Chapter Overview

- Laying the Sociological Foundation
- Theories of Prejudice
- Global Patterns of Intergroup Relations
- Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States
- Looking Toward the Future
The Reality of Human Variety: There are 6.5 billion people in the world who share a variety of physical and cultural characteristics

- **The Myth of Pure Races**: There are no “pure” races
- **The Myth of a Fixed Number of Races**: Race is so arbitrary that many scientists can’t agree on how many races there are
- **The Myth that Race is Fixed by Biology**: Race depends more on the society in which we live than on our biological characteristics
Ethnic Groups

*Ethnicity* refers to cultural characteristics
People of the same ethnic group share clothing, foods, religion, and a strong sense of cultural heritage
Race and Ethnicity are not the same terms
Minority and Dominant Groups

- Minority Group - People Singled Out for Unequal Treatment by the Dominant Group
- Dominant Group – Group with wealth, power, and privileges
  - Minority groups are not necessarily small in number
Characteristics of a Minority Group

- Membership is an Ascribed Status
- Physical or Cultural Traits Held in Low Esteem by Dominant Group
- Unequal Treatment
- Marry Within Own Group
- Feel Strong Group Solidarity
Discrimination and Prejudice

• Discrimination is an Action
• Prejudice is an Attitude
• Learn from Association
  • KKK
• Far-Reaching Nature of Prejudice – Hartley study
• Can you discriminate and not be prejudiced?
Individual and Institutional Discrimination

- Individual Discrimination—the negative treatment of one person by another
- Institutional Discrimination—discrimination woven into societal institutions
  - i.e. Home Mortgages

Figure 9.2  Buying a House: Institutional Discrimination and Predatory Lending
Source: By the author. Based on Kochbar and Gonzalez-Barrera 2009.
Theories of Prejudice (Psychological)

- **Frustration and Scapegoats** – people who are unable to strike out at the real source of their frustration look for someone to blame.

- **The Authoritarian Personality** – Theodor Adorno created a survey which measured: ethnocentrism, Anti-Semitism, and support for strong, Authoritarian leaders and found that these criteria were connected.
Sociological Perspectives on Prejudice

**Functionalist** – Sherif Study
- Prejudice is functional as it brings people together
- Can create negative stereotypes (dysfunction)

**Conflict** – Prejudice is beneficial to the dominant group as it keeps minority groups oppressed
- Power Split Labor Force

**Symbolic Interactionist** – Labels lead to selective perception – we see what we want to see
Global Patterns of Intergroup Relations

- Genocide
- Population Transfer
- Internal Colonialism
- Segregation
- Assimilation
- Multiculturalism
**Figure 9.3** Global Patterns of Intergroup Relations: A Continuum

*Source: By the author.*
Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States

European Americans

- Nation’s Founders Included Only Those from England (WASPs)
- Other “White” Europeans Inferior
Today, Latinos are the largest racial/ethnic/minority group in the U.S. totaling over 42 million

Country of origin is significant

The U.S. is the largest Spanish-speaking nation in the world

Underrepresented in politics

Compared with whites and Asian Americans, Latinos have less income, higher unemployment and poverty
Figure 9.7  Geographical Origin of U.S. Latinos
Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States 2009:Table 38.

Figure 9.8  Where U.S. Latinos Live
Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States 2010:Table 19.
African Americans

- After slavery was abolished, the Southern states passed legislation to segregate blacks and whites.
- 1964 - Civil Rights Act (eliminated discrimination based on race).
- 1968 - Second Civil Rights Act passed.
- Remarkable gains have been made in politics, education, and jobs.
- Half of all African American families make more than $35,000 per year.
Asian Americans

- Often referred to as “The Model Minority”
- Background of Discrimination
- Diversity among Subgroups
- Reasons for Success
  - Family Life
  - Educational Achievement
  - Assimilation
Native Americans

- From Treaties to Genocide and Population Transfer
- The Invisible Minority and Self-Determination
- Diversity in Tribes
- Highest rate of alcoholism and suicide among the major races
- 42% live in inadequate housing on reservations
- Many are moving to the cities
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<th>Racial-Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Education Completed</th>
<th>Doctorates</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Less than High School</td>
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<td>Whites</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
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<td>Latinos</td>
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<td>Puerto Rico</td>
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<tr>
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<td>33.9%</td>
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</table>

^1Percentage after the doctorates awarded to nonresidents are deducted from the total.
^2Not Available

Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States 2009: Tables 35, 38, 289, and Figure 9.5 of this text.
We have been a nation of immigrants for over 200 years. More immigrants live in the U.S. today than at any other time in the country’s history. In California, racial-ethnic minorities have become the majority. There is concern that “too many” immigrants will change the character of the United States.
Figure 9.11  Projections of the Racial–Ethnic Makeup of the U.S. Population
Source: By the author. Based on U.S. Census Bureau 2009; Statistical Abstract of the United States 2010:Table 3. I modified the projections based on the new census category of membership in two or more groups and trends in interethnic marriage.