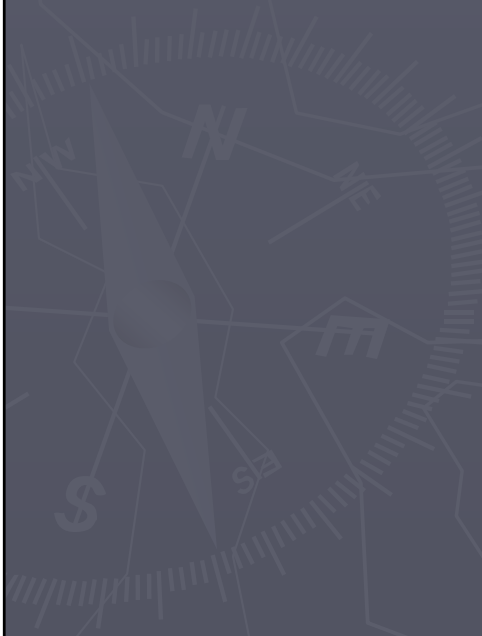


DIASPORA



- ▶ Who?
- ▶ When?
- ▶ Where?
- ▶ Why?
- ▶ How?
- ▶ A basic definition:

- ▶ By the end of this lesson we will have talked about
 - The traditional definition of diaspora: who are the groups, their interaction, model of migration
 - New Definition to reflect new migration patterns/transnationalism
 - “Cultural” Trauma and what it means for:
 - ▶ Group Identification
 - ▶ The relationship to the sending territory
 - ▶ The group solidarity
 - ▶ The relationship to the receiving territory.
 - ▶ COMPARE 3 POPULATIONS:
 - JEWISH DIASPORA, MEXICANS IN THE USA,



Primordial Characteristics

- ▶ Common origin
- ▶ Extended family group
- ▶ Common language
- ▶ Territorial homeland
- ▶ Particular customs

What does this mean?

- ▶ Strong personal bond between all members of the group
- ▶ Personal values are group values
- ▶ People base their actions and thoughts on group values
- ▶ Believe that they belong to the land
- ▶ The land belongs to them
- ▶ No one can enter the group, only born into the group

Middle East





Classic Definition of Diaspora

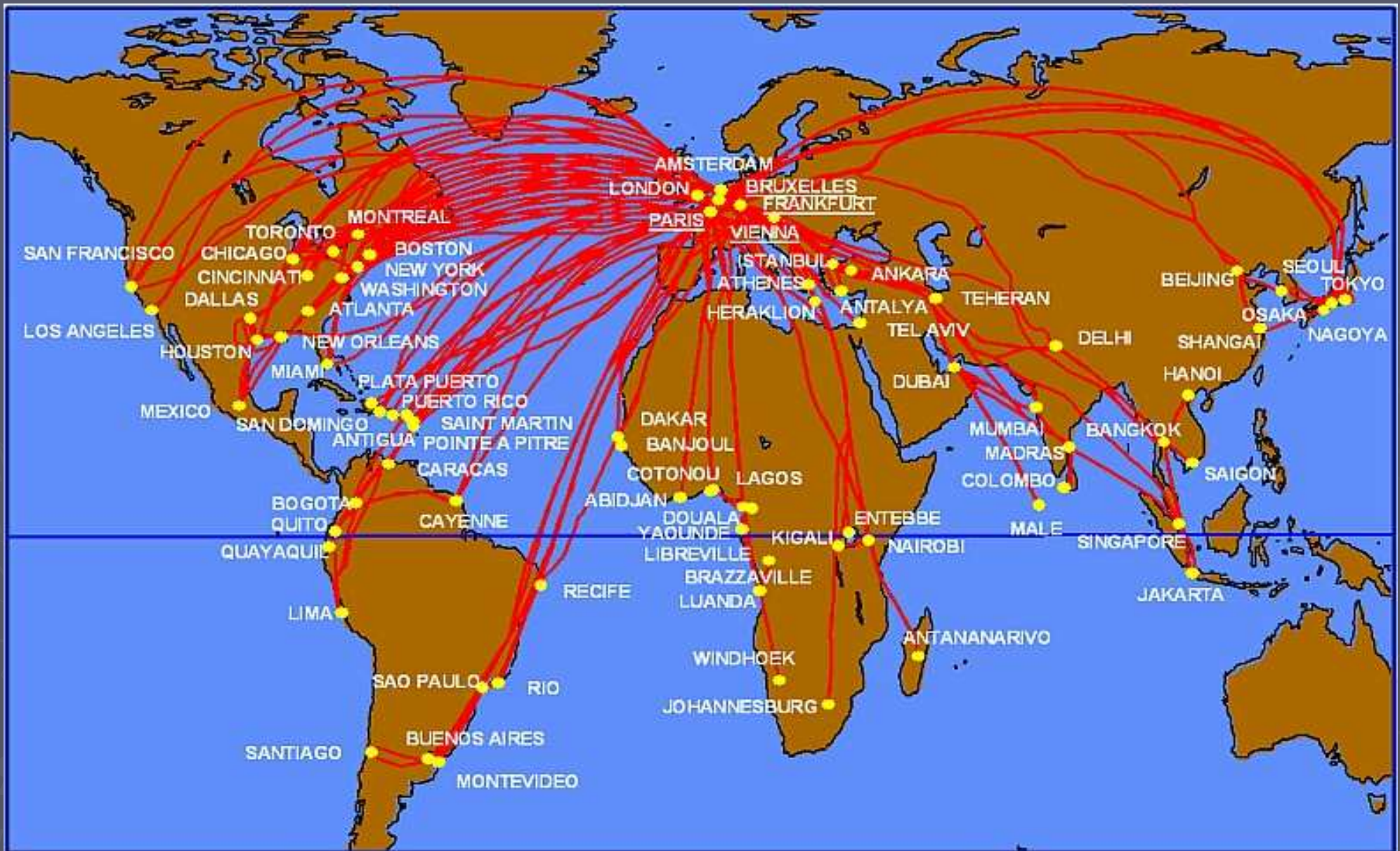
- ▶ “The forced migration of a ethnic or religious group from its homeland usually precipitated by a crisis often of a political nature.”



Trauma in Diaspora

- Forcefully moved from their land
- This is an important memory passed from generation to generation
- The myth of going back to the homeland
- They keep themselves separate from the new states
- Hannah Arendt: History of the Jews
 - ▶ Not so simple: the receiving society is also to have a role
 - ▶ Wanted the Jews to assimilate, also wanted them to be exotic
 - ▶ Success in the public sphere = keeping aspects of Jewish identity but become “more” “better” to distinguish yourself
 - Money lenders of the royalty
 - Diffuse elite Jewish community all around Europe

A New Reality



New Diaspora

- ▶ Economic Migrants
- ▶ **Choice**
- ▶ Maximize money, personal security, and family stability
- ▶ Hong Kong businessman, English teacher, farm worker
- ▶ Difference between core and periphery



New Definition

two or more countries

- ▶ **contact** with the country of origin in **Political, Social and Economic** ways.
- ▶ Continuum of choice:
- ▶ Chosen: Students, tourists, businessmen
- ▶ Forced: Labor, refugees,

Relation to home, away and each other

- ▶ Ethnicity is constructed
 - Important in relationship to the “other”
 - I can choose my ethnic identity
 - Imagined community of people
 - ▶ Myths and traditions created by elites
 - Ethnicity is one among many possible identities
 - Relationship to each other, to home and to away is shaped by many factors
 - ▶ Socio-economic status, the number of years abroad
 - ▶ Social/economic mobility, Emotional Community, networks

Americans in Czech Republic vs Mexicans in California



- Relationship to each other, to home and to away is shaped by many factors
 - ▶ Socio-economic status, the number of years abroad
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Mexican Migration to the USA

- ▶ WWII
- ▶ Bracero Program
- ▶ Legal paves way for illegal
- ▶ Operation Wetback 1954



“The so-called Wetback Problem no longer exists....”



Cultural Trauma

- ▶ Group **FEELS** something terrible happened to them
- ▶ Challenges their group identity
 - Who they are, where they come from, where they are going?
- ▶ It is traumatic because individuals feel safe when they can rely on a stable social community



Operation Gatekeeper





DIAZ

19
MARCELMO DIEGO CASTRO

13
AÑOS
JESUS PLASCENCIA PEINADO

LEONA

SINALOA

Making a strong ethnic bond

- ▶ Mexico is having an economic boom
- ▶ Families have many members in USA
- ▶ Children born in the USA
- ▶ Strong social networks



Molotov: Pinche Gringo Punatero

- ▶ Gringo
- ▶ Beaner
- ▶ Sombrero
- ▶ Debt / bullets
- ▶ A dime
- ▶ Santa Ana

Why is it interesting for us today?

- ▶ Nationalizing project:
 - **NOT** done by the state but cultural elites
 - Creates a group identity for Mexican immigrants
 - Individual experience
 - Group experience
 - National experience
 - Trauma at all levels : cultural: Identifying their suffering as our own or not?
 - Definite "we" definite "they" with certain characteristics

They're back....



► A day without Immigrants

- Legislation: fines, back taxes, end of the line for citizenship
- Illegal to rent to them, illegal to employ them, illegal to help them (charity)
- A Sociologist from California and a priest in Los Angeles