Several White ethnic groups have experienced historical discrimination, persecution, displacement, or cultural marginalization. It is useful to distinguish ethnic marginalization from being a numerical minority, being economically disadvantaged, or facing discrimination because of race.

White Ethnic Groups with Histories of Marginalization

Ethnic Group	Examples of Historical Marginalization
Acadian Americans	Deportation during the 1755–1763 Acadian Expulsion (*Grand Dérangement*), family separation, land dispossession, and suppression of the French language and culture.
Irish Americans	Anti-Irish discrimination, anti-Catholic prejudice, exclusion from some jobs, and nativist political movements, especially during the 19th century.
Italian Americans	Anti-Italian prejudice, employment and housing discrimination, and racialized violence, including the 1891 lynching of 11 Italian immigrants in New Orleans.
Greek Americans	Anti-immigrant hostility and violence, including the 1909 anti-Greek riots in Omaha, Nebraska.
Eastern European Roma	Longstanding persecution, segregation, forced assimilation, and genocide during the Holocaust. Roma are an ethnic group, not simply a White European subgroup, and racial classifications vary by context.
Welsh and Scottish communities	Historical suppression of languages and cultural practices under English political dominance, particularly in earlier centuries.
Basques	Suppression of the Basque language and cultural expression under Francoist Spain.
Portuguese Americans	Anti-immigrant prejudice and labor exploitation in parts of the United States, particularly among earlier immigrant communities.
Appalachian Americans	Regional stereotyping, economic exclusion, and cultural stigmatization affecting communities of predominantly European ancestry.
Rural and poor White Americans	Economic hardship, geographic disadvantage, and social stigma associated with poverty and rural identity. These are class- and region-related disadvantages.

What About Acadian Americans Specifically?

Acadians are a particularly relevant example of a historically marginalized White ethnic community in North America.

- **Forced displacement:** British authorities began deporting Acadians in 1755, dispersing families throughout British North America and beyond.
- **Loss of land and property:** Many Acadians lost their homes, farms, and established communities.
- **Cultural suppression:** French-speaking Catholic communities faced periods of discrimination and restrictions on language and education.
- **Rebuilding community:** Acadian descendants preserved their identity through language, family networks, music, religion, and cultural traditions.

Acadian history demonstrates that a community can be classified as White today while having experienced ethnic persecution and cultural marginalization historically.