**Chapter 15: The Future of Multiculturalism: Strategies for Success**

**Summary**

One cannot consider the future without recognizing the impact of technology, although technological changes appear to have little impact on cultural relations. Nevertheless, the future of multiculturalism and the criminal justice system will be influenced by several changes in the larger society. Demographic trends will impact the system, as will the increased international nature of crime. The increasing separation of socioeconomic classes will continue to negatively impact multiculturalism and the criminal justice system, as will the ever-prominent crime control approach we’ve adopted.

 All is not lost, however, as positive changes may be on the horizon. The changing demographics of society will dictate greater minority involvement as criminal justice practitioners, which should promote positive changes to the system. Individuals from diverse backgrounds are increasingly assuming more powerful roles in public service, politics, and private business. While there may be current tensions between cultural groups (as evidenced in the anti-illegal immigration legislation), signs point toward greater recognition of diversity and increased acceptance of multiculturalism.

 Changes in the criminal justice system begin with changes in people. The system is composed of and influenced by individuals from various backgrounds. The system, as designed on paper, is not biased, racist or anti-multicultural. What’s needed for acceptance of multiculturalism is tolerance among individuals in society. The problems and challenges faced by different cultures in the criminal justice system were created by people; including biased and unbiased people. The problems posed by the unbiased can be addressed through greater professionalism in criminal justice. Fortunately, many signs point to greater professionalism in the discipline. The problems posed by biased individuals are fixed through identifying and correcting the problems, while removing such individuals from their influential positions.