformed into a homogeneous national identity. But will common citizenship be sufficient to integrate an ethnic mosaic? Many European societies have traditionally identified the political nation with specific ethnic traditions. How much cultural adaptation can they expect from immigrants and how open are their national cultures for accommodating the immigrant experience? Ten authors address these questions. There is a common denominator: Cultural diversity resulting from immigration is neither seen as inherently desirable nor as a problem to be overcome, but rather as a challenge to which liberal democracies have not yet responded adequately.

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