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| **ETHNIC INEQUALITY IN THE UK** | | | | |
| Functionalism | Marxism | Neo Marxism | Weberian | Postmodern |
| Ethnic differences and inequalities are temporary and based on cultural differences between minority or immigrant groups.  The differences are inevitable.  Social order and collective solidarity mean that the minority groups slowly adapt to the culture over time (assimilation).  Relevant studies/theories:  Parsons (1966) predicted that black Americans would gradually be assimilated and would eventually play a full role in a meritocratic society.  Patterson (1965) Britian is basically homogeneous in its culture but was disturbed the the arrival of ‘immigrant strangers’ in 1950s. This has led to racial discrimination because 1) people fear change, 2) working class resentment of competition for jobs 3) failure of EM to assimilate.  Key concepts: assimilation  Evidence for: the UK uses citizenship tests, which can be evidence of assimilation.  Evaluation:  - Abbas – the current climate of Islamophobia makes it less likely that some Muslims will assimilate or be able to.  - Racism has continued to exist over a long period – this should not be the case if ethnic minorities had been assimilated into mainstream culture.  - Multiculturalism can be seen as more common – where people combine a variety of ethnic identities.  -Levels of hate crime would not indicate assimilation has happened. | Racism and ethnic inequality play an important role in maintaining the capitalist system.  Relevant studies/theories:  Cox (1948) argued racism was the creation of capitalism and helped to maintain it by creating divisions in the working class, thereby making working class revolt less likely  Castles & Kosack (1973) argued that ethnic minorities form a “Reserve Army of Labour”, prepared and forced to work for lower wages than the majority white population. This serves to divide the working class further. Allows for legitimisation of scapegoating in employment.  Key concepts: scapegoat, divide and rule  Evidence for: ethnic minorities more likely to be in low-paying occupations, more likely to be receiving living wage, over ½ of Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Black African children were growing up in poverty. 40% of ethnic minorities live in poverty – double the number of white British. Indicates discrimination/racism when attempting to get jobs e.g. Woods and CVs.  Evaluation:  -Historical evidence shows that racism existed before capitalism so couldn’t have been created by it (Solomos 1986)  - Ethnicity is not simply the product of a particular economic system (capitalism)  - Some ethnic minorities (e.g., Indians) enjoy relatively privileged economic positions in spite of continuing to experience racism to some extent. Modood argues Indian and Chinese have a high level of cultural capital even if their economic position is lower.  - The ruling class may be less united and homogeneous than these arguments imply | There are cultural issues that affect ethnic minorities (in addition to the arguments made by Marxists)  Relevant studies/theories:  Miles (1980) refers to “racialised class fractions” i.e. the idea that ethnic minorities exist in all sections of the class structure (not just the working class). However, they will always be treated differently due to cultural racism.  Hall (1979) refers to the way in which the capitalist state and media uses ethnic minorities as scapegoats to hide the problems of capitalism e.g. in 1970s a panic about immigration was whipped up by the media to divert attention away from economic recession.  Key concepts: racialized class fractions  Evidence for: there have been 5000 millionaire Muslims since 2007, Chinese girls are most likely to do well in the education system- impact of Tiger mums (Archer and Francis)  Moore: there are still negative stereotypes presented about ethnic minorities in the media (cross over with crime).  More than ¼ of Indian and Chinese men are employed in professional occupations, however the wage gap is lower when compared to white counterparts in the same job (ONS).  Evaluation:  - Still does not explain where racist attitudes come from in the first place  - Like Marxism, it still sees economic factors as being the basis of ethnic inequalities. Weberians argue that ethnic /cultural differences themselves may be more important in explaining inequality | Weberianism suggests that ethnic inequalities cannot be explained just in terms of economic issues. More cultural factors such as status are important to consider i.e. levels of poverty could be made worse by racism.  Relevant studies/theories:  Parkin (1968) suggests high status, privileged groups (e.g. political elites, judiciary) operate a system of social closure, keeping ethnic minorities out of positions of authority. He refers to ethnic minorities as “negatively privileged status groups”  Rex & Moore (1967) argue that racial/ethnic differences have resulted in severe disadvantages in the labour market, poorer life chances, weaker market situation and marginalisation for some ethnic minorities, which could lead to higher levels of offending.  Barron and Norris: dual labour market – black, Pakistani and Bangladeshi (particularly women) less likely to be in the primary labour market.  Key concepts: social closure, negatively privileged status groups  Evidence for: ethnic minorities more likely to be in low-paying occupations, more likely to be receiving living wage, over ½ of Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Black African children were growing up in poverty. 40% of ethnic minorities live in poverty – double the number of white British. Indicates discrimination/racism when attempting to get jobs e.g. Woods and CVs. Look at possible racism in the criminal justice system e.g. stop and search.  Evaluation:  -There have been strives towards equality e.g. Race Relations Acts and Equality Act. | Suggests that modern societies are characterised by diversity, or even “super-diversity”  Different from other theories in suggesting that no single “grand theory” can explain the diverse experiences of the many different ethnic groups.  Relevant studies/theories:  Modood (1997) argues that ethnic minorities should not be “lumped together” in terms of sharing the same disadvantages etc. Their experiences are diverse. He is also critical of the portrayal of ethnic minorities as victims.  Key concepts: super diversity  Evidence for: people are now able to pick and choose their identity (Polemus)  Evaluation:  -Does not adequately address the racism/inequality that some groups experience. |