

Lecture 4.1

Nationbuilding and the dilemma of Race

European theories of race and modernity

- biological inferiority and race-mixing degeneracy

- social darwinism

Race problem of Latin American Nation-building

Two broad solutions developed

1. Whitewashing

- elimination

- massive European immigration

2. Celebrating mixed origin

Two solutions related

Mestizaje

- celebration of mixing papers inclusive but based process of whitening

- eventual erasure of blackness and indianness from the nation

Whitening (blanqueamiento, branciamiento)

Thus, mestizaje does not define a morally neutral convergence of the three races. It means to wipe out two of them

Typology of race and nation

- colonial period

 - biological and social inferiority

- nationalist period

 - consolidation of whitening ideal

 - consolidation of mestizaje and racial democracy ideal

 - celebration of African and Indian components of national culture

Cases

- Peru, Mexico

- Colonial Mexico

 - 3 centuries of caste-like society based on hierarchy of racial categories

- Indépendant Mexico

race-based caste system become secondary to class for social identification

Races are socially defined, refer to a set of physical and social characteristics

- Porfirian Mexico

 - Heyday of impact of European racist thought

 - racist justification for dispossession of many peasant communities

 - Indian viewer as an antinational element = coercive

- Revolutionary Mexico

 - Indigessimo becomes official policy

another non-indigenous formulation of the Indian problem
revolutionary indigessimo = need to integrate the Indian in a non
coercive way

education

no autonomous development

Knights conclusion: biological racism + cultural, social, and
psychological factors