Race and Ethnicity in the United States

NINTH EDITION

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To my grandchildren, Matilda and Reuben:
May they grow to flourish
in our multicultural society
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Preface

The first two decades of the twenty-first century have witnessed significant social changes. The Latino population in the United States is now larger than the African American population, with the Asian Pacific American population growing faster than either. Meanwhile, White non-Hispanic youth have become a numerical minority when compared to other racial and ethnic groups. Alongside these demographic changes, a series of events have underscored the diversity of the American people.

People cheered on May 1, 2011, upon hearing that Osama bin Laden had been found and killed. However, many American Indian people were troubled to learn that the military had assigned the code name “Geronimo” to the infamous terrorist. The Chiricahua Apache of New Mexico were particularly disturbed to learn that their freedom fighter’s name was used in this manner.

Barack Obama, the son of an immigrant, became the first African American president, but Mr. Obama also recognizes other aspects of his ethnicity. On an official state visit to Ireland while president, he made a side trip to the village of Moneygall in County Offaly. His great-great-grandfather Falmouth Kearney, a shoemaker’s son, came to the United States from County Offaly in 1850.

Race and ethnicity are an important part of the national landscape and the national agenda. Forty years ago, when writing the first edition of this book, I noted that race is not a static phenomenon. Although race is always a part of the social reality, specific aspects of race and ethnicity change. In the first edition, I noted the presence of a new immigrant group, the Vietnamese, and described the early efforts to define affirmative action. Today, in an increasingly diverse society, we seek to describe the growing presence of Salvadorans, Haitians, Nigerians, Tongans, Somalis, Hmong, and Arab Americans in the United States.

Specific issues may change over time, but they continue to play out against a backdrop of discrimination that is rooted in the social structure and changing composition of the population as influenced by immigration and reproduction patterns. In addition, the breakup of the Soviet Union and changes in Middle Eastern governments have made ethnic, language, and religious divisions even more significant sources of antagonism between and within nations. The old ideological debates about communism and capitalism have been replaced by emotional divisions over religious dogma and cultural traditions.

New to the Ninth Edition

This edition of Race and Ethnicity in the United States continues to take full advantage of the most recent data releases from the U.S. Census Bureau through the annual American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS allows each new edition of the text to include updated information (without the ACS, data would be updated only once a decade, based on the results of the ten-year census). Thanks to the ACS, readers will find updated and revised tables, figures, maps, and Internet sources throughout the ninth edition. As one example of the thorough updating, we note that more than 30 percent of the citations in the references are new since the last edition.
Chapter-by-Chapter Changes

As with all previous editions, every line, every source, and every number have been checked for their currency. The goal of Race and Ethnicity in the United States has always been to provide the most current information. The following list details the major changes in each chapter.

Chapter 1, Exploring Race and Ethnicity

- New opening examples
- Latest American Community Survey 2014–2015 data update all statistics in the chapter
- Expulsion example of Muslim and Nepali-speaking Bhutanese; also noted in their resettling in Manchester, New Hampshire, in chapter-opening example
- 2014 report on trends in school segregation
- Resistance example added of #BlackLives Matter movement
- Intersectionality coverage added
- Key Terms added: colorism, eugenics, Eurocentrism, intersectionality

Chapter 2, Prejudice

- New figure on the rise of hate groups
- Latest census data update all income and wealth statistics
- White privilege illustrated by recent study of bus drivers granting or not granting free bus rides
- Latest reports on racial profiling in traffic stops and New York City ending surveillance program in Muslim neighborhoods
- Recent data on minority representation on television and in motion pictures
- New Research Focus: Virtual Prejudice and Anti-Prejudice

Chapter 3, Discrimination

- New material on restricting voting rights through banning ex-felons and requiring photo ID
- Latest data on income and wealth by race, ethnicity, and gender
- Latest data on ID voting requirements
- New Research Focus: The Sharing Economy—Another Way to Discriminate
- New Speaking Out: “May America Be True to Her Dream,” by Nihad Awad
- The water supply in Flint, Michigan, as an example of the need for environmental justice
- 2016 Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin Supreme Court decision
- Impact of the Great Recession on Black home ownership
- Key Term added: sharing economy

Chapter 4, Immigration

- New opener describing immigration in three towns
- Two figures and map on immigration updated through 2015
- New Speaking Out: “My Parents Were Deported,” by Diane Guerrero
- Proposed “DREAMers” policy outlined
- Updated table on immigration benefits and concerns
- New cartoon on immigration reform
- New Research Focus: Arranged Marriages in America
- Expanded section on refugees
- Table on refugees updated to 2015 and contrasted with 2005
• Specific suggestions on how one can help refugees
• Key Terms added: arranged marriage, sanctuary city

Chapter 5, Ethnicity, Whiteness, and Religion
• Chapter title rephrased to reflect emphasis on concept of Whiteness
• Initial section “Unpacking Ethnicity” reorganized
• New table on religious groups and political party affiliations
• Impact of recent immigration on Roman Catholicism and Protestantism in the United States
• New section on company exemptions within discussion of the courts and religion
• Key Term added: respectable bigotry

Chapter 6, The Nation as a Kaleidoscope
• New table: lists of top ten states with largest concentrations of minorities
• Updated figures on minority school population, changes in schooling, income, and life expectancy
• New Speaking Out: “Black Picket Fences,” by Mary Pattillo
• Expanded material on interaction to include online communication

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About the Author

Richard T. Schaefer grew up in Chicago at a time when neighborhoods were going through transitions in ethnic and racial composition. He found himself increasingly intrigued by what was happening, how people were reacting, and how these changes were affecting neighborhoods and people’s jobs. In high school, he took a course in sociology. His interest in social issues caused him to gravitate to more sociology courses at Northwestern University, where he eventually received a B.A. in sociology. He later received his M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago.

Race and ethnicity in the United States is a complex topic because the United States of America has a racially and ethnically diverse population. At the federal level, race and ethnicity have been categorized separately. The most recent United States Census officially recognized five racial categories (White American, Black or African American, Native Americans and Alaska Native, Asian American, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander) as well as people of two or more races. The Census Bureau Main article: Demographics of the United States The United States is a diverse country, racially and ethnically.[1] Six races are recognized: White, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian and Other… 1 Racial and ethnic categories. 1.1 Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino origin. 2 Historical trends and influences. 3 Racial makeup of the U.S. population.