**Racism**

1. How does Marger define racism?
   1. The belief that humans are subdivided into distinct hereditary groups that are innately different in their social behavior and mental capacities and that can therefore be ranked as inferior or superior
      1. Humans are naturally divided into different phenotypes
      2. Intelligence, personality, and culture are naturally related to physical traits
      3. Group differences, based on genetic inheritance, are not significantly affected by social environment … some groups are inherently superior to others.
2. How does this definition of racism compare to the way that the term is often used in everyday discourse?
   1. We treat it as an ideology that we perceive and give based upon actions someone makes
3. What purpose does racism serve (according to Marger)?
   1. It keeps dominant groups dominant and subordinate groups subordinate
   2. It’s a justification for existing inequalities between groups
   3. Provides a justification for policies and practices that discriminate against members of low status ethnic groups
   4. Policies and practices that discriminate against low-status groups help generate outcomes which can be interpreted as support for the belief that some groups are inherently inferior to others (self-fulfilling prophecy). How convenient!

The History of Racism

* Racism develops during the period (1415 – 1885) when European powers first explored, then colonized, most of Africa, the Americas, the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, and East Asia.
* It originated from religion, in that if a people were not Christian, they were labeled as inferior and would be treated as such.
  + This later evolved into a race-based idea due to the trend that everyone they found happened to be non-christian and also non-european.
* Scientific racism emerged in the 18th century, posited polygenesis as the explanation for assumed differences between human groups
  + Polygenesis - the hypothetical origination of a race or species from a number of independent stocks.
* Charles Darwin (1859), in his theory of evolution, rejected the possibility of polygenesis
  + Rejected that different human races would evolve from different original ancestors, therefore states that we all came from the same origins
* 19th century sociologists applied Darwin’s concept of natural selection to questions about race, creating the theory of ‘Social Darwinism’ (the idea that some races have evolved to be superior to others)
* The current scientific consensus that intelligence, behavior, and culture are **not** intrinsically linked to physical attributes did not emerge until the 1950s, and is still not universally accepted.
* Replacing scientific racism, cultural racism contends that differences in social outcomes among ethnic groups are the result of cultural differences, not genetic differences.
  + What is the implication of this statement?
    - It’s blaming the victim for performing worse, when in reality they were not given the same opportunities as the dominant group.