



Race and Ethnicity

With Emphasis on Brazil

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Why focus on Brazil?



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- A. Like the United States, Brazil is considered a melting pot of culturally and racially diverse peoples. Brazil's ideas about race, however, are very different from those of the United States.
 - 1. Since 1600, the United States has worked hard to make everyone who has lived in and immigrated to the country fit into one of its official and ever-changing categories.

Why focus on Brazil?

1. Since 1600, the United States has worked hard to make everyone who has lived in and immigrated to the country fit into one of its official and ever-changing categories.
2. For most of its history, the United States was a country that discouraged sexual relationships and marriage between whites and nonwhites, but especially between whites and blacks.

Why focus on Brazil?

3. In contrast, the Brazilian government did not present race as categorical. Most Brazilians do not see themselves as a particular race; rather they see themselves on a continuum of color with black and white as endpoints.
4. From the beginning, the Portuguese colonizers were officially encouraged to “marry” the conquered indigenous and enslaved African peoples.
 - a. Interracial mixing was driving by the broader purpose of ‘whitening’ the population

Brazil's ideas about race are very different from those of the United States.

For hundreds of years the U.S. sorted people into clear-cut racial categories.

6 Official Racial Categories

- 1. American Indian or Alaskan Native**
- 2. Asian**
- 3. Black**
- 4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander**
- 5. White**
- 6. Other Race**

The following definitions explain the categories in place today.

American Indian or Alaskan Native - any person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, which by some estimates includes more than 2,000 distinct groups

Asian - any person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander - any person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii or the Pacific Islands

Black - any person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa

White - any person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North America, or the Middle East

Starting in 2000, the United States government, after hundreds of years of sorting people into clear-cut racial categories, now allows people to identify with more than one official racial category.

In the U.S. (since 2000) there are now 63 possible categories

- 6 single race
- 57 two or more races
 - 15 two races
 - 20 three races
 - 15 four races
 - 6 five races
 - 1 six races

Two or More Races

White; Black or African American

White; American Indian and Alaska Native

White; Asian

White; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

White; Some other race

Black; American Indian and Alaska Native

Black; Asian

Black; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Black; Some other race

American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian

American Indian and Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

American Indian and Alaska Native; Some other race

Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Asian; Some other race

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some other race

White; Black; American Indian and Alaska Native

White; Black; Asian

White; Black; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

White; Black; Some other race

White; American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian

White; American Indian and Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

White; American Indian and Alaska Native; Some other race

White; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

White; Asian; Some other race

White; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some other race

Black; American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian

Black; American Indian and Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Black; American Indian and Alaska Native; Some other race

Black; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Black; Asian; Some other race

Black; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some other race

American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian; Some other race

American Indian and Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some other race

Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some other race

White; Black; American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian

White; Black; American Indian and Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

White; Black; American Indian and Alaska Native; Some other race

White; Black; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

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White; Black; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some other race

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How many people in this photo are “white”?

The Brazilian government did not present race as categorical. Brazilian concepts of race hold that its so-called races—Africans, native peoples, and Europeans—had mixed to the point that race was no longer important.



Most Brazilians do not see themselves as a particular race.

Rather they see themselves on a continuum of color with black and white as endpoints.



It is likely that most Brazilians would see none of the men in this photos as black. Most would be seen as mixed race.

In 2001, after hundreds of years supporting multiracial identities, Brazilian public universities have instituted affirmative action policies that now require people to identify with one of two racial categories—white or black (“Negro”).



Under new racial policy, who is black
and who is white?

No discussion of race can proceed without reference to **systems of racial classification**, processes by which people are assigned to racial categories that are implicitly or explicitly ranked on a scale of social worth.

In the United States, parents and their biological children can be classified as different races.





















Hawaii-born Barack Obama was the son of Kenyan immigrant Barack Hussein Obama Sr. and Kansas-born Ann Dunham. As Obama describes them, he was “black as pitch” and she was “white as milk.” In *Dreams from My Father*, Obama writes “When people who don’t know me well, black or white, discover my background (and it usually is a discovery, for I ceased to advertise my mother’s race at the age of twelve or thirteen, when I began to suspect that by doing so I was ingratiating myself to whites), I see the split-second adjustments they have to make....” (1995, p. xv).



James A. Baker III, a high-ranking Cabinet official in the Reagan, Ford, and Bush administrations, learned in 2004 that he has cousins classified as black. One cousin, also named James Baker, broke the news at a political event when he extended his hand, saying, “How do you do, sir? My name is James Baker.” The “white” James Baker replied, “That’s interesting; my name is James Baker, too.” The “black” cousin replied, “I know, I have followed your career a long time. I’m your cousin” (Baker 2006, p. 420).



Booker T. Washington, an African-American leader and educator, was born into slavery in 1856 as the son of a white father and enslaved mother. In his autobiography, Washington wrote “I have heard reports to the effect that he was a white man who lived on one of the near-by plantations.”

Table 5CENSUS YEAR.¹

NEGRO POPULATION.

PER CENT OF
TOTAL.

Total.

Black.

Mulatto.

Black.

Mulatto.

1910.....	9,827,763	7,777,077	2,050,686	79.1	20.9
1890.....	7,488,676	6,337,980	1,132,060	84.8	15.2
1870.....	4,880,009	4,295,960	584,049	88.0	12.0
1860.....	4,441,830	3,853,467	588,363	86.8	13.2
1850.....	3,638,808	3,233,057	405,751	88.8	11.2

Based on the ancestry of people shown in photographs, might one argue that the U.S. has mixed to the point that there is no such thing as race?

2 biological parents (25 years)

8 biological grandparents (50 years)

32 biological great grandparents (75 years)

128 biological great great grandparents (100 years)

512 biological great great great grandparents (125 years)

“‘Blacks’ are always ‘black’ even when mixed with white or American Indian. ‘Indians,’ however... must remain unchanged in order to be considered ‘Indian’” (Forbes 2001).

“A ‘black’ person may be an isolated individual, integrated into a white context, and still be ‘black’ but an integrated ‘Indian’ (having lost his ‘tribe and language’) is seldom regarded as an ‘Indian.’”

“The category of ‘black’ has a different quality than has that of ‘Indian,’ or so it would seem”(Forbes 2001).



Race is a product of three
interdependent factors:

1. Chance
2. Context
3. Choice in context

Chance

Something not subject to human will or effort (e.g., We have no control over what we look like or to whom we are born.)

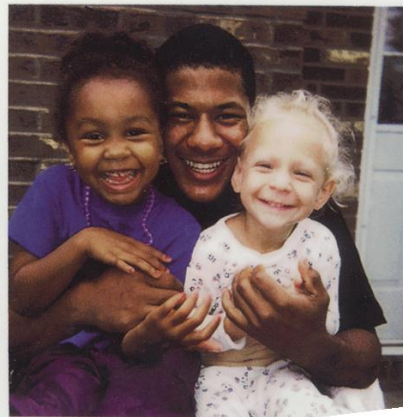


JEFFERSON'S CHILDREN

The Story of One American Family

by SHANNON LANIER
and JANE FELDMAN

with an introduction by
LUCIAN K. TRUSCOTT IV





Newly Freed Slaves, 1863

Picturing Us: African American Identity in Photography, Deborah Willis, 1994: 104

Context

The social setting in which races are recognized, constructed, and contested; it is the circumstances directly encountered, given and transmitted from the past.

Context superimposed on chance largely
shapes race in the United States.



“In this country I’m looked at as being black. When I go to Thailand, I’m considered Thai. It’s very interesting. And when I go to Japan, I’m considered Asian. I don’t know why it is, but it just is” (Woods).



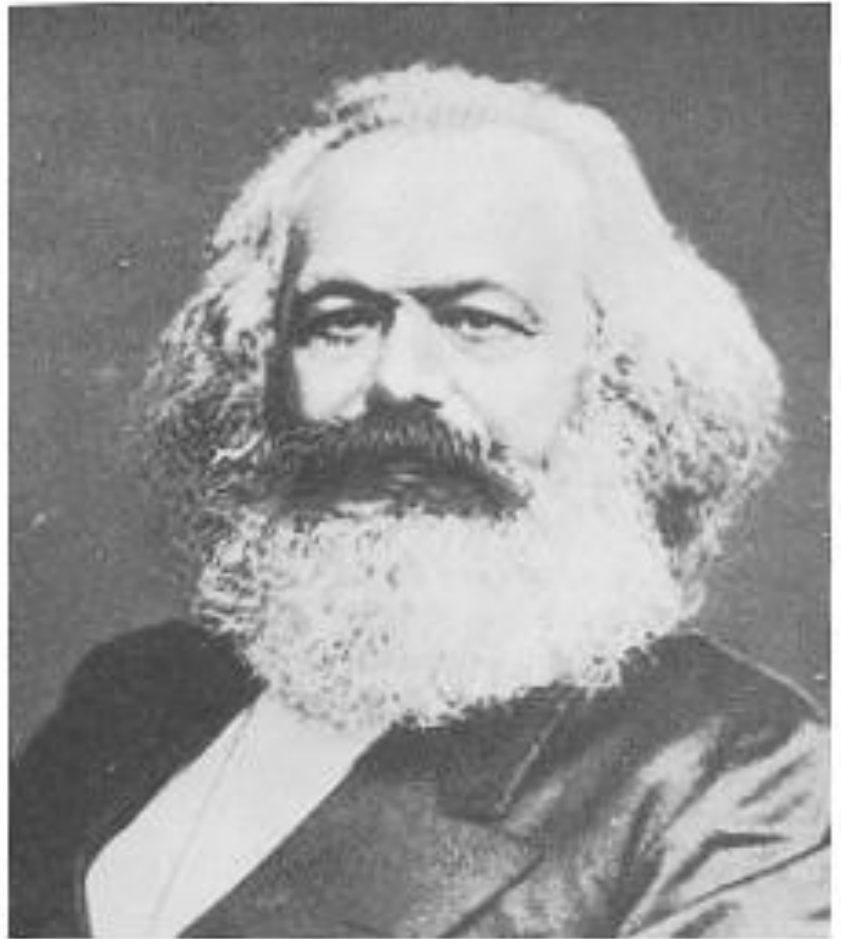
Why is DuBois considered a “black” sociologist when his father was Haitian-born of French and African descent and his mother was American-born of Dutch and African descent?



If Dubois had been born in Brazil, he would be considered a Brazilian sociologist, not a black Brazilian.



Why do you think Marx is considered just a “sociologist” when he is of Moorish* descent?



* Moorish people are originally from North Africa.

Choice

Choices are exercised not by free agents or autonomous actors, but by people who are compromised and constrained by the social context.

Choice

In racial matters, we constantly exercise choice, sometimes in full awareness of our compromised position, though often not.

The weight of the past is felt if you believe

- racial categories are clear cut.
- parents and their offspring can be classified as different races.
- someone can identify with one race even though he or she has no knowledge of ancestors beyond a generation or two
- racial groups have distinct/separate histories with clear-cut roles (slave vs. master; cowboys vs. Indians)
- the under-25 members of Generation Y are the most racially diverse population in the nation's history
- it is easy to tell from someone's physical appearance if someone is mixed race



Neither foot size nor skin color tells us much about a person that really matters. The problem is that we have come to believe that skin color tells us more about the person than foot size. The three sisters are considered black in an official sense, but they do not share a skin shade. They appear to have brown eyes, but that is an eye color that people of any race can possess. In fact, it is hard to say what physical qualities they have in common beyond a family resemblance that would make them part of a distinct race. However, we have managed to reify racial categories, which has made the experience of race real.

The Foreign Born Policy

Every country in the world has people living within its political boundaries who are immigrants and were born elsewhere. Often considerations of race and ethnicity figure into immigration policies.

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- b. The Immigration Act of 1924 established a quota system that set numerical limits on immigration. These limits were based on national origin.
- c. The Bracero Program, which began in 1942, allowed Mexicans to legally work in the U.S. in order to relieve labor shortages in rural areas and to bolster the American workforce during World War II.
- d. The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 permitted illegal workers in the U.S. to apply for amnesty if they could prove they had worked here for at least 90 days between May 1, 1985, and May 1, 1986.

The Foreign Born Policy

- e. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the U.S. government made many changes to immigration laws and procedures
- B. Until 1808, Portuguese colonizers in Brazil prohibited other Europeans from immigrating for fear they would try to claim territory within Brazil.
 1. Between 1550 and 1850, the Portuguese “imported” an estimated 4 million enslaved peoples out of Africa to work on sugar cane and coffee plantations.
 2. After slavery was abolished, immigration policies were enacted to recruit European immigrants to populate their land, work in coffee plantations, and to “whiten” the Brazilian gene pool.

The Consequences of Racial and Ethnic Classification

Minority groups are subpopulations within a society that are systematically excluded (whether consciously or unconsciously) from full participation in society and denied equal opportunities to access power, prestige, and wealth.

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The Consequences of Racial and Ethnic Classification

1. Sociologist Louis Wirth (1945) made a classic statement on minority groups, identifying a number of essential traits that are characteristic of all minority groups.
 - a. Membership is involuntary.
 - b. A minority may be the numerical majority in a society.
 - c. Minority groups are excluded from full participation in the larger society.
 - d. Social and spatial isolation.
 - e. Minority status overshadows any accomplishments.
2. Involuntary minorities

The Consequences of Racial and Ethnic Classification

Assimilation is a process by which ethnic and racial distinctions between groups disappear because one group is absorbed into another group's culture or because two cultures blend to form a new culture.

1. Absorption Assimilation - A process by which members of a minority group adapt to the ways of the dominant group, which sets the standards to which they must adjust.
 - Melting Pot Assimilation - Cultural blending in which groups accept many new behaviors and values from one another. This exchange produces a new cultural system, which is a blend of the previously separate system