

Chapter 10: Ethnicity and Social Inequality



9.1 Ethnicity and Ethnic Groups

- **Nationality:**
 - Political nationality
 - Ethnic nationality (*primary ethnic Identity*)
 - Secondary ethnic identity
- **Ethnic Group:** "shared cultural traditions and history" can mean a lot of things in different contexts:
 - race
 - nationality (see above)
 - religion
 - language
 - *specific* ancestry, etc.
- **Ethnic origin myths** and **ethnic boundary markers**

9.2 Levels of Ethnic Identity

- Ethnic identity is situational:
 - "American" in one context, "Mexican American" or "Polish American" in another
 - **Hierarchical nesting**
 - "American" (when abroad)- primary (nationality)
 - "Hispanic"/Latino (for the census) - secondary
 - "Mexican American" (for example, when living in a mixed Hispanic neighborhood or appealing to voters) – secondary
 - *Homeland* is the critical factor for distinguishing primary from secondary identity

9.3 Civilizations

- Samuel Huntington (1996)- highest level of ethnic identity

Western	Latin American
African	Islamic
Sinic (Chinese)	Hindu
Orthodox (Christian)	Buddhist
Japanese	

CONCEPT REVIEW Levels of Ethnic Identity

FORMS	CHARACTERISTICS
Civilization	The highest level of ethnic identity incorporating numerous ethnic nationalities; usually based on a shared religious tradition such as Christian, Islam, and Hindu
Ethnic nationality or primary ethnic identity	Both a sociocultural and political identity in that members of the group claim a geographical area as their homeland over which they have political autonomy
Secondary ethnic identity	A sociocultural identity that is part of a larger ethnic nationality or primary ethnic group identity

9.4 Systems of Social Inequality

• Inequality

- Wealth, Power, Prestige (Weber)
- Morton Fried (Columbia, 1967):
 - **Egalitarian Societies:** Access to resources
 - Mobility and reciprocity (leveling mechanisms)
 - **Ranked Societies:** Limited High-ranking positions (chiefdoms)
 - Usually hereditary, formal offices
 - Kinship groups ranked relative to others
 - **Stratified Societies:** Marked inequalities
 - Based on unequal access to resources
 - Strong tendency towards heritability
 - **Classes and castes**



Castes in traditional India

- Brahmins (priests and scholars)
- Kshatriyas (nobles and warriors)
- Vaishas (merchants and artisans)
- Shudras (farmers, craftspeople and laborers)
- Untouchables (“Dalits”) are thought of as outside the caste system

TABLE 10.1 Distribution of Family Annual Income in the United States, 2010

PERCENTAGE OF INCOME EARNED BY	AMOUNT EARNED
Poorest fifth	3.4%
Second fifth	8.6%
Third fifth	14.5%
Fourth fifth	23.0%
Richest fifth	50.4%
	22.2%

Class in the United States

- Conceived on the basis of wealth, income, occupation and education (values, consumption?)
- Largely redundant

CONCEPT REVIEW: Systems of Equality and Inequality		
	CHARACTERISTICS	ASSOCIATED ECONOMIC FACTORS
Egalitarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equal access to resources Productive resources owned by all, often wealth differences Inequality based on personal qualities Ranking based on individual achievements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common among foraging societies (egalitarian or ranking and gathering) and horticultural societies Economic exchange based on reciprocity
Ranked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to resources limited by kinship Productive resources held collectively by the group Ranking reflects differences between members of the group A leader (usually of formal position) with authority, which is inherited and/or achieved, is vital for group Significant differences in prestige reflected in kinship affiliation within the group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seen in some foraging societies and horticultural and primitive agricultural societies Economic exchange based on redistribution
Stratified		
1. Caste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal, named, hereditarily ranked groups Membership determined by birth Endogamous Productive resources individually owned Economic activities limited by caste Formal positions with authority Access limited by inheritance and determined by caste membership Some status differences in prestige Labeled by inheritance and determined by caste Informal, named, hereditarily ranked groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Found with extensive agricultural societies Economic exchange based on market economy
2. Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group boundaries ambiguous, with membership determined by personal achievements and/or inheritance Productive resources individually owned Access to land or achievement and/or inheritance Some status differences Formal positions with authority Access determined by achievements and/or inheritance Some status differences in prestige Access determined by achievements and/or inheritance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Found among both extensive agricultural and industrial societies Economic exchange based on market economy

9.5 Globalization and Changes in Ethnic Identity and Social Inequality

- Ethnic identities are not stable over time
- European expansion created massive changes in ethnic groups and identities
 - Creation, extinction, and merging of ethnicities
 - Assimilation
 - Destabilization of ethnic boundaries
- Importation of slaves added to the complexity (the Garifuna of Central America)
- Impact of migration and globalization
