

## 17.523: Ethnicity and Race in World Politics--Fall 2005

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### Lecture 4: Ethnic and Racial Identities in Comparative Perspective

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#### Clare Kim Reading

- Field of Racial Positions=partially a hierarchy, but it's not one dimensional. Notion of insiders and outsiders.
- Kim defined Asian-Americans as "foreigners." Why are they considered foreigners while blacks are considered insiders?
  - Asian-Americans→Foreigners
    - For most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Asian-Americans weren't allowed to participate in the political arena (civic liberties, voting, etc.)
    - They weren't considered citizens because of their immigrant status.
  - Blacks→Insiders.
    - Very important to the labor market (ex: California)
    - Considered insiders. Did not have full rights as citizens after the Civil War.
- 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act
  - First time U.S. adopted policy to exclude people based on race. People had been excluded in the past, but it was based on status, wealth, etc.
  - Asians were disallowed to become naturalized citizens until 1952.
- How would you modify the graph?
  - Move blacks to the left.
- How were immigrants from the main axis powers treated differently (Italian, German, Japanese)?
  - Japanese formed JALC (Japanese American League of Citizens) to show they were Americans.
  - Some German-Americans openly sympathized with Nazis.

#### World Politics - Horowitz Reading

- Focuses on politics in Asia and Africa
- Ethnic identities are based on familial arrangements
- A familial arrangement means that a person is biased towards his/her own family because of obligation.
- Ethnicity allows you to extend the circle beyond immediate/extended family.
- Familial arrangements imply that you identify your family by similarities in physical appearance. Physical marker is used to "letting people in."
- People sometimes talk in kinship terms to imply that you connect with them by blood.
- What are the positives of enjoying a familial arrangement?
  - ⊖ Support
    - Favoritism
    - Unity
    - Identity
- Associations that exhibit these notions of blood are fraternities.

- Is ethnic identity involuntary like “blood connections”?
  - Can you marry into an ethnicity?
  - Naturalization of ethnicity? (adopt ethnicity by living in a country)
- Is being born into ethnicity more secure than assimilating into it?
  - Have the vulnerability of being seen as a traitor. Sometimes even if you’re born into the ethnicity.
- Punchline of ethnic membership
  - Has elements of birth and choice.
- Other uses of ethnicity
  - Can assist transition in going from ~~say~~ rural area to a large city
  - Marriage→ transactions in society can be facilitated by ethnic names
  - Growth of an ethnic party→ Elites want to organize a party along ethnic lines

ETHNICITY CAN SUBSUME HOW PEOPLE VIEW THEIR CLASS INTERESTS.