Culture Loss In Costa Rica

Throughout years things change. As we get older we evolved into more mature and different human beings than what we once were. Just like human beings, countries and their culture evolves and changes as well. Some of these changes are for the best and other changes take away the culture and the foundation of the country. In Costa Rica many culture changes have been happening for centuries. From government to religion Costa Rica is constantly revolving itself. But is the change for the best or is it a lost of what the countries original culture once was?

One of the major culture changes in Costa Rica are the people who are living there. Before Christopher Columbus arrived to the small country, there were four major tribes living there: Borucas, Chibchas, Caribs, and Diquis. After the Spanish Colonies took over Costa Rica barely any of the original tribes lasted. There are only 1 percent today of Costa Rica's 3 million people who are part of the original heritage of the tribes (Costa Rica - History & Culture.). An overwhelming 98 percent of the country is white and the other percent are the Spanish descent who call themselves Ticos. Not having the original founders of Costa Rica is a huge culture loss for the country. The Ticos of Costa Rica are considered to be the people who try and keep the traditions of Costa Rica alive. Ticos are usually very conservative and don't like to welcome different ideas and try to keep Costa Rica culture alive (Costa Rica.Net. ).The people who live there today will not be able to experience the same traditions and celebrations that once were a part of their country.

Another culture change that happened in Costa Rica was the change of making the country a Democracy environment. Unlike the first culture change, this one is for the better of the people in Costa Rica. Right after the Spanish took over the country, Costa Rica was dedicated by Spain, but it was not the most popular country that they were worried about. Spanish colonies were more focused on holding on the Mexico and Peru that they finally decided that Costa Rica should be a democracy country. On September 15, 1821 Costa Rica celebrated their independence. Although this is a good culture change for the people of Costa Rica it still raises the question is Culture Loss really a bad thing for countries? Independence is defiantly a good culture change for Costa Rica.

Just like Independence day, Costa Rica can now celebrate the fact that they have free religion. Originally Costa Ricans were only allowed to practice one religion while they were under the Spanish ruling. That religion was Roman Catholic and more than 90 percent at the time considered themselves to Roman Catholic. Now today, only 64 percent of the population is considered to be Roman Catholics. The Ticos do not like that people are straying way from the Catholic Religion and believe that is a culture loss for the country. (Costa Rica.Net.)

Although there are some culture losses in Costa Rica, most of them are for the best. With the culture losses brings more diversity and independence into Costa Rica, while before there was only one way of living for the South American country. The Ticos are a very important role in the society because they try as hard as possible to keep the culture and experiences of the Costa Rica alive and make sure that traditions are still practiced and appreciated.

Work Cited

Costa Rica - History & Culture. (n.d.). *Costa Rica - History & Culture*. Retrieved April 1, 2014, from http://www.geographia.com/costa-rica/history.htm

Independence Day of Costa Rica. (n.d.). *Independence Day of Costa Rica*. Retrieved , from http://www.123independenceday.com/costa-rica/

Costa Rica.Net. (n.d.). *Costa Rica.Net*. Retrieved January 1, 2014, from http://www.costarica.net/features/culture.htm