Inequalities of Race & Ethnicity
Chapter 9

Section 1
MINORITY, RACE & ETHNICITY

MINORITIES
A group of people with physical or cultural traits different from those of the dominant group in the society.

- What is a minority?
- What are the characteristics of a minority?
  1. Dominated by majority
  2. Traits often believed by dominant majority to be inferior
  3. Members have a common sense of identity with strong group loyalty
  4. Majority who belongs to minority through ascribed status.

DEFINING RACE
- Is there a scientific basis for race?

Race is people sharing certain inherited physical characteristics that are considered important within a society.

NO

DEFINING RACE
- But aren’t some physical characteristics superior?

Yes... But only because they provide advantages for living in particular environments.

ETHNICITY
Comes from Greek ethnos or “people” or “nation”... Today, an ethnic minority is a group identified by cultural, religious or national characteristics.

- What is ethnicity?
- Why are ethnic minorities seen as inferior?
  - Because of ethnocentrism
    - This creates the feeling of an us and a them
Section 2
RACIAL & ETHNIC RELATIONS

PATTERNS OF ASSIMILATION

- The blending or fusing of minority groups into the dominant society.

- What is assimilation?
- What is the most common pattern of assimilation?

Anglo-conformity... traditional American institutions are maintained & immigrants accepted if they conform to “accepted standards”

- Melting pot = cultures mixed together... but has cultural fusing really happened in USA?
- Tossed salad = traditions and cultures exist side-by-side... cultural pluralism = desire of a group to maintain some sense of identity separate from the dominant group.

PATTERNS OF CONFLICT

- What is the most extreme pattern of conflict?
- What is population transfer?
- What conflict pattern appears most often?

- Genocide
- Subjugation

When a minority is forced to move to a remote location or leave entirely.

De jure subjugation: The denial of equal access based on the law.

Example – segregation of public schools in USA

De facto subjugation: The denial of equal access based on everyday practice.

Example – when people of certain backgrounds are not promoted to important positions

- Armenia: 1,000,000 killed from 1915-1923
- China under Mao: 58,000,000 killed
- USSR under Stalin: 20,000,000 killed (Robert Conquest, The Great Terror)
- Holocaust: 5,700,000 killed from 1933-1945 (Nuremberg Trial)
- Khmer Rouge (Cambodia): 1,600,000 killed between 1975-1978
- Bosnia: 250,000 killed from 1992-1995 (U.S. State Dept.)
- Rwanda: 1,000,000 killed in 1994
- Somalia: 300,000 killed from 1991-present (IRIN, a UN agency)
- Darfur: at least 450,000 killed from 2003-present (UN High Commission on Refugees)
THEORIES OF PREJUDICE & DISCRIMINATION

Section 3

PREJUDICE, RACISM & DISCRIMINATION

Prejudice is widely held negative attitudes toward a group (minority or majority) and its individual members.

Racism is an extreme form of prejudice that assumes superiority of one group over others.

HOW IS DISCRIMINATION DIFFERENT FROM PREJUDICE?

• Discrimination takes many forms
  - Avoiding social contact with members of minority group
  - Denying them positions that carry authority
  - Blocking their access to more exclusive neighborhoods
  - Attacking or killing minority members

Treating people differently based on ethnicity, race, religion or culture.

PREJUDICE, RACISM & DISCRIMINATION

• Prejudice involved attitudes, while discrimination is about behavior
• Prejudice usually leads to discrimination
• Conversely, in some instances, discrimination creates prejudiced attitudes through stereotyping

HATE CRIMES

A criminal act motivated by prejudice.

• How are hate crimes different?
  - Reported to FBI
    • 1999 = 7,876
    • 2001 = 9,730
    • 2011 = 6,222
  - Hate crime laws
    • 2000 = 43 states
    • 2016 = 45 states + Washington, D.C.

STEREOTYPES

A distorted, exaggerated, or oversimplified image applied to a category of people.

• In the US, examples of stereotypes include that athletes are all brawn and no brains and that politicians are corrupt

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TYPICAL STEREOTYPES

- Pushy New Yorker
- Stingy Jew
- Terrorist Arab
- Dumb Jock
- Airhead Cheerleader
- Flamboyant Gay
- Polygamist Mormon
- Glasses-wearing Nerd