

17.523: Ethnicity and Race in World Politics-Fall 2005

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Lecture 7: What are the Political Dimensions of Ethnicity and Race? (Contd.)

Kurds

- How did the Turks arrive in Germany?
 - Arrived as guest workers
 - The idea was that they would be temporary
- Why would the Turkish Government agree to this guest worker policy with Germany?
 - Good Aspects
 - Takes the pressure off of domestic politics in Turkey. The economic state of Turkey wasn't very good at the time and it was better for many workers to go abroad.
 - The guest workers typically sent money back home
 - True in most immigrant situations. Latin America is another example.
 - Money sent home seems to help a lot
 - But the problem is that this is inherently unequal because only the people that go abroad can help their relatives at home. Many in the home country do not benefit from guest worker policy because they do not have relatives that work abroad.
 - Bad Aspects
 - Workers are fairing well with the guest worker policy. They get married and have children in Germany.
 - Workers don't want to transplant kids and disrupt their lives to move them back home.
 - Kids view themselves as German.
 - What happens when the guest workers are concerned about kids losing their culture?
 - Don't let the kids learn German
 - Start own schools
 - Send the kids to home country during summer
 - Kids consider themselves German, but weren't German citizens because of German citizenship policies
- There are two main types of citizenship policies in the world.
 - By birth (U.S. uses this policy). Being born in the country makes one a citizen.
 - By blood (Germany). Must prove German ancestry in order to become a citizen. Naturalization policies are very strict. Must live there 7 years. Germany doesn't allow dual citizenship. Must renounce previous country's citizenship.
- Why would a Turkish kid want to be a German Citizen?
 - In order to vote.
 - Already assimilated into society.

- Without citizenship, doesn't have a political voice
 - Student: The Turkish kid could be ostracized and signals being an outsider.
- Germany's naturalization policies seem unfair.
 - Extra high barrier for naturalization and ethnic Germans who desire to come back to Germany after the collapse of the USSR could easily gain German citizenship.
- What's good about having citizenship laws similar to Germany?
 - Student: Having a culturally homogeneous view isn't good. Who's to decide what the view should be?
 - Student: Kids won't be able to identify with their home country if born in a state that won't give them citizenship.
 - Student: Part of your history is cut off.
- Students asked what country has the best government and if they had to move, where would they move to and why?
 - Student: Britain because it has a government most similar to the U.S. and also has a stronger currency (Euro).
- In general, the Turks fared well economically in Germany.
- Turks didn't fair as well politically because they haven't been allowed to become citizens.
- Can't really determine how they have fared socially because experiences are so uneven depending on the area.
- Why have Germans reacted poorly to the assimilation of Turks and others?
 - Dissolution of U.S.S.R., and Eastern European communism put economic pressure on Germany. Many Germans didn't want to take on more people to add to their economic pressure.
 - Disintegration of Yugoslavia forced a lot of Eastern Europeans into Western Europe. They saw Germany as a gateway to Western Europe. There was a rise of violence against foreigners, but the government quickly and effectively handled the hate crimes because of Germany's strong anti-hate crime legislation.
 - Kurds in Iraq
- Ottoman Empire=included these provinces: Baghdad, Basra, and Mosul. These provinces entered WWI on the Central Power side (Germany and Austria Hungary).
- 1918—After defeat of Ottoman Empire, British forces occupied the territories of Iraq, Palestine, Trans-Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. These provinces became modern day Iraq.
- 1920-The treaty of Sévres provided for an independent Kurdistan. The treaty was never implemented and Mustafa Kemal Atatürk came to power and wanted to create a unitary nation of northern Kurdistan and Turkey.
- Kurdistan is the largest nation in the Middle East without its own state.
- 1923—Turkey receives international recognition through the treaty of Lausanne.
 - British bring in Emir Faysal from Arabia and declared him the King of Iraq. British installed a monarchy but he wasn't a party of any group. They did this on purpose because he was an outsider to the inner conflicts of Iraq.

- 1932—Iraq becomes an independent state, although it wasn't really independent and was ruled by proxy by the British. British maintained internal military sites in Iraq.
- 1958—Military coup overthrows the monarchy.
- 1979—Saddam Hussein seizes power. Hussein is Sunni, which is the minority group in Iraq.
- What did Hussein do to the Kurds,
 - Gassed Kurdish villages in 1988 with nerve gas.
- What is it about Iraqi history that fuels Kurdish nationalistic demands?
 - The Kurds were actually promised an independent state. They feel like it was something that was theirs and was wrongly taken away.