

*Sociology Notes*  
**Ch 9 Sect 3 & 4**  
**Theoretical Perspectives on Race**

**I. Definitions**

***A. Prejudice – negative attitudes towards a group & individuals***

**1. examples**

- a) music –
- b) sports –
- c) style of dress –
- d) books –
- e) people who are overweight –
- f) people who are loud –
- g) people who are too old –

***B. Racism – extreme prejudice, one group is better than another***

***C. Discrimination – treating people differently based on ethnicity, race, religion, or culture***

***D. Hate crime – criminal act motivated by prejudice***

- 1. on the rise
- 2. 8,000 cases reported to FBI in 1999
- 3. 37 states passed hate-crime laws

***E. Stereotype – exaggerated or oversimplified image applied to a category of people***

- 1. created to justify unethical behavior

## **II. Theoretical Perspectives**

### ***A. Functionalists***

- 1. minorities are exploited**
- 2. has negative impact on society**
- 3. effects peoples self-concept – pos. & neg.**

***B. Conflict perspective***

1. majority uses discrimination to control
2. minorities conflict for power and control

***C. Symbolic Interactionists***

1. self-fulfilling prophecy – exposure leads to discrimination or racism.

***D. Institutionalized discrimination – unfair practices that grow out of common behaviors and attitudes and that are part of the structure of society.***

1. ex. seniority program, and white flight

**III. Minority Groups**

***A. African Americans in U.S.***

1. 35 million
2. 13% of total pop.
3. oldest minority group
4. slaves in 1600's
5. 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment 1865 ended slavery
6. segregation until 1960's
7. earn 62% of whites incomes
8. 25% of the wealth that whites have
9. 2x's unemployment rate than whites
10. 1 in 4 AA are unemployed when hidden unemployment (people who stop looking for work, and part-time workers who prefer full-time) is considered
  - a) biggest category of AA unemployed are teens = 40%
  - b) reason – no job experience

**11. 1998 – 84% of whites grad. h.s. and 76% of blacks**

**12. 1998 – 25% of whites grad. college and 15% of blacks**

**13. Since 1960 professional and technical jobs for blacks have increased 128%**

**a) Sociologists predict two black Americas will develop**

***(1) black middle class – educated and successful***

***(2) black underclass – undereducated and unemployed***

**14. More are joining the “power elite” = politicians, CEO’s**

***B. Latinos = people from Latin America***

**1. high birth rates and immigration**

**2. predicted to be the largest minority by 2050**

**3. 60% of Latinos are Mexican**

**a) 1/8 (12%) are Puerto Rican – concentrated in NYC**

**b) Cubans = 1 million – concentrated in Miami**

***(1) Two migration patterns***

**(a) prior to 1950’s and Fidel Castro = middle-upper class**

**(b) after 1950’s and Fidel = uneducated, and lower class**

4. 50% receive h.s. education vs. 84% of non-Latinos
5. Average income \$26,628, higher than AA
  - a) non-Latino whites avg. \$40, 577
6. Cubans are most affluent, earn 75% of white income
7. poorest are Puerto Ricans
8. 25% of Latinos are in poverty vs. 10% white non-Latino
9. laborers, unskilled, migrant workers
10. becoming a political force

**C. Native Americans in the U.S.**

1. about 20 million in pop.
  - a) 500 separate tribes
  - b) most experience poverty = reservations
  - c) 25% are below poverty level
  - d) fewer graduate from h.s. than any other minority group
  - e) lowest income \$21, 619
  - f) 20% are employed in professional, managerial, and administrative positions
  - g) virtually no political power
  - h) 25% live on reservation
    - (1) 50% below poverty, earn \$16,000 yr. avg.
  - i) college education
    - (1) those living on the reservation = 5%
    - (2) those not living on the reservation = 9.3%
2. Gaming – Casinos
  - a) In 1999, 184 tribes operated casinos in 300 facilities
    - (1) \$5 billion in revenue and \$2 billion in profits

- b) long-term effects are yet to be seen

***D. Asian Americans = 11 million = 4% of total pop. Chinese, Philippines, Japanese, Indian, Korean, Vietnamese***

### **1. Chinese**

- a) 1850's Gold Rush in Calif.

*(1) ag labor, railroad, low paying industrial*

- b) 1870's tough economic times

*(1) Europeans competed with Chinese for jobs*

*(2) Chinese were barred from public school in San Fran.*

*(3) Chinese Expulsion Act 1882 – no more immigrants from China*

- c) 1940's college educated professionals

*(1) hard working, dedicated to education, made contributions to society*

### **2. Japanese**

- a) 1885 west coast immigrants

- b) California Alien Land Bill of 1913

*(1) only lease farm land for 3 yrs. – could not own or inherit*

- c) 1924 no Japanese immigration – Congress restricted

- d) 1942 Pearl Harbor attack by Japanese

*(1) Pres. FDR issued Executive Order 9066*

*(a) sent Japanese in Amer. to internment camps*

*(i) 110,000 forced to move away from w. coast*

*(2) 1987 U.S. Govt. issued apology for Exec. Order*

### **3. Asians and Education**

- a) SAT scores 40% higher than general population
- b) over 42% completed 4yrs. of college
  - (1) 25% of whites have
  - (2) 10% of Latinos have
- c) Considered most successful racial minority in the U.S.

### **E. White Ethnics**

- 1. E. & S. Europe – It., Poland, Greek, Slavic
- 2. blue collar
- 3. live in small communities on E. Coast
- 4. Stereotyped in 1960's
  - a) conservative, racist, pro-war, “hard hats”
- 5. Compared to the WASP's during 1960's, White Ethnics were
  - a) more against Vietnam War
  - b) more liberal
  - c) favored guaranteed annual wage
  - d) more likely to vote for African Amer. president
  - e) more concerned with the environment
  - f) more sympathetic towards govt. help for poor
- 6. “White Ethnics roots movement”
  - a) started out of 1960's black power movement
  - b) intended to help preserve cultural and racial identities