

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES IN STUDY OF RACE/ETHNIC RELATIONS

Emphasis	Functionalist Macrosocial View	Conflict Theory Macrosocial View	Interactionist Microsocial View
<i>View of Society</i>	Focus on cooperative social system of interrelated parts that is relatively stable	Focus on society as continually engaged in a series of disagreements, tensions, and clashes	Focus on microsocial world of personal interaction patterns in everyday life
<i>Interaction Processes</i>	Societal elements function together to maintain order, stability, and equilibrium	Conflict is inevitable because there is always a societal elite and an oppressed group	Shared symbols and definitions provide the basis for interpreting life experiences
<i>Interaction Results</i>	Societal dysfunctions result from temporary disorganization or maladjustment	Disequilibrium and change are the norm because of societal inequalities	An internalized social construction of reality makes it seem to be objective reality
<i>Reason for Problems</i>	Rapid social change is the most frequent cause of societal equilibrium	False consciousness allows the ruling elite to maintain power and benefit from exploitation	Shared expectations and understandings, or their absence, explain intergroup relations
<i>How to Improve Society</i>	Necessary adjustments will restore the social system to equilibrium	Group struggle against oppression is necessary to effect social change	Better intercultural awareness will improve interaction patterns

Source: Parillo, Table 1.2, *Understanding Race and Ethnic Relations* (2016), 28.