

SOCIETIES: MONISTIC & PLURALISTIC

A monistic society is one ruled by a monistic ideology, i.e. one that tries to impose uniformity in all respects, at least to the greatest number. A pluralistic society is one that tolerates, nay encourages, variety in all respects--biological, economic, political, and cultural. See Table 1. Given the inborn differences among individuals, as well as the native restlessness and curiosity of most, all societies, even the most rigidly totalitarian ones, are pluralistic in some regards and to some extent. Hence the categories "monistic society" and "pluralistic society" are only ideal types.

Aspect	Monistic society	Pluralistic society
Biological	Ethnically homogeneous	Ethnically heterogeneous
Economic	Single economic regime	Mixed economy
Political	Single political party (or several essentially equal political parties)	Multi-party system
Cultural	Monolithic dominant ideology	Culture freedom