Chapter 9
Inequalities of Race & Ethnicity
MINORITY, RACE, AND ETHNICITY
Minorities

- What are the characteristics of a minority?
  - A minority has distinctive physical or cultural characteristics which can be used to separate it from the majority.
  - The minority is dominated by the majority.
  - Minority traits are often believed by the dominant majority to be inferior.
  - Members of the minority have a common sense of identity with strong group loyalty.
  - The majority determines who belongs to the minority through ascribed status.
Defining Race

• Is there a scientific basis for race?
• But aren’t some physical characteristics superior?

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

• What is ethnicity?
• Why are ethnic minorities seen as inferior?

Ethnic minority is a group identified by cultural, religious, or national characteristics.
RACIAL & ETHNIC RELATIONS
Patterns of Assimilation

What is the most common pattern of assimilation? Is America more like a melting pot or a tossed salad?

Assimilation is the blending or fusing of minority groups into the dominant society. Cultural pluralism is the 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?
  - A minority is forced either to move to a remote location or leave entirely.
- What conflict pattern appears most often?

Genocide is the systematic effort to destroy an entire population.

1. Classification
2. Sympolization
3. Dehumanization
4. Organization
5. Polarization
6. Preparation
7. Extermination
8. Denial
THEORIES OF PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION

Section 3
Prejudice, Racism, and Discrimination

- Prejudice involves attitudes, while discrimination is about behavior.
- Prejudice usually leads to discrimination.
- Conversely, in some instances, discrimination creates prejudiced attitudes through stereotyping.

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, including avoiding social contact with members of minority groups, denying them positions that carry authority and blocking their access to the more exclusive neighborhoods.

• It can also involve such extremes as attacking or killing minority members.
Hate Crimes

• How are hate crimes different?
  – Just under 8,000 cases were reported to the FBI in 1999.
  – By 2000, forty-three states had passed hate-crime laws.

• How do sociologists interpret hate crimes?
  • They always involve labeling
  • They always follow people who regularly use stereotypes
What Would You Do? Hate Crimes
Stereotypes

● In the United States, examples of stereotypes include that athletes are ‘all brawn and no brains’ and that politicians are corrupt.

Stereotype is a distorted, exaggerated, or oversimplified image applied to a category of people.
Typical Stereotypes

- Pushy New Yorker
- Stingy Jew
- Terrorist Arab
- Dumb Jock
- Airhead Cheerleader
- Flamboyant Gay
- Polygamist Mormon
- Glasses-wearing Nerd
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Theoretical Perspective</th>
<th>Concept</th>
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<td>Functionalism</td>
<td>Ethnocentrism</td>
<td>White colonists used negative stereotypes as a justification for taking Native American land.</td>
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<td>Conflict Theory</td>
<td>Competition for power</td>
<td>African Americans accuse Latinos of using their political clout to win advantages for themselves.</td>
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<td>Symbolic Interactionism</td>
<td><strong>Self-fulfilling prophecy</strong> - an expectation that leads to behavior that causes the expectation to become reality.</td>
<td>Members of a minority fail because of the low expectations they have for their own success.</td>
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MINORITY GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES
Institutionalized Discrimination

- Discrimination in the United States has caused some ethnic and racial groups to lag behind the white majority in jobs, income, and education.
- Progress is being made, but gains remain fragile.
- African Americans, Latino, Asian American, Native American, and white ethnics are the largest minority groups in the country.
African Americans

• What are the barriers to African American assimilation?
  – Skin color and physical features
  – History

• What are average income levels for African Americans?
  – Approximately 64% of whites
• How do African Americans fare in the job market?
  – Almost twice as likely as whites to work in low-level service jobs (US Department of Labor, 1997).
  – Patterns of unemployment
  – Hidden unemployment

Hidden unemployment is unemployment that includes people not counted in the traditional unemployment categories.
• Have African Americans made advances?
  – 1999, 77% finished high school compared to 84% of whites
  – 25% of whites completed college; 15% of African Americans have done so.

• Emergence of two black Americas
  – Growing black middle class
  – Black underclass

Underclass are people typically unemployed who come from families that have been poor for generations.
• What are the largest Latino groups in the United States?
• What is the general level of education among Latinos?
• How much money do Latinos earn?
• How do Latinos stand politically?

Average income for Latinos is $30,735. Cubans are the most affluent Latinos, but median income is about 75% of whites. Poorest Latinos are Puerto Ricans, income is only ½ of whites. (US Bureau of the Census, 1999)

60% are of Mexican descent. Puerto Ricans make up less than 1/10th of total Latino population. Cubans make up the 3rd most populous group of Latinos.

Over half have completed high school. Mexican-Americans have the lowest level of education. Cuban-Americans have the highest.

Typically, Latinos tend to vote democrat.
What Would You Do? Part 1
Native Americans
• What is the current situation of Native Americans?
• Are conditions on reservations better or worse?

Still suffering from the effects of hundreds of years of discrimination.
¼ of the Native American population live below the poverty line.
Fewer graduate from High School.
Have lowest annual income ($21,619)

¼ of Native Americans live on reservations. Conditions are considerably worse than for those not living on a reservation. 50% on reservations live below the poverty line.
184 tribes were operating casinos in 1999.
Asian Americans

- How have Chinese Americans fared over the years?
- What has been the history of Japanese Americans in the United States?
- Why have so many Asian Americans been successful?

Arrived beginning in 1885. Suffered prejudice & discrimination, nonetheless became successful. Put in internment camps during WWII

Concentrated in Chinatowns. Most Americans today recognize Chinese American’s willingness to work hard.

They have largely been successful because they have used the educational system for upward mobility.
White Ethnics

• Descendents of immigrants from Eastern & Southern Europe (particularly Italy & Poland)
• Majority are blue collar workers.
Appalachia