Ethnocentrism Definition and Examples

Definition of Ethnocentrism

* The tendency for people to judge other cultures according to their own cultural standards
* Thinking that your culture is "superior" to other cultures
* Thinking that your way is the "only" way to live

Ethnocentric School Curriculum: Many schools focus their world history curriculum only on the history of their country as if their country is the “good guy” and other countries, especially ones that country doesn’t get along with, are the “bad guys”. Children are taught only the greatness of one country, which might lead them to develop prejudices against other countries. Sometimes, teachers and teaching patterns can also be slightly discriminatory, which leads to ethnocentrism. The students belonging to minority communities can feel sidelined, targeted, or ignored. (Buzzle.com).

Ethnocentric Cultural Perspective: This is one of the worst, most extreme, and most tragic examples of ethnocentrism. Hitler believed that Jews, as well as people belonging to some other communities were all inferior to his ethnicity, and did not deserve to live. He had thousands and thousands of innocent people slaughtered in concentration camps, all because they weren't of his 'pure' race, which was, according to him, superior among all. Though ethnocentrism is not always this extreme, history does tell us stories about how the concept and prejudice that rose from it, took such a turn for the worse, and had horrible consequences. (Buzzle.com)