

# ETHNIC GROUPS AND ETHNICITY

# ETHNIC GROUPS

- Members of ethnic groups share certain beliefs, values, habits, customs and norms because of their common background
- Define themselves as different and special because of cultural features
- Viewed and treated *as if features are biological*

# TERMS

- ETHNIC GROUP: DISTINGUISHED BY CULTURAL SIMILARITIES (shared among members of that group) & DIFFERENCES (between that group and others)
- ETHNIC GROUPS SHARE BELIEFS, VALUES, HABITS, CUSTOMS AND NORMS, AND A COMMON LANGUAGE, RELIGION, HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, KINSHIP OR “RACE”

# TERM: ETHNICITY

- IDENTIFICATION WITH AND FEELING A PART OF, AN ETHNIC GROUP AND EXCLUSION FROM CERTAIN OTHER GROUPS BECAUSE OF THIS AFFILIATION
- HISPANIS VERSUS AMERICAN
- HYPHENATED ETHNICITY HISPANIC-AMERICAN

# TERM: MINORITY GROUP

- SUBORDINATE GROUPS (% OF POPULATION AND % CONTROL OF WEALTH) IN A SOCIAL-POLITICAL HIERARCHY WITH INFERIOR POWER AND LESS SECURE ACCESS TO RESOURCES THAN MAJORITY GROUPS HAVE
- 2050 WHITE NON-HISPANIC WILL BE A MINORITY GROUP. BUT MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER RESOURCES

# TERMS: MAJORITY GROUPS

- DOMINANT OR CONTROLLING GROUPS IN A SOCIAL-POLITICAL HIERARCHY

# TERMS: RACE

- AN ETHNIC GROUP WRONGLY ASSUMED TO HAVE TO HAVE A BIOLOGICAL BASIS
- RACISM: DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AN ETHNIC GROUP ASSUMED TO HAVE A BIOLOGICAL BASIS.

# ETHNIC GROUP DISTINCTION

- Distinction may arise from language, religion, historical experience, geographic placement, kinship, or “race”
- Markers of Ethnic Group may include a collective name, belief in common descent, a sense of solidarity and an association with territory which the group may or may not hold

# ETHNIC GROUP 2008/2050

- Non-Hispanic White 65.6%/48.9%
- Hispanic 15.2%/23.8%
- Black (Afro-American) 12.2%/ 14.3%
- Asian 4.4%/ 7.8%
- Other 2.6%/5.2%

# ETHNICITY ACCORDING TO FREDRIK BARTH

- Ethnicity can be said to exist when people claim a certain ethnic identity for themselves and ***are defined by others as having that identity***
- ***Ethnicity means identification with and feeling part of, and ethnic group and exclusion from certain other groups because of this affiliation***

# ETHNIC FEELINGS & BEHAVIOR

- Ethnic “feeling” and behavior vary in intensity within Ethnic groups and countries over time
- A change in the degree of importance attached to ethnic identity may reflect political change—the collapse of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union—ethnic feelings rise.
- Individuals have more than one group identity

# IN KENYA

- TRIBAL IDENTITY
- LANGUAGE SPEAKER IDENTITY
- REGIONAL IDENTITY
- NATIONAL IDENTITY
- TRIBAL, LANGUAGE, REGIONAL IDENTITY WITHIN KENYA
- NATIONAL IDENTITY: OUT OF COUNTRY OR IN PRESENCE OF NATIONAL OUTSIDER

# IDENTITY

- COMPLEX
- CIRCUMSTANTIAL
- IDENTITY SHIFTING DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES
- MANY IDENTITIES
- CONSISTS BOTH OF HOW PEOPLE DEFINE THEMSELVES & HOW OTHERS DEFINE THEM
- NEW YORKER, EAST COAST, AMERICAN

# SITUATIONAL NEGOTIATION OF SOCIAL IDENTITY

- PEOPLE CAN BE BOTH BLACK AND HISPANIC
- ONE IDENTITY IS USED IN CERTAIN SETTINGS ,ANOTHER IN DIFFERENT
- HISPANIC BASED ON LANGUAGE
- INCLUDES WHITES, BLACKS AND “RACIALLY” MIXED SPANISH SPEAKERS
- ETHNICALLY DESCENDENTS

# HISPANICS/LATINOS

- HISPANIC “LUMPS “TOGETHER PEOPLE OF DIVERSE GEOGRAPHIC ORIGINS (2008)
- MEXICAN 65.8%
- PUERTO RICAN 8.8%
- CUBAN 3.5%
- CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA 16.5%
- OTHER HISPANIC/LATINO 5.4%

# RACE AND ETHNICITY

- RACE LIKE ETHNICITY IS A CULTURAL CATEGORY RATHER THAN A BIOLOGICAL REALITY
- ETHNIC GROUP INCLUDING “RACES” DERIVE FROM CONTRASTS PERCEIVED AND PERPETUATED IN PARTICULAR SOCIETIES

# RACE BIOLOGICAL?

- HUMAN RACES CANNOT BE DEFINED BIOLOGICALLY
- RACIAL CLASSIFICATION IS ARBITRARY AND RANDOM
- PSEUDO SCIENCE
- ONLY CULTURAL CONSTRUCTION OF RACE IS POSSIBLE EVEN THOUGH THE AVERAGE PERSON THINKS OF RACE AS BIOLOGICAL

# SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF RACE

- “RACES” IN EVERYDAY USE ASSUMES A BIOLOGICAL BASIS
- “RACES” SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY CONSTRUCTED
- WHITE AND BLACK TERMS STAND FOR BIOLOGICALLY DISTINCT RACES
- REALLY DESIGNATE CULTURALLY PERCEIVED RATHER THAN BIOLOGICALLY BASED GROUPS

# HYPODESCENT IN AMERICAN CULTURE

- CHILD OF MIXED “RACIAL” COUPLE IS AUTOMATICALLY PLACED IN LOWER STATUS GROUP
- HYPODESCENT: A RULE IN AMERICAN CULTURE THAT AUTOMATICALLY PLACES THE CHILDREN OF A UNION BETWEEN MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS IN THE LESS PRIVILEGED GROUP

# RACE IN JAPAN

- NOT HOMOGENEOUS CULTURE AND SOCIETY
- 10% OF JAPAN'S NATIONAL POPULATION ARE MINORITIES
- INTRINSIC RACISM—THE BELIEF THAT A PERCEIVED RACIAL DIFFERENCE IS A SUFFICIENT REASON TO VALUE ONE PERSON LESS THAN ANOTHER
- VALUED GROUP IS MAJORITY “PURE” JAPANESE

# HOW IS RACE CULTURALLY CONSTRUCTED IN JAPAN

- JAPANESE DEFINE THEMSELVES IN OPPOSITION TO OTHERS WHETHER MINORITY GROUP OR OUTSIDERS
- “NOT US”
- *BURAKUMIN* ARE PHYSICALLY AND GENETICALLY INDISHTIGUISHABE FROM OTHER JAPANES
- *BURAKUMIN* ARE NOT US