LECTURE 3: LEMAY – CHAPTER 4

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

When one mentions the term “minority” one often thinks of 3 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.

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; voting cohesion/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.
- Asian-Americans. Why?
LEMAY CHAPTER 5: STRATEGY OF SEPARATISM

Separation is not a common strategy.

What groups have gone this rout?

Why do groups choose/gone this strategy?

Were they Successful? Why or Why not?
Reason for separation:

- disenchantment of the dominant political and cultural system
- develop distinct organizations and cultural practices
- differences make it easier,
- resources
- external factors (public hostility, government response)

Examples

- Amish (outsiders, different language)
- Mormons
- Native Americans
- Black Nationalism
Amish

Struggled for 400 years to maintain separate culture
One of several Anabaptist groups traced to the 16th century
81,000 Old Order Amish
92,000 Mennonites
Anabaptist (adult baptism) movement met severe persecution
Amish split off as a separate sect in 1693
Considerable diversity in practice among churches
Some common features
  Pennsylvania German Dialect
  Horse drawn transportation
  Rejection of electricity
  Use of homes for worship
  Plain dress
  Beards for men
  Prayer cap for women
  Eighth-grade education
Amazing that this common identity has been maintained
Without a centralized national structure
Five Defensive tactics to protect culture
- Symbolization of core values
  - Beards, clothing
- Centralized leadership
- Social sanctions
  - Expulsion
- Comprehensive socialization
  - Extensive teaching of social and religious rules
  - Limited exposure to alternative information
- Controlled interaction with outsiders

Generally very successful, but…

- there have been splits within groups
- Continued loss of membership to more liberal groups
Black Nationalism

*Marcus Garvey – 1920s*
Not the first to suggest physical separation
Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)
The UNIA: “to make Africa absolutely a black man’s country”
Did not oppose the KKK or other White Separatists
Most African-Americans had no desire to relocate to Africa
Liberia opposed his African colonization plan

*Malcolm X*
Believed blacks should develop their own society
But not in Africa, but wanted culture more connected to Africa
Believed in Charter of the UN, US Constitution, Bill of Rights
Separate schools with black principals, teachers
Self-Defense: by any means necessary