

## 17.523: Ethnicity and Race in World Politics-Fall 2005

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### Lecture 26: Wrapping Up

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From what we have learned in class, do we have any insights into what happened in France with the riots?

- Why are groups locked out of French society?
- Their group identity is that they look like Arab or non-white. Prior to coming to France, they wouldn't necessarily have had a common identity. They now have a group identity based on the discrimination experienced.

Is it a class issue or ethnic problem?

- It appears to be some of both.
- Most of the poverty is located in the suburbs.
- There's a class dimension to this, but some would argue that it's because of their ethnicity that they haven't been able to succeed.

Unemployment rate for affected areas is ~40-50%

How does the French education system work?

- Schools are paid for by the French government until a certain age. (college).

Student: Should France do the opposite of the propaganda used by the Hutu in Rwanda?

- Student: Instead of using propaganda to say these people are rats, what if the French government said, these people are good.

There's no one in the news who looks Arab in high visibility positions, media, etc.

French media should reflect the diversity of its population.

Can religious institutions help?

- Student: Churches can have a lot of influences on society.
- Student: Interfaith groups can encourage the members to be diverse. One of the best ways is to find commonality. Promote the common things, more likely to make headway in terms of getting along. Stop insisting there's a difference.
- Student: it's hard to implement because people like to go to a church that is similar to them. There's a whole variety of cultures in her small community that were forced to socialize with. It depends on the population.

What about music? In France, certain members of the legislature are blaming the violence on rap music. Can it be a source of cultural socializing?

- Student: the rappers actually wrote about impending riots because of the government and the government should pay attention.
- Student: listening to other culture's music exposes you to different things.
- Student: after columbine, they wanted to blame Marilyn Manson for the tragedy. They put a higher restriction on the types of music children have access to.

Howard Stern was forced off public radio and into satellite radio. The US has experienced it, and France could do the same.

How popular is Arab music among the French?

- Unsure.

What is President Bush's policy on Mexican immigration?

- Student: it's a guest worker policy so that you can have an ID and go across borders to work.
- This was done in Europe (e.g. Germany), but in a different time period, as we've read.

What is Bush's policy intended to do?

- Student: illegal immigration happens already, and this is a way to legitimize the immigrants, make them legal and help them work.
- This is presumably a better way to monitor the immigrant population.

Illegal immigration and the border.

- Bush wants greater border control to close the borders

What is the nature of the immigration "problem" and does Bush's policy accurately fix it?

- Student: if you look at the guest work policies in other countries, the guest workers just end up staying.
- Student: the other side of the argument is that we have unemployed US citizens already. Why should there be a guest worker policy to help immigrants when there are so many unemployed citizens.

Why aren't there harsher policies for the companies employing illegal immigrants?

- The companies claim that they don't know and can't monitor the hiring practices at the local level. There are powerful market incentives to keep things going as they are.

What does our knowledge from this class tell us about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina?

- Student: it showed that the lower socioeconomic groups were basically stuck and couldn't get out of New Orleans.
- New Orleans is the scene of substantial regional poverty. Katrina showed the problems of local and state governance.
- New Orleans is basically a black city ~60% and a poor city.
- In this class, we've talked a lot about the layers of history. It's 30 years after formal desegregation, but there's still a lot of segregation in the area.
- The levy system was extremely weak in certain areas.

Is it possible to build levies capable of withstanding another category 5 hurricane?

- It isn't financially possible right now because there aren't federal funds to make it work.