

## ***Human Geography***

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## ***Human Geography***

### Chapter 7. Ethnicity

### **Chapter 7. Ethnicity Cultural Identity**

- Culture groups
  - Based on social and racial characteristics (language, religion, race, food, etc.)
  - Subcultures
- Races
  - We are single species
  - Based on superficial biological characteristics
- Ethnic groups
  - Ethnocentrism



### **Chapter 7. Ethnicity Race**

- Does not exist on a scientific level, despite influence of the idea.
- Biological variation is real; the order we impose on this variation by using the concept of race is not. Race is a product of the human mind, not of nature.
- Based on a three category system developed in Europe in the 18th century: caucasians, mongoloids, and blacks.
- The truth is that there is very little fundamental genetic variety between humans and no way to tell where one category stops and another begins. Race is literally skin deep. There has not been enough time for much genetic variation. We do not have distinct "races" or "subspecies."

## Chapter 7. Ethnicity

### Race in the United States

- Genetic mixing is so common and complete that most geographers dismiss race as a category since it can not be clearly tied to place.



Japan Town, San Francisco, 1910



Rosa Parks



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Dogs Used to Control Protestors, 1957

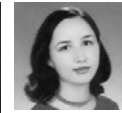
## Chapter 7. Ethnicity

### What is ethnicity? How is it different than race?

- identity with a group of people who share the cultural traditions of a particular homeland or hearth. Thus: customs, cultural characteristics, language, common history, homeland, etc...
- a socially created system of rules about who belongs and who does not belong to a particular group based on actual or perceived commonality of origin, race, culture. This notion is clearly tied to place.



Puerto Rican



Turkish



Armenian



Mongolian



Japanese



Kazakh



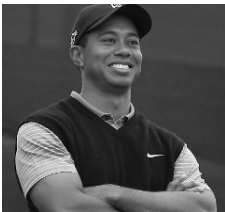
Thai



Chinese

## Chapter 7. Ethnicity

### Race



## Chapter 7. Ethnicity

### Nationalities and States

- Nationality** - legally it is a term encompassing all the citizens of a state, but most definitions refer now to an identity with a group of people who generally occupy a specific territory and bound together by a sense of unity arising from shared ethnicity, customs, belief, or legal status. Such unity rarely exists today within a state today.
  - State** - a politically organized territory that is administered by a sovereign government
  - Nation-state** - a sovereign state that is overwhelmingly dominated by one ethnicity or "nationality" (see definition above).
- Are there any states that still meet the definition of *nation-state*?

## Chapter 7. Ethnicity **Nationalism**

The policy or doctrine of asserting the interests of one's own nation, viewed as separate from the interests of other nations.

- As simple patriotism it helps create national unity
- When extreme it can be very dangerous to minorities
- Can breed intolerance of difference and Others

