



race & ethnic relations

AMERICAN AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES | 10E

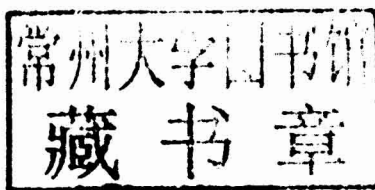
Martin N. Marger

RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS

American and Global Perspectives

TENTH EDITION

Martin N. Marger



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PREFACE

Race and Ethnic Relations: American and Global Perspectives is designed to explore race and ethnic relations in a global context, while covering extensively ethnic groups and issues in American society. The need for such a comparative approach seems especially critical today in light of the increasing ethnic diversity of the United States and most other contemporary societies, as well as the prominence of ethnic conflicts in virtually all world regions. With continuing high levels of immigration, Americans have become increasingly mindful of their society's changing racial and ethnic configuration and its attendant economic, cultural, and political issues. Though usually uninformed about complexities, they have also become at least vaguely aware of comparable issues in other societies. This awareness is episodically heightened by mass media accounts of ethnic conflict in societies as distant and exotic as Rwanda and Kosovo, as well as those closer geographically and culturally, such as Canada and Northern Ireland. With the prevalent forces of globalization and international migration, it has become clear that racial and ethnic issues are no longer confined to specific societies but are linked through social networks, political arrangements, and economic systems.

Curiously, American social scientists have not always kept pace in adapting to the global context of race and ethnic relations. Some continue to focus almost exclusively on the United States, paying only incidental attention to ethnic patterns and events in other societies. In line with this view, texts in the field of race and ethnic relations have ordinarily provided no more than cursory coverage to affairs outside the American sphere—if at all. Students, therefore, often continue to think of racial and ethnic, or minority, issues as uniquely American phenomena.

A growing number of social scientists, however, have come to see the utility and relevance of a more cross-national approach to the study of race and ethnicity. Such an approach distinguished *Race and Ethnic Relations* from other texts in the field when it was first published in 1985. Its objective was to provide readers with

a comparative perspective without sacrificing a strong American component. That objective was retained in subsequent editions and remains unchanged in this, the tenth, edition. The book's overriding theme is the global nature of ethnicity and the prevalence of ethnic conflict in the modern world.

At the same time that an international perspective seems more compelling than ever, a close and careful analysis of race and ethnicity in America is imperative. For better or worse, the United States, the most diverse of multiethnic societies, more often than not is a global pacesetter in ethnic relations. More important, most readers of *Race and Ethnic Relations* continue to be American students, who require a solid understanding of their own society, which subsequently can be used as a comparative frame of reference. *Race and Ethnic Relations*, therefore, provides thorough coverage of America's major ethnic groups and issues. My own teaching experience has confirmed that American students commonly acquire a broader and richer comprehension of ethnic relations and issues in the United States when these are presented in a global context and can be viewed from a comparative perspective.

The number of American college and university courses with ethnic content has grown enormously in recent years. This, I believe, is a reflection of the pressing problems and commanding issues of race and ethnicity in the United States and the growing awareness of ethnic divisions and inequalities in an increasingly diverse society. The content of *Race and Ethnic Relations* is comprehensive and thus appropriate for a variety of courses that may be differently titled and structured (for example, "race and ethnicity," "minority relations," "ethnic stratification," "multiculturalism") but that all deal in some fashion with ethnic issues.

The theoretical and conceptual thrust of this edition is unchanged from previous editions: a power-conflict perspective, emphasizing the power dynamics among ethnic groups. Race and ethnic relations are seen as manifestations of stratification and of the competition and conflict that develop over societal rewards—power, wealth, and prestige. In accord with this perspective, I have emphasized the structural, or macro-level, patterns of race and ethnic relations rather than the social-psychological, though the latter are interspersed throughout.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK

The intent of the chapters that make up Part I, THE NATURE OF ETHNIC RELATIONS, is to introduce the principal terms, concepts, and theories of the field of race and ethnic relations. These chapters are designed to serve as an analytic framework within which U.S. racial and ethnic groups, as well as those of other multiethnic societies, can be systematically examined.

Part II, ETHNICITY IN THE UNITED STATES, focuses on American society, describing the formation of its ethnic system and its major racial and ethnic populations. Chapter 5 traces the sociohistorical development of the American ethnic configuration and the society's racial/ethnic hierarchy. Chapters 6 through 12 comprise descriptions and analyses of Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, white ethnic Americans, Jewish Americans, and Arab Americans. These are presented within the framework of theories and concepts introduced in Part I. Chapter 13 describes and analyzes what I believe are the most

critical ongoing issues of race and ethnic relations in the United States: large-scale immigration and its social, political, and economic effects; the persistent gap between Euro-Americans and racial-ethnic groups; and policies designed to address that gap.

All chapters in Part II reflect the processes and consequences of continued immigration to the United States and the reshaping of the society's ethnic configuration. More specifically, Chapter 5 contains an examination of immigration theories, factors that stimulate international migration, and historical patterns of American immigration. Chapter 7 discusses the increasing diversity of the American black population, which now includes a sizable foreign-born element. Similarly, Chapter 8, Hispanic Americans, includes coverage of more recent Central and South American and Caribbean groups, in addition to the three major Latino groups, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans. Arab Americans, one of the society's increasingly prominent and growing ethnic populations, are examined in Chapter 12, entirely new to this edition. Chapter 13 focuses in large measure on the socioeconomic, political, and cultural impact of ongoing immigration to the United States of non-European peoples, creating, in the process, a rapidly changing ethnic order.

A noteworthy trend in American society is the blurring of racial and ethnic identities as a result of rising levels of intermarriage. The traditional racial/ethnic classification scheme, as a result, has come under more scrutiny and its relevance is increasingly questioned. It now seems apparent that the commonplace racial/ethnic categories employed by various societal institutions are losing analytic significance, though they obviously remain of paramount importance as the building blocks of ethnic stratification. Within the chapters that compose Part II, this trend and its potential consequences are addressed, particularly in Chapters 5, 7, and 13. Also, the notion of "whiteness" and the fluid nature of "race" in America are discussed in Chapter 10.

Part III, ETHNIC RELATIONS IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE, examines several societies that stand as intriguing and apposite comparisons to the United States. Chapter 14 deals with South Africa, not long ago the most rigidly racist society on the globe. Today, South Africa serves as an important case for students of contemporary ethnic relations, illustrating how oppressive systems of ethnic inequality can undergo fundamental change in a surprisingly brief time with a minimum of violence. Brazil, examined in Chapter 15, is ideally suited to a comparison with the United States, given its past history of slavery and its multiracial composition. Canada, the focus of Chapter 16, is often seen as a northern replica of the United States, but its ethnic ideology and policies are sharply different. In a number of ways, Canada may represent a future model for multiethnic societies. Chapter 17 explores the global nature of contemporary ethnic conflict, focusing first on the increasing ethnic diversity of Western European societies and the ensuing problems of integrating new culturally and racially diverse populations. This is followed by an examination of several relatively recent cases of ethnic conflict: the Rwandan genocide of 1993; the breakup of the former Yugoslavia and the resultant ethnic wars that were waged throughout the 1990s; and the sectarian strife in Northern Ireland, which is most basically an ethnic struggle. Each of these cases demonstrates how in the modern world societies can be consumed with ethnic differences, despite the apparent lack of racial distinctions.

Studying the ethnic composition and dynamics of other societies enables American students not only to explore unfamiliar social terrains but also to reach a more informed understanding of the structure and social forces of their own society and, to some extent, even their own discrete social worlds. Students will surely recognize differences between the United States and other multiethnic societies, but they will also observe patterns that seem intrinsically common to all. All of the cases explored in Part III lend themselves to easy comparison with the United States, and comparative points are drawn throughout each chapter. No prior familiarity with any of these societies is assumed, on the part of either instructors or students.

Each chapter that deals with a specific American ethnic group (Part II) or multiethnic society (Part III) uses the four theory chapters (Part I) as an organizational framework. This enables students to more easily tie together theoretical and descriptive points.

NEW TO THE TENTH EDITION

As in previous editions of *Race and Ethnic Relations*, all statistical materials have been updated, using the latest figures from the U.S. Census Bureau as well as from other data-gathering organizations in the United States and abroad. Many of the statistical data previously presented in tabular form have been converted into more easily read and comprehended graphs, charts, and maps. All chapters contain new or more recent citations, reflecting the continued vast production of empirical and theoretical literature in the field of race and ethnic relations.

In addition to these updates, several new organizational and content features have been incorporated into this edition.

- What I have called “personal/practical application” questions are included at the end of each chapter. These are designed to supplement the “critical thinking” questions, included in previous editions, with hypothetical situations that students may relate to on a more personal level. Both sets of questions are linked to chapter materials.
- To better enable students to comprehend and apply key terms and concepts, these have been highlighted, along with their definitions, as they appear in each chapter. All are also included in the Glossary.
- An entirely new chapter on Arab Americans (Chapter 12) is now included in Part II, Ethnicity in the United States. Although their roots reach back to the nineteenth century, only in the past few decades have Arab Americans become a highly visible part of the American ethnic mix. This chapter, like others in Part II, traces the sociohistorical development of this group, its socioeconomic characteristics, the nature of prejudice and discrimination it has encountered, and its path toward social integration.

ANCILLARIES

Race and Ethnic Relations: American and Global Perspectives, tenth edition, is accompanied by an array of supplements prepared to create the best learning environment inside as well as outside the classroom for both the instructor and the

student. All of the continuing supplements for *Race and Ethnic Relations* have been thoroughly revised and updated. I invite you to take full advantage of the teaching and learning tools available to you.

ONLINE INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL WITH TEST BANK

This supplement offers the instructor brief chapter outlines, key terms and names, new lecture ideas, new questions for discussion, Internet activities, student activities, and additional resources for the instructor. The Test Bank consists of thoroughly updated and revised multiple-choice questions, with answers, and essay/discussion questions for each chapter, all with page references to the text. To access this resource, please log in to your instructor account at <http://login.cengage.com>.

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SOCIOLOGY COURSEMATE

The CourseMate for *Race and Ethnic Relations* brings course concepts to life with interactive learning, study, and exam preparation tools that support the printed textbook. Access an integrated eBook, glossary, quizzes, and more in the CourseMate for *Race and Ethnic Relations*. Go to CengageBrain.com to register or purchase access.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Martin N. Marger has written widely in the fields of race and ethnic relations, social inequality, and political sociology. He is the author of *Social Inequality: Patterns and Processes*, sixth edition, and *Elites and Masses: An Introduction to Political Sociology*, and coeditor, with the late Marvin Olsen, of *Power in Modern Societies*. His articles have appeared in many sociology and political science journals, including *Social Problems*, *Polity*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, and the *International Migration Review*. He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Miami, his master's at Florida State University, and his PhD at Michigan State University. He has taught at Waynesburg University, Northern Kentucky University, and Michigan State University, where he served as associate director of the Canadian Studies Center.

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