Chapter analysis

- Identify two points/ideas in each chapter that you think are particularly good, thought-provoking, interesting
- Identify at least one idea/argument that you think is less persuasive
- After 20-25 minutes we'll reassemble as a class to discuss each group's choices

The Politics of Denial

- Punishment
- The Religious Right
- Punitiveness in the justice system
- Politicians and denial
- Racism/Hate Groups
- Environmental destruction

The Religious Right

- The Christian Right exemplifies the relationship of childhood punishment to punitive political attitudes
  - Tammy Faye Baker
  - Oral Roberts
  - Billy Graham
- Child rearing and the Religious Right
  - Beverly LaHaye
  - James Dobson

Politics and denial

- Paradox in U.S. political culture
  - Prevention works
  - Punitiveness succeeds in elections
- Politicians willing to exploit emotional themes of punitiveness, with negative consequences on the nature of political discourse in this country

Punitiveness

- National Survey Data: Physical punishment predicts:
  - Death Penalty attitudes
  - Support for violence
- Consequences of punitiveness
  - Injustice with death penalty [Orlando Cruz]
  - Prison rape
  - Violence in schools
Racism

- Slavery: Institutionalized system of physical and sexual abuse
- Apologists: slavery was good for blacks
  - 1996 Republican State Senatorial candidate Charles Davidson (Alabama)
- Ideology: blacks are inferior
  - *The Bell Curve*, Herrnstein and Murray
- Don Imus

Hate Group Sites

- American Renaissance (Racism)
  - Articles/"Forgotten Voices of Slavery" (Slavery was okay)
  - Phillip Rushton (genetic basis for crime)
- God Hates Fags (Anti-gay)
  - http://www.godhatesfags.com/~photos
- Neo-nazi “Zündelsite” (Holocaust denial)
  - Ernst Zündel: "I am no gun-toting warrior! I am a militant pacifist!"
Resources on Hate Groups

- SPLC
- The Police Officer's Internet Directory
  - http://www.officer.com/hate.htm
- The Hate Directory
  - http://www.bcpl.lib.md.us/~rfrankli/hatedir.htm

Milgram and Politics of Denial

- Elms (1972) gave F-scale to obedience and resistant subjects
- His conclusion: “The relationship between obedience and some elements of authoritarianism seems fairly strong”

Environmental Destruction

- Authoritarianism is a strong predictor of anti-environmental attitudes (power and control)
- Anti-environmental arguments--environmental warnings not based on good science:
  - Bloch and Lyons, Apocalypse Not:
    • “Scientists, especially academic scientists, are easily flattered with cocktail parties and press conferences, and can be counted on for a steady stream of new ideas”

Policy Consequences

- Rep. Rohrabacher (R-CA), chair of House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment
  - Believes that global warming is “unproven at best and liberal claptrap at worst”
- Rep. Tom DeLay (R-TX):
  - Believes ozone depletion is not a threat and labeled the Nobel prize committee that awarded Rowland and Molina the prize for work on ozone depletion “a bunch of Swedish environmental extremists”

Politics and denial

- Childhood mistreatment in lives of politicians who emphasize punitiveness