Practice and Consequences of Social Cohesion Programmes

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Overview

- Key terms
- Argument: migration → social cohesion
- Reactions to perceived challenge
- Outcomes of policies: Limits
- Unintended consequences of policies
- No triple-win

Key Terms

- Social cohesion
- Social cohesion programme
  - Welfare state
  - Integration
- Triple-win: origin, destination, immigrants

General Argument

- Overly simplistic
- Perception and representation of issue

Challenge to Social Cohesion

- Increasing diversity
- Diversity and integration
- Perception
- Capacity to deal with diversity
- Motivation to deal with diversity
- Otherness: highlighting difference

Reactions: Society

- Xenophobia, violence
- High on the political agenda
- Attitudes become more liberal
- Increasing inter-marriages
- Ambivalent

Reactions: Politics

- Topic to mobilize voters
- Rhetoric shift
  - Security
  - Islam
  - Cultural (and economic) integration
- CBA: Cost-benefit analysis redone
  - Culture as a factor

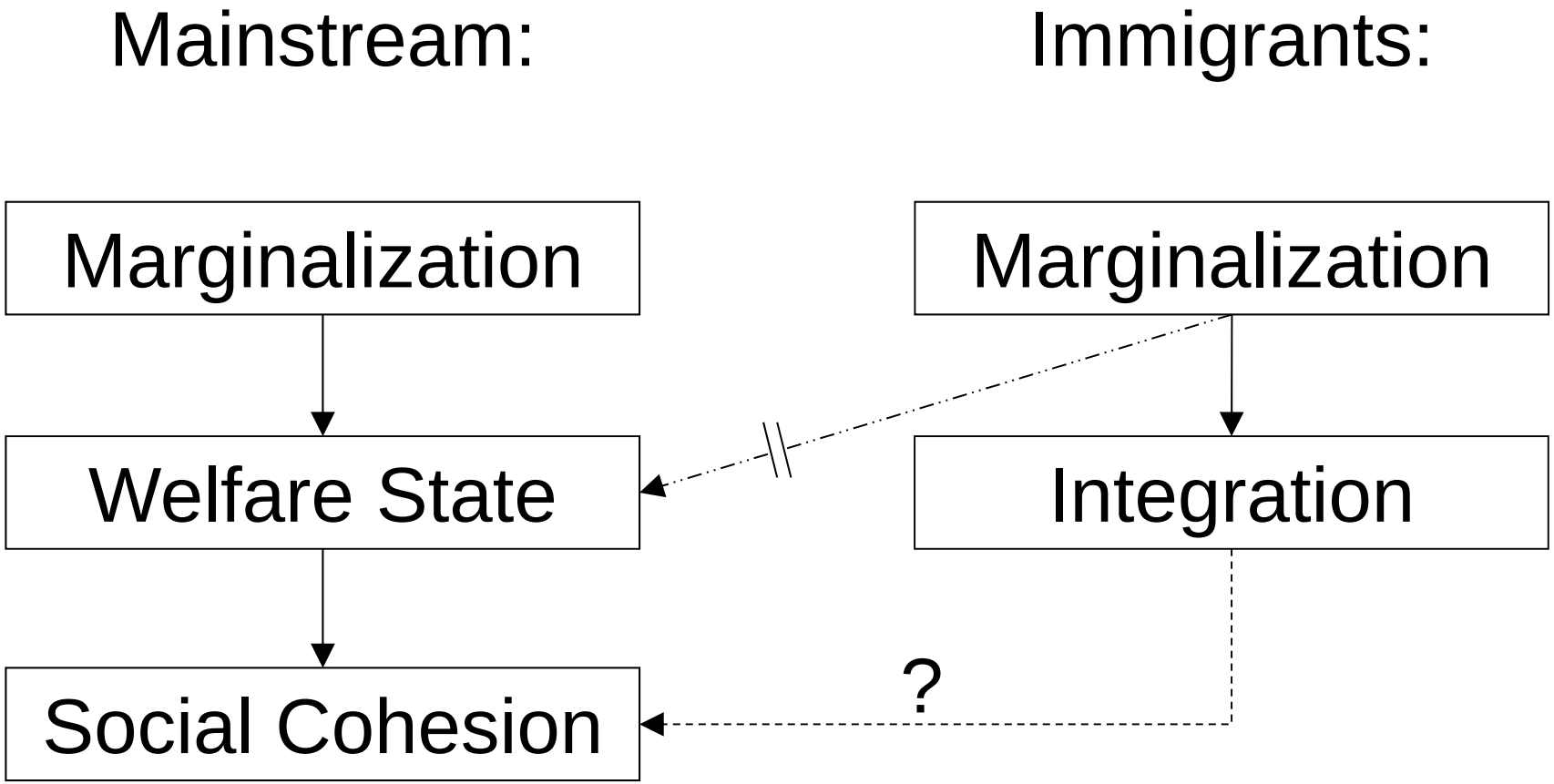
Reactions: Policy Implementation

- Highly-qualified immigrants
- Some convergence: Europe toward US/Can
  - Technical aspects
  - Big picture
- Idea of triple-win
- (Management of flows)
- Management of diversity

Programmes

- Two routes to social cohesion
  - Welfare state
  - Integration
- Integration
  - Language courses
  - Citizenship courses
  - Requirements of assimilation

Integration & Social Cohesion



Limits to Programmes

- Concept of cultural integration
  - What is it?
  - How to measure it?
  - Can it be forced?
- Out of reach: irregular immigration
- Legal limits: human rights, EU
- Universality of welfare state (rhetoric)

(Un)intended Outcomes

- Difficult to measure
- Indicators of integration and cohesion
  - Lack of theory
- What works: welfare state, universal rights
- Social cohesion or just immigration
- Political backlash against universal rights
  - Triple-win assumes universal rights

Conclusion

- Social cohesion: not just immigration
- Backlash
- Defence/justification of difference
- Cultural integration and social cohesion
- No triple-win