

## *Chapter 7*

# **Ethnicity**

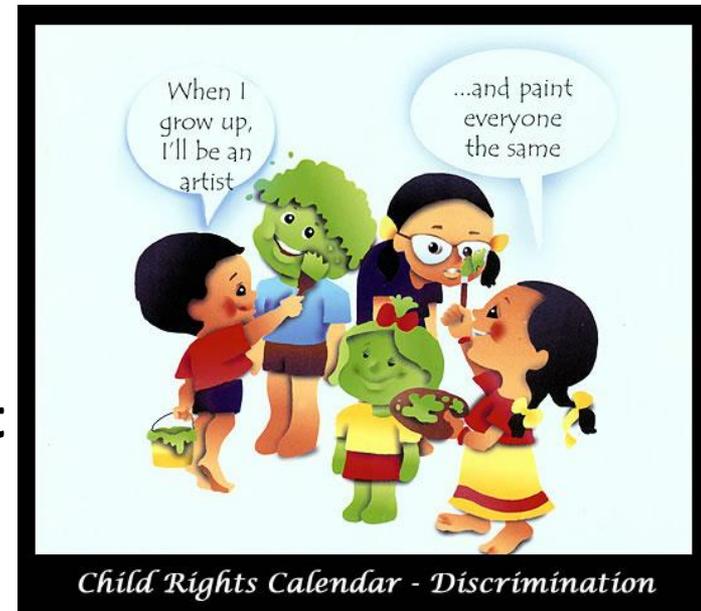
# Meaning of Ethnicity

- **Ethnicity is a source of pride to people, a link to the experiences of ancestors and to cultural traditions.**
- **The ethnic group to which one belongs has important measurable differences.**
- **Ethnicity also matters in places with a history of discrimination by one ethnic group against another.**



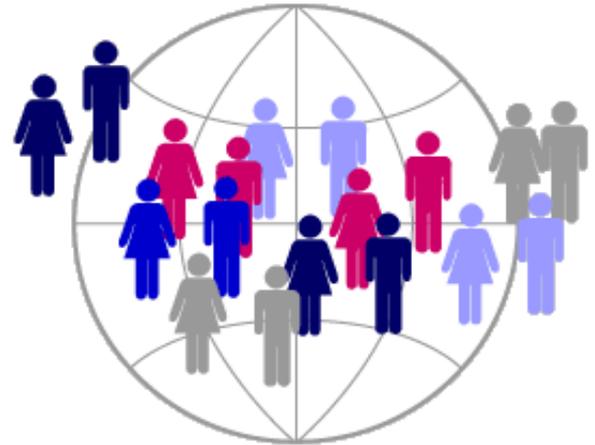
# Controversy and Ethnicity

- **The significance of ethnic diversity is controversial in the United States:**
  - **To what extent does discrimination persist against minority ethnicities?**
  - **Should preferences be given to minority ethnicities to correct past patterns of discrimination.**
  - **To what extent should the distinct cultural identity of ethnicities be encouraged or protected?**



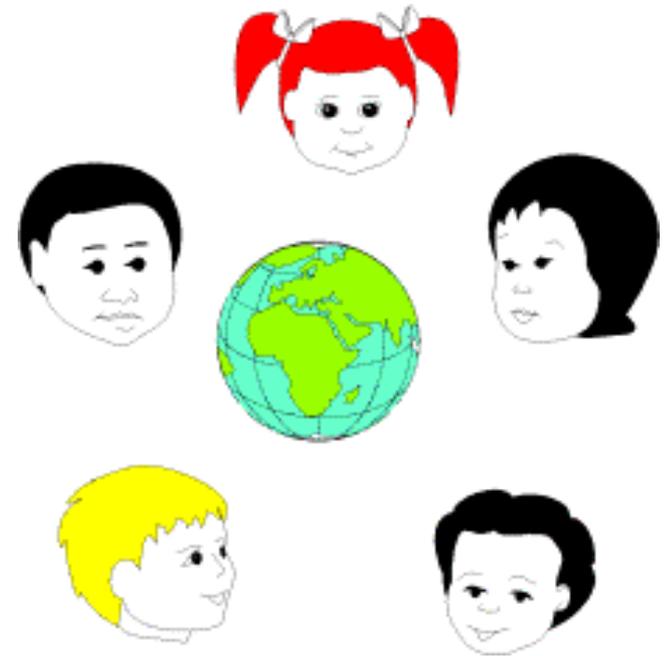
# Ethnicity

- **Key Issues**
  1. **Where are ethnicities distributed?**
  2. **Why have ethnicities been transformed into nationalities?**
  3. **Why do ethnicities clash?**
  4. **What is ethnic cleansing?**



# Ethnicity Defined

- **Ethnicity is an identity with a group of people who share the cultural traditions of a particular homeland or hearth.**
- **Ethnicity comes from the Greek word *ethnikos*, which means national.**
- **Geographers are interested in where ethnicities are distributed across space, like other elements of culture.**
- **Like other cultural elements, ethnic identity derives from the interplay of connections with other groups and isolation from them.**



# The Study of Ethnicity

- **Ethnicity is an especially important cultural element of local diversity because our ethnic identity is immutable.**
- **The study of ethnicity lacks the tension in scale between preservation of local diversity and globalization observed in other cultural elements.**
- **No ethnicity is attempting or even aspiring to achieve global dominance.**
- **In the face of globalization. . . ethnicity stands as the strongest barricade for the preservation of local diversity.**



# Issue 1: Distribution of Ethnicities

- Ethnicities in the United States
  - *Clustering of ethnicities*
  - *African American migration patterns*
- Differentiating ethnicity and race
  - *Race in the United States*
  - *Division by race in South Africa*

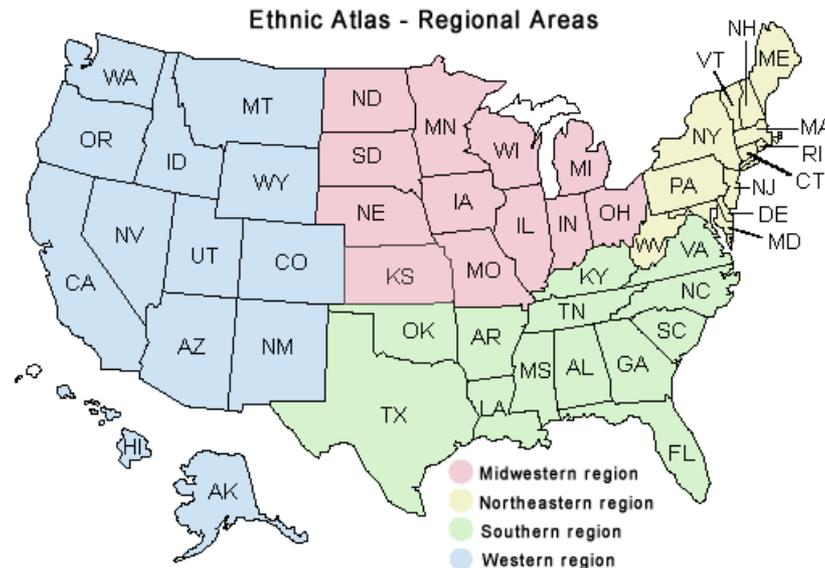
# Distribution of Ethnicities in the United States

- **The two most numerous ethnicities in the United States are African-Americans, about 13 percent, and Hispanics or Latinos, about 11 percent.**
- **In addition, about 4 percent are Asian-American and 1 percent American Indian.**
- **Clustering of ethnicities can occur at two scales, particular regions of the country, and, particular neighborhoods within cities.**

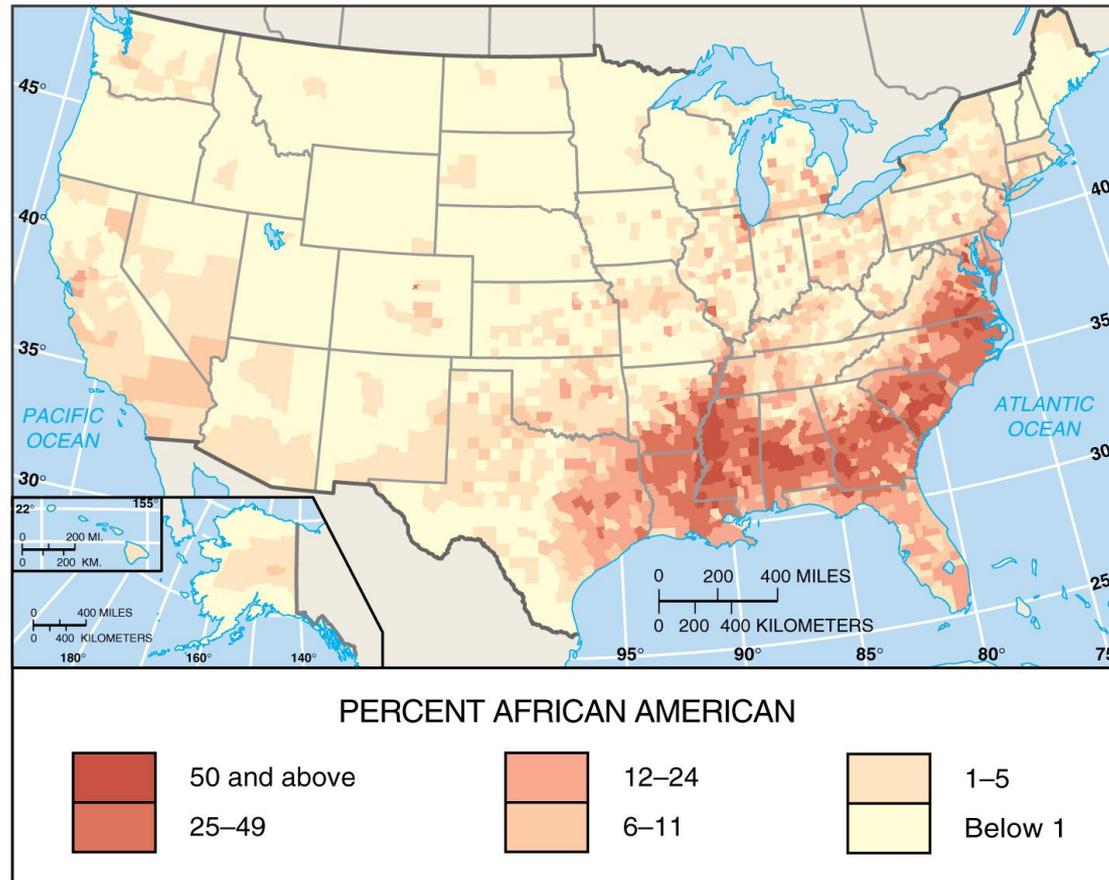


# Clustering of Ethnicities

- Clustering of ethnicities can occur at two scales, particular regions of the country, and. particular neighborhoods within cities.
- African-Americans are clustered in the Southeast, Hispanics in the Southwest, Asian-Americans in the West, and American Indians in the Southwest and Plains states.



# African Americans in the U.S.



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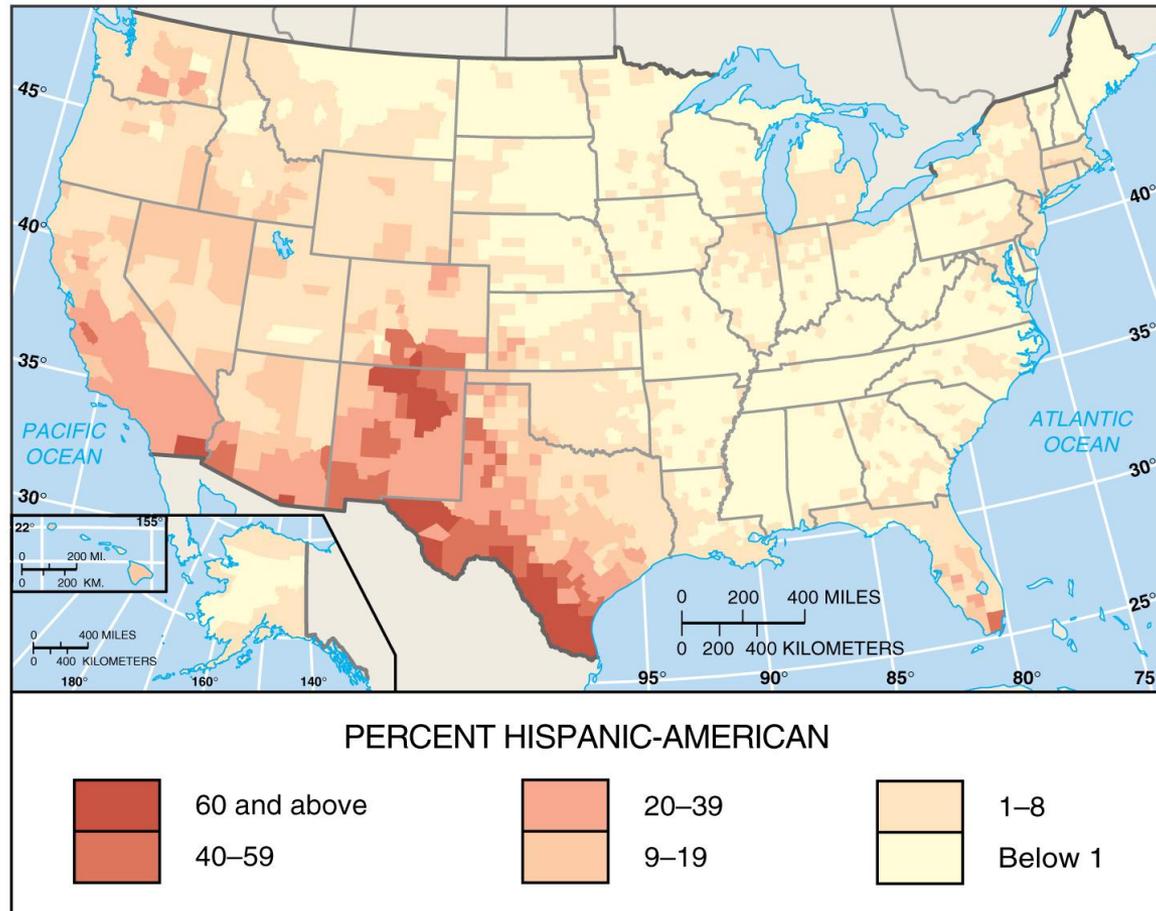
Fig. 7-1: The highest percentages of African Americans are in the rural South and in northern cities.

# Hispanic or Hispanic-Americans

- **Hispanic or Hispanic-American is a term that the U.S. government chose in 1973 because it was an inoffensive label that could be applied to all people from Spanish-speaking countries.**
- **Some Americans of Latin-American descent have adopted the term Latino instead.**
- **Most Hispanics identify with a more specific ethnic or national origin.**



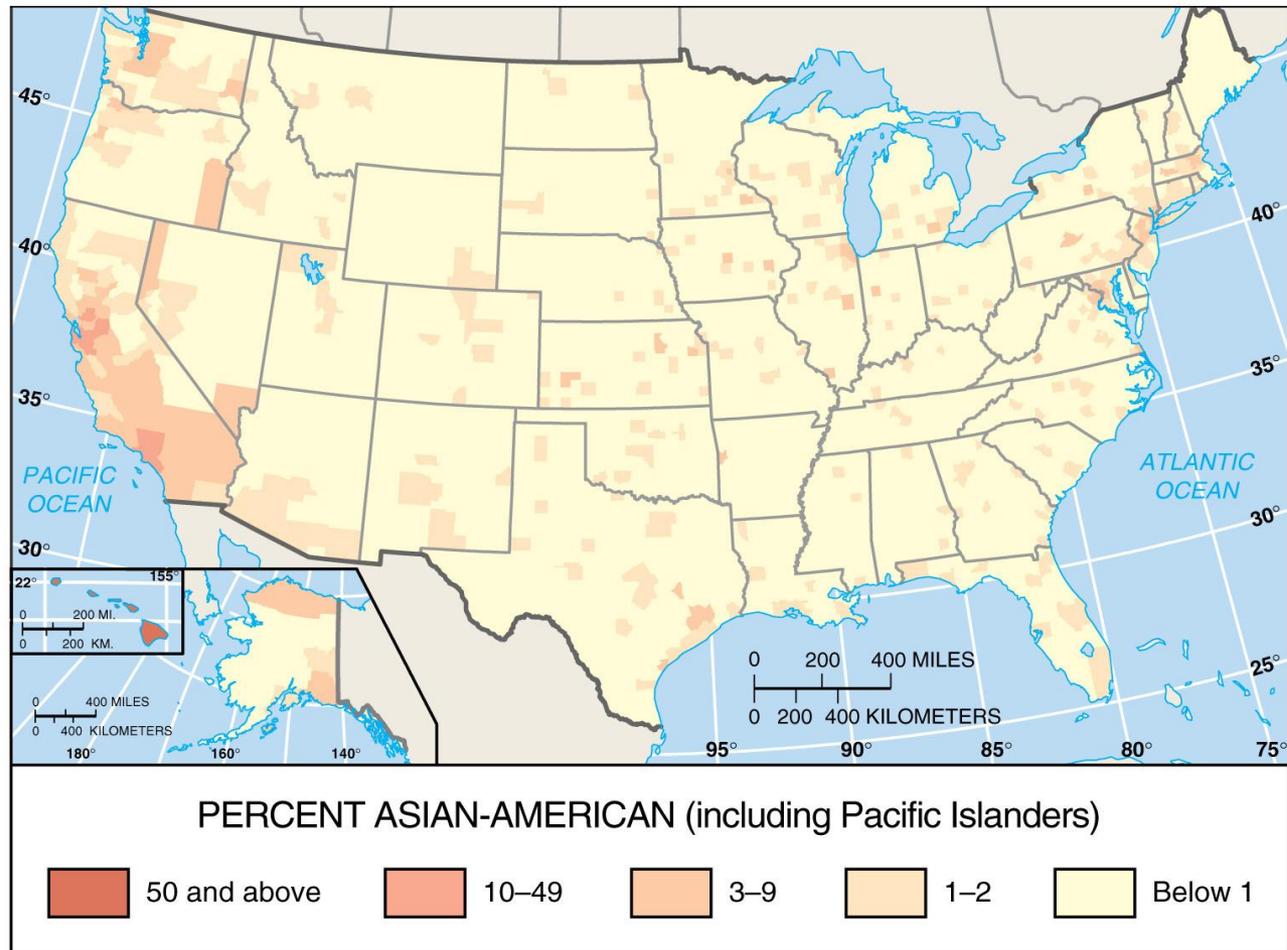
# Hispanic Americans in the U.S.



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Fig. 7-2: The highest percentages of Hispanic Americans are in the southwest and in northern cities.

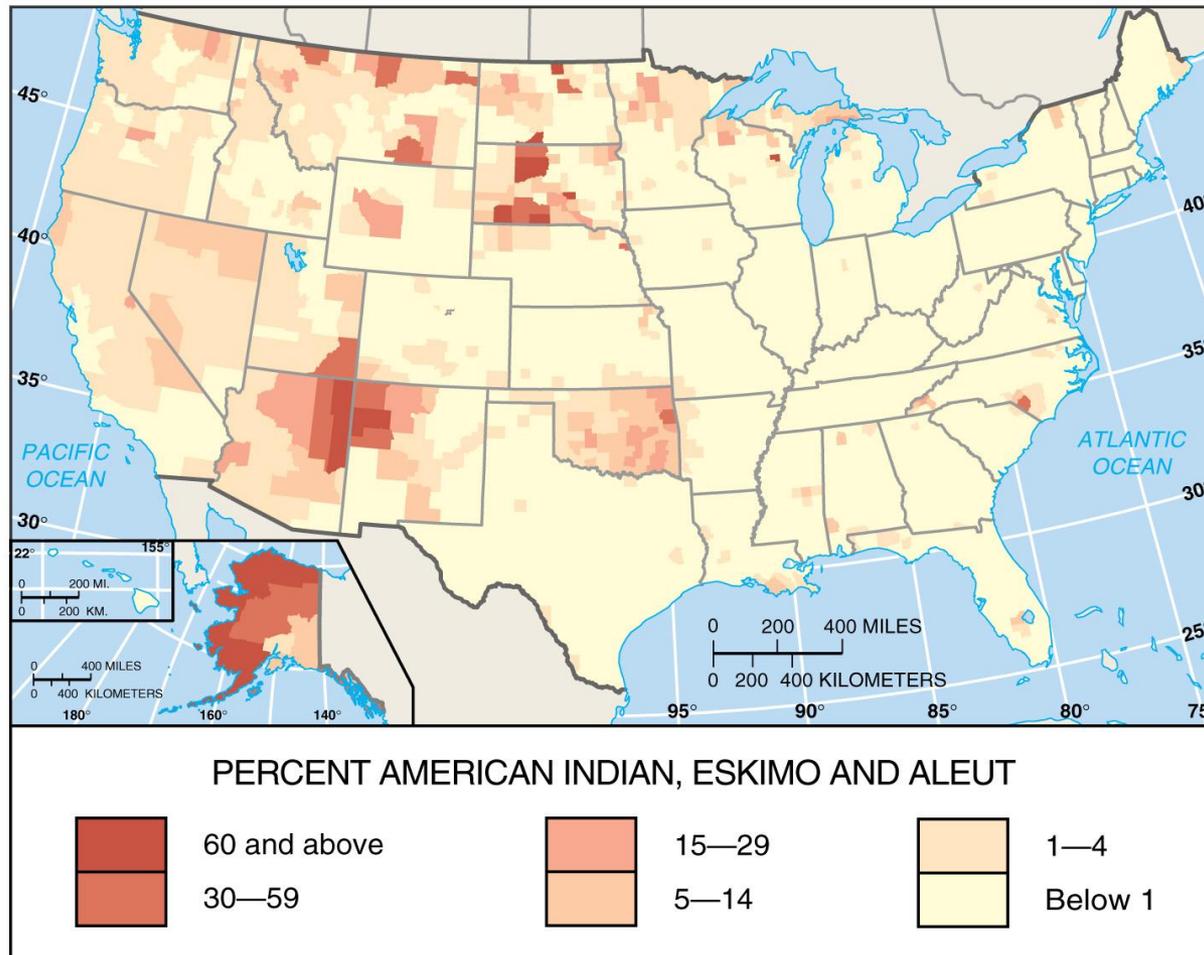
# Asian Americans in the U.S.



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Fig. 7-3: The highest percentages of Asian Americans are in Hawaii and California.

# Native Americans in the U.S.

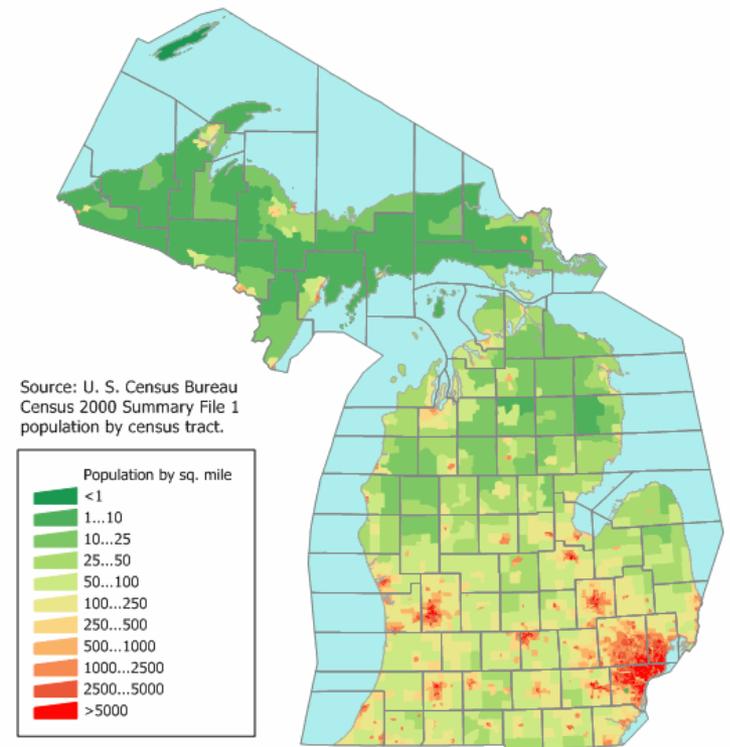


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Fig. 7-4: The highest percentages of Native Americans are in parts of the plains, the southwest, and Alaska.

# Concentration of Ethnicities in Cities

- About one-fourth of all Americans live in cities, whereas more than half of African-Americans live in cities.
- The contrast is greater at the state level.
- For example, African-Americans comprise three-fourths of the population in the city of Detroit and only one-twentieth in the rest of Michigan.
- The distribution of Hispanics is similar to that of African-Americans in large northern cities.

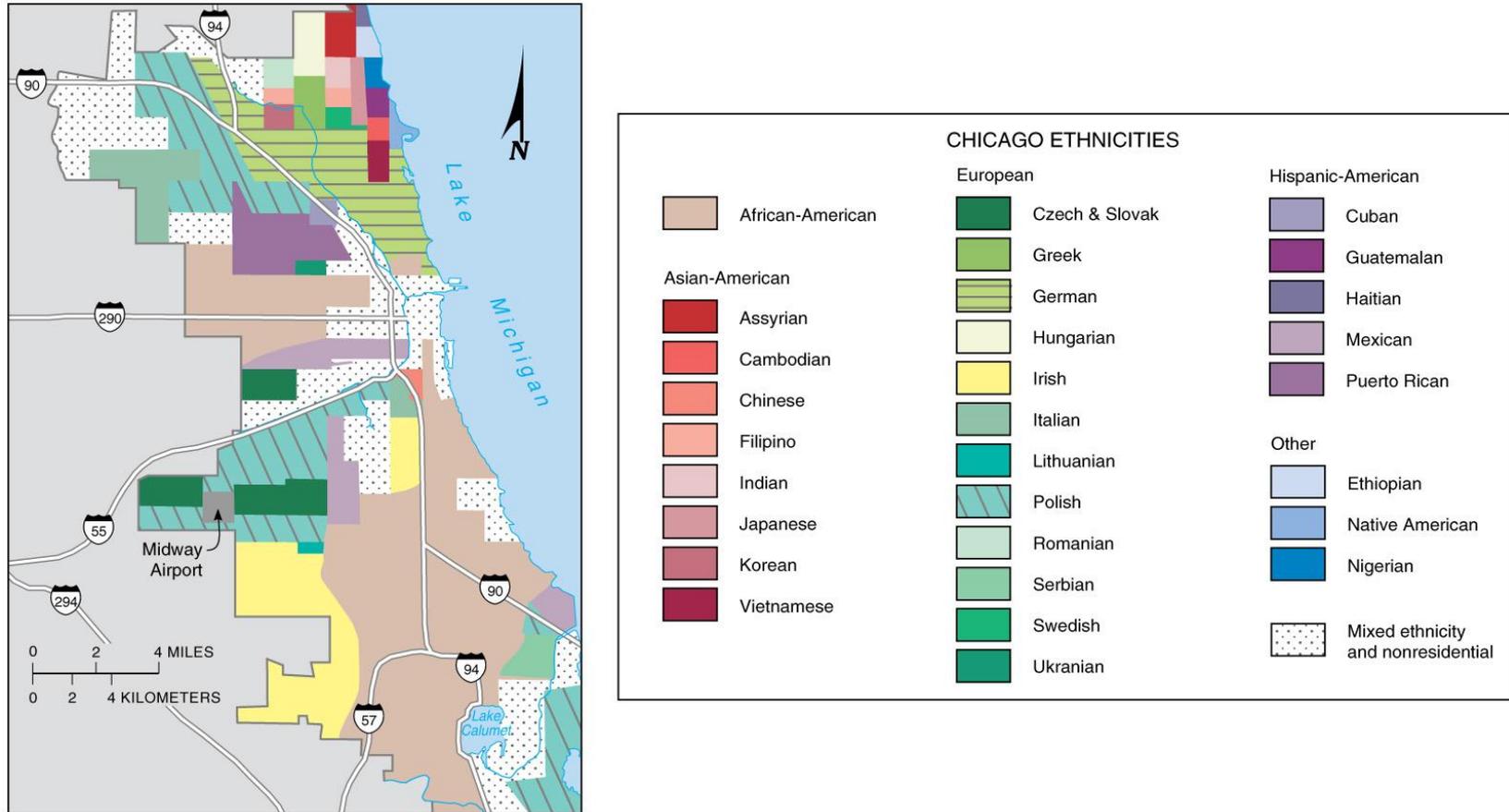


# Ethnic Distribution

- In the states with the largest Hispanic populations—California and Texas—the distribution is mixed.
- The clustering of ethnicities is especially pronounced at the scale of neighborhoods within cities.
- During the twentieth century the children and grandchildren of European immigrants moved out of most of the original inner-city neighborhoods.
- For descendants of European immigrants, ethnic identity is more likely to be retained through religion, food, and other cultural traditions rather than through location of residence.



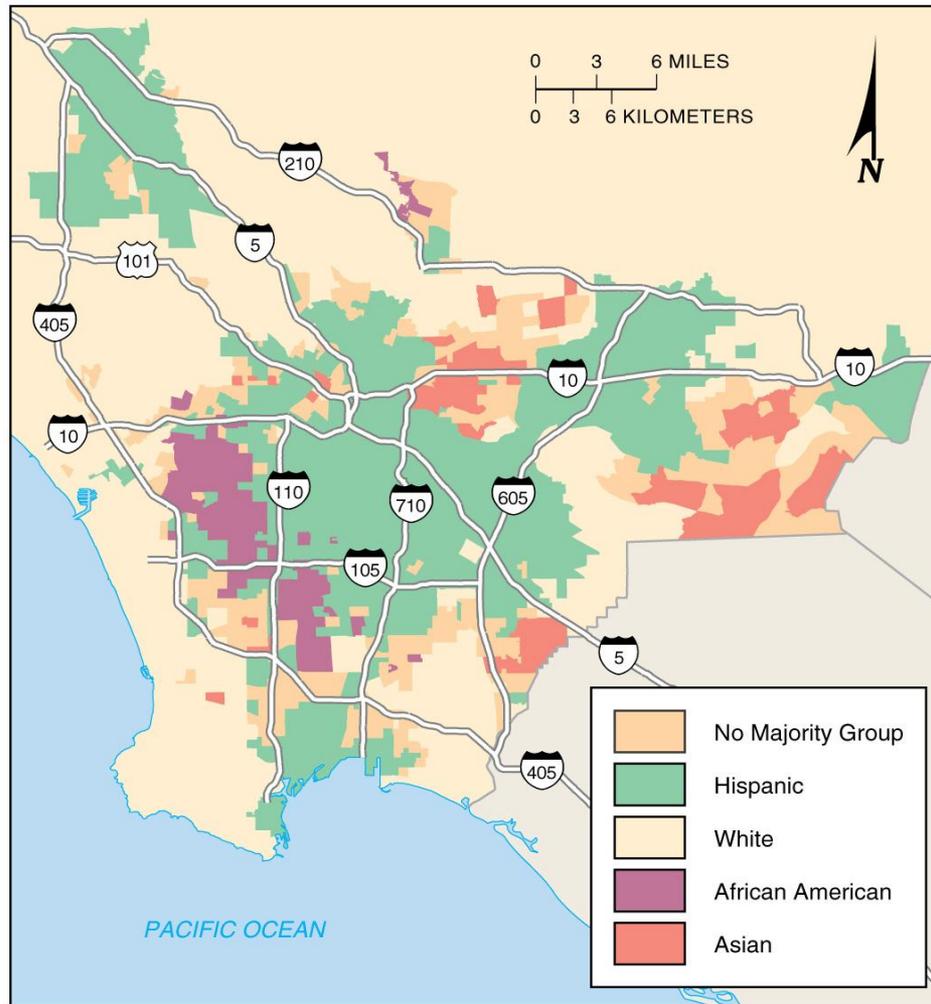
# Ethnicities in Chicago



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Fig. 7-5: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and European Americans are clustered in different areas of the city.

# Ethnicities in Los Angeles



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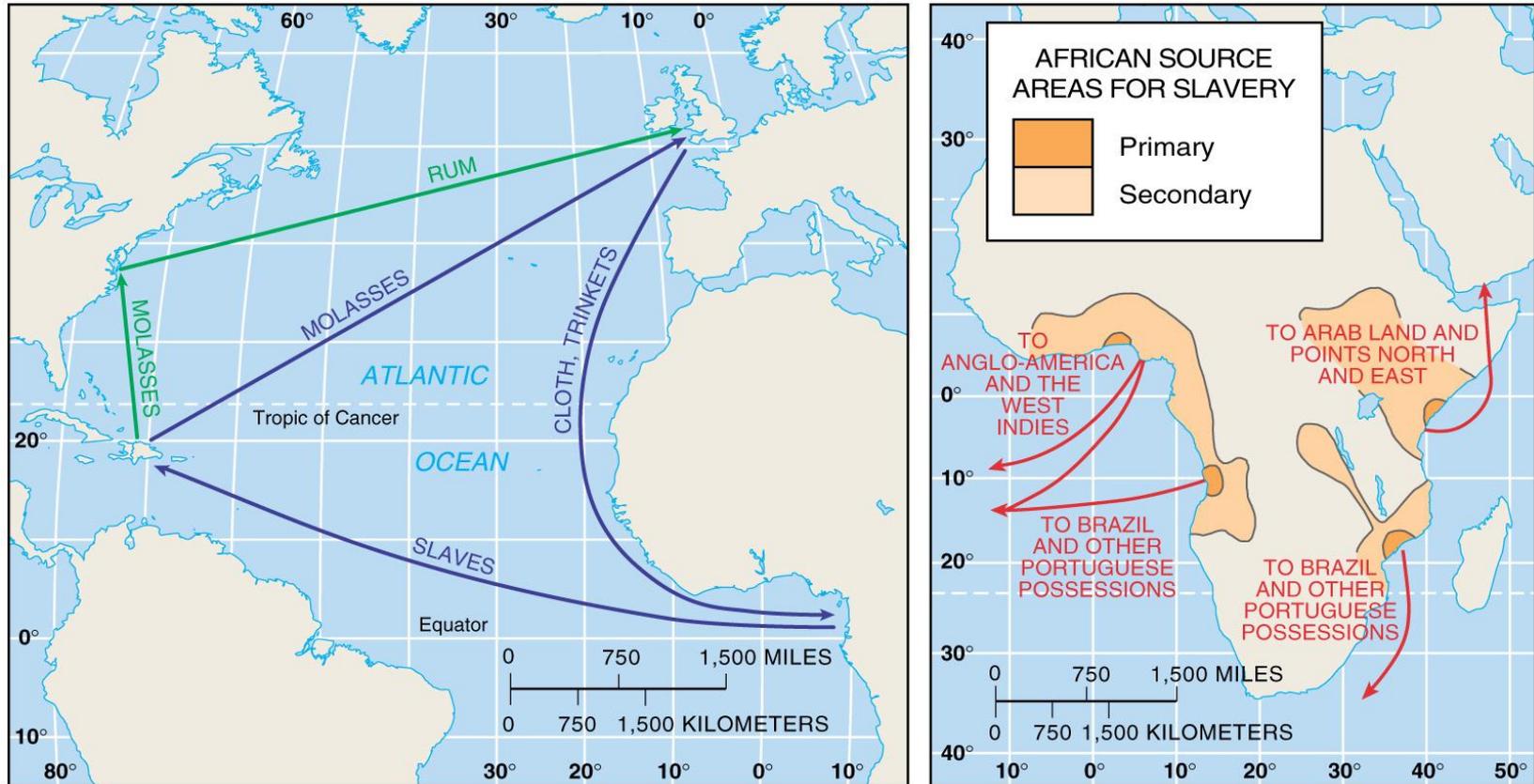
Fig. 7-6: Hispanic, white, African American, and Asian areas in and around Los Angeles.

# African-American Migration Patterns

- **Three major migration flows have shaped (African-American) distribution within the United States:**
  1. **immigration from Africa. . . in the eighteenth century;**
  2. **immigration to northern cities during the first half of the twentieth century;**
  3. **(and) immigration from inner-city ghettos to other urban neighborhoods in the second half of the twentieth century.**



# Triangular Slave Trade and African Source Areas



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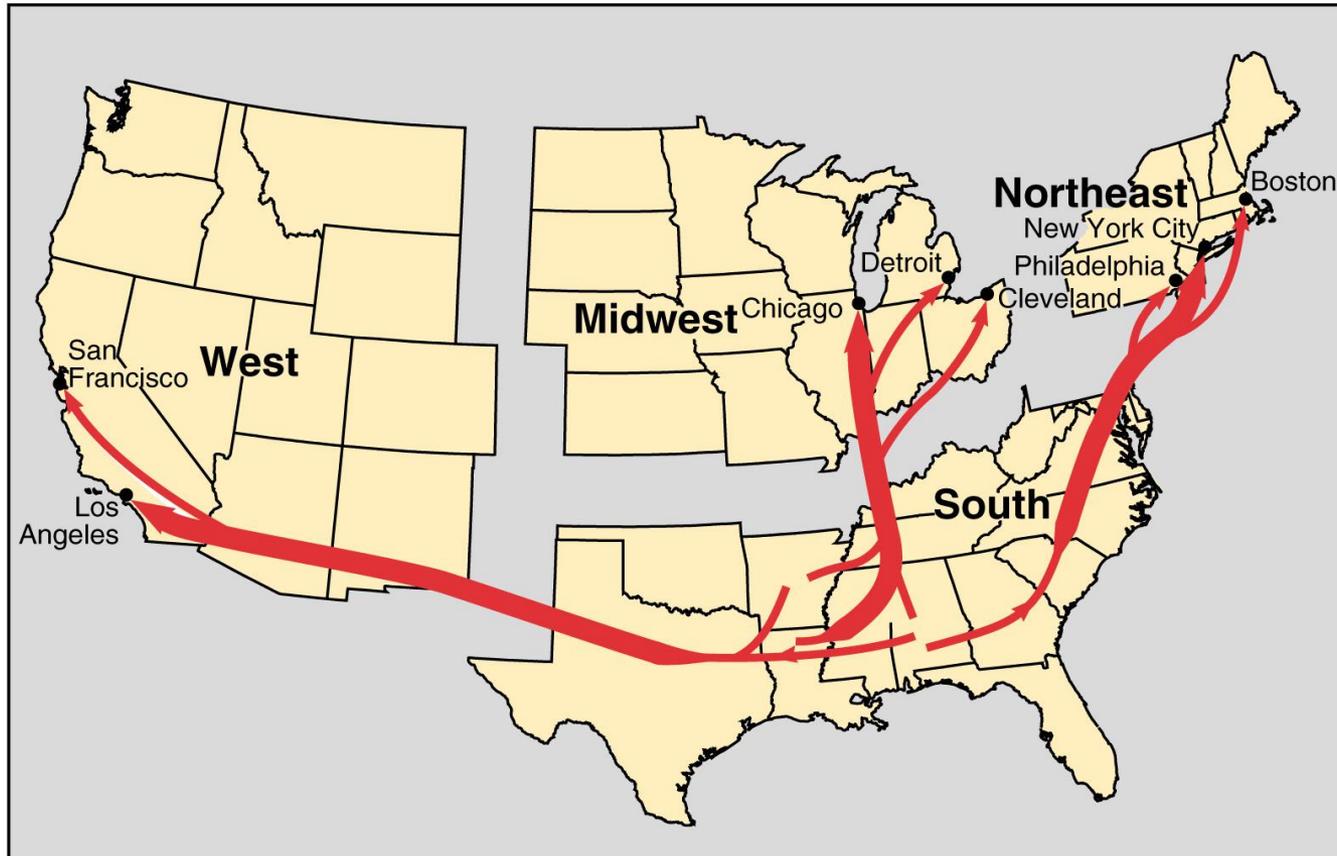
Fig. 7-7: The British triangular slave trading system operated among Britain, Africa, and the Caribbean and North America.

# Attitudes Toward Slavery

- **Attitudes toward slavery dominated U.S. politics during the nineteenth century.**
- **The Civil War (1861—1865) was fought to prevent 11 pro-slavery southern states from seceding from the Union.**
- **Freed as slaves, most African Americans remained in the rural South during the late nineteenth century working as sharecroppers.**
- **A sharecropper works fields rented from a landowner and pays the rent by turning over to the landowner a share of the crops.**
- **The sharecropper system burdened poor African-Americans with high interest rates and heavy debts.**
- **Instead of growing food that they could eat, sharecroppers were forced by landowners to plant extensive areas of crops such as cotton that could be sold for cash.**



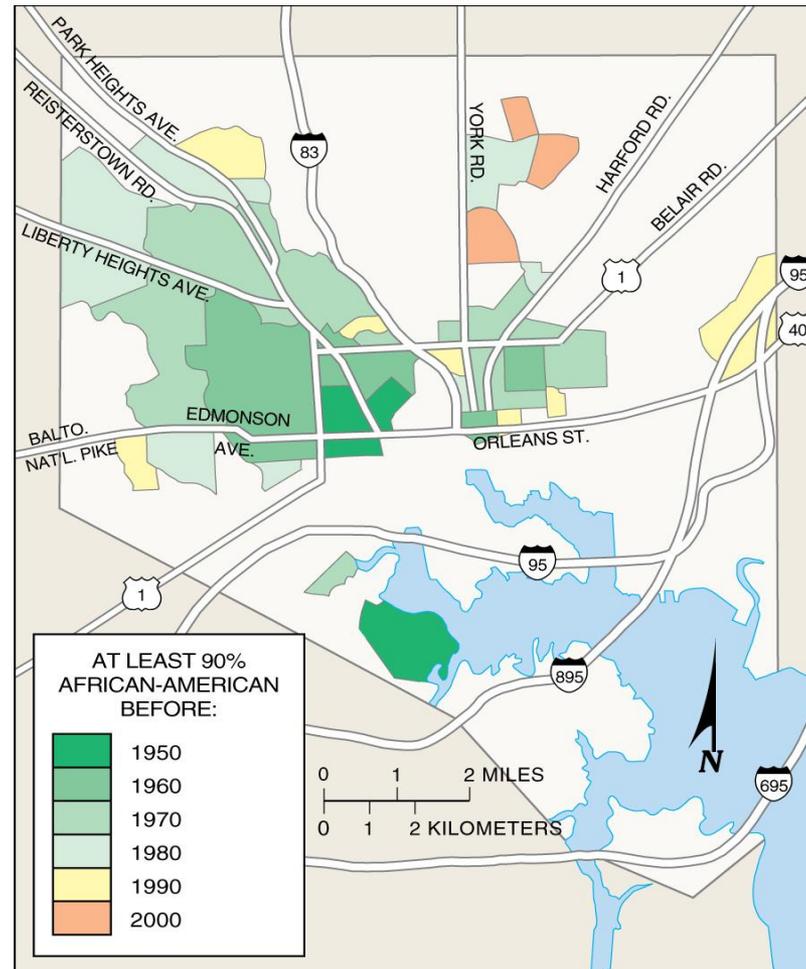
# African American Migration in the U.S.



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Fig. 7-8: Twentieth-century African American migration within the U.S. consisted mainly of migration from the rural south to cities of the Northeast, Midwest, and West.

# African Americans in Baltimore



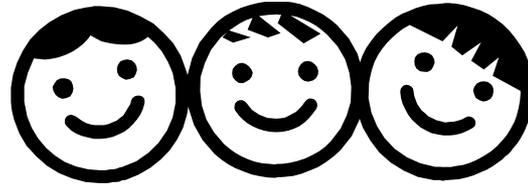
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Fig. 7-9: Areas with 90% African American population in Baltimore expanded from a core area northwest of downtown in the 1950s.

# Differentiating Ethnicity and Race

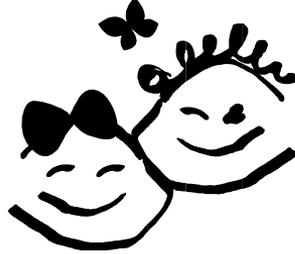
- Ethnicity is distinct from race, which is an identity with a group of people who share a biological ancestor.
- Race comes from a middle-French word for generation.
- Race and ethnicity are often confused.
- In the United States, consider the three prominent ethnic groups—Asian-Americans, African-Americans, and Hispanic-Americans.
- Asian is considered a race and Asian-American is considered an ethnicity.
- However, both encompass basically the same group.
- African-American and black are sometimes considered different groups.
- Some American blacks trace their cultural heritage to regions other than Africa, including Latin America, Asia, or Pacific islands.
- Hispanic or Latino is not usually considered a race.

# Ethnicity and Race



- The traits that characterize race are those that can be transmitted genetically from parents to children.
- Biological features of all humans were once thought to be scientifically classifiable into a handful of world races.
- Biological features are so highly variable among members of a race that any prejudged classification is meaningless.
- The degree of isolation needed to keep biological features distinct genetically vanished when the first human crossed a river or climbed a hill.
- At worst, biological classification by race is the basis for racism, which is the belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race.

# Ethnicity and Geography



- Ethnicity is important to geographers because its characteristics derive from the distinctive features of particular places on Earth.
- In contrast, contemporary geographers reject the entire biological basis of classifying humans because these features are not rooted in specific places.
- One feature of race does matter to geographers—the color of skin.
- The distribution of persons of color matters because it is the most fundamental basis by which people in many societies sort out where they reside, attend school, recreate, and perform many other activities of daily life.
- The term African-American identifies a group with an extensive cultural tradition, whereas the term black in principle denotes nothing more than a dark skin.

# Race in the United States

- Every 10 years the U.S. Bureau of the Census asks people to classify themselves according to races with which they most closely identify.
- The 2000 census permitted people to check more than 1 of 14 categories listed.
- A distinctive feature of race relations in the United States has been the strong discouragement of spatial interaction the past through legal means, today through cultural preferences or discrimination.

8. What is Person 1's race? Mark  one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

White

Black, African Am., or Negro

American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe. ↘

\_\_\_\_\_

Asian Indian     Japanese     Native Hawaiian

Chinese     Korean     Guamanian or Chamorro

Filipino     Vietnamese     Samoan

Other Asian — Print race. ↘     Other Pacific Islander — Print race. ↘

\_\_\_\_\_

Some other race — Print race. ↘

\_\_\_\_\_

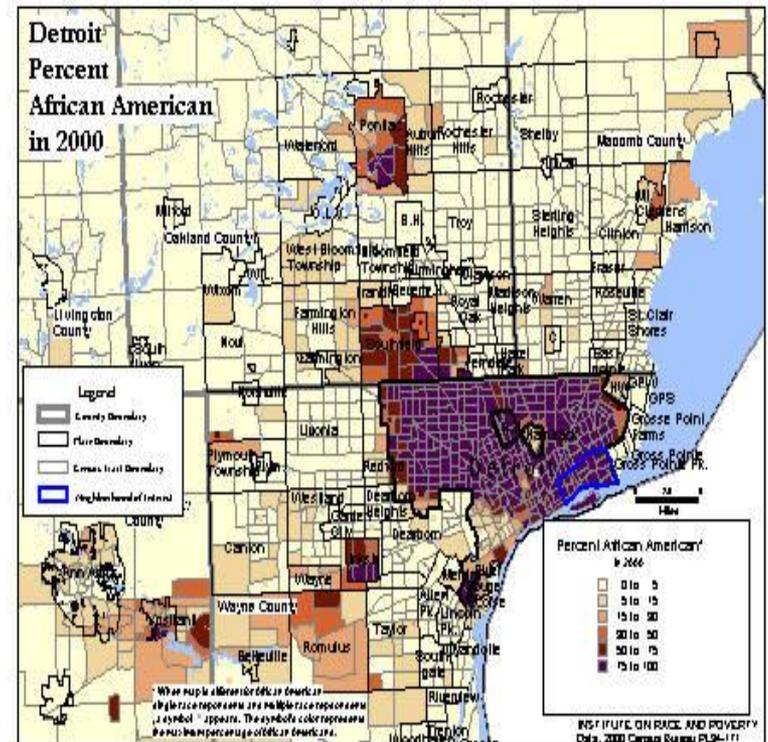
# “Separate but Equal” Doctrine

- In 1896 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a Louisiana law that required black and white passengers to ride in separate railway cars, in Plessy v. Ferguson.
- Once the Supreme Court permitted “separate but equal” treatment of the races, southern states enacted a comprehensive set of laws to segregate blacks from whites as much as possible.
- Throughout the country, not just in the South, house deeds contained restrictive covenants that prevented the owners from selling to blacks, as well as to Roman Catholics or Jews in some places.



# “White Flight”

- Segregation laws were eliminated during the 1950s and 1960s.
- The landmark Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, in 1954, found that separate schools for blacks and whites was unconstitutional.
- A year later the Supreme Court further ruled that schools had to be desegregated “with all deliberate speed.”
- Rather than integrate, whites fled.
- The expansion of the black ghettos in American cities was made possible by “white flight.”
- Detroit provides a clear example.
- In the late 1960s the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders concluded that U.S. cities were divided into two separate and unequal societies.
- Three decades later segregation and inequality persist.



# Division by Race in South Africa

- Discrimination by race reached its peak in the late twentieth century in South Africa.
- Apartheid was the physical separation of different races into different geographic areas.
- Although South Africa's apartheid laws were repealed during the 1990s, it will take many years for it to erase the impact of past policies.

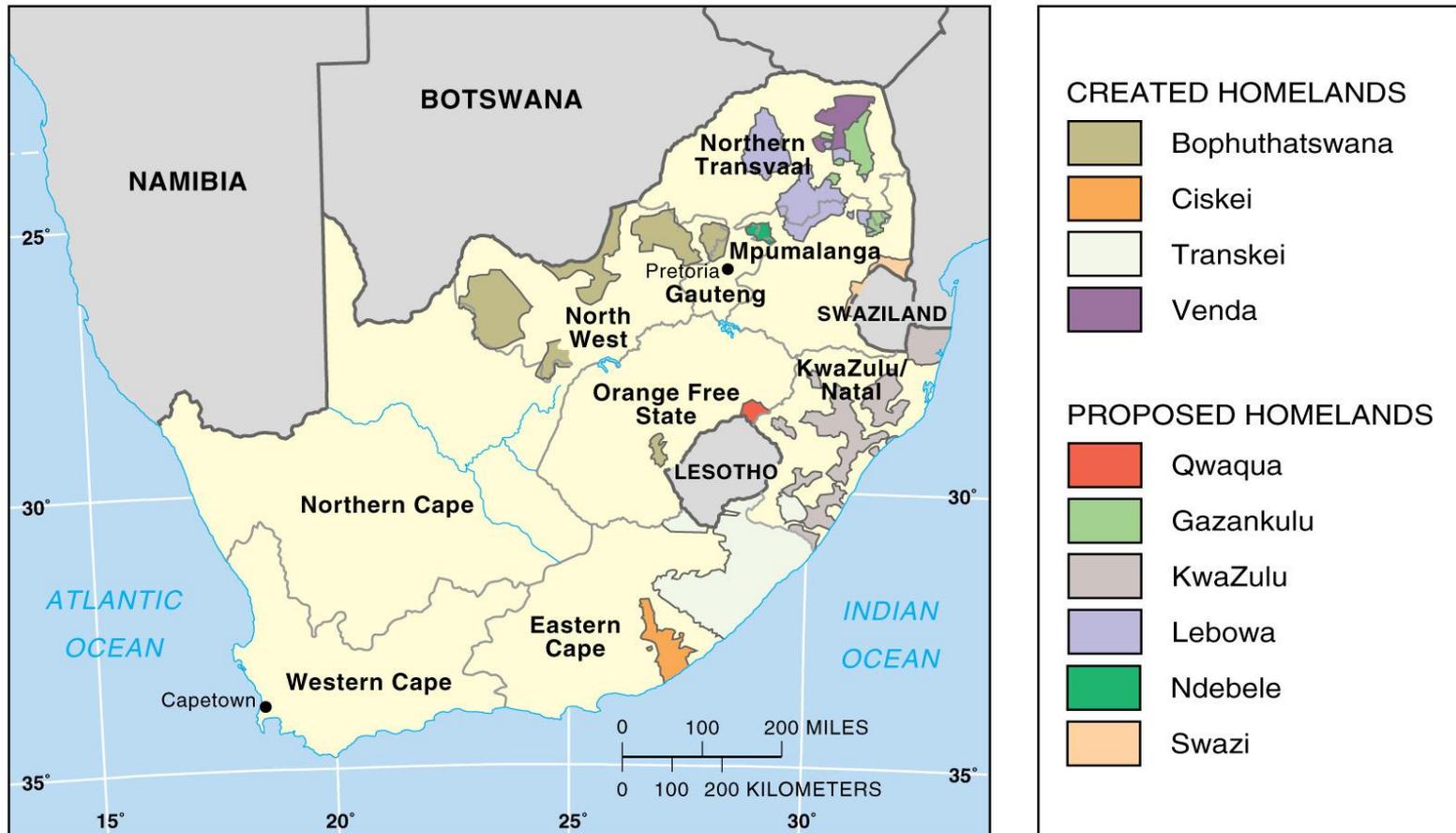


# Apartheid System

- The apartheid system was created by descendants of whites who arrived in South Africa from Holland in 1652.
- They were known either as Boers, from the Dutch word for farmer, or Afrikaners, from the word “Afrikaans,” the name of their language, which is a dialect of Dutch.
- A series of wars between the British and the Boers culminated in a British victory in 1902, and South Africa became part of the British Empire.
- British descendants continued to control South Africa’s government until 1948, when the Afrikaner dominated Nationalist Party won elections.
- Colonial rule was being replaced in the rest of Africa by a collection of independent states run by the local black population.



# Black “Homelands” in South Africa

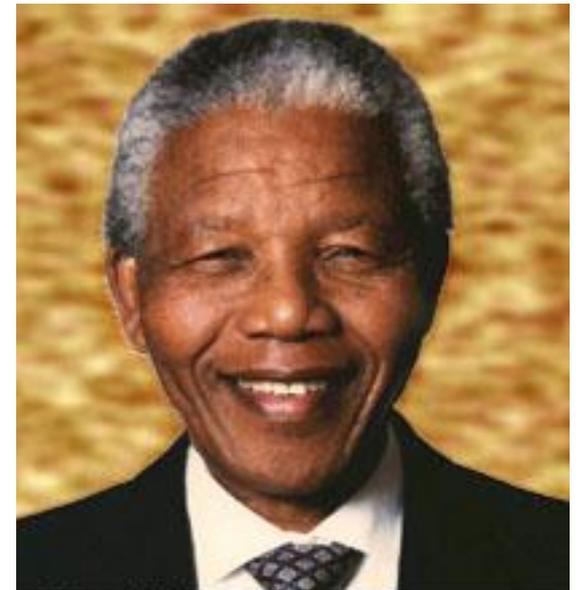


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Fig. 7-10: During the apartheid era, South Africa created a series of black “homelands” with the expectation that every black would be a citizen of one of them. These were abolished with the end of apartheid.

# Dismantling of Apartheid

- In 1991 the white-dominated government of South Africa repealed the apartheid laws, including restrictions on property ownership and classification of people at birth by race.
- The African National Congress was legalized, and its leader, Nelson Mandela, was released from jail after more than 27 years.
- When all South Africans were permitted to vote in national elections for the first time, in April 1994, Mandela was overwhelmingly elected the country's first black president.
- Whites were guaranteed representation in the government during a five-year transition period, until 1999.



*Mandella*

# Issue 2: Ethnicities into Nationalities

- Rise of nationalities
  - *Nation-states*
  - *Nationalism*
- Multinational states
  - *Former Soviet Union*
  - *Russia*
  - *Turmoil in the Caucasus*
- Revival of ethnic identity
  - *Ethnicity and communism*
  - *Rebirth of nationalism in Eastern Europe*

# Rise of Nationalities

- **Descendants of nineteenth-century immigrants to the United States from central and Eastern Europe identify themselves today by ethnicity rather than by nationality.**
- **These ethnicities lived in Europe as subjects of the Austrian emperor, Russian czar, or Prussian Kaiser.**
- **U.S. immigration officials recorded the nationality of immigrants.**
- **But immigrants considered ethnicity more important than nationality, and that is what they have preserved through distinctive social customs.**
- **The United States forged a nation in the late eighteenth century out of a collection of ethnic groups.**
- **To be an American meant believing in the “unalienable rights” of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”**



# Nation-States

- The concept that ethnicities have the right to govern themselves is known as self-determination.
- During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, political leaders have generally supported the right of self-determination and have attempted to organize Earth's surface into a collection of nation-states whose territory corresponds to a particular ethnicity.
- Yet despite continuing attempts, the territory of a state rarely corresponds precisely to the territory occupied by an ethnicity.

