



# Lecture 2:

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Basic concepts and definitions



# The need to understand

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- Ethnocentrism
- Xenophobia
- Racism
- Nationalism



# 1. Ethnocentrism

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- The general term for the belief that your own group's cultural traditions and values are correct and superior to all others.
- It is usually coupled with dislike and even contempt for people who have other cultural traditions.
- It is universal – all around the world people have these beliefs to some degree.
- Most neighbouring ethnic groups resort to ethnocentrism, using ethnic, linguistic, religious, ... whatever criteria to make reliable distinctions.
- Ethnocentrism is not racism, though it is usually connected with racism.



## 2. Xenophobia

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- Fear, dislike, contempt and hate towards the 'others', those different, the 'them' in opposition to 'us'
- Usually directed against a population group present within a society, which is not considered part of that society (e.g. immigrants)
- "Sounds of Hate" the Neo-Nazi music scene in Australia and beyond: <http://www.axt.org.uk/>



# Intolerance and the radical right

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- **Populism:** a strong charismatic leader at its core, winning popular support for struggle against an (non-existent, invisible, created) 'enemy'
- **Stigmatisation:** the act of assigning a stigma to a person or a group (any characteristic can serve as a stigma, be it visible trait or cultural marker etc.)
- **Scapegoating:** means blaming somebody/a specific group (i.e. a *scapegoat*) for any kind of social or personal malady





## 3. Racism

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- Ideology of racial domination
- Based on beliefs that certain racial groups are (biologically or culturally) inferior
- Racism uses such beliefs to justify the way a given society treats certain groups (discrimination, segregation, etc.)
- Harmful prejudice, discrimination, and/or persecution based on presumed ethnic/racial differences.



# Biological and cultural racism

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- European expansion to other parts of the world; encounters with physically very different 'others'
- The rise of modern racism in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century
- The role of Enlightenment and science; classification (biological R)
- Contemporary racism (predominantly cultural R); 'new racism' denies that it is racism at all, wants to be democratic and politically correct





## 4. Nationalism

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- Political ideology and movement that seeks national sovereignty and independent statehood
- It puts the nation on a pedestal
- Modernity of nationalism – the rise of the modern 'nation-state'



# Civic and ethnic nationalisms?

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- The need to transcend the divide between 'political' and 'cultural' or 'West' and 'East' nationalisms
- The elevation of national consciousness and the national agitation for greater national autonomy (**cultural** nationalism)
- Mass national movement for national independence and creation of state (**political** nationalism)
- The elevation of one selected national identity within a state and promotion of 'national interests' etc. (**nationalising** nationalism)



# Next week's reading list

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- From the "Nationalism" Oxford reader (Hutchinson & Smith, 1994): Clifford Geertz 'Primordial and Civic Ties' (pp. 32 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph – 34); either Renan, Stalin or Weber
- From the "Ethnicity" Oxford reader (Hutchinson & Smith, 1996): Manning Nash 'The Core Elements of Ethnicity'; T. H. Eriksen 'Ethnicity, Race, Class, Nation'
- From the "Racism" Oxford reader (Bulmer & Solomos, 1999): Michael Banton 'The Racializing of the World'