

Racial and Ethnic Groups



Chapter 8

Multiethnicity



- Societies comprising numerous racial, religious and cultural groups.
- Heterogeneity
- Homogeneity

Ethnic Group

- Groups and organizations identified by national origin, cultural distinctiveness, racial characteristics, or religious affiliation.
- Nature of intergroup relations:
 - Conflict/Competition
 - Cooperation/Accommodation

Characteristics of Ethnic Groups



- Unique Culture
- Sense of Community
- Ethnocentrism
- Ascribed Membership
- Territoriality

Race

- ...a group of people who share a greater statistical frequency of genes and physical traits with one another than they do with people outside the group. (or...)
- ...a population of humans classified on the basis of certain hereditary characteristics that differentiate them from other human groups.

Race: Cont'd

- Race has both biological meaning and social meanings.
- What is wrong with classifying race as a biological notion?
- Homo sapiens operate within a genetically open system--

Race: Cont'd



- Social notion of Race--
- ...term used to describe:
- Skin color
- Religion
- Nationality
- Entire human species

Race: Cont'd

- Bases of racial classification:(Physical characteristics which differentiate racial type)
- Anatomical Features
- Internal Physiological Traits
- Blood Composition

Racism



- ...is the belief that humans are subdivided into distinct hereditary groups and are innately different in their social behavior and mental capacities and that can therefore be ranked as superior or inferior. (or...)
- ...the belief that another racial group is innately inferior to one's own racial group.

Racism: Cont'd

- ...the belief that a racial group is innately inferior and that this justifies discrimination against and exploitation of members of that race.

Ideology of Racism



- Function of Racism:
- The belief in innate differences among groups is used to justify the unequal distribution of a society's rewards.

Minority Group

- ...a group of people who, because of their physical or cultural characteristics, are singled out from the others in the society in which they live for differential and unequal treatment.

Minority Groups: Cont'd

- Bases for Minority Status:
- Sex
- Physical condition
- Age
- Mental condition
- Race
- Religion...etc.

Minority Group: Cont'd

- Ethnic Minority-
- ...peoples whose physical appearance or cultural practices are unlike those of the dominant group, (making them susceptible to different and unequal treatment)

Prejudice



- ...judgement based on a fixed mental image of some group or class of people and applied to all individuals of that class without being tested against reality
- ...an irrational, inflexible, attitude toward an entire category of people.

Features of Ethnic Prejudices

- They are Categorical or Generalized thoughts.
- They are Inflexible.
- They are usually Negative in content.
- They are based on erroneous images called Stereotypes.

Ethnic Prejudices: Cont'd

- Stereotype-
- Walter Lippmann - 1922 - “...pictures in our heads.”
- ...a rigid mental image that summarizes whatever is believed to be typical about a group.

Discrimination

- *...the active or behavioral element .*
- ...actions or practices carried out by members of dominant groups, or their representatives, which have a differential and negative impact on members of subordinate groups.

Types of Discrimination:

- Individual Discrimination:
- ...actions taken by **individuals** or **small groups** to injure or deny something to members of minority groups.
- Examples....

Types of Discrimination: Cont'd

- **Institutional Discrimination:**
- ...when discrimination is part of the legal or customary system. It is not socially unexpected or disapproved, and is legitimized.
- Examples...