

IS INVASION ALWAYS A BAD THING?

YAIZA:

Good morning. Our names are JAIRO and YAIZA and we are talking from the Gloria Fuertes' school in Cobisa.

The first suggestion of the word invasion is death and destruction; but it is also true that invasions have contributed with **positive aspects** to the place that has suffered such a situation.

Let's see some of them....

Invasions provoke the **coexistence of diverse cultures** in the same region. So different people with different thoughts get to know and value other dances, instruments, clothes, legends, stories, popular games, gastronomy, jewelry, trades...

Moreover, invasions give different **architectural remains and monuments** in that place. In Spain we find arab mosaics and baths; roman bridges, aqueducts, thermal baths, walkways, circuses, amphitheatres or theaters; visigoth castles and monasteries...

These architectural remains and the cultural diversity into an area contributes to **enhance its tourism**. Indirectly it supposes an **economic contribution** that we also value as a positive aspect derived from the old invasions.

Furthermore, **different languages live together** in the same place and some words keep alive along the history. Currently in Spain there are about 4000 words that come from Arabic and we use daily. We can name this effect as a **linguistic enrichment**.

JAIRO:

On the other hand, invasions derive in the **coexistence of different ideologies and religions**. That allows people to see life from other points of view; meet other religious buildings; and to know and respect other religious customs.

Another positive aspect of invasions are **discoveries and studies** in astronomy, measures of the time, in medicine, in technology, in science... Many people with different thoughts originates new **knowledge and advances**. It is the case of the Arabs that gave the spanish people new useful techniques of cultivation and irrigation.

In the same way, coexistence between different towns lets people know **new plants, flowers or fruits**. Arab people brought to Spain food such as artichoke, carob, cotton, alfalfa, bean, saffron, sugar, eggplant, oil, lily, orange blossom, broom ...

As different cultures and races live together, they stablish relationships that bring on a **genetic enrichment of the population** and even the **prevention of diseases**.

Many of these aspects determine the **historical richness** of a place... We value them, therefore, as positive aspects.

Nevertheless, we want to finish by saying that, despite all these positive thoughts from invasions, we value the understanding and the respect between all the cultures and we defend peaceful relationships.