Understanding Race and Ethnic Relations 5th edition Parrillo Solutions Manual

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CHAPTER 2

THE ROLE OF CULTURE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

2.2 Examine how culture changes and spreads.

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

2.4 Understand the existence of a white culture.

SUMMARY

1. Culture is both material and nonmaterial. It consists of the objects, values, attitudes, customs, beliefs, and habits that are shared by members of a society. Culture provides the screen through which we perceive the world around us. Shared cultural norms encourage group solidarity. Cultural differences, however, can result in prejudice and conflict.

2. Culture is learned behavior that we acquire through language. According to the Thomas theorem, our interpretations of others can result in false perceptions that can become an actuality through action. Interpretations are influenced by family, friends, schools, media, and other sources. Cultural definitions may persist as they are culturally transmitted through generations.

3. Culture is always in a process of changing. About 90 percent of the elements of all cultures (except for remote and isolated societies) are borrowed through cultural diffusion. Change also occurs through contact, after which many interaction patterns are possible between two groups, including the formation of dominant and subordinate groups. Culture shock is a common reaction when diverse groups interact.

4. Immigrants usually follow a chain migration pattern, settling in an area already containing family, friends, or compatriots. There, an ethnic community and subculture evolves, with parallel social institutions helping to promote cohesiveness and insulation from the alien host society. At the same time, through a process identified as ethnogenesis, immigrants often absorb and adapt elements from the new culture while modifying and dropping elements of their past culture. This process produces a distinctively new ethnic group with a culture that differs from both the homeland and the new land.

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5. Ethnic subcultures can be convergent (assimilating to the dominant culture) or persistent (remaining pluralistic and not assimilating). Members of convergent subcultures may experience the problems of marginality, as they live under two cultures at the same time. Members of persistent subcultures are more insulated. They may, however, encounter problems with the dominant society because they do not assimilate.

6. The International Scene boxed feature discusses the cultural clashes between the Han and Uyghur ethnic groups in China.

7. Three theories address minority and dominant interaction in American society: assimilation (majority conformity), amalgamation (melting pot), and accommodation (pluralism). Assimilation has several aspects or sub-processes, chiefly cultural, marital, and structural. Some observers suggest the existence of a triple melting pot, with the emergence of three major faiths and a multigenerational decline of ethnicity. In recent years, pluralism, which existed long before its emergence as a theoretical concept, has become more widely accepted. Moreover, assimilation and pluralism have always coexisted; they are not mutually exclusive. Overall, minority and dominant interactions are influenced by the prevailing values of each group.

8. White studies emerged in the 1990s as a focus on white racial domination and cultural hegemony. White studies scholars indicate that a white culture, independent of "American" culture, may be invisible to whites, but is readily apparent to nonwhites. These scholars suggest that our recognition of white culture is a necessary first step to building a truly multiracial society.

CLASS ACTIVITIES

1. Have students identify a list of stereotypes of dominant and subordinate racial and ethnic groups in class. Then have them select a television show or movie and watch it to see how many of these stereotypes are reflected in the show. This can also lead to a discussion of other ways that racial and ethnic stereotypes are encoded in material culture.

2. Play the Rodgers and Hammerstein song "Carefully Taught." Lines such as "before it's too late" open up good question-answer dialog possibilities. Similarly, Kris Kristofferson's "Jesus Was a Capricorn" offers an excellent means for discussing ethnocentrism with lines such as "Everybody's got to have somebody to look down on." Suggest that students bring in their own examples of ethnocentrism in the music that they currently listen to.

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REVEL Assets

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.
Video: The Basics: Culture
Reading: The Great American Football Ritual: Reproducing Race, Class, and Gender Inequality

2.2 Examine how culture changes and spreads.
Reading: The Amish: A Small Society

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.
Activity: Assimilation and Distinctive Cultural Patterns
Activity: Of Melting Pots and Mosaics: A Look at Maui

2.4 Understand the existence of a white culture.
Video: Thinking Like a Sociologist: Culture

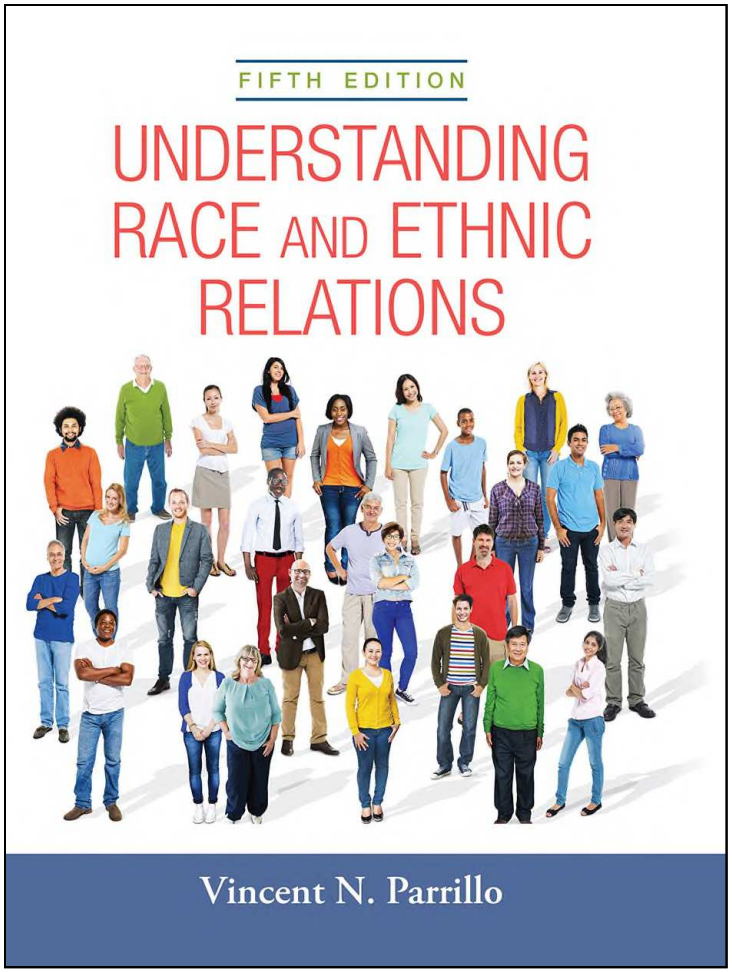
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Understanding Race and Ethnic Relations

Fifth Edition

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Chapter 2

The Role of Culture

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Learning Objectives

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

2.2 Examine how culture changes and spreads.

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

2.4 Understand the existence of a white culture.

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Culture

- Culture provides the guidelines for people's interpretations of situations they encounter and for the responses they consider appropriate.
- The distinctions and interplay among cultures are important to the assimilation process as well.
    - Example – Minority group in society

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The Concept of Culture

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

- Human beings both create their own social worlds and evolve further within them.
- Material culture consists of all physical objects created by members of a society and the meanings/significance attached to them.
  - Cars, cells phones, DVDs, iPods, jewelry, or clothing

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The Concept of Culture

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

- Nonmaterial culture consists of abstract human creations and their meanings/significance in life.
  - Attitudes beliefs, customs, ideas, languages, norms, social institutions, and values
- Culture consists of all of these elements shared by members of a society and transmitted to the next generation.

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The Concept of Culture

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

- Most sociologists emphasize the impact of culture in shaping behavior.
- Through language and other forms of symbolic interaction, the members of a society learn the thought and behavior patterns that constitute their commonality as a people.
  - In this sense, culture is the social cement that binds a society together.

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The Concept of Culture

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

- Shared cultural norms encourage a solidarity and orient the behavior of members of the ingroup.
  - Norms are a culture's rules of conduct—internalized by the members—embodying the society's fundamental expectations.

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The Concept of Culture

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

- Through norms, ingroup members know how to react toward the acts of outgroup members that surprise, shock, or annoy them or in any way go against their shared expectations.
- Most minority groups adapt their distinctive cultural traits to those of the host society through acculturation.

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The Concept of Culture

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

- An important component of intragroup cultural variations, seldom a part of the acculturation process, is religion.
  - Religion has many connections to prejudice and social conflict.
- Professional sports are another area of culture for the study of prejudice and racism.

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The Concept of Culture

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

- The Reality Construct
  - Our perception of reality is related to our culture, and through our culture, we learn how to perceive the world around us.
  - Cultural definitions help us interpret the sensory stimuli from our environment and tell us how to respond to them.

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The Concept of Culture

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

- The Reality Construct
  - Culture is a learned behavior, acquired chiefly through verbal communication, or language.
  - Words reflect culture, and one word may have different meanings in different cultures
  - Because words symbolically interpret the world to us, the linguistic relativity of language may connote both intended and unintended prejudicial meanings.

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The Concept of Culture

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

- The Reality Construct
  - Nonverbal communication (body language) conveys information to the observer-listener.
    - Body movements, gestures, physical proximity, facial expressions, and paralinguistic signals (sounds but not words)
  - Many cultural variations exist in body language itself and in the interpretation of its meanings.

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The Concept of Culture

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

- The Thomas Theorem
  - If people define situations as real, those situations become real in their consequences.
  - The Thomas theorem is further testimony to the truth of reality constructs: Human beings respond to their definitions of stimuli rather than to the stimuli themselves.

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The Concept of Culture

2.1 Explain how culture impacts on one's perceptions.

- The Thomas Theorem
  - Culture establishes the framework through which an individual perceives others, classifies them into groups, and assigns certain general characteristics to them.
  - Through cultural transmission, each generation transmits its culture to the next generation, which learns those cultural definitions at an early age.

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Cultural Change

2.2 Examine how culture changes and spreads.

- Culture continually changes.
  - Discoveries, inventions, technological advances, innovations, and natural disasters alter the customs, values, attitudes, and beliefs of a society.

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Cultural Change

2.2 Examine how culture changes and spreads.

- Cultural diffusion
  - Cultures are inevitably influenced by other cultures.
  - Ideas, inventions, and practices spread from one culture to another, but they may do so at different rates, depending on societal attitudes, conditions, and the distance between groups.

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Cultural Change

2.2 Examine how culture changes and spreads.

- Cultural diffusion
  - U.S. anthropologist Ralph Linton calculated that any given culture contains about 90 percent borrowed elements.

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Cultural Change

2.2 Examine how culture changes and spreads.

- Cultural contact
  - When people's assumptions are jolted through contact with an unfamiliar culture that supports different expectations, they often experience culture shock, characterized by feelings of disorientation and anxiety and a sense of being threatened.
    - Culture shock may not always occur, and people from two different cultures may peacefully coexist, with gradual cultural diffusion occurring.

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Cultural Change

2.2 Examine how culture changes and spreads.

- Subcultures
  - Usually, immigrants follow a pattern of chain migration, settling in an area already containing family, friends, or compatriots who located there earlier.
  - Parallel social institutions
    - Clubs, organizations, newspapers, stores, churches, and schools that duplicate those of the host society.

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Cultural Change

2.2 Examine how culture changes and spreads.

- Subcultures
  - As ethnic subcultures in the U.S. evolve in response to conditions within the host society, immigrants sometimes develop a group consciousness unknown in their old countries.
  - Ethnogenesis
    - Shaped partly by the core culture in selectively absorbing some elements and modifying others, the group also retains, modifies, or drops elements from its cultural heritage as it adapts to its new country.

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Cultural Change

2.2 Examine how culture changes and spreads.

- Convergent subcultures
  - Convergent subcultures tend toward assimilation with the dominant society.
  - Because the subculture is undergoing change, its members may experience marginality—living under stress in two cultures simultaneously.
    - The older generation may seek to preserve its traditions and heritage.

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Cultural Change

2.2 Examine how culture changes and spreads.

- Convergent subcultures
  - Because the subculture is undergoing change, its members may experience marginality—living under stress in two cultures simultaneously.
    - The younger generation may be impatient to achieve full acceptance within the dominant society.

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Cultural Change

2.2 Examine how culture changes and spreads.

- Persistent subcultures
  - Persistent subcultures are subcultures that do not assimilate with the dominant society.
    - A minority group's insistence on the right to be different usually has not been well-received among dominant-group members.

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Assimilation (majority-conformity) theory
- Amalgamation (melting-pot) theory
- Accommodation (pluralistic) theory

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Assimilation (Majority-Conformity) Theory
  - This theory refers to the functioning within a society of racial or ethnic minority-group members who no longer possess any marked cultural, social, or personal differences from the people of the dominant group.
    - Physical or racial differences may persist, but they do not serve as the basis for group prejudice or discrimination.
    - A + B + C = A

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Anglo-Conformity
  - To preserve their Anglo-Saxon heritage, people in the U.S. have often attempted, sometimes successfully, to curtail the large numbers of non-Anglo-Saxon immigrants.
    - Social pressures demanded that new arrivals shed their native culture and attachments as quickly as possible and be remade into “Americans.”

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Anglo-Conformity
  - Americanized Movement
    - During WWI, a large influx of immigrants and the United States' involvement in a European conflict raised questions about those who weren't "100 percent American."
      - Government agencies at all levels, together with many private organizations, encouraged more immediate adoption by foreigners of U.S. practices: citizenship, reverence for U.S. institutions, and use of the English language.

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Types of Assimilation
  - Cultural assimilation (acculturation)
    - The change of cultural patterns to match those of the host society.
  - Marital assimilation (amalgamation)
    - Large-scale intermarriage with members of the majority society.

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Types of Assimilation
  - Structural assimilation
    - Large-scale entrance into the cliques, clubs, and institutions of the host society on a primary-group level.
    - Secondary structural assimilation involves the more interpersonal public sphere of social interaction, such as intergroup mingling in civic, recreational, school, or work environments.

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Types of Assimilation
  - Structural assimilation
    - Primary structural assimilation involves close, personal interactions among dominant- and minority-group members in small group settings, such as parties, social clubs, and other interactive gatherings.

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Amalgamation (Melting-Pot) Theory
  - Holds that all the diverse peoples blend their biological and cultural differences (through intermarriage and creation of a new culture) into an altogether new breed—the American.
    - A + B + C = D

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Advocates
  - In 1782, J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur first popularized the idea of a melting pot.
    - He spoke of a new breed of humanity emerging from the new society.

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PEARSON

Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Advocates
  - In 1893, Frederick Jackson Turner updated the theory with his frontier thesis.
    - He believed that the challenge of frontier life was the catalyst that fused immigrants into a composite new national stock within an evolving social order.
  - In 1908, the play The Melting-Pot by Israel Zangwill etched a permanent symbol on the assimilationist ideal.

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Did we melt?
  - The melting-pot theory spoke not only of intermarriages among different groups, but also of a distinct new national culture evolving from elements of all other cultures.
    - Here the theory has proved to be unrealistic.
  - Only in the institution of religion did minority groups alter the national culture.

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Did we melt?
  - Today, the high religious intermarriage rate is reshaping religious boundaries as, for some groups at least, assimilation blurs previous distinctions of cultural differentiation.
  - In reality, “melting” meant Anglo-conformity—being remade according to the idealized Anglo-Saxon mold.

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Accommodation (Pluralistic) Theory
  - This theory recognizes the persistence of racial and ethnic diversity.
  - Theorists argue that minorities simultaneously can maintain their distinctive subcultures and interact with relative equality in the larger society.
    - A + B + C = A + B + C

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Early Analysis
  - Horace Kallen is generally recognized as the first exponent of cultural pluralism.
  - He maintained not only that each group tended to preserve its own language, institutions, and cultural heritage, but also that democracy gave each group the right to do so.

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Pluralistic Reality
  - From its colonial beginnings, the U.S. has been a pluralistic country.
  - Cultural pluralism (most noticeable) – Two or more culturally distinct groups living in the same society in relative harmony.
  - Structural pluralism (less noticeable) – The coexistence of racial and ethnic groups in sub-societies within social-class and regional boundaries.

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Theories of Minority Integration

2.3 Evaluate three models of possible minority integration in society.

- Dual Realities
  - Assimilation and pluralism are neither mutually exclusive nor necessarily enemies.
    - They have always existed simultaneously among different groups at different levels.
  - Acculturation occurs more quickly than assimilation.

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Is There a White Culture?

2.4 Understand the existence of a white culture.

- In the mid-1990s, interest in white studies rose significantly.
  - White studies essentially focus on how whiteness has led to racial domination and hegemony, in which white American culture is simply called “American,” thereby presuming that all other cultures are not “American” but instead racial and/or ethnic subcultures.

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Is There a White Culture?

2.4 Understand the existence of a white culture.

- White values, attitudes, shared understandings, and behavior patterns are often unrealized by group members because they are part of a taken-for-granted world.
- Recognizing the existence of a white culture could be a first step toward building a truly multiracial society.

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