

NATIONALISED EUROPEANS OR EUROPEANISED NATIONALS

Europe is about to be involved in an experimental distillation of its composite identities.

National boundaries will no longer exist in a physical form. The historical battle grounds which shaped each European country will only be viewed nostalgically, as a means to remember their boundaries. It will involve a period of national realisation before the idea of a nation of Europeans can be understood.

It is necessary to understand what has created one in order to share oneself. Accordingly, it is necessary to investigate the composition of one's national identity before one can mix the components of each nationality into some communal understanding of nationhood.

One method of understanding one's physical placement in one country is to imprint oneself (or more practically) to leave traces of one's identity on a piece of that chosen country.

Understanding a national identity is not merely examining the historical records and statistics used to recognise the physical presence of its country's people past and present.

The fabric of a capital city (i.e. London) bears witness to the passing of millions of ethnic nationals and others from the rest of the world. Such a city unites an unnatural amount of people who survive by their wits and talents whether nationals or others. Their existence in their past and our present have shaped our surroundings therefore our sense of belonging to the city we live in.

We will become Europeans with a mental understanding based on the abstract imposition of a date of change. The city like the rest of the country will not take part in this mental jump. It will remain the neutral space shaped by the altered consciousness of those who inhabit it. A record of this space before it becomes an homogenised destination on a table of European cities is timely.

As individuals living in London we conduct our movements through our own understanding of our relationship with our chosen or imposed surroundings. We cannot inhabit every inch of this city; we only exist in a limited territory open to chance, choice or obligation. Our individual choices and the traces left by our movements are determined by our understanding of our own cultural and social heritage. These traces must necessarily be homogenised by the city planners. These movements make us active residents of London and divide us into different categories: rich, poor, working and non working, whites, blacks, and asians, young and old.....

What traces are left by a native born Londoner? Are they in any way different to marks left by a Zambian born Irish or a Moroccan born French?