ETHNIC CONFLICT ON THE WORLD STAGE

I. Ethnic Conflict After the Cold War

a. *Things looking good* - number of regional conflicts starting to be resolved:
   Angola, Mozambique, Guatemala, El Salvador, Cambodia, India and Pakistan, North and South Korea. Collapse of Authoritarian regimes – Soviet Union, Latin American, Asia; end of apartheid.

b. *Potential for trouble*: proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; decline in the involvement of the superpowers means proliferation of arms dealers, drug traffickers and terrorists and future regional trouble spots could escalate.

c. *The most serious challenge to the post-cold war international order* is the potent ional outbreak of inter- and intra-state ethnic conflict. Post-Cold War era has seen an "explosion" of ethnopolitical conflicts.

d.: *Why?* Politicization ethnicity and ethnic revival: Basques in Spain, Bretons and Corsicans in France; Walloons and Flemish in Belgium; Scots, Welsh, and Irish in the U.K., African-Americans and Hispanics in the U.S.

d. At the same time *right-wing nationalist groups* are forming

II. Causes of this Ethnic Conflict

a. "*the politics of identity are based most fundamentally on persistent grievances about inequalities and past wrongs*"

b. *Rapid transformation and liberalization* in Eastern Europe revived ethnic tensions: Chechnya; former Yugoslavia
c. *Legacy of colonialism* that created artificial boundaries and even states by ignoring cultural divisions (Iraq; Israel)

d. *Things may be looking up:* the instability caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union is settling; newer democracies are getting more stable/better able to cope with ethnic demands; nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other groups as well as some states are willing to intervene.

### III. Formation and Persistence of Ethnic Identity

a. *"Primordialist* – ethnic identity is given or natural: language, cultural differences

b. *Instrumentalists* – tool used by individuals, groups, or elites to obtain some larger, typically material end. It is just one among several alternative bases of identity. Politicized ethnicity is thus the creation "of elites, who draw upon, distort, and sometimes fabricate materials from the cultures of the groups they wish to represent in order to protect their well-being or to gain political and economic advantage for their group or themselves."

c. *Constructivists* – ethnic identity are enduring social constructions, a product of human actions and choices rather than biology, but not simply a manipulation by political elites.

### IV. Definitions

a. *Types of ethnic groups*: Homeland societies (natives) and Ethnic Diaspora (immigrants)

b. *Three types of Ethnic Diaspora*: 1) dominating; 2) bourgeois ethnic diaspora; 3) labor diaspora
c. Ted Gurr - nonstate communal groups: 81 ethnonational groups (Croatians and Quebecers) 83 indigenous groups (native Americans, Australian aboriginals); 45 ethno classes (African-Americans; Muslims in France; Koreans in Japan; 49 militant sects (mostly Muslim minorities); 25 advantaged minorities (Tutsis in Burundi and the Sunnis of Iraq); and 41 disadvantaged communal contenders (many of the tribal groups in sub-Saharan Africa.

V. Political Mobilization of Ethnic Groups

a. Ethnic conflict take place mostly within the context of multiethnic societies. *Ethnic Pluralism in most states is attributable to 4 factors:* conquest and annexation over time; 2) colonization and decolonization; 3) population movement and migration; 4) politicization of the principle of national self-determination (ethnic communities' claims for separate statehood).

b. *Theories of Ethnic Political Mobilization:*
   1. Modernization – should lead to more assimilation
   2. Mobilization-assimilation gap increases conflict
   3. a.ka. revolution of rising frustrations vs. "rev. of rising expectations"
   4. Incompatibility theory or pluralist society approach
   5. Theory of Consociationalism – Lijphart (broad based power sharing)
   6. Theory of Hegemonic Exchange – ethnic conflict can be ended by the reallocation of power and wealth (tangible benefits).
   7. Relative deprivation – group receiving less then they feel they deserve
   8. Primordialist – regardless of economic inequality; ethnic markers promote ethnic mobilization
   9. Internal colonialization – exploitation