

Chapter 02

Explaining Ethnic Relations

Essay Questions

1. Is multiculturalism in America a sign of increasing cultural heterogeneity or a sign that ethnic populations are not successful in their efforts at structural assimilation?

Answers will vary

2. Is Robert Park's assimilation theory an adequate explanation for the assimilation of Mexican immigrants in America in the 1990s?

Answers will vary

3. How can subordinate ethnic subpopulations break the cycle of identifiability discrimination?

Answers will vary

4. Are there conditions under which hostility toward a subordinate ethnic subpopulation can be reduced or eliminated?

Answers will vary

5. If ethnic subpopulations are relatively powerless in society—politically, economically, and educationally—why does the dominant population perceive them as threats?

Answers will vary

6. Let us assume that America decides to accept only wealthy and highly educated immigrants. Do you think that this policy would prevent problems of discrimination and prejudice? Why or why not?

Answers will vary

7. Even though some white ethnic subpopulations have maintained elements of their ethnicity (holidays, festivities, religions), why don't these elements distinguish white ethnic subpopulations in a highly visible way?

Answers will vary

8. Why are middleman minorities often viewed by their clients as mercenary and exploitive?

Answers will vary

9. What does it mean to say that there are splits within each class along ethnic lines? Can you find examples to support your response?

Answers will vary

10. How do split-labor market theories differ from ecological theories?

Answers will vary

11. What are the reasons for internal colonialism in America?

Answers will vary

12. What biological links do persons in the same family structure share?

Answers will vary

13. What is the difference between assimilation theories and pluralism theories?

Answers will vary

14. What does an ethnic group's assimilation into a host society say about the discrimination faced by the group?

Answers will vary

15. Is it possible for a person to assimilate to the culture of a host society but not be incorporated into the host society's major institutions?

Answers will vary

16. Why is it easier for American society to maintain negative images for minorities than positive images?

Answers will vary

17. Discuss the varying types of assimilation that can occur.

Answers will vary

18. Why do pluralism theories take issue with assimilation theories?

Answers will vary

19. What are the key ideas behind the new biological theories?

Answers will vary

20. In what way is the notion of competition an important element in human ecological theories, split-labor market theories, split-class theories, and middleman minority theories?

Answers will vary

21. How do internal colonialism theories borrow from notions of external colonialism in which one nation controls another?

Answers will vary

22. What are the essential forces that drive discrimination in the unified theory presented at the end of the chapter?

Answers will vary

True / False Questions

23. Pluralism theories arose as a reaction to assimilation theories.

TRUE

24. Structural assimilation is much easier to achieve than cultural assimilation.

FALSE

25. Unlike ethnics of "color," all white ethnics are fully integrated into the Anglo-Saxon mainstream.

TRUE

26. "Ethny" is a term developed by ecological theories to explain ethnic discrimination.

FALSE

27. Ecological theories stress the importance of competition for resources as the force behind ethnic conflict.

TRUE

28. Caste theories emphasize the economic interests of elites in maintaining a poor and permanently subordinate ethnic labor pool.

TRUE

29. Internal colonialism theories stress the desire of one population for inexpensive labor and control of land.

TRUE

30. Split-labor market theories fail to emphasize the importance of power in labor markets.

FALSE

31. Split-class theories emphasize the differences between and within social classes.

TRUE

32. Split-class theories emphasize that within every class there are dominant and subordinate segments, and that often the subordinate segment is an ethnic minority.

TRUE

33. Middleman minority theories concentrate on business activities of the dominant ethnic subpopulation.

FALSE

34. Middleman minority theories emphasize the mobility of low-class ethnics to the middle classes.

FALSE

35. The identifiability of an ethnic subpopulation is always based on biological features.

FALSE

36. The size of an ethnic subpopulation has little impact on the pattern of discrimination it will experience.

FALSE

37. Only a comparatively small ethnic subpopulation can become a middleman minority.

TRUE

38. The discrimination and identifiability of an ethnic subpopulation are mutually reinforcing.

TRUE

39. It is fair to say that ultimately, a sense of threat by a superordinate ethnic subpopulation is the fuel behind its discrimination.

TRUE

40. Large ethnic subpopulations can easily move into middleman minority niches.

FALSE

41. Egalitarian values can help break the cycles revolving around discrimination.

TRUE

42. Discrimination against other ethnics often has the ironic consequence of increasing the sense of threat experienced by discriminators.

TRUE

43. American's egalitarianism is composed of a contradiction between the core values of "individualism" and "humanitarianism."

TRUE

44. Superordinate subpopulations target ethnic subordinate subpopulations for discrimination in order for superordinate subpopulations to maintain "their way of life."

TRUE

45. Cultural assimilation guarantees a subordinate ethnic subpopulation's structural assimilation.

FALSE

46. Ethnic stereotypes are necessary to maintaining positive images and beliefs for ethnic subpopulations.

FALSE

47. Subordinate ethnic subpopulations are likely to find themselves at the bottom of the stratification system if they are large.

TRUE

48. Based on the findings of public opinion polls, Americans are opposed to group preference approaches for ethnic minorities.

TRUE

49. The fewer resource shares an ethnic subpopulation has, the more discrimination it faces in society.

TRUE

50. Increased identifiability for an ethnic subpopulation lowers the population's risk of being a target of discrimination.

FALSE

51. The clients of middleman minorities often view them as mercenary and exploitive.

TRUE

52. In the split-labor market perspective, the low wages paid to ethnic subpopulations are necessary for securing better working conditions for white workers.

FALSE

53. The inability of the descendants of early European white immigrants to control the political power of the state prevented the establishment of internal colonialism in America.

FALSE

54. From the internal colonization perspective, the history of ethnic relations in America has resulted in internal colonies of nonwhites being dominated by descendants of the original Anglo-Saxon Protestant core.

TRUE

55. According to ecological theories, competition for resources often increases the level of conflict between ethnic subpopulations.

TRUE

56. From a sociobiological point of view, the individual is a permanent vessel for genes.

TRUE

57. Ecological and sociobiological theories of ethnicity are virtually the same, with only minor points of divergence.

FALSE

58. Nathan Glazer and Daniel Moynihan argue that all white ethnic groups are assimilated to the middle-class, Anglo-Saxon Protestant core.

FALSE

59. According to pluralist theories, the maintenance of an ethnic identity is often a way of coping with discrimination.

TRUE

60. An ethnic group's degree of assimilation to a host society can provide clues regarding the type of discrimination experienced by the group.

TRUE

Multiple Choice Questions

61. The term "melting pot" is *most* likely to be associated with

- A. ecological theories.
- B. biological theories.
- C.** assimilation theories.
- D. split-class theories.

62. The internal colonialism model of ethnic relations best fits which group(s) in the United States?

- A. Native Americans
- B. African Americans
- C. Mexican Americans
- D.** all of the above

63. From which of the following theories is a middleman minority theory *least* likely to draw inspiration?

- A. ecological theories
- B.** assimilation theories
- C. split-class theories
- D. split-labor market theories

64. In Milton Gordon's discussion of types of assimilation, which one is the most difficult to achieve?

- A. marital assimilation
- B.** structural assimilation
- C. identification assimilation
- D. behavioral-receptional assimilation

65. Which is *not* a stratification theory, as described in the text?

- A. split-labor market theories
- B. pluralism theories**
- C. internal colonialism theories
- D. split-class theories

66. As the size of ethnic subordinate subpopulations increases, their identifiability increases, which, in turn, results in increased

- A. opportunity.
- B. assimilation.
- C. hostility.**
- D. inclusion.

67. _____ and _____ most affect the levels of valued resources available to an ethnic subpopulation.

- A. Intelligence, hard work
- B. Money, religion
- C. Prejudice, opportunity
- D. Identifiability, discrimination**

68. Which factor *most* increases the risk of an ethnic subpopulation's exposure to discrimination?

- A. intermarriage
- B. degree of identifiability**
- C. increased economic opportunity
- D. economic success

69. Splits in social classes along ethnic lines

- A. increase the economic opportunities of ethnic subpopulations.
- B. increase the representation of ethnic subpopulations in desirable jobs.
- C. increase job security for ethnic subpopulations.
- D. increase the subordination of ethnic subpopulations into low-paying, less desirable and less secure jobs.**

70. Split-class theories emphasize

- A. the availability of social opportunity for those in lower social classes.
- B.** the control of capital investment by capitalists.
- C. the lower-class ability to own businesses and buy labor.
- D. the good will of those in higher social classes.

71. The colonization complex is identified by

- A. voluntary entry into a territory and its population.
- B. maintenance of the indigenous culture and patterns of social organization.
- C. democratic treatment of the indigenous population.
- D.** domination of the indigenous population by an invading population.

72. Ecological theories emphasize

- A.** migration patterns of ethnic subpopulations.
- B. collaboration between ethnic subpopulations regarding competition for housing and jobs.
- C. incorporation of ethnic subpopulations into major political institutions.
- D. passive acceptance in the pattern of resource distribution.

73. An ethny is a cluster of kinship circles that

- A. is created through exogamy.
- B. depends on territorial separation.
- C.** represents a reproductive strategy.
- D. focuses on those "different from oneself."

74. Which of the following is *not* an assumption in biological theories?

- A. Genes rather than the individual are the ultimate unit of natural selection.
- B.** Individuals are creators of their own genes.
- C. Individuals are only temporary vessels for genes.
- D. Genes are "selfish."

75. Robert Park saw assimilation as a process that
A. leads to the incorporation of people and groups into a common culture.
B. causes rebellion by persons and groups fighting for their own identity.
C. segregates and isolates persons and groups in society.
D. causes persons and groups to leave the society.
76. Theories are designed to
A. describe events.
B. categorize events.
C. speculate on events.
D. explain events.
77. The distinctiveness of an ethnic subpopulation is *least* related to which force?
A. discrimination
B. negative stereotypes
C. stratification
D. assimilation
78. Which force is the most important in driving prejudice and discrimination?
A. identifiability
B. sense of threat
C. egalitarian values
D. resource shares
79. Middleman minority theories *do not* emphasize which of the following?
A. resources of ethnics
B. threats among ethnics
C. assimilation of ethnics
D. petit bourgeois activities

80. Which is *least* important in split-class theories?

- A. divisions between social classes
- B. divisions within social classes
- C. divisions in the upper class
- D. divisions in the lower class

81. Which is the *least* important to split-labor market theories?

- A. maintenance of low wages
- B. separation of higher-and lower-wage ethnics
- C. maximization of profits
- D. avoidance of competition among ethnics

82. Which is *not* true for the argument in split labor market theories?

- A. Capitalists and labor have similar interest in splitting the labor market.
- B. Workers are fearful of lower-priced labor.
- C. Capitalists always seek lower-priced labor.
- D. Higher-priced workers use splitting the labor market as a fall-back option.

83. Which is the *least* important force behind internal colonization theories?

- A. the desire for cheap labor
- B. the desire to take land
- C. the desire to demonstrate cultural superiority
- D. the desire to force assimilation

84. Which of the following do ecological theories *not* emphasize?

- A. genic selection and evolution
- B. competition for resources
- C. migration patterns
- D. conflict

85. From Pierre van den Berghe's sociobiological perspective, the tendency of humans to form an "ethny" is ultimately created by

- A. natural selection.
- B. discrimination.
- C. failed assimilation.
- D. none of the above.

86. Sociobiological theories of ethnicity emphasize which of the following?

- A. the impact of culture on genes
- B. the constraints of social structure on genes
- C. the strategies of genes to stay in the gene pool
- D. all of the above

87. Which is *not* a type of assimilation discussed by Milton Gordon

- A. identification assimilation
- B. civic assimilation
- C. attitude-receptional assimilation
- D. cultural-receptional assimilation

88. A fair criticism against assimilation theories is that they

- A. paint an overly optimistic view of ethnic relations.
- B. fail to discuss the stages of assimilation.
- C. fail to consider non-white ethnics.
- D. all of the above

89. Which is *not* a stage in Robert Park's portrayal of the assimilation process?

- A. competitive phase
- B. accommodative phase
- C. rebellious phase
- D. assimilation phase

Fill in the Blank Questions

90. Social phenomena, such as ethnic relations, are explained by _____.
theory

91. The term for describing the process of creating a distinctive ethnicity as a means of adapting to discrimination is _____.
ethnogenesis

92. The way in which social classes become internally partitioned is the focus of _____ theory.
split-class

93. The notion of ethny is prominent in _____ theories.
biological, or sociobiological

94. Efforts of higher-price labor to partition the work force in the face of efforts by capitalists to undercut wages with lower-priced ethnic labor are the key ideas in _____ theories.
split-labor market

95. Competition in resource niches is a key idea in _____.
human ecology, or ecological theories

96. The notion of a "melting pot" is most prominent in _____ theories.
assimilation

97. _____ assimilation is the process by which persons and groups adopt values, beliefs, ideologies, and other symbol systems.

cultural

98. The greater the sense of _____ experienced by superordinate ethnic subpopulations, the greater is their _____ toward subordinate ethnic subpopulations.

threat; hostility

99. The degree of discrimination faced by an ethnic subpopulation is directly associated with the subpopulation's level of _____ in society.

identifiability

100. Persons that play a go-between role between members of elite classes and ethnic subordinate classes are _____.

middleman minorities

101. A key phrase in split-class theories regarding the relationship between the lower and higher classes is _____.

economic exploitation

102. The creation of internal colonies of nonwhites in America that are dominated by whites is referred to as _____.

internal colonialism

103. The process by which one nation controls the political and economic activities of another is _____.

external colonialism

104. _____ theories focus on the mobilization of power to control where in the class system ethnic groups are placed.

stratification

105. _____ refers to the process by which non-family members help each other survive.

reciprocal altruism

106. The basic argument of sociobiology is that the unit of natural selection is the _____ rather than the individual.

gene

107. _____ theories focus on ethnic diversity as a product resulting from the adaptation of ethnic groups to discrimination.

pluralist or pluralism

108. _____ theories are useful in examining the consequences of discrimination for ethnic groups interested in becoming part of a host society.

assimilation

109. _____ theories emphasize social identities as part of a natural cognitive process of placing self and others in categories.

psychological