

Research & Writing Ch. 27

If I'd grown up in a version of North America, a single-state unified government structure, I believe my view of human existence would be very different. As a child, my perspective of global politics would be one that was more limited, specifically due to the fact that there aren't as many governments. Nearly the entire western hemisphere, which currently consists of 23 countries, would be identified and referenced in the singular. The issues addressed in politics would also be interesting because, considering that the population of people of color would be significantly voluminous, I'd imagine that with the vast difference, it could be possible that human rights and other issues might not be so difficult to acknowledge and resolve.

I believe ethnic conflicts that do arise would be more personal for me because with the ability to communicate in 3 out of the most popular languages currently in the United States, I'd be in a better place to understand the plight of those involved. We might even share certain aspects of culture which could work to unify us, which would be a wonderful dream. One where language and lack of physical borders create a common ethnicity while removing the barriers that tend to carry the divisive notes of internal nationalism. However, as I write this paper, I realize that a body of land with its own indigenous language and culture has probably been eliminated. The languages we would speak all originate from Europe, but most of the inhabitants' ancestors did not. European language and culture would be a major influence now on the two hemispheres.

The frame value that would be impacted the most would be the loss of heritage. At the same time, some would look back upon and even try to maintain some of the cultural images of an ancestral past that is possibly extinct or very far removed. The question is, is that a price worth the ethnic and cultural unity that those common languages could bring?