

The diversity of French society

Abdelkader Abdellaoui

Réseau Campus Virtuel Avicenne
(associé UNESCO)

*Correspondence: Abdelkader Abdellaoui

Received: 21 Jan 2024; Accepted: 27 Jan 2023; Published: 01 Feb 2024

Citation: Abdelkader Abdellaoui. The diversity of French society. AJMCRR 2024; 3(2): 1-8.

ABSTRACT

The barometer method for observing French society is based on the observation of programs and the indexing of people who speak on air. It is carried out per person and per broadcast. Consequently, a person is indexed once, and once only, when he or she speaks. The indexing of each criterion is carried out taking into account the supposed common sense categories, that is to say, according to the perception that most viewers would have. This perception is formed throughout the program, based on numerous elements that can be visible on the screen, said, written or even induced. Seven criteria are currently retained:

- Perceived origin (perceived as “white”, perceived as “black”, perceived as “Arab”, perceived as “Asian”, “other”)
- gender (“masculine”, “feminine”)
- Socio-professional category (“CSP+”, “CSP–”, “inactive” and “marginal or illegal activities”)
- Disability (“yes”, “no”)
- age (“under 20 years”, “20 - 34 years”, “35 – 49 years”, “50 – 64 years” and “65 years and over”)
- The precarious situation (“yes”, “no”)
- The place of residence (“city center”, “peripheral neighborhoods of houses and small buildings”, “large groups of popular suburbs”, “villages”, “DOM-TOM”).

(Sources: <https://www.csa.fr/Informer/Collections-du-CSA/Observatoire-de-la-diversite/Barometre-de-la-representation-de-la-societe-francaise-resultats-de-la-wave-2020>)

French society is thus multicultural, multi-religious, and multi-cultural; this diversity must be considered as strength if we want to build a society of equality, understanding and acceptance of the Other as different, certainly, but as being having the same rights, the same duties and the same obligations. Certain groups or associations campaign for this type of society and for interbelief. We will simply cite the G3i group (International, Intercultural and Interconvictional); this group is currently chaired by Pro-

fessor F. Becker; it brings together Muslims, Buddhists, people of the Jewish tradition, and even atheists.

President Emmanuel Macron speech

Emmanuel Macron's speech on television:

On the evening of January 16, 2024, President Macron gave a brilliant speech; he mastered his files, all his files, and responded comfortably to the questions asked of him; enough to make the presidents of less advanced societies jealous. It is perfectly clear that he has a staff of advisors up to the task.

But one particular sentence caught our attention; a sentence composed of two parts:

- a clear part: that consisting of declaring that he was in favor of including the singing of the Marseillaise in civic education programs from a very young age for children
- a part hidden from the majority of viewers and still concerning the civic education program and probably consisting of discussions on the origins of French society; what origins would he hear?
- that French society is Catholic while forgetting other religions
- that French society is white, forgetting other facies (black, African, Arab)
- that French society is Gallic: this is what we were taught at the time of colonization; to us young students who did not understand because our parents kept telling us that it was probable that we were from Roboo el Khali (probably from the Arabian desert)
- but this reminds us of another anecdote where the famous man of letters (Victor Hugo) said during a banquet on the abolition of slavery: "Africa, what is this Africa; Europe has a histo-

ry, America has a history; but Africa has no history"!

- General de Gaulle said: "the Mediterranean crosses France, as the Seine crosses Paris"
- Words from Mr. President who, instead of establishing understanding and dialogue between various representations of French society, on the contrary pushes them towards confrontation; and we then wonder about the causes that push young people to rebel against Others, against the system, against power; remarks which, instead of establishing trust, on the contrary encourage distrust!
- History of Sri Lanka:

President Macron and the conflict in Ukraine:

Statement by Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republic, on the conflict in Ukraine, NATO and the European Union, in Bratislava on May 31, 2023.

Thank you very much Mr. President, I am very happy to see many friendly faces in this room.

Ladies and Gentlemen Presidents,

Ladies and Gentlemen Prime Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen Ministers,

Ladies Ambassadors, Gentlemen Ambassadors,

Dear Robert VASS,

So, in fact, since GLOBSEC opened its doors in 2008, many leaders and political leaders have come to the Bratislava Forum, but I believe, unless I am mistaken, no French president yet. Which was undoubtedly an incongruity ? And it would be even more so today, when the war launched by Russia against neighboring Ukraine is at stake, quite simp-

ly the future of our continent and which is also at stake for many in this region. And especially since we are also on the threshold of a month which sums up the scale of our strategic challenges with the summit of the European Political Community tomorrow in Chisinau, then an important European Council for the future of our Union in month of June and finally the NATO summit in Vilnius. And basically, with these deadlines, I think it is useful to tell you with a lot of freedom how I see things at the moment that our Europe is experiencing on the geopolitical level.

Almost 20 years ago, our Union opened its doors to Slovakia and other countries freed from Soviet rule. It was then not only an enlargement of our Union, it was the return to our family of those from whom we had been separated for too long. And I do not believe, in fact, that there is a Western Europe and an Eastern Europe, or an old Europe and a new Europe. This would perpetuate the artificial border imposed for decades by the Soviet Union. There is only one Europe. A single thread made of mixed stories, of diversity, but with this desire for geographical and geopolitical unity and to fundamentally build a common story. I believe that this is what unites us all behind this project, which does not crush our national identities and our national projects, but allows us to combine them in a story that goes beyond them.

In this regard, let us remember the last words of the director of the Hungarian press agency, a few minutes before being crushed by Russian artillery in November 1956: "We are dying for Hungary and for Europe." The curtain fell on our continent, but it was already its unity that was at stake. It heralded decades of forced estrangement, decades of "kidnapped West", to use the beautiful expression

of Milan KUNDERA, which we can make ours today.

I would add to you who are here today that even after the entry of Slovakia and many other countries into the Union, we have not always heard enough of this voice that you carried, which called for recognition of your history and your painful memories. Some people told you that you were losing opportunities to remain silent. I also believe that we have sometimes lost opportunities to listen. That time is over and today, that voice must be the voice of all of us.

So my message is simple. In this moment that we live in, we must not let the West be kidnapped a second time. We will not let Europe be kidnapped a second time.

The stakes are high when war is on our borders. And in fact, Ukraine's aggression is basically the extreme manifestation, of fragility, of a challenge to our European unity which has played out over the last 15 years. 15 years during which Russia's attempts to shake up the entire European security structure and reshape it, according to its terms.

The stages are known: Vladimir PUTIN's speech in Munich in 2007, the aggression against Georgia in 2008, against Ukraine in 2014, against Ukraine again in 2022 and the creeping vassalization of Belarus. Basically, what Russia is asking for, and which it had codified in the draft treaties branched on the eve of its invasion a little over a year ago, is the weakening and neutralization of Ukraine and basically, the vulnerability of an entire part of Europe in return for light and largely unverifiable commitments.

Faced with this, and it must be recognized, we were unable to provide a European response or organize an architecture that would protect us via the OSCE or the other projects envisaged at the time against these attacks. As for NATO's response, it was basically too much or too little. A perspective offered to Ukraine and Georgia which exposed these two countries to Russian vindictiveness without protecting them and with guarantees which were far too weak. And we have lacked coherence as Europeans. We therefore provided insufficient guarantees to certain countries which were on our borders. We have not engaged Russia in a security dialogue for ourselves. Basically, we delegated this dialogue to NATO, which was undoubtedly not the best way to achieve it. And at the same time, we have not gotten out of dependencies which we have rather continued to strengthen with regard to Russia, particularly in energy matters. So we must be clear about ourselves. We have not been consistent in our approach.

Coming here, I know what the experience of many of you was during the Soviet period and I know why, rightly, everyone is determined that it will not happen again. And this is also my commitment. • Every country has the right to choose its alliances and it is never a threat to neighbors to opt for freedom, democracy, and transparency. As I was able to forcefully verify with the major G7 partners in Japan a few days ago, the foundation of the United Nations Charter remains sovereign equality: it has never been limited sovereignty. And it is for this reason also that what is at stake in Ukraine today is not simply a European question, but a question for international order and peace throughout the world. • What do we have to do :

- We must be very clear about what we call peace. Peace in Ukraine and on our continent

cannot be a ceasefire which establishes the state of affairs which would amount to recreating a frozen conflict and which, in some way, would sanction the taking of territories which contravene all the principles of international law. Because basically, this frozen conflict would definitely be war tomorrow or the day after tomorrow and the weakening of us all. There is only one peace, that which respects international law, which is chosen by those who are attacked, that is to say the Ukrainian people, and which is a peace which can be lasting and which therefore respects these balances, also with, and I will come back to this, credible guarantees. And so we must prepare ourselves for this conflict to last and for the consequences of this conflict to last with great lucidity. I hope that the coming months will allow, after a victorious counter-offensive, to put everyone back around the table and build a lasting peace on the conditions that I have just specified, chosen by Ukraine and respecting international law. But we will have, we still know, years and years of reconstruction, of humanitarian situation to manage.

Now, having told you all this, let's look at our future. The question posed to us is to know what the possible future is, in the long term, for our Europe, and how our Europe can rebuild lasting peace, security and stability for itself. We reacted very well in the short term. States, through their commitment, have shown this. NATO has shown its credibility on its eastern flank and the European Union through its commitment. But is it enough in the long term?

Now, having told you all this, let's look at our future. The question posed to us is to know what the possible future is, in the long term, for our Europe, and how our Europe can rebuild

lasting peace, security and stability for itself. We reacted very well in the short term. States, through their commitment, have shown this. NATO has shown its credibility on its eastern flank and the European Union through its commitment. But is it enough in the long term?

- I repeat, this project is not about being naive with regard to Russia - I never had any - but finally, about not denying geography and not considering that our choices should be as if we live with an ocean between us and Russia. And my goal is in no way to try to replace NATO with something else. I want to put aside all fantasies here because I know how much they can be repeated and distorted. I don't want to replace NATO with a form of Franco-German condominium, no.
- I think that it is a broad, powerful Europe, with countries like yours, like Poland and many others which must take their part in this Europe of defense but which increasingly assumes its own security and its neighborhood issues. So to do this, we must now, urgently, undertake some form of acceleration of our strategic choices and the implementation of what we have started to decide. And this is a bit of an agenda that we need to build to build this common destiny.

First, we need to build a more sovereign European capacity in energy, technology and military matters. This is a bit like the agenda that we launched at Versailles in March 2022. Now, we must implement it in an accelerated, very concrete way, that is to say, build European, buy European, innovate more European in addition. On the military level, this is also what we must do with a national effort that we must produce.

o Several of you came with us to fight terrorism in Africa, showing that solidarity works both ways,

and I am grateful to them. Even if the French presence in Africa changes, the need to continue to be engaged together remains. And so we will have to think about possible cooperation in all these spaces and build capabilities between Europeans by relying on NATO interoperability but going beyond, knowing how to engage joint action forces together on new theaters of operation in our neighborhoods, but also in cyber, space, maritime, etc.

What can we say about this speech:

- An eloquent speech for European reconstruction; a Europe free of its choices and its future
- We also note the phrase “fighting terrorism”. We forget that the concept 'terrorism' was created by rich nations to protect themselves. Let's not forget that the leader of El Qaeda (Osama bin Laden) was linked to the Buch family!
- France and Israel: France has a large community in Israel (more than 100,000 French nationals). She is attached to the action of the French in Israel as vectors of the Francophonie, which already strongly permeates Israeli society (Israel has around 700,000 French speakers or nearly 20% of the population).

Sri Lanka Historie

According to some, the first to inhabit Sri Lanka were the Tamils. Others consider that there would not have been a soul alive before the invasion of southern India by the Sinhalese. This conquest gave birth to the kingdom of Anuradhapura.

- The first period of British occupation is devoted to the construction of roads and the establishment of posts throughout the island.

- From 1833, the English established a legislative council alongside the governor, of which 6 members out of fifteen could be Ceylonese chosen by the authority.
- For 50 years, the expansion of colonialism was unchecked. Extortion and land confiscation are a prelude to the establishment of large plantations. Compulsory labor often provides cheap labor. The Ceylonese shunned these large companies and from 1850 the colonists imported Indian labor who lived away from the Sinhalese, in colonization villages.
- In 1848, a final revolt shook the country, it lasted 2 months. In 1850, Governor George Byng returned the Tooth to the monks of Kandy. The measure is well received and there is a revival of Buddhism and a movement for the revival of Sinhalese culture.

With its advantageous geographical position, Sri Lanka is becoming the center of Indian and international trade. However, things changed in 1505, when Portuguese settlers arrived. Led by Lourenço de Almeida, they took control of the spice and cinnamon trade. Soon, the Portuguese invaded the entire island.

The Portuguese are followed by the Dutch. They arrived in 1658. It took more than a century for the English settlers to land on the Sri Lankan coast. They then take total control of the island, annexing the Kingdom of Kandy. Following this, the royal colony of Ceylon was created. They developed an economy essentially based on the production and sale of tea.

Traditions and crafts in Sri Lanka are important and ingrained in the culture. The inhabitants are a deeply religious people, even if they do not all have the same religion. 70% of the population identifies as Buddhist, while 15% are Hindu. Finally, a minority is Muslim and Christian.

- Thanks to the infrastructures put in place by the colonial government, Ceylon entered the world economy in a colonial manner, as a supplier of tropical products.
- In 1896, the introduction of tea gradually replaced coffee, then the most profitable crop on the island.
- In 1876, planters introduced rubber from the Amazon.
- In 1880, coffee crops were wiped out by a fungus attack. The Ceylonese economy was then entirely focused on the tea and rubber trade.

Sri Lankan independence was achieved slowly. It was only in 1931 that the British kingdom allowed partial autonomy to Sri Lanka. About fifteen years later, the country completely regained its independence. It becomes a dominion of the Commonwealth. The first government established was organized by Senanayake, the leader of the United National party.

In 1960, the country saw a woman become prime minister for the first time. In the world, she is the first woman to be appointed to this position. This revolution is tarnished by the establishment of a new constitution. The capital is replaced by Kotte. A new flag is installed, new laws are passed, favoring the Sinhalese to the detriment of the Tamils.



Sri Lanka is located about fifty kilometers south-east of India, in the Indian Ocean. It is separated from the subcontinent by the Palk Strait, where a tenuous link, Adam's Bridge, made up of limestone shoals, emerges. The island is shaped like a drop.

Following this, numerous conflicts pitted this minority against the government. A state of emergency is declared. The Tamils wish to create their independent state, Eelam, covering the north and east of the country. A civil war breaks out, causing the deaths of 60,000 people in twenty years. It was only in 1987 that a peace agreement was signed between the Sinhalese and the Tamils.



<https://www.marcovasco.fr/asie/srilanka/guide-srilanka/geographie-du-sri-lanka.html>

However, the conflicts do not stop. For many years, debates and discussions have been held in order to find peace. Meanwhile, the country is hit by a tsunami. It causes the death of 30,000 people. 4,000 people are missing.

In 2009, the Tamil rebellion and the government finally reached an agreement. The attacks and the fighting end. No more terrorist acts have been recorded since. Even today, certain regions are marked by these clashes. This is why the army continues to clear mines in these dangerous areas.

The history of Sri Lanka is one of the most tumultuous and eventful. The country suffered from all these conflicts. Although this peace is recent, it is stronger than ever.

History of Ukraine

For centuries Ukraine was a crossroads for different cultures. It was also a target of choice for the great empires because of its geographical position. Located between Central Europe, Russia and the Middle East, Ukraine represented a strategic interest as a crossing point between the East and the West.

- The history of Ukraine as an independent state is recent, but Ukrainian states existed previously (Principality of Galicia-Volhynia from the 11th to the 13th century and the Zaporozhian Hetmanate from the 16th to the 18th century). After a first attempt at independence between 1918 and 1920, Ukraine acquired its independence more lastingly in 1991 during the breakup of the Soviet Union, but this is again threatened in the 21st century. The Ukrainian population has long lived in the shadow of more powerful states: first Lithuania and Poland, then the Austrian and especially Russian empires. The Ukrainian elites were largely acculturated during this period. Under Russian domination from the 19th century onwards, a significant influx of Russians settled on the territory of Ukraine to colonize the south of the country

and then to take up jobs in industry and mining, forming the majority of the population of cities located to the east and south. Ukrainians live mainly in the countryside and in the western and central regions.

- Undermined by the economic crisis and the selfishness of its elites, the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 after a vain attempt to reform the system led by Gorbachev. The different republics united in this federal state regain their independence. The population of Ukraine votes 92% in favor of its independence. But the development of a viable state is seriously handicapped: the Soviet apparatchiks are still in power and monopolize the main companies, the identity of the country is blurred due to the absence of common history of the different regions, the influence passed from Poland and Russia and the existence of a large Russian population on the territory, the country's economy is completely intertwined with that of Russia and finally the Russian leaders intervene indirectly to put an end to an independence which seems illegitimate to them. In this context the political system is shaken by several crises where the question of rapprochement with Europe occupies a central place. Tensions with Russia degenerate with several armed interventions by this country on Ukrainian territory: in 2014 in Donbass then the annexation of Crimea and in 2022 the invasion of Ukraine.

CONCLUSION

We especially noted in President Macron's speech the fact that this speech, far from encouraging the establishment of a society of benevolence, equality, understanding and living well together, this speech could (by implications and bad interpretations of this speech by Some or Others) incite con-

frontation between the various components of French society. The introduction of the Marseillaise from primary school into reinforced civic education programs does not encourage moderation; what can we say about all these legal immigrants (like the Italians, the Portuguese, the Africans, the Arabs or the Algerians, the Senegalese, the Comorians) and all the regions whose countries have other national anthems; We also introduced the History of Sri Lanka: an example of bravery, friendliness and Equity.

We also gave the example of the G3i association which tirelessly campaigns for the establishment of a fraternity society.

References

1. <https://www.marcovasco.fr/asia/srilanka/guide-srilanka/geographie-du-sri-lanka.html>
2. https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Histoire_du_Sri_Lanka
3. https://www.google.com/search?q=geographie+du+Sri+Lanka&rlz=1C1SJWC_frFR1072FR1073&oq=geographie+du+Sri+Lanka&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIICAEQABgWGB4yCAgCEAAyFhgeMggIAxAAGBYHjIGCAQQRRg80gEKMTY5NjFqMGoxNagCALACAA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
4. Wikipédia : https://www.google.com/search?q=histoire+de+1%27Ukraine&rlz=1C1SJWC_frFR1072FR1073&oq=histoire+de+1%27Ukraine&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIICAEQLhiABDIHCAIQABiABDIHCAMQABiABDIHCAQQABiABDIHCAUQABiABDIHCAYQABiABDIKCAcQABjHAXiABNIBCTE3NDU1ajBqN6gCALACAA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8