# Ch. 7 Ethnicity

Key Issue 1: Where are ethnicities distributed?

*Ethnicity- the identity of a group of people who share the cultural traditions of a particular homeland or hearth.*

*Race- the identity of a group of people who share a biological ancestor.*

The most common ethnicities within the U.S. are African Americans and

Hispanics/Latinos, about 13% each. Others include Asian American (4%) and

American Indian (1%). The fourteen races w/in the U.S., as decided by the

Census, are: white, black-African American-Negro, American Indian-Alaska

Native, Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Native Hawaiian, Guamanian-Chamorro, Samoan, other Pacific islander, and lastly, other race.

Within a country, clustering of ethnicities may occur on a regional scale, or within particular neighborhoods of cities.

 Regional:

 -In the U.S., African Americans are clustered in the S.E., Hispanics in the S.W., Asians in the West, and Native Americans in the S.W. and Great Plains.

 Within cities:

 -African Americans are highly clustered within cities, greater than 50% of blacks live within cities. Ex- In Detroit, A-A comprise 80% of the pop, but only one-fourteenth the pop of the rest of Michigan. The distribution of Hispanics in northern cities is similar to that of African Americans, for instance NYC is ¼ Hispanic, but only 1/16th the rest of New York.

 -The clustering of ethnicities is especially visible on the neighborhood level. Such as in Chicago where many of the immigrants from S. and E. Europe tended to chain migrate to specific city blocks in such density that certain areas of town became known for a specific ethnicity. More recently, however, descendants of European immigrants are more likely to retain their ethnic identity through religion, food, and other cultural traditions rather than through location of residence. Increasingly the ethnic concentrations in the U.S. are African Americans from the South, Hispanics, or Asians.

The current clustering of African Americans w/in the U.S. results from three major migration flows:

1. Immigration from Africa in the 18th century (slave trade)
2. Immigration from the South to northern cities during first ½ of 20th century.
3. Immigration from inner-city ghettos to other urban neighborhoods in the second ½ of the 20th century.

*Triangular slave trade- an efficient triangular trading pattern used to transport trinkets from Europe to Africa, slaves from Africa to the Caribbean, and molasses from the Caribbean to Europe. An optional stop was from the Caribbean with molasses to the U.S. to exchange for rum and then back to Europe.*

*Sharecropper- an individual who works fields rented from a landowner and pays the rent by turning over to the landowner a share of the crops.*

*Racism- the belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race. Racist- a person who subscribes to the beliefs of racism.*

“White flight” is the rapid fleeing of whites from the cities as black families emigrate out of the ghettos, or as the ghetto expands. It was encouraged by blockbusting.

*blockbusting- the real estate practice of scaring whites into selling their homes at low prices by telling them that blacks would soon be moving in and causing property values to fall. The real estate agents then turned around and sold the homes at extremely high prices to blacks that were emigrating from the inner city.*

*Apartheid- the physical separation of different races into different geographic areas, i.e. South Africa.*

The apartheid laws were repealed in 1991 in South Africa, but many years will be needed to erase the legacy of such racist policies.

Key Issue 2: Why have ethnicities been transformed into nationalities?

*Nationality- the identity of a group of people who share legal attachment and personal allegiance to a particular country.*

*Self-determination- the concept that ethnicities have the right to govern themselves.*

*Nation-state- a state whose territory corresponds to that occupied by a particular ethnicity that has been transformed into a nationality. Denmark is an excellent example.*

Ethnic groups have been transformed into nationalities because desire for selfrule is a very important shared attitude for many of them.

*Nationalism- loyalty and devotion to a nationality.*

*Centripetal force- an attitude that tends to unify people and enhance support for a state.*

*Multi-ethnic state- a state that contains more than one ethnicity.*

*Multinational states- multi-ethnic states that contain two ethnic groups with traditions of*

*self-rule that agree to coexist peacefully. The United Kingdom is an example. The Soviet Union was the largest multinational state until is fall in the early 1990s; it consisted of 15 different republics based on its largest ethnicities. Now Russia is the largest multinational state, with 39 nationalities.*

After the fall of the Soviet Union, many new countries in the Baltic, E. Europe, and Middle East were created, sometimes corresponding to nationalities, sometimes not. An example of turmoil resulting from poorly drawn boundaries is in the Caucasus region, betwixt the Black and Caspian seas. Many ethnicities exist here, with several pushing for nationality.

Many Europeans believed at the beginning of the 20th century that ethnicities were a thing of the past, however, they were quite incorrect. After the fall of communism in many states, ethnicities that had long been suppressed were allowed to expand and flourish. This is especially evident in the former Yugoslavia, which was utterly decimated as minority ethnicities exerted themselves and demanded independence.

Key Issue 3: Why do ethnicities clash?

Often the cause of violence is when different ethnicities compete to rule the same region or nationality. Especially common in sub-Saharan Africa, where the superimposed boundaries of the Europeans colonies poorly coincide with the thousands of ethnicities. The Horn of Africa has been the site of many ethnic disturbances: Ethiopia and Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia, etc.

The other main source of ethnic violence occurs when ethnicities are divided among more than one state. Such as in S. Asia where the British divided their former colony into Pakistan and India. (East Pakistan became Bangladesh after 1971) As a result of the partition, millions of Hindus had to migrate from the Pakistans, and Muslims had to migrate from India. During the course of the migrations, many adherents were killed by members of the opposite religion. Also, controversy continues in the northern area of Kashmir over the proper border. Similar unrest is present on the island of Sri Lanka, betwixt the Tamil Hindus and the Sinhalese Buddhists.

Key Issue 4: What is ethnic cleansing?

*Ethnic cleansing- the process in which a more powerful ethnic group forcible removes a less powerful one in order to create an ethnically homogeneous region. Probably the best example is WWII in which millions of Jews, gypsies, and other ethnicities were forcibly moved to concentration camps, where most were exterminated.*

When Yugoslavia was one country, encompassing multiple ethnicities, dissent was kept under control. However, once Yugoslavia broke up into six republics, the boundaries did not align with the boundaries of the five largest nationalities, and ethnicities fought to redefine the boundaries. In some cases, as in Bosnia and Kosovo, ethnic cleansing was used to strengthen certain nationalities’ cases for autonomy. As a result, millions of ethnicities were forcibly removed from their homes, and marched elsewhere, or simply killed. Similar ethnic cleansing occurs in Central Africa betwixt the Hutus and Tutsis.

*Balkanized- used to describe a small geographic area that could not successfully be organized onto one or more stable states because it was inhabited by many ethnicities with complex, long-standing antagonisms toward each other.*

*Balkanization- the process by which a state breaks down due to conflicts among its ethnicities.*