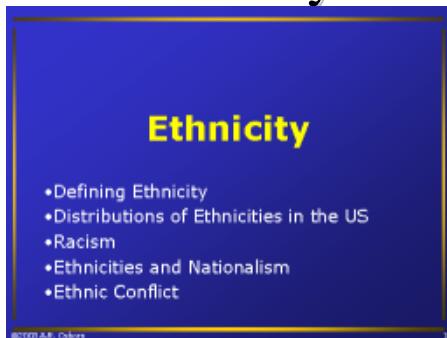


# Ethnicity



## Terms

- ❖ Ethnic: from the Greek “ethnikos” or “national.”
- ❖ Ethnicity:
  - “identity with a group of people who share the cultural traditions of a particular homeland or hearth.”
  - “a group of people that share distinct physical and mental traits as a product of common heredity and cultural traditions.”

## No Single Trait Necessarily Defines a Person's Ethnicity

- ❖ Ethnicity can be based on any trait or combination of traits, including:
  - Language (Quebec, Belgium)
  - Religion (Northern Ireland)
  - National Origin (Italian-Americans, Polish-Americans, etc.)
  - Regional Origin (territorial isolation) (Appalachian “hillbillies”)
  - **Race**

## Defining Race

- ❖ Definitions from your textbook:
  - “identity with a group of people who share a biological ancestor.”
  - “identity with a group of people descended from a common ancestor.”
- ❖ These are not identical! The first is a modern biological definition; the second may be based on belief (as when you find references to “the French race,” “the Arab race,” etc.). For example:  
“The English race are reputed morose. I do not know that they have sadder brows than their neighbors of northern climates. They are sad by comparison with the singing and dancing nations: not sadder, but slow and staid, as finding their joys at home.” Ralph Waldo Emerson, English Traits (1856).

## **Race vs. Ethnicity**

- ❖ A person's race may or may not be the same as a person's ethnicity.
- ❖ In the US the concepts of race and ethnicity are often confused – sometimes by law:
  - “Asian” is recognized by the US Census Bureau as a race (so that people from Pakistan, China, Japan, Papua New Guinea, etc. will all be classified as being of the same “race”).
  - “African-American” is recognized as a race, but it is not necessarily the same as “black.” There are many “Blacks” who trace their cultural heritage – and their ethnic identity – to countries in the Caribbean or Latin America.
  - “Hispanic” (Latino) is considered an ethnicity, not a race. Hispanics may therefore be of any race.

## **Race, Racism and Prejudice**

- ❖ Racism: “belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race.”
- ❖ Racist: “a person who subscribes to the beliefs of racism.”
- ❖ Prejudice: a preformed, unsupported judgment or opinion about a person or a group of people, based on stereotypes.

## **Race: Reality?**

- ❖ Research into genetic diseases has shown that “race” is not a very good predictor of who is and who isn’t going to get various genetic diseases (e.g. cystic fibrosis, Tay-Sachs, etc.).
- ❖ Since the human genome has been sequenced, we now know that skin color, eye color, etc. aren’t very good at predicting what our genetic heritage really is.
- ❖ For example, in America:
  - African-American’s West African genetic heritage varies from 20% to 100%.
  - 30% of Americans who consider themselves “white” have less than 90% European ancestry.

*Data from Bamshad, MJ and Olson SE. 2003. Does race exist? Scientific American 289:6 78-85.*

## **Hate Crimes**

- ❖ Also known as “bias motivated crimes.”
- ❖ The Federal Government does not classify crimes as “hate crimes.” State and local law enforcement agencies collect (and classify data).

- ❖ Standards vary from State to State – and even from town to town – so national statistics are questionable.
- ❖ Nevertheless, the FBI collects data on several thousand hate crimes every year. In the year 2004, there were more than 7,600 reported hate crimes in the US. The largest number (over 4,000) were motivated by race.

*Hate crime data source: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>*

	1998	2002	2003	2004	2005
Race	4,321	3,642	3,844	4,042	3,919
Religion	1,390	1,426	1,343	1,374	1,227
Sexual Orientation	1,260	1,244	1,239	1,197	1,017
Ethnicity	754	1,102	1,026	972	944
Disability	25	45	33	57	53
<i>Totals</i>	7,750	7,459	7,485	7,642	7,160

### US Ethnicities: Regional Concentrations

- ❖ General pattern
  - African-Americans in Southeast
  - Hispanics in Southwest
  - Asians in West
  - Native Americans in Southwest & Plains
- ❖ At the regional scale different ethnicities have distinct patterns of distribution:
  - African-Americans
    - African-Americans are about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the population in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and South Carolina, and about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the population in Mississippi.
    - African-Americans are less than 1% of the population in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Idaho, Montana, North and South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

- “Hispanics” (Latinos)
  - “Hispanics” are about  $\frac{1}{5}$  (or more) of the population in California, New Mexico and Texas.
  - “Hispanics” are less than 1% of the population in Maine, Vermont, North and South Dakota, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas.
- “Asians”
  - “Asians” are about 5% (or more) of the population in Alaska, California, Washington, Nevada, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia.
  - “Asians” are less than 1% of the population in 29 States.
- Native Americans (“Indians” and Alaska Natives)
  - Native Americans are 10% or more of the population in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Montana and South Dakota.
  - Native Americans are less than 1% of the population in 27 States.

### **Urban Concentrations of Ethnicities in the US**

- ❖ Some ethnicities are highly concentrated in urban areas in some parts of the US (for reasons we'll be getting to soon).
- ❖ In some States the urban concentration can be extreme:
  - Detroit is 82% African-American; the rest of Michigan is 6% African American.
  - Chicago is 39% African-American; the rest of Illinois is 7% African-American.
  - New York City is 24% Latino; the rest of New York is 4% Latino.
  - Cities with the highest percentage of African-Americans:
    - Gary, IN              84.0%
    - Detroit, MI            81.6%
    - Birmingham, AL     73.5%
    - Jackson, MS        70.6%
    - New Orleans, LA    67.3%
    - Baltimore, MD      64.3%
    - Atlanta, GA        61.4%

## Ethnic Neighborhoods

- ❖ In many US cities there are neighborhoods that are mostly composed of people from one or two ethnic groups.
- ❖ The composition of these neighborhoods has changed over time.
  - In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, cities in the American East and Midwest had large ethnic neighborhoods made up of European immigrants.
  - Today many of these have changed composition, to being predominant made up of people from Latin America, Asia, or African-Americans.
- ❖ Ethnic neighborhoods can form voluntarily on the basis of affinity and chain migration.
- ❖ Ethnic neighborhoods can also be made by discriminatory practices (“redlining” and “blockbusting” – see below).

## Three major migration flows have shaped the distribution of African-Americans in the US:

- Forced migration from Africa (17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries).
  - During the era of the African slave trade, 10-30 million Africans were sold into slavery.
  - During the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, between one-half and one million Africans were brought to the British Colonies and the US.
  - “The Triangle Trade”
- Southern rural to Northern urban migration (late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries).
  - After the Civil War slavery ended – but most former slaves had no education or training.
  - Sharecropping was the only occupation open to most (renting farm land, paying in crops).
  - Nevertheless, a few managed to migrate for economic (and social) advancement to Northern cities.
  - Prejudice and discrimination meant that African-Americans couldn't just settle anywhere they wanted in Northern cities.
  - Two practices, redlining and blockbusting, created urban ghettos.
    - Redlining: “drawing lines on a map to identify areas ... [where banks, realtors, insurance agents, etc.] will refuse to loan money [or provide other services].” (see Chapter 13)
    - Blockbusting: “real estate agents convinced white homeowners living near a black area to sell their houses at low prices, preying on their fears that black families would soon move into the

neighborhood and cause property values to decline. The agents then sold the houses at much higher prices to black families desperate to escape the overcrowded ghettos.”

- Inner-city to suburban migration (late 20<sup>th</sup> century).
  - Segregation laws were eliminated in the 1950s and 1960s; racial separation was legally ended.
  - Courts ordered the integration of schools. Many whites refused; rather than integrate, they fled to the suburbs.
  - Cities became increasingly black (and increasingly poor). African-Americans who can afford to have also tended to migrate out of the cities, and into the suburbs.

### **African-Americans: Legal Status in The US, 1776-1954**

- ❖ “Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States ... according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.” *US Constitution Article I*
- ❖ “[Persons of color have] no rights which any white man [is] bound to respect ... Persons of color, in the judgment of Congress, were not included in the word citizens, and they are described as another and different class of persons...” *Scott vs. Sanford, 1857*
- ❖ “... on the 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free...” *Emancipation Proclamation 1862*
- ❖ “Every civil officer shall, and every person may, arrest and carry back to his or her legal employer any freedman, free Negro or mulatto who shall have quit the service of his employer ...” *Mississippi “Black Code,” c. 1870*
- ❖ “... separate but equal ... However apparent the injustice of such legislation may be, we have only to consider whether it is consistent with the constitution of the United States.” *Plessy vs. Ferguson 1896*
- ❖ “We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.” *Brown vs. Board of Education 1954*

## Race in South Africa

- ❖ History of South Africa
  - Originally occupied by Khoikhoi (“Hottentot”) peoples.
  - Dutch arrived 1652, established Cape Town.
  - Competition between Afrikaners and Bantu peoples in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
  - British seized the Cape Colony twice in 1795 and 1806; purchased the Colony from the Dutch in 1814 for £6 million.
  - In 1822 English became the official language; in 1833 slavery was abolished.
  - In protest, in 1833 12,000 “Boers” made the “voortrek” inland, eventually establishing the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.
  - Diamonds and gold were discovered in the Transvaal in 1886; British miners were denied civil rights and taxed heavily; Britain began policies resulting in the Boer War (1899-1902).
  - In 1902 the Afrikaner states became colonies within the British Empire.
  - In 1948 Afrikaners won national elections and began the policy of “apartheid” (separation – or “apartness” – by race).

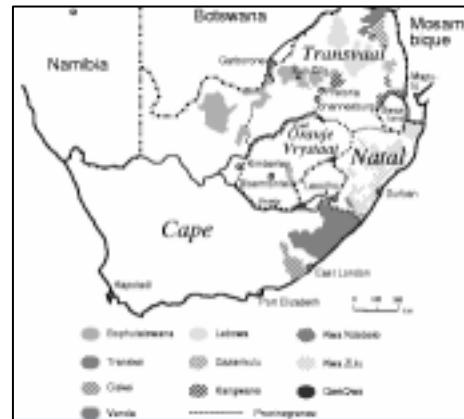
## Race and Apartheid

- ❖ Between 1948 and 1994 there were four official South African “races”:
  - White (13% of the population).
  - Black (76% of the population).
  - Asian (3% of the population – descendants of migrants from India and Pakistan).
  - Coloured (9% of the population – people of mixed race).
- ❖ Under apartheid races were kept legally separate – where you lived, worked, went to school, shopped, owned land, who you could marry, etc. – was determined by race.

## South African Homelands

- ❖ Because of its racial policies, many countries cut off political and economic relations with South Africa during the 1970s and 1980s.
- ❖ In what is perhaps the cleverest (and most twisted) racial scheme of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, South Africa devised a plan:
  - Since other countries objected to South Africa's disenfranchising  $\frac{3}{4}$  of its citizens – make them citizens of somewhere else!

- Homelands
  - Ten “homelands” were established: Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Gazankulu, KaNgwane, KwaNdebele, KwaZulu, Lebowa, Qwaqwa, Transkei, and Venda.
  - One black group would be dominant in each region, and every black South African would become a citizen of one of the ten, based on tribal affiliation.
  - The homelands were supposed to be “independent,” but could not possibly support the black population of South Africa – so that they were in fact totally dependent on South Africa.
  - Four homelands – Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, and Venda – were declared independent between 1976 and 1981, but no other country recognized them.



Map source:  
<http://www.phenix.bnl.gov/~pinkenbu/ana/diplom/node7.html>

### Dismantling of Apartheid

- ❖ In 1991, in response to continuing internal unrest and military defeat in Angola, the South African government began to dismantle apartheid.
- ❖ The African National Congress Party, after being banned for 30 years, was made legalized, and its leader, Nelson Mandela, was released from prison after 27½ years.
- ❖ In 1994 Mandela was elected South Africa's first black President.

### Truth & Reconciliation

- ❖ Established in 1995, the Truth & Reconciliation Commission investigated South African human rights abuses.
- ❖ The TRC concluded that all sides – black and white – were guilty of crimes.
- ❖ However, “The state, ... was ... the primary perpetrator of gross violations of human rights in South Africa...”
- ❖ “Racism ... constituted the motivating core of the South African political order... This created a climate in which gross atrocities ... were seen as legitimate.”
- ❖ In 2003 the TRC began paying reparations to 22,000 identified victims of victims of Apartheid.
- ❖ There have been similar Commissions established in at least 10 other countries, including Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Fiji, Sierra Leone and East Timor.

Sources: <http://www.doj.gov.za/trc/> ;

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/special\\_report/1998/10/98/truth\\_and\\_reconciliation/204015.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/special_report/1998/10/98/truth_and_reconciliation/204015.stm) ;  
[http://www.southafrica.info/public\\_services/citizens/your\\_rights/reparations\\_171103.htm](http://www.southafrica.info/public_services/citizens/your_rights/reparations_171103.htm)

## **Ethnicity and Nationalism**

- ❖ National: from a Latin word, “nasci,” “to have been born” (recall that the Greek “ethnikos” originally meant “national”).
- ❖ Nationality:
  - “identity with a group of people who share legal attachment and personal allegiance to a particular country.”
  - “a group of people tied together to a particular place through legal status and cultural tradition.”
- ❖ Nationalism: “loyalty and devotion to a nationality. Nationalism typically promotes a sense of national consciousness that exalts one nation above all others”
- ❖ Nationality and ethnicity may be closely related or totally separate.
  - In the US, nationality and ethnicity are kept distinct; you can be of any ethnicity and still be an American.
  - In other countries the situation can be very different.

## **Nations, Nation-States and Nationalism**

- ❖ For over a century, the idea of self-determination – the idea that groups of people have a right to choose their own governments without outside interference – has been among the most important political principles.
- ❖ Nation-States – independent political states that are made up of a single nation (or ethnicity) – have been an ideal for many nationalists.
  - States encourage nationalism:
    - Symbols (flags, songs, public events)
    - Nationalism can be an important centripetal force – a force encouraging unification.
- ❖ Nationalism can certainly have negative impacts – for example, creating unity by using stereotypes and new enemies.

## **Creating New Nationalities**

- ❖ In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, competing European Empires encouraged the development of national identity in each other's territories.
- ❖ In the 20<sup>th</sup> century (and especially after World War II) many former European colonies became independent – there were now dozens of new nations, new nationalities.
- ❖ Problems
  - Overlapping ethnicities and nationalities -- lines drawn on maps to separate European colonies rarely corresponded very well to where ethnicities were located.

- Different ethnicities competed to become dominant in the newly-created countries.
- Examples:
  - South Asia
    - India and Pakistan
    - Kashmir
    - Sri Lanka
  - Africa
    - Ethiopia and Eritrea
    - Somalia
    - Nigeria
  - Near East
    - Israel
    - Lebanon



Map sources: [http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/mapspub/maps/Kashmir\\_region.htm](http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/mapspub/maps/Kashmir_region.htm) ;  
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/is.html> ;  
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/le.html>

## Who are the Palestinians?

- ❖ Five distinct groups of people may consider themselves “Palestinians”:
  - People living in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.
  - Israeli citizens who are Muslim, rather than Jewish.
  - People who left Israel after the 1948-1949 war.
  - People who left the West Bank or Gaza after the 1967 war,
  - Citizens of other Middle Eastern countries who consider themselves to be Palestinians (usually the descendants of refugees from either the 1948 or 1967 wars).

## Lebanon: Nationalities, Ethnicities, and Conflict

- ❖ Lebanon, smaller than Connecticut and with a population of less than four million, has 17 officially recognized ethnicities. However, no census has been taken since 1932, so there are no accurate population figures for the different groups.
- ❖ Current estimates:
  - 55% Muslim (66% Sunni, 34% Shi'ite).
  - 38% Christian (60% Maronite, 5% Greek Orthodox, also Greek Catholic, Armenian, Syrian Orthodox, etc.)
  - 7% Druze
  - There are also small groups of Jews and Kurds (less than 1% of the population).
- ❖ In the 1943 Lebanon's Constitution required each group be represented in Parliament based on its population in the 1932 census:
  - Chamber of Deputies
    - 30 Maronites
    - 11 Greek Orthodox
    - 6 Greek Catholics
    - 4 Armenian Christians
    - 3 Other Christians
    - 20 Sunni
    - 19 Shi'ites
    - 6 Druze
  - By agreement, the Executive Branch was also represented on the basis of ethnicity:
    - President – Maronite Christian
    - Premier – Sunni Muslim
    - Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies – Shi'ite Muslim
    - Foreign Minister – Greek Orthodox Christian
- ❖ Though these percentages were probably accurate in 1932, by the 1970s they were hopelessly incorrect. Palestinian refugees took control of Southern Lebanon, civil war broke out between Christians and Muslims in 1975, Israel occupied Lebanese territory beginning in 1978, and the government collapsed.
- ❖ Today
  - Representation in the Chamber of Deputies is officially divided equally between Muslims and Christians.
  - Israel withdrew from Lebanon in 2000, but cross-border violence continues.

- Since 2000 the Lebanese Parliament has had 128 seats and has been apportioned equally between Christians and Muslims:

<b>Christian Seats</b>	<b>Muslim Seats</b>	
Maronite	34	Sunni
Greek Orthodox	14	Shi'a
Greek Catholic	8	Druze
Armenian Orthodox	5	Alawite
Armenian Catholic	1	
Protestant	1	
Other Christians	1	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>

- On February 14, 2005, the Lebanese Prime Minister was assassinated; the Cabinet resigned, and Syria has withdrawn from Lebanon. In June 2005 elections were held.
- In July 2006 a month of cross-border violence with Israel resulted in nearly a thousand dead (mostly Lebanese), and about 1¼ million refugees (about one million Lebanese, about 250,000 Israelis).

### **Forced Migration and Ethnic Cleansing**

- ❖ Forced migration has occurred throughout history – people of a certain ethnicity compelled to move by another ethnic group's armies.
- ❖ In the 1990s a new term was coined, “ethnic cleansing,” to describe what some groups in Europe were doing to each other.
  - Ethnic cleansing:
    - “a process in which a more powerful ethnic group forcibly removes a less powerful one in order to create an ethnically homogenous region.”
    - “Ethnic cleansing is undertaken to rid an area of an entire ethnicity, so that the surviving ethnicity can be the sole inhabitants.”

### **Balkanization**

- ❖ At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century political leaders were deeply worried about something called “Balkanization”:
  - “The process by which a state breaks down through conflicts among its ethnicities.”
- ❖ Balkanization was considered a threat to world peace, because conflicts between ethnic groups could drag larger powers into war. Balkanization certainly helped to cause World War I.

- ❖ To prevent Balkanization from causing problems in the future, a multi-ethnic state was created in the Balkans – Yugoslavia.

### **Ethnic Cleansing Example: Yugoslavia**

- ❖ After World War I the Austro-Hungarian Empire was broken up. The Balkan peninsula was unified (mostly on the basis of linguistic groups) into a new multi-ethnic nation.
- ❖ Ethnic diversity in Yugoslavia was enormous:
  - Seven distinct ethnic neighbors (Austria, Greece, Italy, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania).
  - Four official languages (Croatian, Serbian, Macedonian, Slovene).
  - Three major religions (Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Islam).
  - Two alphabets (Roman for Croatian and Slovene, Cyrillic for Macedonian and Serbian).
  - Six semi-autonomous Republics within Yugoslavia – Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia.
  - Five of the Republics were established on the basis of ethnicity; Bosnia & Herzegovina was a mixture of ethnicities.
- ❖ Yugoslav ethnicities were suppressed during most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but with the collapse of the Communist government in the 1980s, politicians in several of the Republics began using ethnicity and nationalism to gain power.
- ❖ All the Republics except Serbia and Montenegro broke away to become independent countries.
- ❖ Because ethnic regions and political boundaries did not coincide – and because of the concept of self-determination – Serbs and Croats both used ethnic cleansing as a way of claiming territory.

### **Genocide**

- ❖ Beyond removing an ethnic group, there is “genocide”:
  - Destroying a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.
- ❖ In the 20<sup>th</sup> century there have been several spectacular examples of genocide and attempted genocide:
  - 1915-1923: between 600,000 and 1½ million Armenians were killed or forced to flee Turkey (the government of Turkey continues to deny that this was an act of genocide).
  - 1930s-1945: six million Jews, as well as hundreds of thousands of Slavs, Gypsies and others were killed by the Nazis.

- 1975-1979: three million Cambodians were killed by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.
- 1994: 500,000 Rwandan Tutsis were killed by Rwandan Hutus.
- 2004-2007: An estimated 300,000 Sudanese killed in Darfur by state supported militias (*see <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4349063.stm>* ). A 60 day cease-fire was agreed in January 2007 – and immediately violated.
- ❖ Genocide has been a crime under International Law since 1948, whether committed during wartime or peacetime.
- ❖ All signatories to the “Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide” are obligated to enforce the treaty, and punish individuals responsible for acts of genocide. Critics have pointed out that while there are procedures in place to punish genocide, there is no real international mechanism today for preventing it.
- ❖ For more information on genocide see:
  - The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:  
<http://www.ushmm.org/conscience/history/>
  - The Eight Stages of Genocide:  
<http://www.genocidewatch.org/eightstages.htm>
  - Prevent Genocide International:  
<http://www.preventgenocide.org/>
  - The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies:  
<http://www.chgs.umn.edu/indexNS.html>