CHAPTER 10
Racial and Ethnic Relations

Section 1: Race, Ethnicity, and the Social Structure
Section 2: Pattern of Intergroup Relations
Section 3: Minority Groups in the United States
Section 1: Race, Ethnicity, and the Social Structure

- Summarize how sociologists define the terms race, ethnicity, and minority group.
- Identify the characteristics that distinguish minority groups from one another.
Race – a category of people who share **inherited physical characteristics** and who others see as being a distinct group..
Ethnicity – the set of **cultural characteristics** that distinguishes one group from another.
Racial and ethnic composition

Estimated population of the United States by race and ethnic origin, 2009

- White: 79.6%
- Black: 12.9%
- Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander: 4.8%
- American Indian and Alaska Native: 1.0%
- Two or more races: 1.7%

Note: Hispanic-origin is considered an ethnicity, not a race. Hispanics of all races made up 15.8 percent of the population in 2009.

Confused about Race vs Ethnicity???

- You are not the only one! As you may have noted in the previous charts, it can be confusing how they are used.
- The terms RACE and ETHNICITY are often used as if they are synonyms, but they are not synonyms.
- Just remember,
  - race is physical characteristics
  - ethnicity is cultural characteristics.
Minority Group – a group of people who, because of their physical characteristics (race) or cultural practices (ethnicity), are singled out and unequally treated.
Characteristics That Distinguish Minority Groups

- Identifiable physical or cultural characteristics
- Victims of unequal treatment
- Group membership is an ascribed status
- Members share strong bonds and a sense of loyalty
- Members tend to practice \textit{endogamy} – marriage within the group
Section 2: Pattern of Intergroup Relations

- Distinguish between discrimination and prejudice.
- Describe the most common patterns of minority-group treatment.
Prejudice vs. Discrimination

- **Prejudice** – unsupported generalization about a category of people; involves attitudes and can be positive

- **Discrimination** – denial of equal treatment based on group membership; involves behaviors
SECTION 2

Patterns of Intergroup Relations

Prejudice
- unsupported generalization about a category of people
- involves attitudes
- can be positive

Discrimination
- denial of equal treatment based on group membership
- can be individual or societal
- sociological, psychological
- involves behaviors
Status

- **Social status** is the honor or prestige attached to one's position in society

- **Equality of Status**
  - When two persons have equal status..., they must be treated equally...
Common Patterns of Minority-Group Treatment

- **Cultural Pluralism** – allows each group within society to keep its unique cultural identity
- **Assimilation** – blending of culturally distinct groups into a single group with a common culture and identity
- **Legal Protection** – legal efforts to ensure the rights of minority groups
- **Segregation** – practices that physically separate a minority group from the dominant group
Common Patterns of Minority-Group Treatment

- **Subjugation** – the maintaining of control over a group through force
Common Patterns of Minority-Group Treatment

**Population Transfer** – transferring a minority population to a new area
Common Patterns of Minority-Group Treatment

- **Extermination** – intentional destruction of the entire targeted population known as genocide
Section 3: Minority Groups in the United States

- Describe the conditions under which minority groups in the United States live.
- Explain how government policies have affected the lives of minority groups in the United States.
Living Conditions of Minorities

**African Americans** –

- making gains toward equality,
- but statistics show members are lagging in education, employment, and income
- becoming more politically active (understatement...shows age of our textbook!)
Living Conditions of Minorities

- Hispanics –
  - rapidly growing population
  - lagging in income and education
  - diverse population
Living Conditions of Minorities

Asian Americans –

- Contrast between 1st-generation immigrants, who are often poor, & 2nd-generation, many of whom succeed educationally & financially
- Viewed as a “model minority,” although this term is resented
Living Conditions of Minorities

- **American Indians** –
  - often live on reservations
  - high poverty and poor education
  - encouraged to assimilate
  - taking steps to establish sources of income and better schools
Living Conditions of Minorities

- **White Ethnics** – includes some who assimilate quickly and others who remain victims of prejudice and discrimination; making gains in religious tolerance; good education level
Government Policies Towards Minorities

- Government policies have both helped and hindered minorities.

- For example: In the past, de jure segregation, or racial segregation required by the law, hurt African Americans. The *Civil Rights Act of 1964* forbade racial discrimination
Superordinate Goal

...something that is big enough and compelling enough to

- aid individuals and groups to overlook personal differences
- in order to achieve something significantly beyond their current reach,
- something that cannot be privately held by any of the members, and is instead closer in nature to a Commons.