



 Territoriality: relatively stationary areas, visible boundaries that regulate who will interact with us"



- Territoriality Often, though not always, centers around the home. It can be left behind.
  - More of a group-centered process



- How is territoriality different from personal space?
- Examples of territorial behavior that are in our everyday environments
- Territoriality produces conflict but also helps us avoid conflict





### **Territoriality**

 Definition: Territoriality Is a pattern of behavior and attitudes held by an individual or group that is based on perceived, attempted, or actual control of a defensible physical space, object, or idea and may involve habitual occupation, defense, personalization, and marking of it.





- Key element: "Degree of privacy, affiliation, and accessibility allowed by each type."
- 6 major factors distinguish these 3 types:
  - 1. Importance for the individual or group
  - 2. Duration of occupancy
  - 3. Extent of perceived ownership
  - 4. Amount of personalization
  - 5. Likelihood of defense if violated
  - 6. Types of benefits they provide (e.g. privacy in primary territories)



- HIGH degree of perceived ownership
- HIGH amount of personalization
- HIGH likelihood of defense if violated
- Owned by individual and groups
- Relatively permanent basis
- Central to daily lives
- Examples: Homes, bedrooms, company offices, nations









- MODERATE degree of perceived ownership
- MODERATE amount of personalization
- MODERATE likelihood of defense if violated
- Some regulatory power when individual is a legitimate occupant, but not specifically owned by individual or group on a permanent basis
- Examples: Favorite bar, desk at work, gym locker, classroom

#### 3. Public territories





- LOW degree of perceived ownership
- LOW amount of personalization
- LOW likelihood of defense if violated
- Not owned, little personalization, anyone can use these
- Examples: beaches, sidewalks, hotel lobbies

# Origins of territorial behavior in humans



#### 1. Instinctive (sociobiological)

- Instinctively determined
- Part of our genetic heritage and evolutionary past
- Look to animals for parallels
- However, problems with this view: For example, the great apes are not particularly territorial

# Origins of territorial behavior in humans



#### 2. Learned (sociocultural)

- Territorial behavior is the result of <u>learning</u> and <u>culture</u>
- Says that the biological position is oversimplified and over generalized from animals to humans
- Why: Defense in humans is possible when territory is encroached, but does not seem to be <u>central</u> to human territorial behavior

## Origins of territorial behavior in humans



#### 3. Interactionist position

- Synthesis of the first two positions
- Says that both instinct and culture account for our territorial behavior
- Possibility: We are predisposed to territorial behaviors through instinct, but learning determines the intensity and form of our territorial actions
- Possibility: Instinct guides are basic territorial behaviors while learning guides the more complex ones

# Psychological Functions of Territorial behavior



- Organizes our perceptions and control of our world
- 2. Promotes <u>predictability</u>, <u>order</u>, <u>and stability</u>
- Leads to a feeling of <u>distinctiveness</u> and a sense of <u>personal identity</u>
- 4. Provides for a sense of <u>control and well-being</u>
- 5. Useful in privacy regulation
- 6. Reduces stress

# Territorial Infringement: 3 kinds





- 1. Invasion
- Outsider tries to take control of a territory
- Could involve anything from one nation invading another to taking over

# Territorial Infringement: 3 kinds



- 2. Violation
- Temporary incursion into another's territory
- Goal is not take-over,
   but annoyance or
   harm
- Examples:
   Vandalism, burglary,
   computer viruses



# Territorial Infringement: 3 kinds



- Contamination
- Infringers fouls another's territory by leaving something awful behind.
- Examples: Toxic waste, land mines

### **Territorial Defense: 3 kinds**



- Remember that human territories are not usually infringed and are not always defended aggressively.
- 6 factors that affect whether or how much the holder of a territory responds to an infringement:



## 6 factors that affect territorial defense



- 1. Who is the infringer?
- 2. Why did the infringer intrude?
- 3. What type of territory has been invaded?
- 4. How was the infringement accomplished?
- 5. How long was the infringement?
- 6. Where did the infringement occur?

### **Territorial Defense: 3 kinds**



- 1. Prevention: Stop the infringement before it occurs. Examples?
- Reaction: Do something to stop the infringement. Examples?
- Social boundary: Ritual used at the edge of a territory to control access to the territory. Examples?





- Very difficult to study in lab. Why?
- 1. It takes a long time to develop a sense of territoriality and perceived ownership of a place
- 2. There is little sense of control or ownership in a lab setting
- Therefore, <u>must be done by field research</u>
- Problems? Expensive, time-consuming, and poor control of extraneous variables
- Therefore, we have few studies about territoriality





- 3 ways to study territoriality in the field:
  - 1. Field studies and field experiments
  - 2. Surveys and interviews
  - 3. Naturalistic observation and unobtrusive measures

# 1. Field studies and field experiments



- What is the difference?
- A. Field "experiments:" Attempt to exercise experimental control in the field
- B. Field "studies:" Also performed in real-world settings, but focus is on <u>naturally-occurring associations or correlations</u>
  between variables no attempt to random assign Ss or exercise control over variables

# 1A. Example of field "experiment"



- Taylor and Lanni (1981)
- Studied impact of territory and influence on the outcome of a decision
- Does being in your own room give you an edge?
- [Description of study]









 Oscar Newman study of "defensible space"



### 2. Surveys and Interviews

- Brower, Duckett, and Taylor (1983)
- Investigated how different arrangements of fences, planting, curbs, and ornaments affected residents' perceptions of the security of the property

## 3. Naturalistic observation and unobtrusive measures



- Naturalistic observation: Watch how kids occupy and defend certain parts of a crowded playground
- Unobtrusive measures: Count the number of items and locations people use to control a space
- 2 most common kinds of unobtrusive measures:
  - Marking
  - 2. Personalization

## Influences on territorial behavior



- 1. Personal factors such as age, gender, personality. One common finding is that males have larger territories than females
- 2. The situation
  - The physical setting see "defensible space" information earlier
  - The social situation not much research
  - Cultural variables not much research