

# **RACE AND ETHNICITY**

## **CHAPTER 13**

# **JUMP IN**

**How to Talk about Race: Eric Deggans**

**[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UojLHDG\\_Y4w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UojLHDG_Y4w)**

**Think about it...**

- 1. What is the biggest takeaway from the message.**
- 2. It is implied that racism and many other marginalizing factors still exist. Do you agree? Why/Why not?**
- 3. What's missing? Missing perspectives...**

# RACE DEFINED

- a group of people who are perceived by a given society to be biologically different from others
- There is no clear-cut biological distinction - in physical characteristics or genetic make-up – between racial groups, so sociologists define race as a social rather than a biological phenomenon.

# ETHNICITY DEFINED

- **Ethnic group** – a collection of people who share a distinctive cultural heritage
- Members of an ethnic group may share a **language, religion, history** or national origin.
- They always share a feeling that they are a distinct people.
- **<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/video/coca-cola-commercial-coke-responds-critics-stands-super-22406207>**

# MINORITY

- a racial or ethnic group that is subjected to prejudice and/or discrimination
- Note: a minority group is not necessarily the smallest percentage of the general population (could be a subordinate group)

# THINGS TO CONSIDER

- **Prejudice – a negative attitude toward a certain category of people. This includes ideas and beliefs, feelings or predispositions to act in a certain way.**
- **Discrimination – an unfavorable action against individuals that is taken because its members are members of a certain category**
- **Racism – the belief that one’s own race or ethnicity is superior to that of others (ie: ethnocentrism)**
  - **tends to cause the dominating group to abuse minorities by segregating, expelling or killing them.**

# **CNN 360...RACE AND CHILDREN**

<http://ac360.blogs.cnn.com/2012/04/02/study-race-relations-through-a-childs-eyes/>

**While watching...think about**

- 1. What does the research suggest?**
- 2. Do you agree?**

# ROBERT MERTON

“Prejudice is an attitude, discrimination is an act.”

- Robert Merton found that prejudice and discrimination do not necessarily go hand in hand. Analyzing the possible combinations of prejudice and discrimination, Merton developed a typology of four dominant-group members on the basis of their responses to minorities.

1. Unprejudiced Non-Discriminators
2. Unprejudiced Discriminators
3. Prejudiced Non-Discriminators
4. Prejudiced Discriminators



# **UNPREJUDICED NON-DISCRIMINATORS**

- **People who believe in the U.S. creed of equality and put their belief into action – their attitude and behavior are consistent. Merton also calls them “all-weather liberals” because they are likely to abide by their belief regardless of where they are-even if their friends or neighbors are bigots.**

# **UNPREJUDICED** **DISCRIMINATORS**

**These people's discriminatory behavior is consistent with their un-prejudicial attitude. Although free from prejudice themselves, they practice discrimination from social pressure. Hence, they are called "fair weather liberals". Example: Unprejudiced homeowners are fair-weather liberals if they refuse to sell their house to a minority family for fear of offending the neighbors.**

# **PREJUDICED NON-DISCRIMINATORS**

**The prejudiced person who is afraid to express his or her prejudice through discrimination. Like the “fair-weather liberals”, these people do not practice what they believe in. They allow social pressure to keep them from doing what they want to do. But since they are prejudiced despite their non-discriminatory behavior, they are called “fair weather illiberals” (rather than the “liberals”).**

# **PREJUDICED** **DISCRIMINATORS**

**These people are deeply prejudiced against minorities and practices discrimination. These “all weather illiberals” are consistent: their actions match their beliefs. Examples: KKK or neo-Nazis.**

# MERTON'S TYPOLOGY IN ACTION

Watch this clip and provide examples that link Merton's typologies to this contemporary example.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAkDHuimJRc>

Explain your answer...

# 3 PERSPECTIVES

## Functionalist: Cohesive Relations

- Various racial and ethnic groups can contribute to social cohesion through assimilation, amalgamation, or cultural pluralism
- Assimilation: process by which a minority group adopts the dominant group's culture as the culture of a larger society
  - Behavioral assimilation: social situation in which the minority adopts the dominant group's language, values and behavioral patterns. (behavioral assimilation doesn't guarantee structural assimilation)
  - Structural assimilation: social condition in which the minority is accepted on equal terms with the rest of society.
- Cultural pluralism: peaceful coexistence of various racial and ethnic groups, each retaining its own subculture (ie: Switzerland-Germans, French, Italian all live together)
- Amalgamation: subcultures of various groups are blended together, forming a new culture

# **CONFLICT: ABUSIVE RELATIONS**

Racial and ethnic relations often can be negative

- **Segregation**: more than spatial/social separation of the dominant/minority group(s). Minority groups, because they are believed inferior, are compelled to live separately and in inferior conditions (neighborhoods, schools, public facilities, etc.)
  - the compulsion that underlies segregation is not necessarily official, or acknowledged, yet segregation still exists.
- **De Jure Segregation**: segregation sanctioned by law
  - ie: Jim Crow laws, Japanese internment camps
- **De Facto Segregation**: segregation resulting from tradition and customs.
- **Genocide**: wholesale killing of a racial or ethnic group; most dramatic action against minorities

# **SYMBOLIC** **INTERACTIONIST**

## **Stereotyped Interactions...**

**If a dominant group defines a minority as inferior, undesirable, or dangerous, interaction between them will be affected. (This definition is usually based on a stereotype.)**

- **Stereotype: oversimplified, inaccurate mental picture of others.**