IMMIGRATION

II

INTER-FTC

- 2ème

LECTURE

BRITAIN 1966 - IMMIGRATION (1)

Intro

Subject - immigration
course - Britain 1966
method - highlight features which reveal Britain
Rene - committed

numbers (Foot 126)
migration to Br. "net"

1954: 11,000 - mostly W.I.
1955: 42,700 - 27,000/6000 ind/1,500 Pak
1959: 26,000 - 16,000/3,000/860
1961: 125,000 - 66,000/24,000/25,000.

White Paper 1A

8,500 - unrelated to figures, or studies
- unrelated to National Plan
- false precision.

- 500 - precise about limits.
there come first
- imprecise & woolly about crash programmes & integration.

Where from - backward colonial societies, poor peasant communities, semi-industrialized — imperial slums

W.I. - unemployment rate of ave 30%, seasonal employment, low p.c. income, no welfare state or security. Long pattern of migration - U.S. (McCarran) - U.K.

where to :- into the 'affluent-society' of 1950's, pulled to the centres of industrial concentration, certain kinds of semi-skilled trades or professions, in a totally unplanned manner.

transport, motor, semi-skilled nursing, carpentry + elect.

The Scandal of the transporting companies
WI - Italy. Victoria Waterloo.

The scramble for jobs in full employment
the umbrella of welfare in an unplanned economy.

The Groups

3 significant groups.

Ind } language / family
Pak } system / religion

WI - language / customs / ambivalence to Britain.

Attitudes:

Britain - no racial problem within the host community until after 1951

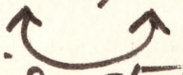
- long history of imperialism, background of prejudice + suspicion, historically entrenched.
- Association of imper. with period of national vigour / inquiry in period of decline in int. status.
- the confusing period of affluence. The 'free for all scramble' / heightened ec. individual-ism - old fears about economic insecurity, depression, in atmosphere of heightened competition.

The Interaction

race relations are human relations - but determined by the fact that rel. between distinct groups.

- Groups with strong but distinct cultural/social identities.
- Between which operate powerful social myths + stereotypes by which the relationship is mediated

e.g. British / W.I.



- Social stereotypes only marginally affected by individual relations.

e.g. school.

Stereotype of the Group.

inside/outside

- Situation in which both groups feel powerfully the means to social solidarity - e.g. class in Br. communities

- In which one group is the dominant, one the subordinate in social exchange.

Factors Affecting Interchange

(1) The general climate within which facts + social relations gain an emotive charge

(2) Levels of public tolerance, in which problems are contained or exacerbated

(3) Specific points of tension at which friction arises
- general tolerance
- particular grievances

(4) Degrees of openness + receptivity, or closed + corporateness of host community. - but American

(5) Degrees of openness/closedness in immigr. communities which facilitate a modus vivendi + by which they adjust + begin the long acculturation

Relation of politics to the general climate + threshold of tolerance in society. Politics / the media / community + work situation actively create the framework + climate: the policy for attacks on specific abuses; the degree of receptivity or hostility to change in both groups.

The Sequence

(1) Both parties - gen. attitude of tolerance

(2) At community level, gen attitude of prejudice + suspicion.

(3) both Parties between 1953 and 1965 or a descending spiral into practical intolerant legislation.

(4) Notting Hill. Fringe fascist groups. Local Labour Party + M.P. open to pressure at roots.

(5) Build up of pressure groups within the parties locally & in leadership. Mostly Tribunite - Jews integrated.

(6) 1959: race not an issue nationally. But Griffiths already adopted in 1957, local election won on this platform in 1960; campaign in Telephone

(7) 1961 issue taken over by local groups cutting across Parties: but also local Toy Association

(8) Defensive tactic in Labour Party: E. Walker - "they came during the Tories".

(9) 1963: McLeod - 'Local Cons. Associations are autonomous.

(10) Smethwick:
issue up for grabs
mobilized locally
within Parties
'Dutch auction'
Butler - 1960 - "no problem"
Immigr. Act - 1962.
1964 - E. Walker
1965 - White Paper.

Prejudice has its own social & political mechanism - not spontaneous combustion or a law of human nature.

These mechanisms interact closely with the social organization & pol. climate of host society. To understand the situ. of the immigrant or the genesis of race prej — local lead, party structure & organization the role of grass roots populist orgs., political fring groups in & out of the main parties, the role of local govt bs. route to power & the function of comm. pres.

The Community

- Highest immgr. into cities most under pressure
- Into parts of cities least able to cope.

Twilight zones - 2nd ring.
Zones of community stagnation
Zones of 'transition'
declining large Victorian property
Stable m. class left higher up.
exit from property, flight to the suburbs
The declining m. class.
The w. class enter the immigrant.

(12)

Communities in trouble

- new 'immigr' to B'ham - 5 yrs to go on housing list
- white immigr. opts out via private tenancy or mortgage.
- high interest rates, low savings. 5 yr. handicap in local authority. To accumulate enough points - wait 7-8 yrs.
- more rehoused - patched houses falling vacant in 'twilight' zones. Others - lodging houses.
- forced on to open market.

- the immigr landlord.
  borrows
  must rent to pay back
  big houses/ multi occup/
  lodging house.
- high rents/low responsibility
- an area of social deviants - prostitutes, Irish, flotsam + jetsam of host community.
- problem now only looks like a race problem, because race is the most visible factor + strongest stereotyped 'out group'.
- life of their own: cultural colony only exacerbates the tension.

M. class - depressed, not confident, left behind, standards declining
No links except with the past

W. class - not rehoused, just entering the scramble to find it complicated by outsiders. defensive about limited affl; threat to job + property investment; aspiring upwards - immigr a threat to aspirations

- Midlands: affluence + conservative W. class vote + complacency.

Irish - headed for assim.

W.I - aspires to assimil.
no organized ethnic community
"marginal men"

Paks - pariah group
language
religion
self-contained
worthy men.

local govt: so far as it has a policy -
to keep them in the twilight zones.

the fetish about "equal opportunity"

Function + Role of Images

- to highlight social problems in society — youth.
- to intensify prejudice + confirm the stereotypes
- race - a political sub-issue, affecting whole political climate.
- personal relations within the broader framework
- end of colonialism - a transfer of the poor of Empire to the host metropolitan power
- how Britain failed to negotiate the 1st phase of postwar affluence.