ETHNIC GROUPS AND ETHNICITY
ETHNIC GROUPS

• Members of ethnic groups share certain beliefs, values, habits, customs and norms because of their common background
• Define them selves 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

• HISPANICS 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