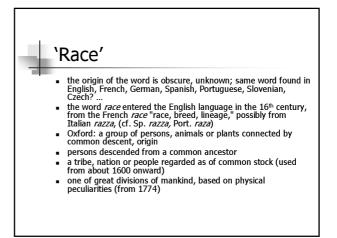


What is the difference between race and ethny?

- the need to distinguish between the two: race refers to the classification of people, it is concerned with the categorisation of 'them'; ethnicity refers to group identification and is more concerned with the identification of 'us' (Banton)
- the distinction is not necessary (Eriksen; van den Berghe) – in both cases the social concern is with common biological descent, even when the markers are primarily cultural



'Race'

- .
- group of common descent; biological type; type determining social and cultural characters race: a group defined as distinct because of its supposed common physical characteristics (late 18th, early 19th century) social construct; race exists as a social category it is people who make the classification and definition (historical and
- contextual role) ideas about race emerged in specific social and political contexts, circumstances, environments
- the idea of race as a meaningful biological category is predominantly dismissed .
- no fixed or unchanging meaning

History of racism

- seeing contemporary forms of racism in isolation from the past means ignoring the history of racism the idea of different 'races' emerged when European and non-European peoples came into contact (late 15th, early 16th century)
- European era of exploration and expansion the rise of the African slave trade
- European imperial domination and colonisation
- all this resulted in articulation of ideas about the attributes of other races, 'what is the Other like?' from the 18th century onward proliferation of writing about race and the emergence of racism (racial ideas about black 'inferiority' and 'superiority' of some racial groups etc.)

Race and science

- early use of word was parallel to nation or people
- in late 18th and early 19th century the word acquired new meanings
- initially scholars focused on cataloguing and describing; a strong tendency to rank all the things in the world (18th century)
- 18th century Europe = the cradle of modern racism (Mosse)

Race and science: the Enlightenment

- the authority of science promotes and encourages observation, comparison, measuring, ordering of physical characteristics of human bodies
- these 'scientific activities' are regulated by classical aesthetic and cultural norms (the Enlightenment brought a revived interest and appreciation of classical antiquity; for example the Greek 'beauty ideal')
- phrenology (reading the skull), physiognomy (reading the face) combined with value judgements following aesthetic criteria socio-political uses of science; hierarchical ordering of races
- e.g. USA, later Germany, **eugenics** (= the study of methods of improving genetic qualities by selective breeding, especially as applied to human mating)

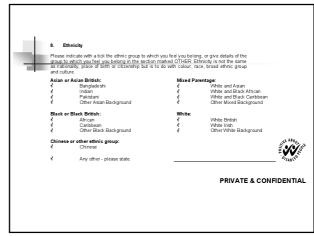
Modernity and race

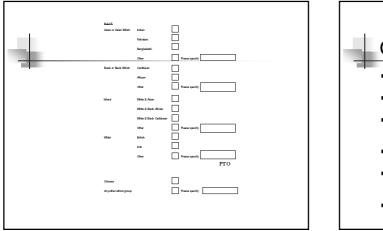
- racism is inseparable from modernity (Wieviorka)
- the dialectic of Enlightenment (racism present in major writings of the era: Montesquieu, Voltaire, Hume, Jefferson, Kant etc.)
- exploration, domination, science and Christianity
- the idea of race has been most influential in a period of European hegemony
- by end of 19th, start of 20th the idea of racial superiority widespread - colonial racism postulated the inferiority of colonised people; modern antisemitism

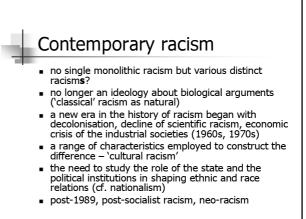
Bringing in the ethnicity

- after the atrocities of the Second World War and the Holocaust and anti-semitism, the word 'race' became problematic
- the word 'ethnicity' becomes the preferred choice for expressing inter-aroup differences
- especially from the 1960s onward; anti-colonial, anti-racist arguments => ethnicity expresses positive feelings of belonging to a cultural group
- after the collapse of communism more negative aspects of ethnicity come to the fore (esp. because of 'ethnic cleansing')
 - but the persistence of race:









Next week's readings:

- What is the nation? What is nationalism? What is the relationship between the two?
- Read texts from these authors either from readers "Nationalism" or "The Ethnicity Reader" or go straight to the original:
- Miroslav Hroch: Social Preconditions of National Revival in Europe (pp. xi-xv, 3)
- Anthony D. Smith: The Ethnic Origins of Nations (pp. 6-13)
- Ernest Geliner: Nations and Nationalism (1-7)
- Benedict Anderson: Imagined Communities (5-7)