Chapter 7

Ethnicity
Refugees fleeing Rwanda 1994
Ethnicity

• It is the identity with a group of people who share cultural traditions of a particular homeland or hearth.
• Ethnicity comes from the Greek word *ethnikos*, which means nation.
Race

- It is the identity of a group of people who share a common biological ancestor.
- It comes from a middle French word for generation.
Key Issue #1

Where are Ethnicities Distributed?
Distribution of Ethnicities

- Ethnicities in the United States
  - Clustering of ethnicities
  - African American migration patterns

- Differentiating ethnicity and race
  - Race in the United States
  - Division by race in South Africa
Ethnic/Racial Distribution in the US

- There are distinct patterns of distribution for the ethnicities in the US.
- African Americans and Native Americans have a historical reason (forced migration) for their distribution.
- Asian Americans and Hispanic Americans have a different historical reason (voluntary migration) for their distribution.
Fig. 7-1: The highest percentages of African Americans are in the rural South and in northern cities.
Hispanic Americans in the U.S.

Fig. 7-2: The highest percentages of Hispanic Americans are in the southwest and in northern cities.
Asian Americans in the U.S.

Fig. 7-3: The highest percentages of Asian Americans are in Hawaii and California.
Fig. 7-4: The highest percentages of Native Americans are in parts of the plains, the southwest, and Alaska.
Ethnic distribution is not only by country

- Distribution patterns can be seen in smaller geographical areas.
  - Cities
  - Schools/Colleges
  - Classrooms
  - Locker rooms
  - Cafeterias
Ethnicities in Chicago

Fig. 7-5: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and European Americans are clustered in different areas of the city.
Fig. 7-6: Hispanic, white, African American, and Asian areas in and around Los Angeles.
What draws people to where they live? Or in other words, why do people migrate?

- **PUSH Factors** – factors from their homelands
- **PULL Factors** – factors from their destination
Ethnic Diversity, New York City
African American Migration Patterns

- There are historically three major patterns of African Americans in US history.
  - Immigration from Africa because of the slave trade.
  - Migration from the south to northern cities during the first half of the 20th century.
  - Migration from the inner cities to other neighborhoods in the second half of the 20th century.
Slave Trade

- Could be the largest forced migration in World History.
- Slavery was huge during the time of the Roman Empire, but was replaced by feudalism during the middle ages.
- Over 400,000 slaves were brought by the British between 1710 and 1808. Importation of slaves became illegal in 1808, but it still happened.
- The process was known as the triangular slave trade.
- Over 10 million Africans were displaced because of the slave trade.
Triangular Slave Trade

Fig. 7-7: The British triangular slave trading system operated among Britain, Africa, and the Caribbean and North America.
Fig. 7.7: Europeans obtained African slaves mainly from the western coast of Africa. Arabs and others also obtained slaves from Eastern Africa.
After the Civil War

- Even though the 13th Amendment made slavery illegal and slaves were granted their freedom, many remained in a state of quasi-slavery.
- Sharecropping is the system of slaves working the land and giving some of the harvest back to the landowner as a form of rent.
Cotton Sharecroppers in U.S.

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African Americans migrate

- They tended to follow very distinct roads.
  - From the Carolinas through I-95 up to the Northeast
  - From Alabama through I-75 and I-77 to Detroit and Cleveland
  - From Mississippi to Chicago and St. Louis through I-55
  - From Texas to California through I-10 and I-20
- Moved before and after WWI and before and after WWII.
Fig. 7-8: 20th century African American migration within the U.S. consisted mainly of migration from the rural south to cities of the Northeast, Midwest, and West.
The Rise of Ghettos

- African Americans like other immigrant before moved into clustered neighborhoods.
- Neighborhoods were named ghettos (same term as the Jewish neighborhoods of the middle ages).
- Densities were very high and led to poor living conditions.
Fig. 7-9: Areas with 90% African American population in Baltimore expanded from a core area northwest of downtown in the 1950s.
Ethnicity and Race

- There are three primary minority ethnicities in the US.
  - African Americans
  - Asian Americans
  - Hispanic Americans
- Black and African Americans are not the same, even though they are grouped together.
- Hispanic is not a race.
Race traits

- Race traits are passed on by genetics
  - Lactose intolerance affects Asian Americans, African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics at a much higher rate than Whites.
  - Skin color is a genetic trait. This is the most important trait to geographers.
Biological Classification of race

- This is very controversial.
- Can lead to the justification of racism.
14 races in the US

- White - 75%
- Black, African American, Negro – 12%
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Native Hawaiian
- Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander
- Other
“Separate But Equal”

- Plessy v. Ferguson established the legal doctrine
- Brown v. Board of Education started to eliminate legal segregation
- These laws also targeted Catholics and Jews.
Segregation in the U.S.
White Flight in the US

- After segregation became illegal, whites fled the situation.
- Real estate people scared whites into selling homes cheap because the black man would soon move in.
- Whites would move to suburbs. Since schools had a physical boundary, they maintained a very homogeneous population.
South Africa - Apartheid

- Apartheid was the physical separation of races into different geographical areas.
- Babies were classified at birth as one of four races – white (14%), black (75%), colored (9%) and Asian (3%).
- Each had a different legal system.
- Apartheid laws were finally removed in the 1990’s.
- It will still take many years to truly dismantle the laws and their effects on society.
Fig. 7-10: During the apartheid era, South Africa created a series of black “homelands” with the expectation that every black would be a citizen of one of them. These were abolished with the end of apartheid.
Train Station Stairs for Whites
South Africa under Apartheid
Train Station Stairs for Blacks South Africa under Apartheid
Key Issue #2

Why have Ethnicities been transformed into Nationalities?
Ethnicities into Nationalities

• Rise of nationalities
  • Nation-states
  • Nationalism

• Multinational states
  • Former Soviet Union
  • Russia
  • Turmoil in the Caucasus

• Revival of ethnic identity
  • Ethnicity and communism
  • Rebirth of nationalism in Eastern Europe
Rise of Nationalities

- Many of the early immigrants that came to the United States did not describe themselves by country, they described themselves by ethnicity.
- Ethnic groups have begun forming countries because of self determination.
- A nation-state is a state whose territory corresponds to that occupied by a particular ethnicity that has become a nation.
Nation States in Europe

• France became one of the first nations.
• By 1900 most of Western Europe was made up of nation states. Eastern Europe still had empires and nation states.
• The conflict over borders between nation-states led to WWI. After the war many boundaries were redrawn as nation states by ethnicity.
• WWII did not begin until the Germans invaded Poland, a non German speaking country.
There are no perfect nation states

- Denmark
  - Schleswig-Holstein area
  - Faeroe Islands
  - Greenland
Nationalism

• Nationalism is loyalty and devotion to a nationality.
• Governments try to instill nationalism to prevent separation and eliminate ethnic violence.
• Mass media and culture help diffuse nationalism.
• Nationalism can lead to negative results by displaying a disdain or superiority to other nations.
• Nationalism is a centripetal force, or a force that unifies people together.
Multinational states

- Countries that have more than one ethnic group are known as multi-ethnic states. Belgium is a prime example.
- Multinational states are countries where at least two diverse ethnic groups with self determination agree to coexist peacefully. United Kingdom is a good example with England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Former Soviet Union

- USSR had 15 countries made of the 15 largest ethnicities.
- 3 Baltic: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania
- 3 European: Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine
- 5 Central Asian: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- 3 Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia
- Russia
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- 3 Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia
- Russia
Characteristics of New Nation States

- Baltic
- European
- Central Asian

- Take out maps.
- Describe the similarities and differences
- Three groups
New Baltic Nation-States

- Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
- Each had been independent countries between 1918 and 1940.
- Each have different ethnic make-ups.
- Estonians – Protestant (Lutheran); speak Uralic
- Lithuanians – Catholic; speak a Baltic language
- Latvians – mixed; speak a Baltic language
New European Nation States

- Belarus
- Moldova
- Ukraine
- Very blurred ethnicities with neighboring countries
- Eastern Orthodox Christians (some Roman Catholics)
Central Asian States

- Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are mostly ethnic, Muslims and speak an Altaic language.
- Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan are not completely ethnic with a large mixtures of other countries.
Russia is the largest multinational state

- It has recognized over 39 nationalities.
- Many want independence.
- Also, there is a great deal of hostility towards the Russians from years of oppression.
Republics of the Soviet Union

Fig. 7-11: The Soviet Union consisted of 15 republics that included the country’s largest ethnic groups. These all became independent countries in the early 1990s.
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Fig. 7-12: Russia officially recognizes 39 ethnic groups, or nationalities, which are concentrated in western and southern portions of the country.
Russian Soldiers in Chechnya

The Russian army has occupied and destroyed much of Chechnya in suppressing Chechen rebel groups.
Turmoil in the Caucuses

- An area the size of Colorado
- In between Black and Caspian Seas
- Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia are in a constant struggle to maintain their identity from each other and Russia.
Ethnicity and Communism

- Oppressed many ethnic differences.
- Strict military power kept violence controlled, but not emotion,
Rebirth of Nationalism in Eastern Europe

• As communism fell, many ethnicities have found peace and a nation.
• However violence has marred many ethnicities rise to a nation.
Ethnicities in the Caucasus

Fig. 7-13: The Caucasus region is extremely diverse ethnically. Ethnic groups are spread across several national boundaries.
Key Issue #3

Why do Ethnicities Clash?
Clashes of Ethnicities

- Ethnic competition to dominate nationality
  - *Ethnic competition in the Horn of Africa*
  - *Ethnic competition in Lebanon*

- Dividing ethnicities among more than one state
  - *Dividing ethnicities in South Asia*
  - *Dividing Sri Lanka among ethnicities*
Fig. 7-14: There have been numerous inter-ethnic civil conflicts in the countries of the Horn of Africa (including the Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia).
Ethnic Competition in the Horn of Africa

- Ethiopia and Eritrea have been fighting since Eritrea gained independence from Italy.
- Sudan has been in a civil war since the 1980’s. The fighting is between the Christians and the Muslims. More than 2 million Sudanese have died since the fighting began. Sudan’s government is Muslim.
- Somalia is in civil war as clans and sub clans try to take control after the government collapsed. More than 300,000 people died from famine as a result of the fighting.
Ethiopia and Eritrea

- Eritrea was an Italian colony since 1890.
- Ethiopia was an independent nation until Italy took over in the 1930’s. However after World War II, Ethiopia regained its independence and Eritrea was awarded to Ethiopia.
- The UN thought Ethiopia would give Eritrea much self authority, but Ethiopia took full control, even banning Tigrinya, the native language of Eritrea.
- A 30 year civil war broke out in 1961.
- In 1993, Eritrea gained its independence, but war broke out again in 1998 over where the border really is.
Ethiopia and Eritrea

- Ethiopia is a complex multi-ethnic state. Historically controlled by Christians until the 1990’s before power was transferred to a large number of ethnic groups.
- The Oromo, fundamentalist Muslims, are the largest ethnic group in Ethiopia.
- Eritrea has about 5 million people, split evenly between Christians and Muslims.
Sudan

- Sudan has about 40 million people.
- Sudan has been in a civil war since the 1980’s. The fighting is between the Christians and animist in the south and the Muslims in the north.
- More than 2 million Sudanese have died since the fighting began. Sudan’s government is Muslim.
- The government of Sudan has segregated the sexes, schools are single sex. Strict laws prohibiting contact between men and women are in place.
- Sudan accuses neighbors of helping the Christina rebels.
- Darfur in Sudan has been a place of intense violence.
Farmers from Darfur in western Sudan have been chased from their homes by agents of the Sudanese government.
Somalia

- Somalia is majority Sunni Muslim and has a population of about 8 million.
- Somalia is in civil war as clans and sub clans try to take control after the government collapsed. More than 300,000 people died from famine as a result of the fighting.
- The US sent troops to help with food distribution, but violence ensued.
Lebanon

- Size of Connecticut
- Over 4 million people.
- 60% Muslim
  - Mostly sects of Shiite
- 30% Christian
- 10% other (Druze is 7%)
- Fighting broke out between religious groups to guard their territory.
Fig. 7-15: Christians, Sunni Muslims, Shiite Muslims, and Druze are dominant in different areas of the country.
Dividing Ethnicities in More than One State – South Asia

- When Britain let go of their control of the Subcontinent, two countries were created, India and Pakistan.
- Pakistan was divided into two territories, the Eastern part becomes Bangladesh.
- India and Pakistan are Nuclear powers who do not like each other. Many of their fighting is ethnic/religious based.
- Hinduism has unified the country of India.
- The division of the country was not along ethnic boundaries, many people were forced to move.
- Still have not agreed on the actual border in the Kashmir region.
Fig. 7-16: At independence in 1947, British India was divided into India and Pakistan, resulting in the migration of 17 million people and many killings. In 1971, after a brutal civil war, East Pakistan became the country of Bangladesh.
Train Station in Amritsar, India, October, 1947

The station is filled with Hindu refugees who have fled from the new country of Pakistan.
Fig. 7-17: Although its population is mainly Muslim, much of Jammu and Kashmir became part of India in 1947. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over the territory, and there has been a separatist insurgency in the area.
Dividing Sri Lanka among Ethnicities

- A country of about 20 million with two major ethnic groups, the Sinhalese and the Tamils.
- The groups have been fighting for over 2,000 years, but the violence was suppressed by European powers.
- When given their independence, the Sinhalese have dominated the government and the Tamils have felt discriminated against.
- Starting resumed in 1983, 60,000 have died as a result.
Fig. 7-18: The Sinhalese are mainly Buddhist and speak an Indo-European language, while the Tamils are mainly Hindu and speak a Dravidian language.
Key Issue #4

What is Ethnic Cleansing?
Many Kurds fled Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War when Saddam Hussein’s armed forces attacked Kurdish regions in northern Iraq.
Ethnic Cleansing – when a more powerful ethnic group removes a less powerful one.

- Ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia
  - *Creation of multi-ethnic Yugoslavia*
  - *Destruction of multi-ethnic Yugoslavia*

- Ethnic cleansing in central Africa
Ethnic Cleansing - History

- Jewish Holocaust of the Middle Ages
- Spanish Inquisition
- Colonization and Christianization of the Conquistadores
- Native American treatment in the US – Trail of Tears
- World War II
Forced Migrations after World War II

Fig. 7-19: Territorial changes after World War II resulted in many migrations, especially by Poles, Germans, and Russians.
The Balkans in 1914

Fig. 7-20: The northern part of the Balkans was part of Austria-Hungary in 1914, while much of the south was part of the Ottoman Empire. The country of Yugoslavia was created after World War I.
Ethnic Cleansing in Yugoslavia

- The Balkan Peninsula is the size of Texas.
- This includes the country of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Romania as well as several of the countries of the former Yugoslavia.
- The area has had a history of occupation.
  - Austria-Hungary Empire in the North
  - Ottoman Empire in the South
- After WWI, the allies created Yugoslavia, one country with many ethnicities.
Ethnic Cleansing in Yugoslavia

- Under Josip Broz Tito, Yugoslavia has a semblance of peace.
  - Seven neighbors
  - Six republics
  - Five nationalities
  - Four languages
  - Three religions
  - Two alphabets
  - One “dinar” – a form of currency
  - A partridge in a pear tree…
Fig. 7-21: Several new states were created, and boundaries were shifted after World Wars I and II. New state boundaries often coincided with language areas.
Ethnic Cleansing in Yugoslavia

- After Tito’s death, rivalries emerged and fighting began.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia broke away and formed their own country. Only Montenegro and Serbia remained in Yugoslavia.
- Serbs and Croats tried to cleanse Bosnia of Muslims so that they may join their respective countries.
- Accords reached in 1996, gave each ethnic group a part of Bosnia to self control.
Fig. 7-22: Yugoslavia’s six republics until 1992 included much ethnic diversity. Brutal ethnic cleansing occurred in Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo during the civil wars of the 1990s.
The Stari Most (old bridge) was built in 1566. This was the bridge before the civil war in Bosnia & Herzegovina.
Bridge Destroyed in Bosnian War 1993
Rebuilt Bridge, 2004
Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo

• The Serbians tried to rid the ethnic Albanians in 1990.
• They forced 750,000 Albanians to leave their homes and move to Albania.
• NATO and the UN had to step in.
Fig. 7-1.1: Aerial photography helped document the stages of ethnic cleansing in western Kosovo in 1999.
Balkanization

- A country that will break down due to ethnic fighting.
- Balkanization led to WWI.
- Balkanization is happening again in the former Yugoslavia.
Ethnic Cleansing in Central Africa

- Is a long time fight between the Hutus and the Tutsis.
- Most of the fighting today is the area of Rwanda and Burundi.
- Both countries were German colonies.
- Belgium took over the colonies after WWI.
- Fighting ensued after the Hutus tried to eliminate the Tutsis.
- Fighting has spilled into neighboring countries.
- Fighting is especially fierce in the Congo.