

## Unit

## 3

## Cultural Identity

## Cultural Geography

The following information corresponds to Chapters 4 & 5 in your textbook. Fill in the blanks to complete the definition or sentence. Note: All of the following information in addition to your reading is important.

### What is Identity, and How are Identities Constructed? (Chapter 5)

- \_\_\_\_\_ is “how we make sense of ourselves.” (\_\_\_\_\_ = culture’s view of the differences between men and women).
- One of the most powerful ways to construct an identity is by \_\_\_\_\_; we define the “other” and then we define ourselves as “not the other.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ - a categorization based on skin color and other physical characteristics; racial categories are political and social constructs since they are predicated on the fact that some \_\_\_\_\_ differences (especially skin color) are more important than others (e.g. height).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - a combination of genetic traits (e.g. eye color, body size).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - the expression of those traits (e.g. brown eyes, tall build).

#### **THE TRUTH ABOUT SKIN COLOR**

- Sunlight stimulates the production of \_\_\_\_\_, which protects the skin from UV rays (more melanin = darker skin); also, vitamin \_\_\_\_ production is stimulated by the penetration of UV rays (less melanin = less skin pigmentation = more production of vitamin D).
- Natural selection in areas with \_\_\_\_\_ days in the winter and more oblique sun angles (e.g. higher \_\_\_\_\_, as in Northern Europe) favored those with less skin pigmentation.

- \_\_\_\_\_ - an ideology of difference that ascribes significance and meaning (usually negative) to culturally, socially, and politically constructed ideas based on phenotypical features.
- Notions of \_\_\_\_\_ supremacy are premised on the idea that groups with particular physical characteristics are more advanced, or intelligent (\_\_\_\_\_ often arise from these notions).

### Residential Segregation

- \_\_\_\_\_ segregation (a.k.a. affinity segregation) is the “degree to which two or more groups live separately from one another, in different parts of the urban environment.”
- Overall residential segregation by race/ethnicity in the U.S. has been \_\_\_\_\_ from 1980 to 2000.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is when new immigrants to a city often move to areas occupied by older immigrant groups. In New York \_\_\_\_\_ “invaded” the immigrant \_\_\_\_\_ neighborhood of East Harlem; today often referred to as Spanish Harlem, or \_\_\_\_\_ (“neighborhood”).
- Although New York City may identify \_\_\_\_\_ under one “box” they may be from many different places (e.g., Mexico, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic,...)
- New immigrants often focus their attention on \_\_\_\_\_, creating businesses to serve the community and reflect their culture (rather than changing the facades of apartment buildings).

### Ethnicity and Place

- The term "ethnic" comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ word *ethnos*, which means *people* or *nation*, but it is used in the contemporary world to label groups that share some prominent trait (but no single trait).
- The adjective, *ethnic*, refers to culture (traditions, customs, language, religion,...) and, in a more vague sense, to \_\_\_\_\_ ancestry (but it is different from race).
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a term often reserved for small, cohesive, culturally linked groups who stand apart from the dominant culture (often as a result of \_\_\_\_\_).
- It is estimated that the 200 or so independent countries recognized by the United Nations are made up of about \_\_\_\_\_ ethnic groups (increased migration has complicated this even further).
- If people identify define their ethnicity as “Swiss American”, this is problematic – due to the different languages and regions. The strongest identities in Switzerland are often at the \_\_\_\_\_ level (distinguishes cultural groups).
- The concept of ethnicity is very \_\_\_\_\_. Ex) Language groups that occupied North America before the arrival of the \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., Iroquois, Apache, etc.) are generally not described as ethnic groups, while individual populations migrating from patterns of similar complexity in Europe are always called ethnic groups (e.g., Germans, Bohemians, etc.).

### **How Do Power Relationships Subjugate Certain Groups of People?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ - “social relations stretched out”; \_\_\_\_\_ - “articulations of those social relations as they have come together, over time, in that particular location”
- Power relationships can subjugate entire groups (e.g., data that undercounts the \_\_\_\_\_ of women). \_\_\_\_\_ (GNI) includes neither the unpaid labor of women in the household, nor the work done in the \_\_\_\_\_ economy (private, often home-based activities). If this work were given a dollar value, the world’s GNI could increase by as much as \_\_\_\_\_!
- Although much of \_\_\_\_\_ is dominated numerically by women, they have difficulty in acquiring \_\_\_\_\_ from banks or \_\_\_\_\_ titles from the government; traps many in a cycle of poverty.
- Thousands of girls in \_\_\_\_\_ still have their marriages arranged; in 2009, more than 8,000 women *were recorded* as victims of \_\_\_\_\_.
- In general, areas with multiple ethnicities are more accepting of each other when the \_\_\_\_\_ is good; but resentment and blame rises during a downturn (“they took all the jobs”).
- Asians are often labeled as the “\_\_\_\_\_” (hardworking and prosperous); but most success has gone to the \_\_\_\_\_ wave of migrants, and lower paying jobs going to the \_\_\_\_\_ migrants.
- \_\_\_\_\_ has occurred in many southern cities in the U.S.; in southeastern Los Angeles, the Hispanic population jumped from 4% in 1960 to over 90% in 2000.
- In 1992, one of the worst riots broke out in southcentral Los Angeles (sparked by a “not guilty” verdict in the \_\_\_\_\_ trial); was the result of the impact of \_\_\_\_\_ loss (relocation of manufacturing jobs) & \_\_\_\_\_ changes (90% African American in 1970; about 50/50 African American and Hispanic by 1990).

### **Local and Popular Culture (Chapter 4)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ culture = small, homogeneous population; typically rural, with cohesive cultural traits.
- \_\_\_\_\_ culture = large, heterogeneous populations; typically urban with changing cultural traits.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ culture = group of people (community), sharing experiences, customs & traits.
- \_\_\_\_\_ culture of a group = things constructed; \_\_\_\_\_ culture = beliefs, practices, values, etc.

### **How Are Local Cultures Sustained?**

- During the 1800s, the colonial powers (e.g., US, Europe) all had official policies of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Today, many groups work to revive their culture; many local cultures work to avoid \_\_\_\_\_ - the process by which other cultures adopt customs & use them for their own benefit.
- With the rise of globalization comes the opposite effect of \_\_\_\_\_ (seeking out the regional (local) culture by peoples of an area and reinvigorating it in response to the uncertainty of the world). Cite at least TWO examples:
- Ethnic enclaves, or \_\_\_\_\_, reflect their inhabitants’ perceptions of their native natural environments (e.g., Hasidic Jews in Brooklyn, or Italian Americans in the North End of Boston).
- \_\_\_\_\_ occurs when something that previously was not regarded as an object to be bought or sold, becomes an object that can be bought, sold, or traded; can be material or nonmaterial (e.g., observing Amish culture of Lancaster).

### **How is Popular Culture Diffused and Seen in the Cultural Landscape?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ has been drastically altered by advances in transportation and communication; \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ = how quickly innovations diffuse (much faster through interconnections).
- Typically, a hearth begins with \_\_\_\_\_ diffusion, then spreads by \_\_\_\_\_ diffusion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ occurs when people within a place produce an original aspect of popular culture, making it their own. Give an example of this:
- The supremacy of the “Big Three” sports in the U.S. (baseball, basketball, football) have been challenged by \_\_\_\_\_ sports (surfing, X-Games,...); the proliferation of \_\_\_\_\_ has enabled these sports to gain popularity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ = the loss of uniqueness of place; one place looks like the next (i.e., skyscrapers).
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - cultural borrowing and mixing; what happens at one scale is not independent of what happens at other scales (e.g., strip in Las Vegas or the World Showcase at Epcot representing various parts of the planet).
- \_\_\_\_\_ is when people in a local place mediate and alter regional, national, and global processes.