



Exam 3

Course: **World Society GenEd**

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This essay explores the multifaceted challenges faced by minorities in Germany, focusing on themes of cultural assimilation, societal prejudice, and the complexities of adopting new cultures. By examining key moments from the film "Ali: Fear Eats the Soul," we gain insight into the lived experiences of individuals navigating language barriers, workplace discrimination, and the search for acceptance in German society. While this film primarily focuses on the assimilation of Arabic immigrants, it provides a message for merging cultures all across the world.

In "Ali: Fear Eats the Soul," the main character, Ali, grapples with the harsh realities of immigrant life in Germany. Forced to share cramped living quarters with multiple coworkers, Ali's experience underscores the economic exploitation faced by many minority workers in the country. His confession to Mrs. Kurowski about feeling dehumanized by societal perceptions reflects the toll of systemic discrimination. Moreover, the film exposes the terrible nature of prejudice through the lens of Mrs. Kurowski's internal struggle. Initially hesitant to befriend Ali due to her own fears and prejudices, Mrs. Kurowski's empathy and compassion overrule the prevailing intolerance towards Arabic people in Germany. Throughout the film, Mrs. Kurowski is the only German person to care for Ali, as seen in scenes in the bar, in public, and in her own living quarters. Her journey towards acceptance reflects the broader societal shift needed to combat societal biases and foster inclusion.

The bar where Ali's friend group hangs out is used to further represent the physical separation of cultures. At many points throughout the film, Ali returns to the bar to be with friends as a safe place to listen to traditional Arabic music, hang out, and ultimately be away from social belittlement. Through the story, Ali's friends progressed to hanging out at Mrs. Kurowski's house and other outside areas, which represents the adoption of outside cultures in Germany with the help of a compassionate Mrs. Kurowski. Interactions with German neighbors and coworkers further highlight the discrimination faced by minorities and those associated with them in daily life. The derogatory remarks and stereotypes perpetuated by Mrs. Kurowski's peers, such as calling Arabs "dirty job-stealing pigs," underscore the deeply ingrained prejudices that continue to permeate German society. Similarly, the hostile reaction that Mrs. Kurowski's son had when meeting Ali and learning about his immigrant status reflects the systemized marginalization faced by minority communities in accessing employment opportunities. If immigration was structured to be easy, this is something Ali would take likely take of. The tragic and violent reaction of Mrs. Kurowski's family upon announcing their marriage further shows the ongoing difficulties of assimilation, even after gaining traction. In addition, this prejudice extends to Mrs. Kurowski herself when her neighbors call out her Polish last name, claiming she isn't a real German. This illustrates the internal bias created just by being associated with marginalized groups.

As seen in "Ali: Fear Eats the Soul", being a minority in Germany comes with many challenges ranging from workplace discrimination to social prejudice. The film also recognized the strength onto by minorities and kindhearted people through the story of Mrs. Kurowski and

Ali. By looking at issues like prejudice, discrimination, and the struggle for acceptance, the film encourages people to think deeply about how society treats different groups.