The Cultural Imprint
The Cultural Landscape

Landscape is a reflection of the people who live there and their cultural values. Humans change the landscape to reflect their values, and through “reading a landscape” a geographer can learn more about a group of people.
Carl Sauer

- American Geographer who was chair at UC Berkeley who developed idea of Cultural Landscape in the 1920s
- Recognized humans as influential in the study of geography

“The physical area is fundamental to any geographic study because it furnishes the materials out of which man builds his culture”

Connections to Place

The Human and Physical Characteristics of a place

- Human Characteristics - Made changes and culturally significant factors to an area
- Physical Characteristics – Natural defining features about a location
Placelessness
Through globalization and the diffusion of ideas areas can become indistinguishable from one place to another, losing their unique qualities
Racism

• The belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or races.
Un-Official Racism

• Individual perceptions of race and stereotypes based off preconceived notions of race
  – Ex. Disliking someone due to the color of their skin
Official Racism

- Passing laws that put a racial group at a political, economic, or social disadvantage, and sanction persecution based off racial characteristics
  - Ex. “Jim Crow” laws in the United States or Apartheid in South Africa
The U.S. Racial Landscape

2010 Census Block Data

1 Dot = 1 Person

- White
- Black
- Asian
- Hispanic
- Other Race / Native American / Multi-racial

What am I looking at...?
Ethnocentrism

• Judging another culture based off the values and beliefs of one’s own culture. Often associated with extreme beliefs of racial/ethnic superiority.
Examples of Ethnocentrism

• Eugenics – Attempting to improve the genetic makeup of the human race through selective breeding

• Imperialism/Colonization – The forced replacement of indigenous cultural traits in favor of “superior” European ideals.
Extreme Ethnocentrism

- Extreme beliefs of superiority sometimes lead to desire to remove “impurities” resulting in Ethnic cleansing
Matriarchy vs. Patriarchy

• In a Matriarchy the power structure revolves around women
  – Ex. Decisions such as leaders
  – Often associated with lineage
    • Leaders descendants of female line
• Matriarchal societies primarily rural folk cultures
Popular Culture and Gender Norms

• Contemporary culture still based off of patriarchal model of society
  – Generally shifting towards a more equal balance of power socially, economically, and politically

• Children still expected to conform to cultural norms
Gender Inequality Index

Gender Inequality

Data Source: Human Development Index (2014)
Main map shows an equal population projection (gridded population cartogram)
Sexuality Norms

- Homosexuality and bisexual relations often considered taboo by some societies
  - Norms reinforced by religious ideals
  - Slowly being accepted but still highly restricted in some societies
Transgender

• Gender identity, expression, or behavior do not conform with societal gender norms assigned
  – Ex. person born a female but dresses and acts like a man
• Complication of identity
  – Either hide identity or seek gender modification
    • Including gender reassignment
Case Study: Kathoey of Thailand

- Primarily refers to “cross dressing” men in Thailand
  - Socially accepted as “third gender”
  - Often have surgeries to appear more feminine