I. Discrimination is not just a black or brown issue:

When one mentions the term “minority” one often thinks of three groups: African-Americans; Latinos; Asian-Americans. But LeMay’s last few chapters have discussed numerous groups who can be considered “minorities”: Arab-Americans; Israel-Americans; Italian-Americans; Irish-Americans, etc.

Having said that it seems that some groups have met with more severe discrimination.

Hard to imagine Senator Barbara Mikulski (Polish; D-MD); Senator Olympia Snowe (Greek; R-MA); Geraldine Ferraro; Michael Dukakis; or Spiro Agnew face the same type of discrimination as African-Americans

II. Discrimination of new immigrants is a consistent phenomenon in U.S. history

Ben Franklin: "Why should the Palatine boors be suffered to swarm into our settlements and by herding together establish their language and manners to the exclusion of ours? Why should Pennsylvania, founded by the English, become a colony of aliens, who will shortly be so numerous as to germanize us instead of our anglifying them?

III. Ironically, disdain for immigrant groups existed even though many immigrants were courted

Chinese – Railroad and steamship companies recruited them heavily
Japanese – immigration arranged by Hawaiian government

Germans – Homestead Act of 1862

Latinos – Bracero Program

African-Americans – forced here (slavery)

Italian-Americans – Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, California, and Louisiana contracted labor from Italy

IV. Accommodation is not easy and takes a long time

Irish – 1970s
Italian-Americans 1980s (100 years)

V. Different groups have different strategies of attaining accommodation or assimilation

The two most common are: economic and political

Which one is best?

“Ignorant and inexperienced, it is not strange that in the first years of our new life we began at the top instead of at the bottom; that a seat in Congress of the state legislature was more sought than real estate or industrial skill” Booker T. Washington 1895

“Deny a child a piece of candy and candy will immediately occupy a disproportionate amount of his consciousness.” Woofter

Suggesting that a focus on politics may be misguided

VI. Which groups have taken the political route?
Blacks, Latinos, Irish, Poles, who else? All of them to some extent

Why choose a political strategy?

**Capacity to assimilate**
- competitive power - ability to compete in the reward system (Asians)
- pressure power - ability to effect change in society in a collective faction

“When a group desires assimilation but finds its economic route blocked, the tactic of choice becomes political action.” LeMay

**VII: Political Paths?**
Social movements (civil rights); Labor unions; Churches; local politics

Which group was the most successful in their political pursuits?

Irish-labor union; high partisan cohesion (political machine)
Blacks – social movements; churches; high voting cohesion; increasing turnout
Greeks - smaller less concentrated = less fear

Least politically successful?

Hispanics – large population, but true political clout not realized.
Why? Secondary labor force; common sojourner attitude, political apathy.

Why the limited political success of Asian-Americans?