

Race

Peer Teaching

- ❖ What role do you think race plays in international relations?

Race in IR

- ❖ In 1925, W.E.B. DuBois argued that WWI traced its origins to competition between (white) Europeans for (black) African labor.
- ❖ Tension between democracy for metropolises and repression for colonial territories

Race in IR

- ❖ What is race?
 - ❖ An ordering principle
 - ❖ Skin color? Biological distinctions?
 - ❖ Social construct

Race in IR

- ❖ Hierarchical adjudication of human competencies through the categorizing of group attributes, wherein groups are delineated by some kind of shared heritage that is deemed visually identifiable.

Race in IR

- ❖ European system built on:
 - ❖ Dispossessing natives
 - ❖ Exploitation / de-humanization of African / South Asian / SE Asian peoples

Race in IR

- ❖ White Man's burden
- ❖ Colonialism legitimated as a 'civilizing' mission, bringing 'enlightenment' to benighted peoples



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Race in IR

- ❖ Eventually, Europeans decided colonized peoples could not be 'civilized', thus would always be subordinated to Europeans
- ❖ Mandate system after World War I can be understood as a continuation of this ideology
- ❖ Societies newly liberated by the collapse of the Ottoman Empire would be placed under the trusteeship of European powers

Race in IR

- ❖ Post WWI a number of racial ideologies developed and came into circulation
 - ❖ Scientific racism
 - ❖ Eugenics
- ❖ Would comprise part of the legitimating ideology of Nazism
- ❖ Apartheid

Race in IR

- ❖ Race as an organizing principle in IR is not dead
- ❖ Example: Anglosphere
 - ❖ Highest degree of cooperation between predominantly white, English speaking states
 - ❖ Five eyes

Race in IR

- ❖ Global War on Terror

- ❖ Jean Charles de Menezes was shot dead by London police in 2005. Menezes, a Brazilian man, resided in a block of flats that police believed suspected suicide bombers were using. Police followed Menezes as he left the building. Officers later claimed that they were satisfied that Menezes was one of the suspect bombers due to his 'Mongolian eyes'. As Menezes boarded a train at Stockwell tube station, armed officers shot him at close range. Menezes, an innocent Brazilian, had been racialized by police into a Muslim terrorist and was consequently shot dead.

Race in IR

- ❖ Narratives of threat
 - ❖ “When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best..They’re not sending you. They’re not sending you. They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”
- ❖ Modern humanitarian agenda at least in part a continuation of White Man’s Burden?

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