

France was given *liberté, égalité, and fraternité* by the French Revolution, which have become the three main values ever since. Additionally, there are four *piliers de la nationalité*: language, a shared memory of the Revolution, *égalité* and *laïcité*, which make these three values possible. France is one of the most culturally diverse countries in Europe with around 6 million immigrants making up about 10% of the country's total population. The four *piliers* are shared traits that supposedly bring people together, but they do not factor in the complex reality of cultural diversity in contemporary France where the immigrants do not necessarily share the same values. This creates a tension.

Language

Definition: Official communication system

Reality: French is the official language of France; therefore, immigrants have to learn the language and pass a language test before they can become French



Shared Memory of the Revolution

Definition: The revolution gave France the idea of group solidarity with individual responsibilities

Reality: France thinks that they do not want to be a multicultural society because they are all French first

Example: *Entre les murs*

This film shows the idea of *communautarisme* where different social groups want different power, privileges, and recognition. However, the state views everyone as equal and therefore different background do not matter because everyone is French. Additionally, the students struggle to learn French and therefore they could be held back since France places students based on their language level.

There exists a gap between the Republican ideal of French identity and the lived reality of cultural diversity. How are these tensions shown in *Dawa*, *Entre les murs*, and *Salut Cousin!?*



Example: *Salut Cousin!*

This film shows that immigration is not always what it seems. One of the main characters, Mok, is an immigrant but considers himself to be French. This demonstrates the idea that the citizens consider themselves French first and do not always see the cultural or social differences and do not talk about origins because they do not matter.



Égalité

Definition: Equality

Reality: Immigrants have difficulties assimilating to the French culture because they are unable to understand and take advantage of everything the government offers (for example: schools)

Laïcité

Definition: Separation of church and state

Reality: Religion is not talked about in public spaces because in private everyone has the right to practice whatever religion they choose