



This picture of a U.S. McDonald's helps illustrate that the U.S. is a pluralistic society. The *McDonald's* on this sign is in the Hmong language. This pluralism is very long-standing in the United States. After George Washington was elected president of the new nation, he received a letter from a Jewish congregation in Newport, Rhode Island (*bottom*), asking about his policies of pluralism or multiculturalism (though those words had not been coined yet). In response in 1790, Touro Synagogue—the oldest synagogue in the U.S.—received a handwritten letter signed by President Washington (now proudly on display at the synagogue) embracing an open and “liberal” policy toward all American citizens, regardless of origins or religious affiliation.