



# HISTORICAL INFLUENCES

## INTERNATIONAL & INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

The following is an introduction to select historical aspects of internationalization of higher education in the west. The overview is limited as a brief introduction to the ways education has been influenced by mobility and intercultural learning.

### MIDDLE AGES & RENAISSANCE

Before the 19th Century university students and professors would travel or make a pilgrimage to cities with universities in hopes of finding learning. In addition to academic knowledge, they took home with them intercultural experiences, which influenced ideas, opinions, and political principles and views. These experiences were reserved for wealthy, aristocratic men.



### EMERGENCE OF NATION STATES

In the 18th and 19th Century, the emergence of European nations changed the universal focus of universities and they became more nationalized.

“Paradoxically perhaps, before it became an international institution the university had first to become a national institution just as internationalization presupposes the existence of nation states” (Scott, p. 123).



### HIGHER EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS & COLONIZATION

Throughout the 17th to 20th centuries, European colonial powers exported systems of higher education to the colonies. A side effect of the European models of universities was that several North American students sought education in Europe as it was thought to be superior.

As colonies became their own nation states, there were efforts to keep domestic students at home in effort to strengthen nationalism.

### WORLD WAR I & WORLD WAR II

As Europe recovered from the wounds of two massive wars, internationalization saw more mobility to the United States and to Latin America.

World War I encouraged a sense of peace and mutual understanding in international education efforts, but World War II changed these efforts to be focus more on national security and policy.



### INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGIES

Following the cold war and subsequent economic influences, the 1980s saw movement towards creating internationalization strategies. The globalization of societies, emergence and dominance of technologies, and competitiveness of markets continue to drive internationalization.

Due to the dominance of Western models and Eurocentric values, there is recognition that internationalization needs to evolve and address the concerns of neocolonialism.

#### REFERENCES:

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