

Lecture 18

Making Sense, and Making Selves in a Changing World

Part I: The Impact of Modernity

Part II: Mixing and Multiplicity

Part III: Separation and Consolidation

Conclusions and Discussion

Assimilation, Modernization

- Early thinkers about ethnicity and race expected that it would disappear this century
- Certainly, as we have seen, it has NOT
- What will happen in the next century? The authors think ethnicity and race will remain strong.
- How will they do that and in what forms? What will sustain them as bases of collective identity, and what role are they likely to play in the future?

Part I: The Impact of Modernity

- The processes that were expected to undermine ethnicity and race seem to instead to have led to ethnic/racial resurgences that fuel conflict, negotiation, assertion, and identity construction.
- What is modernity really doing?

Modernity

- 1.) Growth and global reach of capitalistic economy
- 2.) Global expansion of State power
- 3.) Development of mass media

Globalization

- Local events are almost never really located
- The world is becoming more connected due to the forces of modernity listed previous
- There is also increased migration around the world

IN SUM, global mixing of communities and ideas.

Rationalization

- In sociology, **rationalization** is the process whereby society rationalizes from a traditional to a modern state. This process involves the abandonment of subjective values in favor of more objective ones. While its aim is to create more calculably efficient processes of social development, it does so at the cost of dehumanizing society.

Rationalization of Social Life

- Power of idea
- Challenging religion, myth and tradition
- Knowledge and reason
- Rationality – finding the optimum means to a specified end
- Bureaucracy as essence of modern form of organization – impersonal → efficient
- E.g. Professionalization of medicine

Ford Assembly Line – Rationalization of Work



Do the reading...

- Read the sections titled, “Mixing and Multiplicity” and “Separation and Consolidation”
- Compare and contrast these different perspectives about the future of ethnicity/race in the modern world