

Chapter 1 : The Horrifying American Roots of Nazi Eugenics | History News Network

The American eugenics movement was rooted in the biological determinist ideas of Sir Francis Galton, which originated in the racedaydvl.com studied the upper classes of Britain, and arrived at the conclusion that their social positions were due to a superior genetic makeup.

He also suggested a variety of mating rules to help create an optimal society. For instance, men should only have relations with a woman when arranged by their ruler, and incestuous relationships between parents and children were forbidden but not between brother and sister. Eugenics in America In the late 19th century, Galton—whose cousin was Charles Darwin—hoped to better humankind through the propagation of the British elite. His plan never really took hold in his own country, but in America it was more widely embraced. Eugenics made its first official appearance in American history through marriage laws. As the concept of eugenics took hold, prominent citizens, scientists and socialists championed the cause and established the Eugenics Record Office. The office tracked families and their genetic traits, claiming most people considered unfit were immigrants, minorities or poor. The Eugenics Record Office also maintained there was clear evidence that supposed negative family traits were caused by bad genes, not racism, economics or the social views of the time. Forced Sterilizations Eugenics in America took a dark turn in the early 20th century, led by California. From to , around 20, sterilizations occurred in California state mental institutions under the guise of protecting society from the offspring of people with mental illness. Many sterilizations were forced and performed on minorities. Thirty-three states would eventually allow involuntary sterilization in whomever lawmakers deemed unworthy to procreate. In , the U. Supreme Court ruled that forced sterilization of the handicapped does not violate the U. In the s, the governor of Puerto Rico , Menendez Ramos, implemented sterilization programs for Puerto Rican women. Ramos claimed the action was needed to battle rampant poverty and economic strife; however, it may have also been a way to prevent the so-called superior Aryan gene pool from becoming tainted with Latino blood. According to a Government Accountability Office investigation, between 25 and 50 percent of Native Americans were sterilized between and In some cases, health care for living children was denied unless their mothers agreed to sterilization. In fact, he referred to American eugenics in his book, *Mein Kampf*. He believed Germans should do everything possible, including genocide , to make sure their gene pool stayed pure. And in , the Nazis created the Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring which resulted in thousands of forced sterilizations. Josef Mengele During World War II, concentration camp prisoners endured horrific medical tests under the guise of helping Hitler create the perfect race. Josef Mengele , an SS doctor at Auschwitz , oversaw many experiments on both adult and child twins. He used chemical eyedrops to try and create blue eyes, injected prisoners with devastating diseases and performed surgery without anesthesia. Genetic Engineering Thanks to the unspeakable atrocities of Hitler and the Nazis, eugenics lost momentum in after World War II, although forced sterilizations still happened. But as medical technology advanced, a new form of eugenics came on the scene. Modern eugenics, better known as human genetic engineering, changes or removes genes to prevent disease, cure disease or improve your body in some significant way. The potential health benefits of human gene therapy are staggering since many devastating or life-threatening illnesses could be cured. But modern genetic engineering also comes with a potential cost. As technology advances, people could routinely weed-out what they consider undesirable traits in their offspring. Genetic testing already allows parents to identify some diseases in their child in utero which may cause them to terminate the pregnancy. As scientists embark on a new eugenics frontier, past failings can serve as a warning to approach modern genetic research with care and compassion. Charles Davenport and the Eugenics Record Office. Forced Sterilization of Native Americans:

Chapter 2 : Weston A. Price and the American Eugenics Movement

Carrie Buck was nobody you would have heard of. She was born in in Charlottesville, Virginia. Soon afterward, her father either abandoned the family or died—there's no reliable record.

Early proponents Eugenics supporters hold signs criticizing various "genetically inferior" groups. Wall Street , New York, c. The American eugenics movement was rooted in the biological determinist ideas of Sir Francis Galton , which originated in the s. Galton studied the upper classes of Britain, and arrived at the conclusion that their social positions were due to a superior genetic makeup. They tended to believe in the genetic superiority of Nordic, Germanic and Anglo-Saxon peoples; supported strict immigration and anti-miscegenation laws ; and supported the forcible sterilization of the poor, disabled and "immoral". Du Bois , Thomas Wyatt Turner , and many academics at Tuskegee University , Howard University , and Hampton University ; however, they believed the best blacks were as good as the best whites and "The Talented Tenth" of all races should mix. Davenport , using money from both the Harriman railroad fortune and the Carnegie Institution. As late as the s, the ERO was one of the leading organizations in the American eugenics movement. Eugenicists such as Davenport, the psychologist Henry H. Goddard , Harry H. Laughlin , and the conservationist Madison Grant all well respected in their time began to lobby for various solutions to the problem of the "unfit". Davenport favored immigration restriction and sterilization as primary methods; Goddard favored segregation in his *The Kallikak Family* ; Grant favored all of the above and more, even entertaining the idea of extermination. The ABA was formed specifically to "investigate and report on heredity in the human race, and emphasize the value of superior blood and the menace to society of inferior blood. Margaret Sanger saw birth control as a means to prevent unwanted children from being born into a disadvantaged life, and incorporated the language of eugenics to advance the movement. She advocated sterilization in cases where the subject was unable to use birth control. Eugenicists recognized the political and social influence of southern clubwomen in their communities, and used them to help implement eugenics across the region. Public acceptance in the U. Almost 19 million people attended the Panama—Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, open for 10 months from 20 February to 4 December A subject that received a large amount of time and space was that of the developments concerning health and disease, particularly the areas of tropical medicine and race betterment tropical medicine being the combined study of bacteriology , parasitology and entomology while racial betterment being the promotion of eugenic studies. Having these areas so closely intertwined, it seemed that they were both categorized in the main theme of the fair, the advancement of civilization. Thus in the public eye, the seemingly contradictory[clarification needed] areas of study were both represented under progressive banners of improvement and were made to seem like plausible courses of action to better American society. Indiana became the first state to enact sterilization legislation in , [38] followed closely by Washington and California in Sterilization rates across the country were relatively low California being the sole exception until the Supreme Court case *Buck v. Bell* which legitimized the forced sterilization of patients at a Virginia home for the mentally retarded. The number of sterilizations performed per year increased until another Supreme Court case, *Skinner v. Oklahoma* , , complicated the legal situation by ruling against sterilization of criminals if the equal protection clause of the constitution was violated. That is, if sterilization was to be performed, then it could not exempt white-collar criminals. Board of Public Welfare. The Immigration Restriction League was the first American entity associated officially with eugenics. Founded in by three recent Harvard University graduates, the League sought to bar what it considered inferior races from entering America and diluting what it saw as the superior American racial stock upper class Northerners of Anglo-Saxon heritage. They felt that social and sexual involvement with these less-evolved and less-civilized races would pose a biological threat to the American population. The League lobbied for a literacy test for immigrants, based on the belief that literacy rates were low among "inferior races". Membership in the League included: Webber and Friedrich Woods. Society must protect itself; as it claims the right to deprive the murderer of his life so it may also annihilate the hideous serpent of hopelessly vicious protoplasm. Here is where appropriate legislation will aid in eugenics and

creating a healthier, saner society in the future. During the early 20th century, the United States and Canada began to receive far higher numbers of Southern and Eastern European immigrants. Influential eugenicists like Lothrop Stoddard and Harry Laughlin who was appointed as an expert witness for the House Committee on Immigration and Naturalization in presented arguments they would pollute the national gene pool if their numbers went unrestricted. Middle-to-upper class status was a marker of "superior strains. Positive eugenicists, who promoted procreation among the fittest in society, encouraged middle class women to bear more children. Between and , Eugenicists appealed to middle class white women to become more "family minded," and to help better the race. Supreme Court , in *Buck v. Bell* , upheld the constitutionality of the Virginia Sterilization Act of , allowing for the compulsory sterilization of patients of state mental institutions in . Although compulsory sterilization is now considered an abuse of human rights, *Buck v. Bell* was never overturned, and Virginia did not repeal its sterilization law until . From to the s, sterilizations were performed on many more institutionalized women than men. Men were sterilized to treat their aggression and to eliminate their criminal behavior, while women were sterilized to control the results of their sexuality. All were abuses of poor, nonwhite, or mentally retarded women, while no abuses against white or middle-class women were recorded. *Quilligan* , a class action suit regarding forced or coerced postpartum sterilization of Latina women following cesarean sections, and *Relf v. Weinberger*, [66] the sterilization of two young black girls by tricking their illiterate mother into signing a waiver, helped bring to light some of the widespread abuses of sterilization supported by federal funds. Clarence Gamble revived the eugenics movement in the United States through sterilization. Gamble supported the eugenics movement throughout his life. He worked as a researcher at Harvard Medical school and was well off financially, as the Procter and Gamble fortune was inherited by him. Gamble, a proponent of birth control, contributed to the founding of public birth control clinics. These were the first public clinics in the United States. Doctors told mothers that their daughters needed shots, but they were actually sterilizing them. Hispanic women were often sterilized due to the fact that they could not read the consent forms that doctors had given them. Poorer white people, African Americans, and Native American people were also targeted for forced sterilization. They claim that there were 64, cases of eugenic sterilization in the United States, but this number does not take into account the sterilizations that took place after . Around this time was when women from different minority groups were singled out for sterilization. If the sterilizations after are taken into account, the number of eugenic sterilizations in the United States increases to 80, Half of these sterilizations took place after World War II. Sterilization still occurs today, in some states, drug addicts can get paid to be sterilized. Eugenic sterilization programs before World War II were mostly conducted on prisoners, or people in mental hospitals. After the war, eugenic sterilization was aimed more towards poor people and minorities. There were even judges who would force people on parole to be sterilized. People supported this revival of eugenic sterilizations because they thought it would help bring an end to some issues, like poverty and mental illness. Supporters also thought that these programs would save taxpayer money and boost the economy. Because the funds used to carry out the surgeries came from the U. Office of Economic Opportunity , the sterilization abuse raised older suspicions, especially amongst the black community, that "federal programs were underwriting eugenicists who wanted to impose their views about population quality on minorities and poor women. The Indian Health Service also repeatedly refused to deliver Native American babies until their mothers, in labor, consented to sterilization. Many Native American women unknowingly gave consent, since directions were not given in their native language. According to the General Accounting Office , an estimate of 3, Indian women were sterilized. In , the Illinois Homeopathic Medicine Association began lobbying for the right to euthanize "imbeciles" and other defectives. Mary deGormo, a former teacher, was the first person to combine ideas about health and intelligence standards with competitions at state fairs, in the form of baby contests. She saw these contests as a contribution to the "social efficiency" movement, which was advocating for the standardization of all aspects of American life as a means of increasing efficiency. Contestants peaked at 1, infants in , and the following year the number of entrants was capped at 1, In Indiana, for example, the contestants were limited to white infants; African American and immigrant children were barred from the competition for ribbons and cash prizes. In addition, the scoring was biased toward white , middle-class babies. The contestant with the most

points and the fewest defections was declared the winner. Nevertheless, a lot of time, effort, and money was put into these contests and their scientific backing, which would influence cultural ideas as well as local and state government practices. Florence Brown Sherbon, [87] [88] both initiators of the Better Baby Contests in Iowa, took the idea of positive eugenics for babies and combined it with a determinist concept of biology to come up with fitter family competitions. Size of the family, overall attractiveness, and health of the family, all of which helped to determine the likelihood of having healthy children. These competitions were simply a continuation of the Better Baby contests that promoted certain physical and mental qualities. This led to the addition of several judging categories including: Additionally, there were negative features that were judged: Feeble-mindedness, alcoholism, and paralysis were few among other traits that were included as physical traits to be judged when looking at family lineage. The Project often sought after prominent African American leaders to spread knowledge regarding birth control and the perceived positive effects it would have on the African American community, such as poverty and the lack of education. DuBois were quoted in the Project proposal criticizing Black people in the United States for having many children and for being less intelligent than their white counterparts: Still, many modern activists criticize Margaret Sanger for practicing eugenics on the African American community. Angela Davis, a leader who is associated with the Black Panther Party, made claims of Margaret Sanger targeting the African American community to reduce the population: Thomas Wyatt Turner, a professor at Howard University and a well-respected scientist incorporated eugenics into his classes. B DuBois, a historian and civil rights leader had some beliefs that lined up with eugenics. He believed in developing the best versions of African Americans in order for his race to succeed. Martin Luther King Jr. King claimed that in the cities, African Americans who continued to have children were overpopulating the ghettos. She continued by saying that having this many unwanted children is a bad problem that needs to be controlled, a belief that aligns with the eugenics movement. Nazi eugenics After the eugenics movement was well established in the United States, it spread to Germany. California eugenicists began producing literature promoting eugenics and sterilization and sending it overseas to German scientists and medical professionals.

Chapter 3 : American Eugenics University of Minnesota Press

10 What It Was. The American Eugenics Society was an organization that began in the United States in the early s. Its mission included not just segregation, but a racial cleansing and the establishment of a strong, pure race untainted by the blood of those that were deemed lesser, whether by race or by disability.

Review , The Oxford Handbook of The History of Eugenics, Eugenics is not a dead and buried spurious historical phenomenon – its roots and influential tentacles are deep and enduring. And the human casualties resulting from this supremacist ideology number in the tens of millions. Eugenics began as an elitist racial supremacist movement that enlisted highly respected academic scientists in an evangelic campaign to control human reproduction. Eugenics appealed and galvanized the elite members of the wealthy and academic class who believed that uncontrolled population growth by poor people posed a threat to the social order. One of the first proponents of population control was the Anglican clergyman, Rev. Thomas Malthus who in published a tract called *An Essay on the Principle of Population* in which he stipulated that within 23 years – by the year , there would be standing room only on the earth. To prevent that catastrophe, he recommended facilitating an increased mortality rate. In our towns we should make the streets narrower, crowd more people into the houses, and court the return of the plague. In the country, we should build our villages near stagnant pools, and particularly encourage settlements in all marshy and unwholesome situations. The Legacy of Malthus: The Origins of Population Control: His views about the need to control the population of the poor was adopted by the British and American upper class. Furthermore, as lifespans lengthened and general health improved in the 19th century, Charles Darwin suggested that not only were the poor having more children who survived, they were rapidly dumbing down the population. A Study in the Decay of Races by the Survival of the Unfit, which was aimed at influencing the wide public. It was published in and again in by the American Unitarian Association. Davenport was interested only in cataloging defective human traits, with the ultimate goal of removing the carriers from the national gene pool. War Against the Weak, p. Pilicher, superintendent of a home for the feeble minded, had sterilized 58 children in his care. Secular eugenicists discarded the Biblical belief that all humans descended from one source; that despite various ethnic diversities, humans share a common heritage. Instead, eugenicists embraced scientific racism. Scientific disciplines such as physical anthropology, cephalometry, phrenology, physiognomy, and anthropometry sought to measure physiological differences among human populations. The thinking was that physical differences translated into mental differences. Cephalometry, for example, dealt with the variations in size, shape, and proportion of skulls among human races. Scientists theorized that larger skulls held larger brains, which resulted in increased intelligence. What separated scientific racism from older ideas about race was the belief that racial differences were fixed and unchangeable. Mankind was divided into superior and inferior races. Such theories lent themselves to racial discrimination. However, to do so, it was essential to dispense with free will. War on the Weak: Paul Popenoe, a venereal disease specialist, advocated eugenicide. The recommended methods included: How long will it be before society will see the criminality of using its efforts to keep alive these idiots, hopelessly insane, and murderous degenerates. Of course the passing of these people should be painless and without warning. They should go to sleep at night without any intimation of what was coming and never awake. In recognition of his contribution, in , the Dean of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute awarded Laughlin an honorary Medical Doctor degree. Eugenics institutes in the U. Selected because of their ancestry, national origin, race or religion, they were forcibly sterilized, wrongly committed to mental institutions where they died in great numbers, prohibited from marrying, and sometimes even unmarried by state bureaucrats. In America, this battle to wipe out whole ethnic groups was fought not by armies with guns nor by hate sects at the margins. Rather, this pernicious white-gloved war was prosecuted by esteemed professors, elite universities, wealthy industrialists and government officials colluding in a racist, pseudo-scientific movement called eugenics. To perpetuate the campaign, widespread academic fraud combined with almost unlimited corporate philanthropy to establish the biological rationales for persecution. Ultimately, some 60, Americans were coercively sterilized and the total is probably much higher. No one knows how many marriages were

thwarted by state felony statutes. Although much of the persecution was simply racism, ethnic hatred and academic elitism, eugenics wore the mantle of respectable science to mask its true character. Psychiatrists withheld medical treatment: Experiments aimed at behavior modification and genetic engineering aimed at controlling biological traits have most often backfired; after causing irreparable harm to hundreds of thousands of victims. The moral problem at the heart of eugenics “and public health” continues to be the tension between public social good and individual liberty, rights and interest. The only change is in the terminology from eugenics to human genetics. It is the genteel classes, with their restrained reproduction, who are the unfit. So the foundations of eugenics are complete nonsense from a Darwinian point of view.

Chapter 4 : Eugenics - HISTORY

The American Eugenics Society (AES) was established in the US by Madison Grant, Harry H. Laughlin, Henry Crampton, Irving Fisher, and Henry F. Osborn in to promote eugenics education programs for the US public. The AES described eugenics as the study of improving the genetic composition of.

Of course, it is not our model German Republic, but the American Union. In 1907, a North Carolina social worker remanded the year-old Virginia Brooks to state custody. Brooks had no idea what the government had in store for her. Temporarily placed in an apartment building that doubled as a state hospital, authorities told Brooks that she had to have her appendix removed. Instead, doctors gave her a radical hysterectomy and told her that she could never have children. These policies ran for decades in the U. The Theory of Eugenics The late 19th century brought about increased scientific understanding of heredity and selective breeding, and a number of thinkers began to wonder whether the same principles farmers used to breed good stock could also apply to humans. They tended to be white, and they were almost always financially successful. The irony is that it all began with good intentions. After all, some say that the ancient Greeks abandoned weak infants in the wild, lest they grow up to be burdens to the state. These imposed starvation laws, Malthus argued, could have a salutary effect on the Irish peasantry by eliminating excess population. Without the laws, he argued, the Irish would breed beyond all measure and cause a greater catastrophe down the road. Deny food, let the famine kill hundreds of thousands, and write it off as the natural effect of an oversized population of unfit humans. Darwin died in 1882. By 1900, professors taught eugenics as an academic discipline at scores of universities, and well-funded political action groups had sprung up to push legislation in a direction which would encourage eugenics. By and large, they succeeded. The traits that counted as improvements went largely unsaid; presumably they were whatever traits the upper-class British possessed. Everywhere eugenics societies operated, they succeeded in recruiting support from institutions. In England, the Society appealed to clergy and industrial leaders; in America, the most productive approach was through politics and racism. By 1910, the American Society had formed, and it quickly got restrictive anti-miscegenation laws passed in several states. Still, some forms of resistance developed. Immediately following World War I, the Wilson Administration worked to segregate the Executive Branch of the government, and with great success. The Attorney General, A. Mitchell Palmer, spent and vigorously persecuting labor leaders such as Eugene Debs. In response, several civil rights groups combined to form the American Civil Liberties Union ACLU, with the explicit aim of using the court system to force showdowns over civil rights. One of their first cases they took on was Buck v. Bell, which the Supreme Court heard in 1927. University of Virginia Carrie Buck left, with her mother. The details of the Buck v. Bell case were fairly straightforward. Carrie Buck, whose unmarried mother was committed to an insane asylum while Buck was a teenager, was remanded into the custody of a foster family in her native Virginia. Instead of filing charges against the family that had taken Buck in and then raped her, the state remanded the girl to a state hospital. While there, the warden gave Buck a choice: She could leave the hospital if she agreed to sterilization, or she could give up her baby and languish in the facility forever. To quote directly from the majority opinion, which Holmes wrote himself: We have seen more than once that the public welfare may call upon the best citizens for their lives. It would be strange if it could not call upon those who already sap the strength of the State for these lesser sacrifices, often not felt to be such by those concerned, to prevent our being swamped with incompetence. It is better for all the world, if instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind. The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes. Some, like Virginia Brooks, were lied to about what was being done. California alone carried out an estimated 20,000 forced sterilizations between 1909 and the 1950s. In 1927, the same year the North Carolina government sterilized Brooks, the Supreme Court revisited the issue. In an Oklahoma case, the Court ruled against the sterilization of incarcerated criminals on Equal Protection grounds. This did not reverse the Buck case, but expanded it. The Court said that Oklahoma could not wantonly sterilize violent criminals unless it also sterilized white collar criminals. Other states took notice and expanded their

programs accordingly. In North Carolina, arguably the most aggressive eugenics promoter, social workers had only to bring individuals often black and Hispanic resident, or white hillbillies before a board and demonstrate that the individual had a sub IQ. The boards almost never rejected a proposal to sterilize. European countries, with long histories and heavy cultural norms to overcome, proved resistant to eugenics at first. Precisely that kind of upheaval came in , when the Nazi Party came to power in Germany. Over the next 12 years, the Third Reich would impose such a brutal regime of eugenic social manipulation that even the staunchest eugenics proponents abroad would halt their operations. Eventually, these policies would bear fruit in the Nuremberg Laws, which made it a criminal offense for Germans to marry Jews or to have their children. Couples wishing to marry would have to present valid ID and swear under oath that they were pure Aryans. This sparked a new industry in Germany practically overnight. Sensing the will of the Fuhrer, the Party opened an office at 4 Tiergartenstrasse in Berlin, from which the T-4 program got its name. Eventually, every live birth in Germany required that the attending doctor or midwife fill out a form noting any apparent physical or mental disability in the baby. If any appeared, they would mark the corner of the form with a cross. A second doctor would then review the documents and approve removing the child to one of half a dozen special killing centers and end its life. Older children, disabled adults, and the elderly were snared in the project as well. Word of the program eventually leaked, and opposition from the Church forced a halt to the killings in , after perhaps 60, people had died. If a girl happened to be of a favored racial background, the Nazis entitled her to join the Lebensborn program, which SS leader Heinrich Himmler described as the closest to his own heart. Lebensborn girls had one purpose â€” breed. Program administrators would organize huge events for thousands of German girls to meet soldiers and SS men and set up temporary cohabitations in order to get the girls pregnant. Himmler went out of his way to quash rumors that the project was a brothel, even prohibiting SS men from visiting the girls in the large estates the SS took over to house them. During the war, no matter how bad things were for civilians, girls at the Lebensborn houses always had fresh food and easy living. The young mothers could decide for themselves whether they would raise their babies themselves or give them up to state orphanages. In all, the Lebensborn program may have produced some 25, children. Disrepute and Scorn The vengeance that occupied people took on Lebensborn children points to the general disgust that the world felt for eugenics after World War II. Overnight, without any fanfare, the various eugenics societies folded up and went away. States gradually repealed their sterilization laws, and the the Supreme Court swept away remaining anti-miscegenation codes with its ruling on Loving v. Incidentally, eugenics may yet have some life in it. If eugenics does make a comeback, it will thus probably be on a somewhat tighter leash than it was the first time around.

American eugenics refers inter alia to compulsory sterilization laws adopted by over 30 states that led to more than 60,000 sterilizations of disabled individuals. Many of these individuals were sterilized because of a disability: they were mentally disabled or ill, or belonged to socially.

It will be seen that these facechanges occur in all the pure blood races studied in even the first generation, after the nutrition of the parents has been changed. Price through the prism of Medical Anthropology. In order for medical anthropology to be effective, the investigator must engage in vigorous research in an attempt to understand a world-view that may seem foreign in terms of popular or currently held beliefs. The case of Weston A. Price offers a prime example of this. The works of Price, an amateur anthropologist and early 20th Century founder of holistic dentistry, have been widely examined and often criticized. Much of that criticism has been based on his advocacy of a diet rich in meat and raw dairy, and his belief that animal fats were necessary for optimal health. Price for his groundbreaking book, *Nutritional and Physical Degeneration* Price made note of extreme malformed dental arches and an increase in the number of tooth carries in people who ate processed foods. He also documented an increase in tooth decay in those persons who abandoned traditional diets and chose processed foods instead. He was convinced that nutritional deficiencies caused tooth decay and malformed dental arches leading to the over-crowding of teeth, and even the world-wide spread of epidemics like polio and tuberculosis. He also argued that improper nutrition could impact moral behavior and lead to criminality. Price Foundation and the Price-Pottenger Foundation. This includes an examination of commonly held medical and scientific views about disease and nutrition at the time he conducted his research, as well as popularly held beliefs at the time about race and intermarriage that had a tremendous impact on public health policies. Price was quite familiar with eugenics and had read many works by its most enthusiastic advocates. He admired these advocates greatly and referenced them often, both bolstering and challenging their ideas in order to defend his own thesis. Getting to Know Weston A. Price I have been conscious of an opportunity for helpfulness to the members of the various primitive races that I have studied and who are so rapidly declining in health and numbers at their point of contact with modern civilization. Since they have so much accumulated wisdom that is passing with them, it has seemed important that the elements in the modern contacts that are so destructive to them should be discovered and removed. He had seen a disturbing rise in the number of reported cases of tuberculosis, polio, learning disabilities, and tooth decay. At the height of the Great Depression, the United States seemed to be facing a national health crisis; one that could potentially weaken an already bankrupt nation. And why were so many Americans suffering from such poor health? Advocates of eugenics certainly had their theories, and Price was well acquainted with them. There was nothing unusual about this "such views had become wildly popular in the United States, influencing how Americans practiced medicine and shaped public policy. And while eugenics began as an English import, it soon took hold in the United States with the help of Harvard biologist Charles Davenport, who was fiercely devoted to the writings of Francis Galton. He noted that while the poor continued to produce only the poor and uneducated, his own relatives were more accomplished. This led to his writing of *Hereditary Genius: An Inquiry into its Laws and Consequences* in 1869. Years later, when Price collected data for his own research, he would take similar measurements, arguing that certain physical characteristics were associated with intelligence, health, or criminality. S Supreme Court ruled in *Buck vs. Bell*. By the time the Great Depression hit, Price had seen a wide variety of patients, who included poor persons and migrant farm workers. Diseases of malnutrition, such as Spina bifida, would begin to decrease as the American government began to play a more active role in promoting food fortification programs decades later. *Nutritional and Physical Degeneration* While he initially supported, and was influenced by, many of the ideas presented by eugenics, we can see that it was sometime around 1930, during his ethnographic studies, that Price began to question the validity of some eugenics theories about disease. *Nutrition and Physical Degeneration* by Weston Price Price collected some 15,000 photographs, 4,000 slides, and numerous filmstrips. He also took copious notes about indigenous diets, analyzing the nutritional value of native food based on what was known about vitamins and

nutrition at the time. Price argued that when traditional communities abandoned indigenous diets and adopted Western patterns of eating, they began to suffer from typical Western diseases. He concluded that Western methods of commercially preparing and storing foods stripped away vitamins and minerals necessary to maintain health. Earnest Hooton Author of *Men, Apes and Morons* However, influenced by the writings of eugenics advocates Earnest Hooton and Alexis Carrel, he still believed that physical defects were a sign of propensity for criminal behavior. Price with the sincerest admiration the kind that is tinged with envy because he has found out something which I should like to have discovered myself. Hooton also wrote and spoke extensively about the epidemic of tooth decay in modern society, arguing that it could eventually lead to human extinction. Along with Alex Hrdicka and Charles Davenport, he would argue that Africans were more primitive than Caucasians and closer in physical and mental capacity to apes a type of race classification that Price seems to have accepted and never challenged. Those who have murdered, robbed while armed with automatic pistol or machine gun, kidnapped children, despoiled the poor of their savings, misled the public in important matters, should be humanely and economically disposed of in small euthanasic institutions supplied with proper gasses. A similar treatment could be advantageously applied to the insane, guilty of criminal acts. Conclusion If the individuals in our modern society who are sufficiently defective to require some supervision are in part or largely the product of an injured parentage, who should be held responsible? Is it just for society to consign these unsocial individuals which it has made to a life of hard labor or confinement in depressing environments? Is it just for society to permit production of physical and mental cripples? Price *Nutrition and Physical Degeneration* Price, as can be seen in retrospect, was able to make some significant strides forward in the science of diet and nutrition while at the same time remaining intellectually and emotionally bound to some of the most unpalatable claims and theories of the eugenics movement of the 19th and 20th centuries. This may seem commonsensical now, but it had only been in that Fernando E. Rodriguez Vargas , a major in the United States Army, had discovered a link between tooth decay and the bacteria *Lactobacillus acidophilus*. The experiments would later be criticized for their countless ethics violations,[62] and it seems ironic in retrospect that the unwilling subjects of these experiments belonged precisely to one of the classes of undesirables as classified by the eugenics movement. For example the link established between folic acid and neural tube defects would only be discovered in and folic acid was first isolated in Utilizing the science and research of his time, and influenced by a movement whose beliefs helped lead to the death, disenfranchisement, and suppression of literally millions, Price was nonetheless able to make significant strides forward in advocating for a view of health and nutrition that more closely resembles that of our own times. To dismiss him because of those influences, or to ignore those influences entirely, is in a way to rob Price of his greatest achievement. Works Cited Price, Weston A. Accessed October 30, Com, accessed January 26, Soy is No Health Food. The Myth of the Healthy Savage: Photography in the age of the computer, In P. Criminal Anthropology, accessed January 25, Indiana University, Last modified, 26, January Journal of the American Dietetic Association 8: Harvard University Press 43 Lombroso, Casare. Nicole, Library of Congress. Nutrition and Physical Degeneration, A Crime and the Man. Cambridge, Harvard University, Alexis Carrel and the Sociobiology of Decline. ISBN 1 4 accessed January 5, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, history and lineage, accessed December 18, The Vipeholm Dental Caries Study: Journal of Dental Research. Studies in Research Ethics, Hallberg M, editor. Centre for Research Ethics;; 3:

Chapter 6 : racedaydvl.com: Image Archive on American Eugenics Movement

The American Eugenics Society (AES) served to promote a popular education program for eugenics in the United States. Following the success of the Second International Congress of Eugenics held in New York in 1921, a Eugenics Committee of the United States was established that ultimately led to the.

Populated by figures both celebrated and obscure, it is an often revelatory portrait of an America at once strange and eerily familiar. Perhaps more surprising still, American eugenics was neither the work of fanatics, nor the product of fringe science. The goal of the movement was simple and, to its disciples, laudable: Theorizing that all traits — everything from height and hair color to intelligence — were passed down from parents to their offspring, Galton proposed that matings be regulated so as to enhance the breeding stock of the human race. By the turn of the century, eugenics had found an advocate in the United States: Extrapolating from his own breeding experiments with plants and animals, Davenport put forth the notion that a wide range of other conditions were also hereditary — not only physical traits but also criminality, pauperism, and sexual deviance. His beliefs were fueled by the widely shared concern that the America he knew was rapidly changing. And the race as it existed was being diluted and polluted by incoming waves of immigrants. For many Americans of the time, the idea that humanity could be scientifically perfected held an almost irresistible allure. Social reformers of all stripes — including birth control proponent Margaret Sanger, health reformer John Kellogg, and W. But as the s came to a close, many scientists came to realize that some of their original suppositions about genetics and heredity were faulty. As the Great Depression proved that poverty and other social ills could befall even those from the best of families, the dogma of the eugenics movement rang ever more hollow. In 1927, when a young heiress named Ann Cooper Hewitt sued her mother and two doctors for surgically sterilizing her without her knowledge, the sensational celebrity trial that ensued made headlines across the country and further called into question the assumptions behind the decades-long program. Genetics and the Uses of Human Heredity. Wendy Kline is the Dema G. She is the author of Building a Better Race: He is the author of Illiberal Reformers: His books include Three Generations, No Imbeciles: Eugenics, the Supreme Court and Buck v. Bell and A Century of Eugenics in America: She is the author of Eugenic Nation: He is an assistant professor of medicine at Columbia University and a cancer physician and researcher. Race, Reparations, and Reconciliation after the Genome. Christine Rosen is the author of Preaching Eugenics: Religious Leaders and the American Eugenics Movement. Conservation, Eugenics and the Legacy of Madison Grant.

Chapter 7 : The Eugenics Crusade: Trailer | American Experience | PBS

American Philosophical Society/Wikimedia Winners of a Fitter Family contest stand outside the Eugenics Building at the Kansas Free Fair in Topeka, KS, where families are registered for the contests judging which family was most likely to produce good children.

Later, Italian philosopher and poet Tommaso Campanella, in *City of the Sun*, described a utopian community in which only the socially elite are allowed to procreate. Galton, in *Hereditary Genius*, proposed that a system of arranged marriages between men of distinction and women of wealth would eventually produce a gifted race. In the basic laws of heredity were discovered by the father of modern genetics, Gregor Mendel. His experiments with peas demonstrated that each physical trait was the result of a combination of two units now known as genes and could be passed from one generation to another. However, his work was largely ignored until its rediscovery in 1900. This fundamental knowledge of heredity provided eugenicists—including Galton, who influenced his cousin Charles Darwin—with scientific evidence to support the improvement of humans through selective breeding. Darwin had concluded his explanations of evolution by arguing that the greatest step humans could make in their own history would occur when they realized that they were not completely guided by instinct. Rather, humans, through selective reproduction, had the ability to control their own future evolution. During the early 1900s eugenics became a serious scientific study pursued by both biologists and social scientists. They sought to determine the extent to which human characteristics of social importance were inherited. Among their greatest concerns were the predictability of intelligence and certain deviant behaviours. Eugenics, however, was not confined to scientific laboratories and academic institutions. It began to pervade cultural thought around the globe, including the Scandinavian countries, most other European countries, North America, Latin America, Japan, China, and Russia. In the United States the eugenics movement began during the Progressive Era and remained active through the 1940s. It gained considerable support from leading scientific authorities such as zoologist Charles B. Davenport, plant geneticist Edward M. East, and geneticist and Nobel Prize laureate Hermann J. Muller. Political leaders in favour of eugenics included U.S. President Woodrow Wilson. Internationally, there were many individuals whose work supported eugenic aims, including British scientists J. Koltsov and Yury A. Izrael. Eugenics organizations and legislation Galton had endowed a research fellowship in eugenics in 1869, and, in his will, provided funds for a chair of eugenics at University College, London. The fellowship and later the chair were occupied by Karl Pearson, a brilliant mathematician who helped to create the science of biometry, the statistical aspects of biology. Pearson was a controversial figure who believed that environment had little to do with the development of mental or emotional qualities. Thus, Pearson shares the blame for the discredit later brought on eugenics. Karl Pearson, pencil drawing by F. Laughlin, a professor from Kirksville, Missouri. The ERO was organized around a series of missions. These missions included serving as the national repository and clearinghouse for eugenics information, compiling an index of traits in American families, training fieldworkers to gather data throughout the United States, supporting investigations into the inheritance patterns of particular human traits and diseases, advising on the eugenic fitness of proposed marriages, and communicating all eugenic findings through a series of publications. To accomplish these goals, further funding was secured from the Carnegie Institution of Washington, John D. Rockefeller Foundation, and the U.S. Research from around the globe was featured at three international congresses, held in 1904, 1912, and 1924. One core member of this group, the New York lawyer Madison Grant, aroused considerable pro-eugenic interest through his best-selling book *The Passing of the Great Race*. Beginning in 1907, a series of congressional hearings was held to identify problems that immigrants were causing in the United States. In 1909 Laughlin was sent by the U.S. Department of Commerce to investigate the feasibility of a plan whereby every prospective immigrant would be interviewed before embarking to the United States. Laughlin appeared at the centre of other U.S. efforts. He approached state legislators with a model law to control the reproduction of institutionalized populations. That number tripled by 1912, and by more than 30,000 people were claimed to have met this fate. In the precedent-setting case of *Buck v. Bell*, eugenics courses in public schools and eugenics courses in colleges spread eugenic-minded values to many. By studying the passage of ancestral traits, fairgoers were urged to adopt the progressive view that responsible individuals should pursue marriage

ever mindful of eugenics principles. Drawing again upon long-standing eugenic practices in agriculture, popular eugenic advertisements claimed it was about time that humans received the same attention in the breeding of better babies that had been given to livestock and crops for centuries. Anti-eugenics sentiment began to appear after and intensified during the 1930s. Most commonly it was based on religious grounds. For example, the papal encyclical *Casti connubii* condemned reproductive sterilization, though it did not specifically prohibit positive eugenic attempts to amplify the inheritance of beneficial traits. Many Protestant writings sought to reconcile age-old Christian warnings about the heritable sins of the father to pro-eugenic ideals. Indeed, most of the religion-based popular writings of the period supported positive means of improving the physical and moral makeup of humanity. A rhetoric of positive eugenics in the building of a master race pervaded *Rassenhygiene* racial hygiene movements. When Germany extended its practices far beyond sterilization in efforts to eliminate the Jewish and other non-Aryan populations, the United States became increasingly concerned over its own support of eugenics. Many scientists, physicians, and political leaders began to denounce the work of the ERO publicly. During the aftermath of World War II, eugenics became stigmatized such that many individuals who had once hailed it as a science now spoke disparagingly of it as a failed pseudoscience. Eugenics was dropped from organization and publication names. Its publication, once popularly known as the *Eugenics Quarterly*, had already been renamed *Social Biology* in Senate hearings in 1946, chaired by Sen. Ted Kennedy, which revealed that thousands of U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare proposed guidelines encouraging each state to repeal their respective sterilization laws. Other countries, most notably China, continue to support eugenics-directed programs openly in order to ensure the genetic makeup of their future. Medical genetics, a post-World War II medical specialty, encompasses a wide range of health concerns, from genetic screening and counseling to fetal gene manipulation and the treatment of adults suffering from hereditary disorders. Because certain diseases e. g. Cystic Fibrosis, couples at risk of passing on genetic defects may opt to remain childless or to adopt children. Furthermore, it is now possible to diagnose certain genetic defects in the unborn. Many couples choose to terminate a pregnancy that involves a genetically disabled offspring. These developments have reinforced the eugenic aim of identifying and eliminating undesirable genetic material. Counterbalancing this trend, however, has been medical progress that enables victims of many genetic diseases to live fairly normal lives. Direct manipulation of harmful genes is also being studied. If perfected, it could obviate eugenic arguments for restricting reproduction among those who carry harmful genes. In addition, 21st-century technologies such as gene editing, which can potentially be used to treat disease or to alter traits, have further renewed concerns. However, the ethical, legal, and social implications of such tools are monitored much more closely than were early 20th-century eugenics programs. Applications generally are more focused on the reduction of genetic diseases than on improving intelligence. Still, with or without the use of the term, many eugenics-related concerns are reemerging as a new group of individuals decide how to regulate the application of genetics science and technology.

Chapter 8 : Eugenics - Wikipedia

Edwin Black is the author of "IBM and the Holocaust" and "War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create a Master Race," from which the following article is drawn. Hitler and his.

It was a horrible time in history, and something we can look back on in sadness. Of course, it is not our model German Republic, but the United States. Its mission included not just segregation, but a racial cleansing and the establishment of a strong, pure race untainted by the blood of those that were deemed lesser, whether by race or by disability. That meant the practice of forced sterilization for those who were deemed unfit to have a family, such as those with learning disabilities or those in institutions. Galton theorized that if only the best and the brightest married each other and bore children, it would elevate the human race. And in America, a country still torn by racial tensions and the reminders of a Civil War and the end of slavery, it was exactly the sort of thing those self-proclaimed best and brightest could seize upon. Included were suggestions for euthanasia and gas chambers. And some of the views were, frankly, pretty visceral. In most states, that meant the mentally ill or mentally deficient. By the time all was said and done, somewhere in the neighborhood of 60,000 people had been forcefully sterilized in state-sanctioned procedures. In some states, such as California, sterilization records are incomplete or often altered, making it impossible to truly know how many people were subjected to the procedures. It was done to men and women, Caucasians as well as individuals from other and mixed races. State laws in California included permissions for those who were in prisons to be eligible for sterilization, as well as those found to have any chance of carrying hereditary dementia or insanity. In the years between 1907 and 1974, roughly 20,000 people were sterilized in California each year. Not only were they tall, intelligent, and talented, but they were blond-haired and blue-eyed. While Alexander Graham Bell targeted the deaf, and laws on the whole targeted the sexually deviant offenders and the mentally ill, there was another sub-group who fell victim to the forced sterilization procedures. And in some cases—as late as 1974—that could simply mean you were an orphan. Alexander Graham Bell was a staunch supporter of the movement, and thought that deaf people should not be allowed to marry. Many eugenics projects got their financing from some of the corporate moguls of the day, including the Carnegie Institution, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Harriman railroad conglomerate. In fact, the Carnegies founded and funded the Cold Spring Harbor research facility, one of the largest centers of eugenics activities more on that in a minute. And it was the Rockefellers who put up the money behind a branch of eugenics in Europe—that was a German branch that counted Joseph Mengele in its ranks. The United States Supreme Court was also on board, upholding the laws of the eugenics movement, and one of the leaders of the American eugenic movement, Madison Grant, received a fan letter from none other than Adolf Hitler, praising his work as inspiring. While much of the financial support of families like the Rockefellers ended before the official beginning of World War II, they had already helped set things in motion. The purpose was to document the race of every person in the state, allowing for a massive genetic database to be created. The database was necessary for the rest of the law—making sure that someone whose heritage was purely white married only another similarly pure person. State Registrars were forbidden from issuing a marriage license unless the man and the woman in question could both produce such a certificate stating that there was no trace of any race other than Caucasian in their ancestry. Lying about your race on the form was a felony, and could be punished by up to a year in jail. It was originally opened in by Charles Davenport, and was known as the Carnegie Institute of Washington. The Eugenics Record Office kept detailed family records that allowed field workers to trace cases of mental and physical defects through a family line. Davenport also conducted studies on the importance of other inherited traits, such as hair and eye color, hair texture, and skin pigments. Researchers at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory isolated some of the problems. For example, those with Italian blood were said to be prone to violence. As part of their research, prison and mental institution populations across the country were surveyed to find out just how many members of these populations came from what immigrant group. After outbreaks of illnesses like smallpox and cholera in New York City and immigrant-hub Ellis Island, the work of the eugenics movement began to gain credence. By 1924, they were operating hand-in-hand with the Immigration Restriction League to influence

Congress and the Surgeon General to implement restrictions on immigration. In some respects, it made sense. Mothers were encouraged to bring their babies to fair judging contests, and in much the same way as livestock was judged, babies would be judged on things like health, weight, and size. Better Babies soon evolved into Fitter Families, a contest where whole families would present judges not only with their happy, healthy babies, but with an abbreviated version of their racial pedigree. Doctors would perform examinations on all the members of the family, awarding and deducting points according to guidelines, and families were given a letter grade to show just how eugenics-friendly their family was. Winners would be rewarded with medals and trophies in these contests, which remained hugely popular throughout the s. A long-time student of Charles Darwin and the ideas of natural selection and Mendelian genetics, Jordan grew up in Western New York and pursued an education in botany and science. After teaching at a number of different universities, it was when he went to Stanford that he truly began preaching his values, including education, conservation, and eugenic breeding. After writing several books on the topic of eugenics, he was one of the founding members of the Eugenics Committee of the American Breeders Association and the Eugenics Record Office. There was a bizarre sort of mutual respect that went on between American eugenics supporters and the Nazi party. In , the American Eugenics Society issued statements of praise for the work that the Nazis were doing to cleanse the gene pool. For them, the scale on which the Nazis were carrying out their mass sterilization was what they had wanted for America.

Chapter 9 : American Eugenics Research - Racism masquerading as "science" - AHRPAHRP

Eugenics was a commonly accepted means of protecting society from the offspring (and therefore equally suspect) of those individuals deemed inferior or dangerous - the poor, the disabled, the.

Efficacy[edit] The first major challenge to conventional eugenics based upon genetic inheritance was made in by Thomas Hunt Morgan. He demonstrated the event of genetic mutation occurring outside of inheritance involving the discovery of the hatching of a fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* with white eyes from a family with red eyes. Pekalski uses the example of a coercive government eugenics program that prohibits people with myopia from breeding but has the unintended consequence of also selecting against high intelligence since the two go together. A long-term, species-wide eugenics plan might lead to a scenario similar to this because the elimination of traits deemed undesirable would reduce genetic diversity by definition. Miller claims that, in any one generation, any realistic program should make only minor changes in a fraction of the gene pool, giving plenty of time to reverse direction if unintended consequences emerge, reducing the likelihood of the elimination of desirable genes. Some diseases such as sickle-cell disease and cystic fibrosis respectively confer immunity to malaria and resistance to cholera when a single copy of the recessive allele is contained within the genotype of the individual. Reducing the instance of sickle-cell disease genes in Africa where malaria is a common and deadly disease could indeed have extremely negative net consequences. However, some genetic diseases cause people to consider some elements of eugenics. Ethics[edit] Societal and political consequences of eugenics call for a place in the discussion on the ethics behind the eugenics movement. Advances in science have changed eugenics. In the past, eugenics had more to do with sterilization and enforced reproduction laws. Sterilized individuals, for example, could volunteer for the procedure, albeit under incentive or duress, or at least voice their opinion. The unborn fetus on which these new eugenic procedures are performed cannot speak out, as the fetus lacks the voice to consent or to express his or her opinion. Many organizations and journals that had their origins in the eugenics movement began to distance themselves from the philosophy, as when *Eugenics Quarterly* became *Social Biology* in A common criticism of eugenics is that "it inevitably leads to measures that are unethical". Staying Human in an Engineered Age, environmental ethicist Bill McKibben argued at length against germinal choice technology and other advanced biotechnological strategies for human enhancement. He writes that it would be morally wrong for humans to tamper with fundamental aspects of themselves or their children in an attempt to overcome universal human limitations, such as vulnerability to aging , maximum life span and biological constraints on physical and cognitive ability. Attempts to "improve" themselves through such manipulation would remove limitations that provide a necessary context for the experience of meaningful human choice. He claims that human lives would no longer seem meaningful in a world where such limitations could be overcome with technology. Even the goal of using germinal choice technology for clearly therapeutic purposes should be relinquished, since it would inevitably produce temptations to tamper with such things as cognitive capacities. He argues that it is possible for societies to benefit from renouncing particular technologies, using as examples Ming China , Tokugawa Japan and the contemporary Amish. Comfort from Johns Hopkins University , claim that the change from state-led reproductive-genetic decision-making to individual choice has moderated the worst abuses of eugenics by transferring the decision-making from the state to the patient and their family.