

PREFACE

One of the crucial tasks that face pluralistic societies today is the empowerment of minorities through education as a way of bridging socioeconomic gaps and paving the way for civil culture. This issue stands at the core of critical multiculturalism, which aims to create cultural bridges between different groups who share the same society through the redivision of power and the enhancement of political and cultural democracy.

This goal is not easy to attain. It requires a broad agreement between minority and majority groups over the contents of multiculturalism and its adoption as a common ideology, as well as a way of dealing with ethnic, racial, national, and other social divisions.

This book attempts to shed light on different aspects of multiculturalism. In particular it delineates the German and Israeli experiences in terms of majority-minority relations through formal and informal education. It addresses the meaning and implementation of multiculturalism in these societies through issues such as cultural policy, linguistic policy, the shaping of the school curriculum, the absorption of immigrants, the promotion of women's status, and other related issues.

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