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Political Geography

Chapter 7 and 8

What is the difference between race, ethnicity, and nationality?

- **Race**- Scientific classification based on biological characteristics passed down from a common ancestor
 - Within humans, racial distinction has typically been based on skin color, bone structure, facial features, and hair type.
- **Ethnicity**- Identity shared by a group that is based on common cultural characteristics
 - Usually determined by homeland, language, religion, traditions, etc.
- **Nationality**- Identity shared by a group that have legal attachment and personal allegiance to a particular country.
 - Similar to ethnicity, but there is a legal connection to their nation (passport, voting, citizenship, etc.)

Example: Noeline (Orlando, FL)



- **Race: African**
- Her ancestors came to Haiti from Africa in the Triangular Slave Trade. She has never been to Africa but shares physical attributes such as dark skin and curly hair.
- **Ethnicity: Haitian**
- She has visited family a few times, but has always lived in America. She speaks Haitian Creole, practices Catholicism, and often cooks Haitian food.
- **Nationality: American**
- She has always resided in Orlando, Florida. She is a citizen of the United States and is proud to be an American.

Why do conflicts arise among ethnicities?

- **Ethnic Conflicts** occur when two or more ethnicities cannot coexist with one another. This is often a result of ethnic competition or abuse of a minority group.
- **Minority-** group of people that are either outnumbered or overpowered by a more dominant group
- **Sources of conflict** can be cultural, social, political, or economic in nature.
- **In extreme cases**, ethnic conflicts can result in ethnic cleansing or genocide

Ethnic Distribution in the U.S.

- Trends based on census data:
- 1. Hispanics clustered in the Southwest.
- **Why? Geography!**
- 2. Asian Americans clustered in the West.
- **Why?** Most came to America as a result of voluntary migration for work, and settled in the areas in which they found economic opportunity.
- 3. African Americans clustered in the Southeast.
- **Why?** Most came to the Americas as a result of forced migration- the Triangular Slave Trade. In the US, many slaves were forced to work on plantations in the Southeast and developed strong cultural and economic ties to the area.





