

# Third Culture Individuals: Life Outside of the Box

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## INTRODUCTION

There is a great deal of research on second-generation individuals. A second-generation individual is someone who is a child of an immigrant. However, there is a new area of research emerging on the idea of a person having a third culture. The third culture is the term that refers to the “mixed identity that a child assumes, influenced both by their parents' culture and the culture in which they are raised.” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, n.d.). A third culture individual has three cultures: their parents’ culture, their current culture—for example, the culture of the United States if they live in the United States—and the third culture is the one that emerges from the mix of the first two. Many children don’t completely identify with the culture in which they are currently immersed or the culture of their parents, thus, a third culture is created. For example, a third culture individual could have one parent from Nigeria, another from France, and be living in the United States. Highlighting this sentiment, Ndéla Faye, a writer and third culture individual, says that when asked where she is from, “depending on the person and situation, I’ll have different answers to that dreaded question” (Faye, 2016).

This study looked at seventy-five third culture individuals’ backgrounds and views in their journey as a child of at least one parent from a country other than the United States. The research findings show that depending on each individual’s unique background and family situation, the third culture person sees their differences as a strength that they can use to see the world through a different lens, relate to others, and help others adapt to society, or as a weakness that makes them feel like they don’t belong.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Sociologists and researchers, Ruth and John Useem, coined the term “Third Culture Kid (TCK)” in the 1950s. The original term, Third Culture Kid, has expanded to include people who associate themselves with more than one culture. These third culture individuals have unique experiences that bring both strengths and challenges to their lives.

Individuals with immigrant parents have stronger intercultural competency (Sarli and Phillimore, 2022). This ability to act and communicate appropriately with people of different cultural backgrounds is important in the modern world since humans are physically and virtually interconnected. Being multicultural gives one the skills to communicate with different people and allows one to be more connected and likely to make relationships with people different from themselves. Many credit their success in the workplace, their personal lives, and various other arenas to this trait of being multicultural. Melluish (2014) highlights how globalization has encouraged interconnection and affected how a person thinks of themselves in relation to those around them. People can now more easily include aspects of different cultures into their own and combine resources to work together. On the other hand, cultural change can also make one feel out of place and confused because identities can be blurred. Chimienti et al. (2019), found that people with immigrant parents felt out of place when labeled “second generation”. Although, just like their fellow citizens, these people lived in the same place their whole lives, being given the label of “second generation” made them feel different and out of place as if their citizenship was not as pure as those around them. When put in a situation where they feel different from their peers, many third culture individuals will question the advantages associated with their position, which lends weight to the idea that education and understanding of the topic should have a place in schools.

Third culture individuals can feel misunderstood and out of place, so they tend to have an easier time understanding and accepting other people and cultures. Moore and Barker (2012) define third culture individuals as “people who lived outside their passport country during their developmental years” (p. 553). They found that third culture individuals mostly valued their mix of cultures and experiences because they could see and understand the world differently than others. On the other hand, being a part of different cultures is difficult because they don’t have one set identity. Growing up with different perspectives allows one to see others through different lenses—lenses that are less rigid and more culturally inclusive. When properly nurtured, this unique perspective can contribute a significant amount communally, in the workplace, and at home.

Schwarzenthal (2022), in her research on intercultural competence among adolescents who were raised in societies of immigration, encourages adolescents to be flexible and understand that although there may be social differences, there is something to learn from other cultures. She says that cultural diversity comes with inequality because different groups are treated differently. Schwarzenthal (2022) mentions that teens should have global competencies or a set of abilities that can be successfully applied to international issues or cross-cultural settings.

Chandra, an immigrant from Guyana, moved to the United States to receive an education and live a more comfortable life (Danzak, 2017). Like Chandra, immigrants must be prepared to go past their comfort zone and persevere through the scary unknown. Research finds that immigrating to a new country brings difficulties other than learning a new language but also brings opportunities of a lifetime. Through the process of adapting to the culture and education system, a person learns about themselves and their unique identity in the new home. This resilience can breed the spirit of hard work and ambition that is often associated with

immigrants. Additionally, Belzunegui-Eraso and Roche-Carcel (2020) state that emotions stem from a person's social interactions and experiences. Migration experiences can be similar, but the emotions felt from that similar-seeming experience—either positive or negative—are interpreted differently by each human being. Connecting it to migration, people can have similar stories, but how each person is affected emotionally varies greatly. Thus, feelings and emotions are not only biological but are dependent on social experiences. Similarly, Angel Belzunegui-Eraso and Juan Antonio Roche Carcel (2020) find that a migrant's attitude is determined not only by what the individual experienced but by how the individual internalized the experiences that he or she had. In their research, both positive and negative key emotions of migration were identified. For example, people experienced negative feelings of frustration, uncertainty, and shame, and positive emotions of liberty, security, and happiness. Each person felt a unique mix of emotions based on their past experiences and interpretations of those experiences.

Moving can have benefits like better education and resources but can bring challenges, especially in psychological and cultural adaptation. In her study on how children perceive their forced or voluntary immigration and how that affects their adaptation and development in the new country, Gervais (2020) finds that children's adaptations are influenced by many factors in their immigration experience, some being: the support they received during the move, their feelings towards moving, and the reason for their move. These factors, and many others, affect how the children transition and grow up in their new homes. Additionally, a factor that can influence a child's adaptation and development in a new country is how they feel toward their parents. Immigrant children may feel indebted or grateful to their parents (Turjanmaa and Jasinskaja-Lahti, 2019). Indebtedness makes one feel more like they must give something in return, versus gratitude which is when one feels that another did something to help them.

Gratitude is less anxiety-provoking because one doesn't feel obligated to give something back. Turjanmaa and Jasinskaja-Lahti's (2019) study focuses on teenagers' feelings of gratitude and indebtedness after immigrating with their families to a new country. They wanted to see how the move affected relationships in the family, and they found that parents' sacrifices to move can affect relationships in a family both positively by making the child feel lucky to have a chance to do well in life, and negatively because the child may feel pressure to perform well and be successful in the new society. This feeling does not necessarily come from an idea or pressure that parents expressed. The pressure is more likely to come from the child themselves who saw the sacrifice that the parents made by moving to a new place. This makes the child feel that they need to be successful and to make their parents proud.

## METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted through Qualtrics—an online survey tool—with seventy-five Jewish individuals ranging from ages sixteen to seventy-five, with the mean age being twenty-eight. Seventy-four percent of the individuals were women, twenty-four percent were men and two percent preferred not to provide gender information. The individuals were asked to answer an online survey that was geared toward third culture individuals. One hundred and nineteen people took the survey, of which fifty-eight percent were United States citizens. Sixty-eight percent of the respondents were born in the United States, eleven percent in Venezuela, and the remainder in Israel, Panama, Mexico, Canada, and other countries.<sup>1</sup> The survey would end if both of the respondent's parents were born in the United States, which left seventy-five people who fit the criteria of a third culture individual. The survey was sent by

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<sup>1</sup> People who are born in the United States are automatically citizens. Thus, the number of respondents identifying as U.S. citizens should be higher. This discrepancy is due to some survey respondents choosing to skip these questions.

email and WhatsApp to individuals and group chats, and people were asked to share with other third culture individuals. Thus, the sample was not a random sample but, rather, a convenience sample.

Survey participants were presented with a series of questions about their family background and culture, as well as how they feel about having a mix of cultures. Some questions asked how much they agreed or disagreed with statements such as: “I sometimes feel caught between two cultures,” “My cultural background sometimes confuses me,” and “My unique history is advantageous to me,” and other questions, such as “Are there any personality traits that you would associate with being a third culture individual?” and “Do you have any stories to tell or thoughts to add?” were more open-ended. This created a unique data set including both quantitative and qualitative data. At the end of the survey, the individuals were asked if they were open to being interviewed further via phone or Zoom.<sup>2</sup> This yielded three open-ended qualitative interviews to strengthen the findings.

## FINDINGS

The findings can be categorized into a number of key themes. Firstly, third culture individuals may be seen as or feel like an alien in the country in which they live. Since they have backgrounds that are different from those around them, they tend to feel misunderstood and sometimes even as a lesser member of society. This frustration may sometimes also come from non-third culture individuals not being able to comprehend the mix of cultures and assumptions of how a third culture individual feels or what they relate to most. For example, assuming that an individual who lives in America but has parents from India feels American, when his Indian culture could be more prominent in his life.

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<sup>2</sup> For the full survey please see appendix A



A second focus and key theme is reflected by findings that indicate that the majority of third culture individuals see their difference as a strength and a tool that they could use to have a unique perspective on life. Since third culture individuals have felt like outsiders and know what it feels like to not fit in, they are more disposed to include and help other third culture individuals go through what they have already experienced.

Thirdly, since people with a third culture have had experiences in different parts of the world, they are more interculturally competent which helps them relate to and work with people from around the world. Globalization has made people from across the globe more accessible.

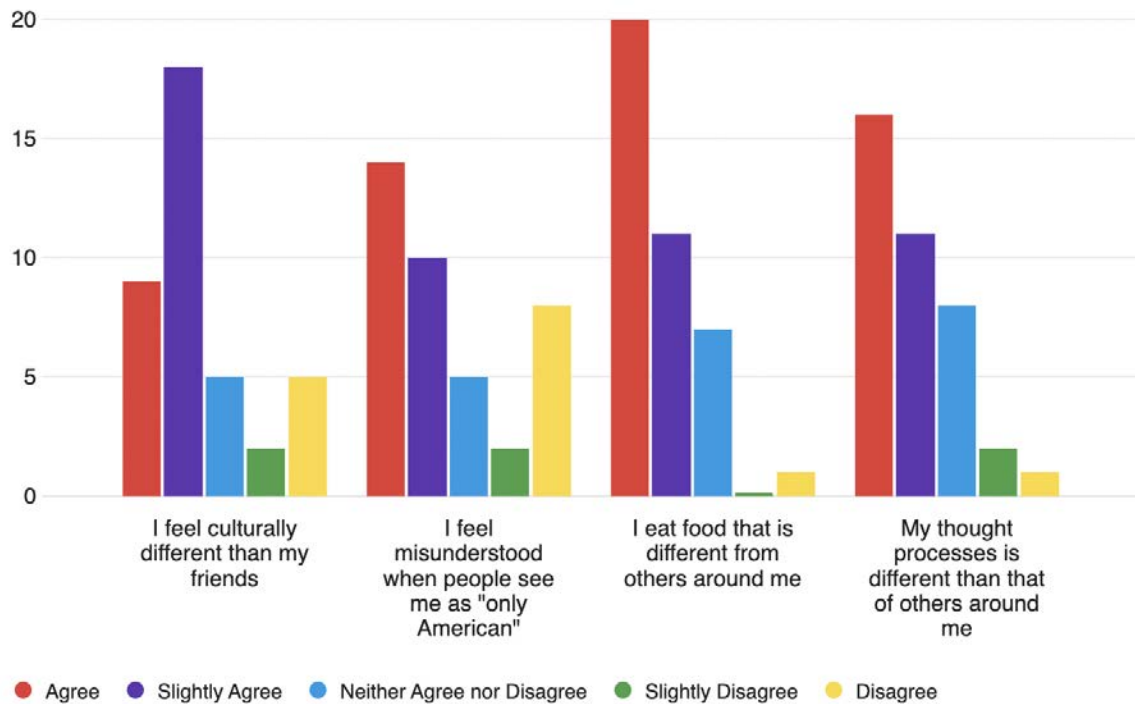
The fourth theme discusses third culture individuals feeling caught between two cultures. One may look like they fit into the culture in which they currently live, but, they could feel completely different than those around them. These people could see that point of tension between two cultures as a positive or negative.

A fifth theme is how a child transitions into a new country, and if they see being a third culture individual as positive or negative. This is affected by his or her parents' past cultural and moving experiences, as well as how their parents infused cultural values and expressed their own thoughts of being a third culture individual.

### Misunderstood

Adapting to a new culture is difficult, especially if one does not feel included by the individuals of that culture. This is why an individual who was surveyed expressed that not all third culture individuals are able to “adapt and associate with different cultural groups” successfully. As seen in the graph below, like this individual, sixty-nine percent of people

surveyed mentioned that they feel culturally different than their friends. One survey respondent expressed a sense of “self-consciousness, or a lack of confidence when trying to fit into the culture of society around you, a sense of separation and lack of inclusion.” Another person expressed their insecurities of feeling out of place as well: “I am always asked questions about my culture, from curiosity, from previous notions, and there are many times that I feel I am different and weird and abnormal, and that people are doing me a favor by accepting my differences.” This individual touched upon the idea that sometimes people around third culture individuals lack a sense of sensitivity and tact when asking questions and trying to understand a multicultural person’s differences. Another individual mentioned that “I feel that my friends who come from very American families view me as incredibly Yemenite, but individuals born in Yemen see me as incredibly American.” A mix of cultures can lead to internal confusion about not knowing where you fit in, but also to the confusion of those around you who don’t know how to view you. Many people think that labeling a person as “Yemenite” or “American” is simpler than seeing them as a combination of both. Third culture individuals have an easier time understanding this point of tension and aligning with this mixed-culture individual. Indeed, the majority of third culture individuals who were surveyed expressed that they have felt misunderstood as a result of their other culture.



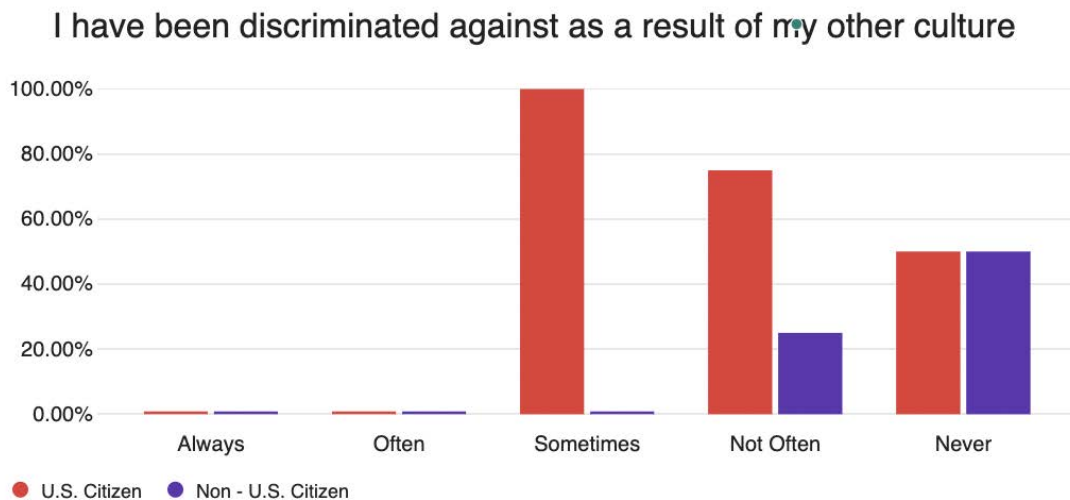
Further highlighting the challenges that third culture individuals face, one respondent explained their difficulty with being multicultural and how other people see and understand that.

They expressed:

“I think the hardest part of being multicultural is people assuming that because you look a certain way, you fit in with a certain group. I seem to be American because I grew up here and speak like any other American. But I also grew up in Panama and speak Spanish fluently. I am accustomed to another country, mentality, and way of life which is also engrained in who I am as an individual. But many times, people say that I don't "seem" Panamanian or don't "look" Panamanian therefore I'm not a "real" Panamanian. But I feel as though I am. I identify as such. But because I'm both American and Panamanian, I never fully fit into one group completely and that can feel quite isolating at times, though I love who I am and would never change it for the world. People believe that they have a right to comment on my identity and believe that because they view me a certain way, that I am that way. But in truth, they are picking parts of me that they want to see and others that they don't. I accept myself and love myself, which is the most important thing, but sometimes I don't feel that from the outside.”

This person highlights the frustration that they feel with being part of two cultures and others not understanding. They see and appreciate the positive aspects of having a mixed identity, but also feel upset with people who label them as one culture or the other, mostly based on how they look or speak. How people feel does not always manifest in how they act, and making assumptions like “you don’t look Italian so you’re not Italian” could be provoking when the third culture individual is trying to feel accepted and understood.

It would make sense if the mix of identity and lack of understanding would be more prevalent among those who are not citizens because one would assume that citizens feel more at home in the United States. Interestingly, individuals were asked in the survey to express how they agreed or disagreed with the following statement: “I have been discriminated against as a result of my other culture”. The only people who expressed that they “sometimes” feel discriminated against were those who are United States citizens. One would think that being a citizen encourages people to feel more accepted, but as seen from the results below, there is a strong, clear demonstration that it is not so. This finding could perhaps be tied to a sense of entitlement—because citizens may inherently feel that they are more deserving of being treated the same as those with the same status, they may be more sensitive to any difference drawn to them.

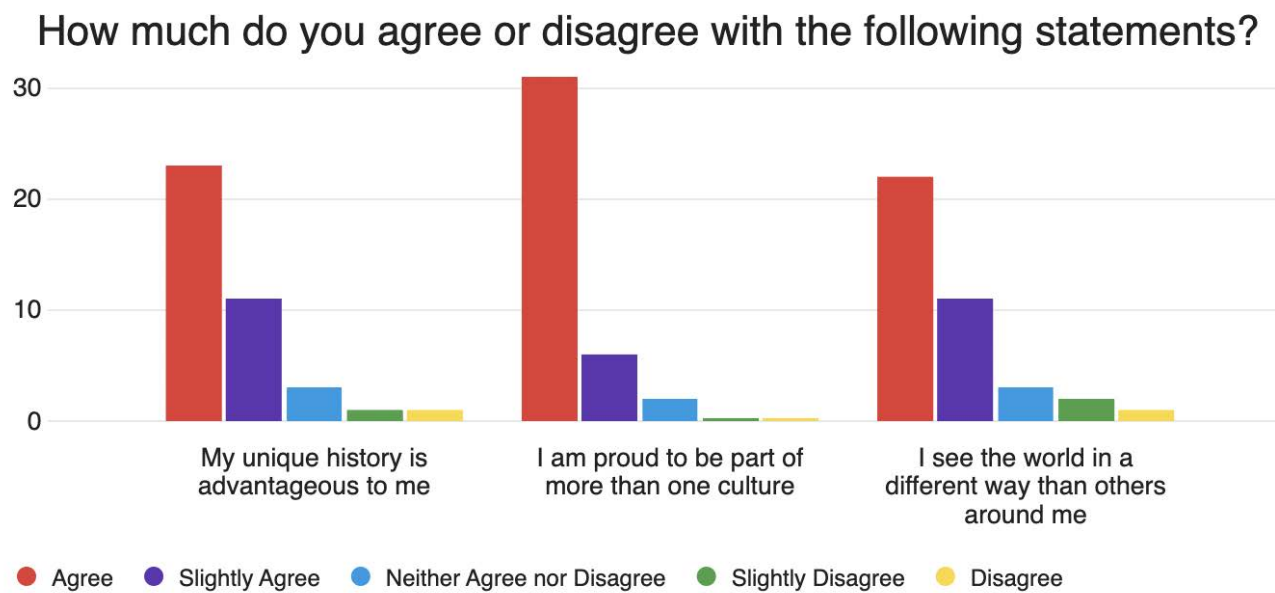


### Difference as a Positive Characteristic

Feeling misunderstood can be used as an advantage to relate to people who are in a similar place culturally. A survey respondent remarked: “My father's family is from Europe and my mother's family is from South America. I look more European than Hispanic, so people just look at me as American for some reason. Therefore, when I mention this or speak Spanish, they get pleasantly surprised, so I use this as a secret gift when I need to relate to someone when they feel misunderstood or misrepresented.” They were one of many who mentioned that being unique allows them to relate to others in a similar place. Another respondent said that being a third culture individual allows them to “connect with and understand various groups of people” from all over the world. Eighty-seven percent of survey respondents felt that their unique history is advantageous to them, or in other words, as this above individual noted, they see their unique history as a gift. These unique qualities of acceptance and understanding make others feel comfortable around third culture individuals since, according to a survey respondent, third culture individuals “don’t necessarily write off a culture right away even though it might be foreign to...[them and they are]...usually more interested in actually learning about other cultures.” Seeing the positive aspects of their own culture encourages third culture individuals to seek out connections to individuals of other cultures to learn from their unique qualities and views.

Another individual wrote that they consider themselves to be “open-minded, non-judgmental, and accepting.” They further explained that they felt that third culture individuals, “are open to many people, cultures, and ideas because they know that they themselves are the products of such. And many times, they have felt as though they don't belong, and they don't want others to feel that way.” As many others noted prior, this individual has

experienced feeling out of place and has used that discomfort as a tool to help other second-generation immigrants going through similar experiences, making them feel included and understood. Indeed, eighty-one percent answered that their other culture gives them unique opportunities to help others. The following chart highlights the extent to which third culture individuals agree with the following statements: Eighty-seven percent of respondents feel that their unique history is advantageous to them, ninety-five percent say that they are proud to be part of more than one culture, and eighty-five percent say that they see the world in a different way than others around them.



There is a sense of satisfaction that can come from feeling unique and being able to help others. Thus their uniqueness becomes a sort of call to action. As mentioned in Chandra’s story, immigration is very difficult and those who feel out of place in a new environment can have that feeling pull them down or they can leverage the uneasiness and let it become a tool to stand out and help others who are going through a similar experience (Danzak, 2017). These individuals

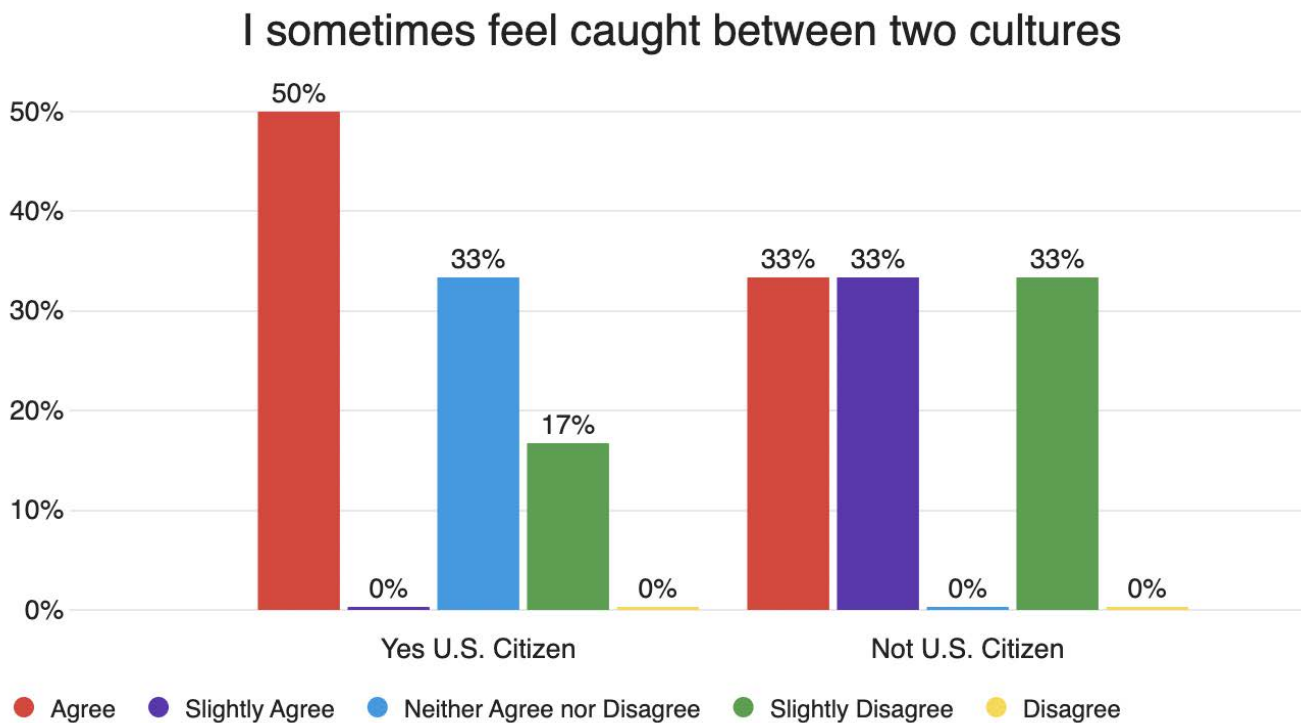
possess an invaluable light within them that allows them to inspire as well as feel empathy in a profound way brought about through their unique struggles.

### Intercultural Connection & Globalization

People with immigrant parents tend to be more interculturally competent which means that they have an easier time understanding, communicating, and working with people from other backgrounds. Being aware of their uniqueness is a tool that makes third culture individuals more “understanding and open to hearing about other cultures” (Sarli and Phillimore, 2022). Indeed, Schwarzenhal’s (2022) call for intercultural competency is answered by the case of third culture individuals. One of the individuals who took the survey expressed: “I think myself to be a very considerate person, I think everything through multiple perspectives. I believe this to be because I understand that people are raised differently, like my parents versus me.” Since these individuals tend to be more accepting and understanding of others, others should be more accepting and understanding of their cultural differences. This applies to anyone and in any place, since globalization has made people closer than ever and able to work with others across the world, and people will only continue to get closer and more accessible even with large distances (Melluish, 2014). Seventy-eight percent of survey individuals said that their other culture sometimes, often, or always provides them with opportunities that they could otherwise not have, and since globalization encourages greater interconnection, third culture individuals who tend to be more culturally aware and accepting, are more likely to have an easier time understanding and working with people around the globe, who are different than them (Melluish, 2014).

## Caught Between Two Cultures

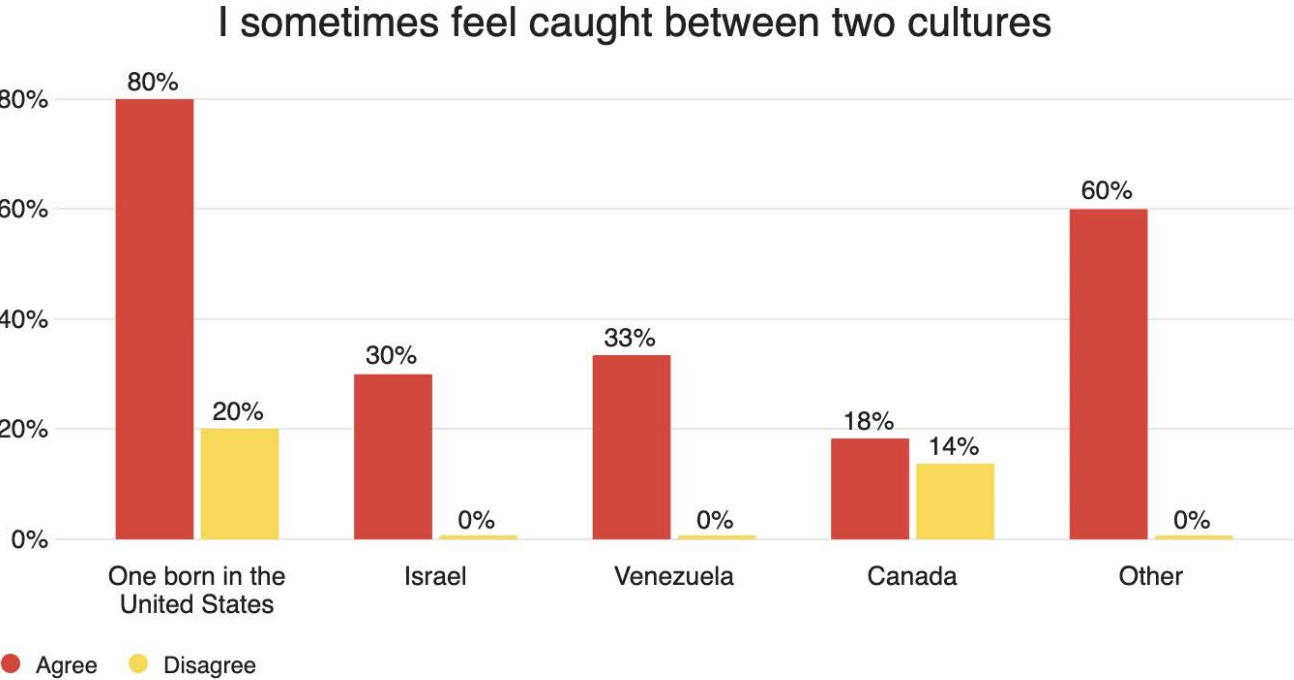
Aligning with these sentiments, sixty-two percent of survey respondents mentioned that they sometimes feel caught between two cultures. Another sixty-two percent said they feel misunderstood when people view them as “only American.” This is true also for those who have one parent born in the United States. Out of them, eighty percent say they feel caught between two cultures. Additionally, one would think that becoming a citizen will make people feel less caught between two cultures. However, the only people who feel neutral about it are thirty-three percent of American citizens.



At the same time, the only people who agree that they don't feel caught between two cultures are those who have at least one parent born in the United States or parents born in Canada, which has a culture that is somewhat similar to that of the United States. Because of



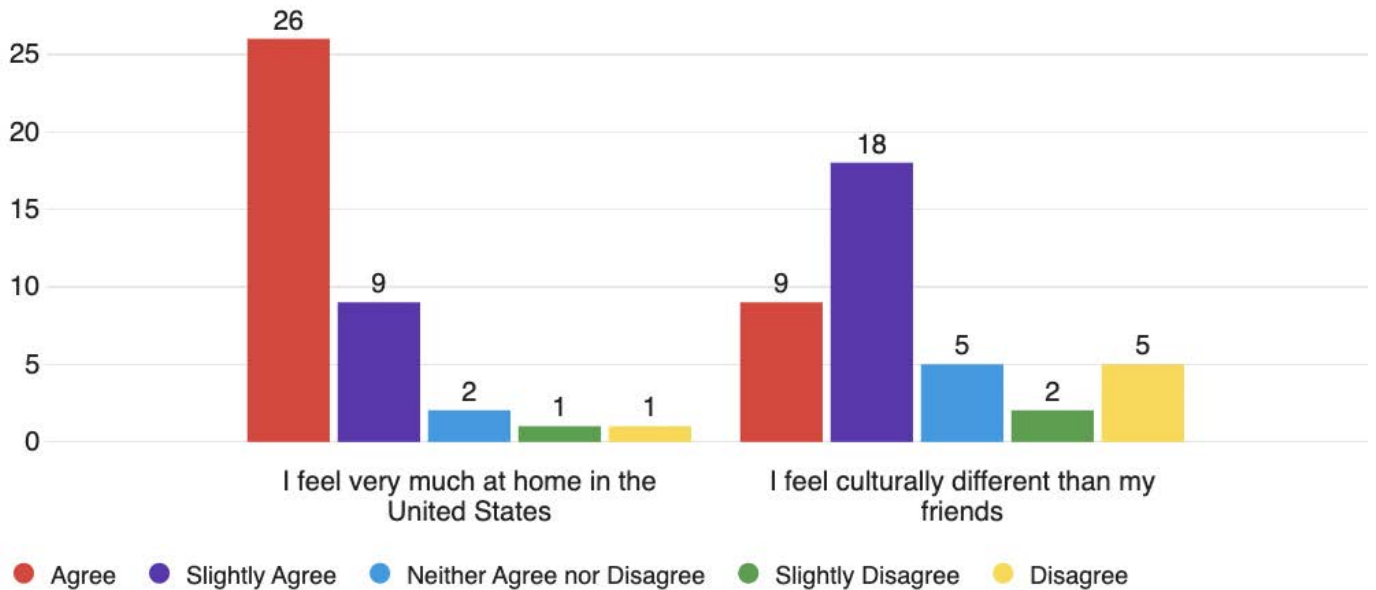
this, multicultural individuals can understand and relate to each other best. The following chart highlights how third culture individuals feel about being caught between two cultures, depending on where their parent(s) were born. The countries on the chart refer to the birthplace of at least one parent.



Another indication that respondents feel caught between two cultures can be found in their responses to the survey questions asking them if they feel culturally different from their friends and whether they feel at home in the United States. The survey included individuals who live in the United States—both citizens and non-citizens—with at least one parent from a different country. The research revealed compelling results with sixty-nine percent of individuals saying that they feel culturally different than their friends and ninety percent of individuals saying that they feel very much at home in the United States. This is important because it shows that although some individuals feel different than their friends, they could still feel very much at

home in the United States. These results highlight a strong ability to feel comfortable in the new environment—usually after some transition time—even while still feeling culturally different from people who these third culture individuals interact with.

### How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



### Past Experiences & Parental Outlook

An individual’s own life experiences as well as the values and outlook of one’s parents toward their second culture can strongly influence their transition, adaptation to, and outlook toward their own third culture identity. An individual spoke about her move overseas with her family and of the transition being easier since her parents, specifically, her father, experienced similar life events and “felt comfortable in the United States because they grew up international... [and] moved to different countries for school.” She continued, saying:

“My parents had been traveling around when they were young already, which is by the way so interesting for me to realize, I never even thought of that. My dad

also moved all the time. For me it's just a crazy thing to move your kids so many times but considering that my dad did it himself, it's not so crazy anymore, you know?"

This young woman's easygoing view on moving overseas was greatly influenced by her father's story. She saw that he moved many times and even went to school in another country, and as she expressed this, she realized that her father's life story had normalized her own experience and eased her through transitioning to a new country. This individual adjusted to the new country in her unique way because she had her own unique history of family events. This is an example of what Angel Belzunegui-Eraso and Juan Antonio Roche Carcel (2020) found in their study: people's migration experiences differ based on their past experiences and the processing of emotions through those life events.

An individual who was surveyed expressed:

"I always felt different from non-third culture individuals because I spoke another language, ate different foods, and acted a little less American. It is harder to "fit in", but I felt less of a need to be just like everyone else because at least thirty percent of the students in my school were also third culture kids. Also, my parents taught me to love my background and appreciate the good that came with it...[Being a third culture kid is] positive in every single way, but society can make you feel otherwise. People feel threatened by unfamiliar things, so it can make a third culture person feel like their background is less than; however, with the proper community, a third culture individual can thrive and appreciate all the advantages."

Some people grow up with their unique culture being more mainstream in the place where they live because there are many other third culture individuals to whom they can relate, and this individual highlights the importance of parents showing the value of their second culture to the child. Because this person was raised in a community that respected and appreciated their third culture background, it gave them a more positive view when reflecting on their place in society. To this point, making a point in schools to embrace people who may be different and to display

heightened empathy should be a priority. Similarly, another individual noted that her father always said, “If someone makes fun of you for your accent just make fun of them back because they only know one language and you know two.” The manner in which parents instill cultural value affects how the kids see their third culture, whether it is experienced more negatively or positively, and this individual mentioned:

“Having my father remind me about the strength of coming from a different background and seeing the world through a different and more refined lens got me through the difficult times—whether it was classmates making fun of my accent in school or me not understanding popular American jokes, slang, or sayings. I think it was all about how my parents presented my background to me, and I’m so happy they helped me see it as a strength.”

Gervais (2020) notes that one’s experience as a third culture individual is affected by their attitude toward their parents and their relationship with them. The two individuals referred to above both mentioned a positive view of having a second culture and how that was instilled in them by their parents. The role of parents seems to play a strong role in the child’s acceptance and adaptation to being more “out-of-the-box” than those around them.

According to Elina Turjanmaa and Inga Jasinskaja-Lahti (2019), children of immigrants could feel thankful and indebted to their parents who sacrificed and moved on from what they always knew in order to provide better opportunities for their children, and they can have positive feelings towards their immigrant parents. On the other hand, the children could also feel pressured to perform well and be successful in their new country, since they want their parents to feel that the sacrifice was worth it. Children may have difficulty fitting into their new surroundings but at the same time feel that they need to push through the discomfort and show their parents that they can succeed.

Most of the time, people move to a new country because they are fleeing something and/or because there are better opportunities in the new country. A third culture individual who was surveyed noted an “appreciation for the opportunities I have that my parents didn’t have.” A couple of people spoke about why their parents relocated to the United States, and each told a unique story. Several examples were: “My mother fled the revolution”, “My parents wanted to leave the instability and lack of safety”, and “Their girls were going to college so they wanted to be closer...and my dad had a business to go into.” Some people moved to the United States to escape danger, while others moved out of convenience. The distinct reasons for moving can have different effects on their children. Some may feel pressured to make their parents proud and work hard in their new environment because of their parents’ sacrifices (Turjanmaa and Jasinskaja-Lahti, 2019). Others may look at the new environment as an opportunity to grow, and not necessarily live with as much pressure.

For example, a third culture individual noted that “My parents always tell me to do what I love and they support me through it all. I never felt that they had a specific agenda in mind for me, just that I try my best in whatever I am most drawn to.” Some parents instill a sense of freedom in their children by helping them see the United States as a place of opportunity. Another individual mentioned that his parents left the place in which they were born because of religious, economic, and political unrest. He said that “These challenges led them to aspire to succeed and make lives for themselves. Based on that, they instilled within us those exact values of building our lives around our families and thriving to have socioeconomic success in the vast amount of opportunity that America offers.” His parents fled turmoil and moved to the United States in search of stability and greater socioeconomic opportunities. This led him and his

siblings to have the same values and see the United States as a place of growth and prosperity, where their families could flourish without the concerns of turmoil and unrest.

Whether a child feels that their parents understand what it means to be a third culture individual depends on each family history, dynamic, and relationship. Some respondents indicated that their parents had a clear understanding of how it feels to have a third culture identity, others felt that their parents did not. A young lady who was interviewed mentioned that her parents understand what she went through because they went through it themselves and know that there are challenges through the transition and life-long effects—both positive and negative. In addition, this young lady's family is very tight-knit, so the parents were and are still supportive and empathetic whenever their children experienced something difficult—whether it was during the move or after the transition period. In contrast, another individual noted: “My parents didn't understand the nuances of being a third culture individual until their oldest child was about ten years old.”

Many third culture individuals hope to pass on their parent's culture to their children because they see how much the third culture has helped shape them and given them unique strengths. A respondent expressed: “Yes of course I will teach my children about our family's background and origins. Knowing where you come from is essential to staying humble and recognizing the people who worked hard to get you to where you are. I plan on teaching them the history of Morocco, exposing them to the cuisines, learning the language, and getting to know the people.” Everyone has their own story and manner in which they experienced being a third culture individual. Most people feel unique, that they had the tools to help others going through similar situations and relate to and work with people who are different from them. Because of this, they want to pass on the gift of a different culture to their children.

## CONCLUSION

One of the most compelling findings of this research was that people from third culture backgrounds could feel or be perceived as foreigners in their own country. Due to their different origins, they frequently feel misunderstood and occasionally even like second-class citizens. This frustration may occasionally result from non-third culture people's inability to understand the complex interplay of cultures and presumptions underlying how a third culture person feels or what they most identify with.

Additionally, according to survey results, the majority of people from third cultures view their differences as assets and tools to help them develop unique perspectives on life. People from third cultures are more likely to include and support people from other cultures because they have experienced what it is like to feel like an outsider and know what it is like to not fit in.

Another finding is that people who have a third culture are more interculturally competent, which makes it easier for them to interact with and collaborate with people from diverse cultures. Globalization has increased accessibility to people from all around the world, so having the skill to work with people from different places and cultures is important.

Though third culture individuals may appear to fit into the culture in which they now live, they may feel entirely alien to others around them. These individuals could view the point of conflict between the two cultures either positively or negatively. The past cultural and moving experiences of a child's parents, as well as how those parents instilled cultural values and expressed their own thoughts about being a third culture individual, influence how that child adjusts to life in a new country and whether they view being a third culture individual as positive or negative.

A limitation of this study is that it was carried out only with Jewish individuals. This was due to the fact that the survey was a convenience sample as it was sent to first, second, and third-degree connections to the researcher. Further research could be done with a broader range of individuals. Furthermore, it would be beneficial to continue this research by conducting a comparative study between Jews and Muslims or a group that is not very dominant in society as it could highlight religious views and possible differences in attitudes and adaptability to a new society.



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My Parents

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## APPENDIX A



Yeshiva University

Please take this survey only if you have at least one parent who was not born in the United States. Your information will remain anonymous and cannot be connected back to the email you provide. For any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at [sbenzaq3@mail.yu.edu](mailto:sbenzaq3@mail.yu.edu) or to Dr. Orlee Hauser at [orlee.hauser@yu.edu](mailto:orlee.hauser@yu.edu). Thank you!

What is your age?

15 20 24 29 34 38 43 48 52 57 62 66 71 76 80 85

Age

With which gender do you identify?

Man

Woman

Prefer not to say

Other

Do you identify with a specific religion?

I do not identify with a religion

Jewish

Catholic

Muslim

Hindu

Buddhist

Christian

Other

Where were you born?

United States

Canada

Israel

United Kingdom

Venezuela

Mexico

Panama

Australia

France

Other

How old were you when you moved to the United States?

0 6 11 17 23 28 34 39 45 51 56 62 68 73 79 84 90

Age

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a United States Citizen?

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Where were your parents born?

Both born in the United States

One born in the United States

Israel

United Kingdom

Venezuela

Mexico

Panama

Australia

France

Canada

Other

Which city in the United States did your parents move to?

My parents did not move to the US

New York Area

Miami

Chicago

Los Angeles

Dallas

Philadelphia

Detroit

Cleveland

Other

Did your parents have family or friends in the new location?

Yes

No

I don't know

Are you married?

Yes

No

Engaged

Cohabiting

Prefer not to say

Are you married to someone who was born in America?

Yes

No

Do you have siblings?

Yes

No

How many siblings do you have?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Siblings



Where do you fall within your siblings?

Oldest child

Somewhere in the middle

Youngest child



How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Agree	Slightly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Disagree
I feel very much at home in the United States	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel culturally different than my friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I sometimes feel caught between two cultures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My cultural background sometimes confuses me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My unique history is advantageous to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel misunderstood when people see me as "only American"	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am proud to be part of more than one culture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a different culture at school/work than at home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I see the world in a different way than others around me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I eat food that is different from others around me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My thought processes is different than that of others around me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Consider the following statements in regard to your other culture (culture of your parent(s)):

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Not Often	Never
I feel a connection to strangers that appear to share my other culture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I dream in a language other than English	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have been discriminated against as a result of my other culture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have been misunderstood as a result of my other culture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel (positively) special because of my other culture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My other culture gives me unique opportunities to help others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My other culture provides me with networks that I would otherwise not have	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My other culture provides me with opportunities that I would otherwise not have	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Merriam Webster: The "third culture" to which the term refers is the mixed identity that a child assumes, influenced both by their parents' culture and the culture in which they are raised.

Are there any personality traits that you would associate with being a third culture individual? Please explain.

Do you have any stories to tell or thoughts to add?

Would you be interested in being interviewed further about this topic (Zoom/Phone/Face-to-face)?

No

Yes (please provide your email)



**Yeshiva University**

Thank you very much for taking this survey!