

What are the implications for indigenous movements, political mobilisation, and identity politics?

Globalisation presents us with evolving societies making it easier for new voices to be heard while making it easier for one voice to drown out all the others. It is providing each of us with finger-tip access to the whole range of human cultural diversity while, at the same time, it is dissolving all cultures into a single supermarket with standard brands. It is making it possible for even the smallest society to earn a livelihood by selling its ideas rather than selling its lands or forests. But it also threatens the confidentiality of Indigenous peoples' most private and sacred knowledge.

The colour of the skin often exacerbates any existing prejudice in the greater part of some societies and can create other concerns of possibly different types of marginalisation. This, in turn, may see minority groups such as the various aboriginal communities resort to reaching out as one body to counter any social bias experienced by the larger community in which they find themselves. In Australia, this has resulted in the formation of the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC), not too dissimilar to the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) in the United States. These groups can be viewed as holding a certain amount of political sway, particularly since 2007, when the United Nations passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to help eliminate human rights violations against them. It creates a framework for laws to make sure that issues are addressed by working directly with Indigenous communities.

Even though Australia has now endorsed the Declaration, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia continue to face very different life outcomes than the non-Indigenous population. The ongoing dispossession and racism towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people contribute to

the huge gaps in health, life expectancy and imprisonment rates today (Amnesty International, 2023).