Chapter 9

Race and Ethnicity
Race: Myth and Reality

• The Reality of Human Variety
• The Myth of Pure Races
• The Myth of a Fixed Number of Races
• The Myth of Racial Superiority
• The Myth Continues
Ethnic Groups

• People often confuse the terms race and ethnic group
• Race Refers to Biological Characteristics
• Ethnicity Refers to Cultural Characteristics
  -- Common Ancestry
  -- Cultural Heritage
  -- Nations of Origin
Minority and Dominant Groups

- Minority Group - People Singled Out for Unequal Treatment
- Minority Group Not Necessarily Numerical Minority
- Emergence of Minority Groups
  - Expansion of political boundaries
  - Migration
Minority and Dominant Groups

• Dominant Group - Group with Most…
  – Power
  – Privileges
  – Highest Social Status

• Dominant Group Does the Discriminating
Constructing Racial-Ethnic Identity

• Sense of Ethnicity
  – Relative Size
  – Power
  – Appearance
  – Discrimination

• Ethnic Work and the Melting Pot
Prejudice and Discrimination

• Learning Prejudice
  – Prejudice vs. Discrimination
  – Learning from Association
  – Far-Reaching Nature of Prejudice
  – Internalizing Dominant Norms
    • Lighter/Darker Skin
    • Ethnic Maps
A Sense of Ethnicity

A Low Sense
- Part of the majority
- Greater power
- Similar to the "national identity"
- No discrimination

A Heightened Sense
- Smaller numbers
- Lesser power
- Different from the "national identity"
- Discrimination
Individual and Institutional Discrimination

• Home Mortgages
  – African Americans and Latinos were 60 percent more likely to be rejected

• Health Care
  – Discrimination does not have to be deliberate
  – Researchers do not know why race–ethnicity is a factor in medical decisions
Buying a House: Institutional Discrimination and Predatory Lending

These Applicants Were Denied a Mortgage
- Applicants whose income was below the median income
  - Whites: 15%
  - Latinos: 25%
  - African Americans: 30%
- Applicants whose income was above the median income
  - Whites: 11%
  - Latinos: 26%
  - African Americans: 30%

These Applicants Were Charged Higher Interest (given subprime loans)
- Applicants who have 100% to 120% of median income
  - Whites: 14%
  - Latinos: 36%
  - African Americans: 43%
### TABLE 9.1 Race–Ethnicity and Mother/Child Deaths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Infant Deaths</th>
<th>Maternal Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Americans</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The national database used for this table does not list these totals for other racial–ethnic groups. *White* refers to non-Hispanic whites. *Infant deaths* refers to the number of deaths per year of infants under 1 year old per 1,000 live births. *Maternal deaths* refers to the number of deaths per 100,000 women who give birth in a year.

Source: *Statistical Abstract of the United States 2012:Table 115.*
Theories of Prejudice

• Psychological Perspectives
  – Frustration and Scapegoats
  – The Authoritarian Personality

• Sociological Perspectives
  – Functionalism
Theories of Prejudice

– Conflict Theory
  • Keep Workers Insecure
  • Exploit Racial-Ethnic Divisions

– Symbolic Interactionism

– How Labels Create Prejudice
– Labels and Self-Fulfilling Stereotypes
Global Patterns of Intergroup Relations

- Genocide
- Population Transfer
- Internal Colonialism
- Segregation
- Assimilation
- Multiculturalism (Pluralism)
Global Patterns of Intergroup Relationships: A Continuum

INHUMANITY

Genocide
The dominant group tries to destroy the minority group (e.g., Germany and Rwanda)

Population Transfer
The dominant group expels the minority group (e.g., Native Americans forced onto reservations)

Internal Colonialism
The dominant group exploits the minority group (e.g., low-paid, menial work)

Segregation
The dominant group structures the social institutions to maintain minimal contact with the minority group (e.g., the U.S. South before the 1960s)

Assimilation
The dominant group absorbs the minority group (e.g., American Czechoslovakians)

MULTICULTURALISM (PLURALISM)
The dominant group encourages racial and ethnic variation; when successful, there is no longer a dominant group (e.g., Switzerland)

HUMANITY

ACCEPTANCE
Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States: Europeans Americans

• White Anglo Saxon Protestants (WASPs) held deep prejudices against other whites
• Nation’s Founders Included Only Those from England
• Other “White” Europeans Inferior
• Naturalization Act of 1790: only white immigrants could apply for citizenship
Race-Ethnicity of the U.S. Population

- Whites: 65%
- Latinos: 15%
- African Americans: 13%
- Asian Americans: 4%
- Native Americans: 1%
- Claim two or more races: 2%
### U.S. Racial-Ethnic Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Americans of European Descent⁸</td>
<td>199,491,000</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>50,272,000</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish b</td>
<td>36,278,000</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English/British</td>
<td>28,630,000</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>17,749,000</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French c</td>
<td>11,526,000</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>9,887,000</td>
<td>3.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish d</td>
<td>9,365,000</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>4,929,000</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwegian</td>
<td>4,643,000</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish</td>
<td>4,390,000</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>3,130,000</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welsh</td>
<td>1,980,000</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech</td>
<td>1,914,000</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungarian</td>
<td>1,539,000</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish</td>
<td>1,459,000</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>1,419,000</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>1,351,000</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss</td>
<td>997,000</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>839,300</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>46,944,000</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American g</td>
<td>39,059,000</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab</td>
<td>13,549,000</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab</td>
<td>3,083,000</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab</td>
<td>1,546,000</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Americans of African, Asian, North, Central, and South American, and Pacific Island Descent**
  - 104,743,000
  - 34%

- **Claim Two or More Race-Ethnicities**
  - Overall Total: 309,401,000
  - 1.7%

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Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States: Latinos (Hispanics)

• A Note on Terms
• Numbers Origins, Location
  – The massive unauthorized entry into the United States has aroused public concern
• Spanish Language
• Diversity
• Comparative Conditions
The Distribution of Dominant and Minority Groups

Ratio of Minority Groups

Percentage Minority
- Purple: Less than average: 5.1% to 18.8%
- Orange: Average: 19.1% to 33.7%
- Green: Higher than average: 34.8% to 75.0%

Lowest percentage of minority groups
1. Maine (5.1%)
2. Vermont (5.1%)
3. Iowa (10.2%)

Highest percentage of minority groups
1. Hawaii (75%)
2. California (58.3%)
3. New Mexico (59.1%)
Where U.S. Latinos Live

- California: 28%
- Texas: 19%
- Other States: 22%
- New Mexico: 2%
- Colorado: 2%
- New Jersey: 3%
- Arizona: 4%
- Illinois: 4%
- New York: 7%
- Florida: 8%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial–Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Unemployment</th>
<th>Poverty</th>
<th>Home Ownership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median Family Income</td>
<td>Compared to Whites</td>
<td>Percentage Unemployed</td>
<td>Compared to Whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>$70,835</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>$43,437</td>
<td>39% lower</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>31% higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>32% higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central/South America</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>14% higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>16% higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>$41,874</td>
<td>41% lower</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>41% higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>$80,101</td>
<td>13% higher</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>10% lower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Americans</td>
<td>$43,190</td>
<td>39% lower</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Not Available
2 Includes Pacific Islanders

Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States 2011: Tables 36, 37, 626.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial–Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Education Completed</th>
<th>Doctorates</th>
<th>Percentage of U.S. Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Less Than High School</td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Some College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Americans</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers in thousands

¹Percentage after the doctorates awarded to nonresidents are deducted from the total.

Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States 2011: Tables 36, 37, 296, and Figure 9.5 of this text.
Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States: African-Americans

• The Struggle for Civil Rights

• Rising Expectations and Civil Strife
  – Expected that these sweeping legal changes would usher in better conditions in life

• Continued Gains
  – African Americans have made remarkable gains in politics, education, and jobs
Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States: African-Americans

• Current Losses
• Race or Social Class? A Sociological Debate
  – Division of African Americans into “haves” and “have-nots”
• Racism as an Everyday Burden
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Less than $15,000</th>
<th>Over $100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: These are family incomes. Only these groups are listed in the source.

Source: By the author: Based on *Statistical Abstract of the United States 2012*: Table 695.
Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States: Asian-Americans

• Background of Discrimination
• Diversity
• Reasons for Success
  – Family life
  – Educational achievement
  – Assimilation into mainstream culture
Countries of Origin of Asian Americans

- China: 23%
- India: 19%
- Philippines: 18%
- Vietnam: 11%
- Korea: 10%
- Japan: 5%
- Other Countries: 14%
Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States: Native Americans

- Diversity of Groups
- From Treaties to Genocide and Population Transfer
- The Invisible Minority and Self-Determination
- Pan-Indianism
Looking Towards the Future

• The Immigration Debate
  – The current wave of immigrants is so diverse that it is changing the U.S. racial–ethnic mix

• Affirmative Action

• Towards a True Multicultural Society
Projections of the Racial-Ethnic Makeup of the U.S. Population

Year 2000
281 million
- Europeans: 69.4%
- Latinos: 12.5%
- African Americans: 12.1%
- Asian Americans: 3.7%
- Native Americans: 0.7%
- Claim membership in two or more groups: 1.6%

Year 2025
357 million
- Europeans: 59.3%
- Latinos: 20.2%
- African Americans: 12.4%
- Asian Americans: 5.1%
- Native Americans: 0.8%
- Claim membership in two or more groups: 2.1%

Year 2050
439 million
- Europeans: 49.9%
- Latinos: 27.8%
- African Americans: 12.2%
- Asian Americans: 5.9%
- Native Americans: 0.8%
- Claim membership in two or more groups: 3.2%
Percentage of Americans who claim membership in these groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European descent</th>
<th>Latino descent</th>
<th>African descent</th>
<th>Asian descent</th>
<th>Native American descent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000 69%</td>
<td>2000 13%</td>
<td>2000 12%</td>
<td>2000 3.7%</td>
<td>2000 0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOW 65%</td>
<td>NOW 15%</td>
<td>NOW 13%</td>
<td>NOW 4.4%</td>
<td>NOW 1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2050 50%</td>
<td>2050 28%</td>
<td>2050 12%</td>
<td>2050 5.9%</td>
<td>2050 0.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>