

Human Diversity & Race

the concept of "race" as it is applied to humans: how the biological and social categories of race are largely unrelated

Race: Discredited in Biology

A race is a geographically isolated subdivision of a species that can reproduce with individuals from other subspecies of the same species, but does not because of its geographic isolation.

Ethnicity and race are not synonymous, although American culture does not discriminate between the two terms.

Races Are Not Biologically Distinct

- Racial categories (particularly early on) are based on phenotypes.
- Phenotypes are the product of genetic, developmental, and environmental factors.
- The so-called three great races (white, black, and yellow) are more a reflection of European colonialist politics than an accurate representation of human biological diversity.

Fundamental Problems with Race

- Populations grouped into one race based upon phenotypic similarity may be genetically distinct.
- Genetic traits occur together due to the selective forces of the environments
 - do not constitute an internally coherent "type."
- "Race," is a social, rather than biological category.

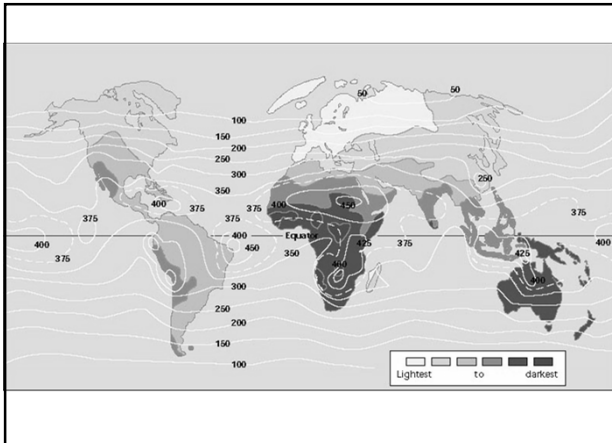


Explaining Skin Color

- Natural selection:
 - "is the process by which nature selects the forms most fit to survive and reproduce in a given environment."
- Skin color is determined by melanin
 - genetically determined.
- Prior to the sixteenth century
 - darker skinned populations were closest to the equator
 - lighter skinned populations were closer to the poles.

Explaining Skin Color

- Light skin in the tropics is selected against because it burns more easily.
- Light skin is more susceptible to skin cancer.
- The effect of sunlight on vitamin D formation indicates how dark skin might have been selected for in tropical environments. It further indicates how light skin might have been selected for in low-sunlight environments, and against in the tropics.



Hypodescent: Race in the US

- In the United States, race is most commonly ascribed to people without reference to genotype.
- Offspring of "genetically mixed" unions are usually ascribed to the *lower* status race of one parent, an example of the process called *hypodescent*.
- The arbitrary lumping of bisexuals with homosexuals and the controversy surrounding the casting of Eurasian roles in the play, *Miss Saigon*, are examples of *hypodescent*.

Ethnic Groups in the US, 1990

Claimed Identity	Millions of People
Whites: German Ancestry	57.9
Whites: Irish Ancestry	38.7
Whites: English Ancestry	32.6
Blacks	30.0
Asians & Pacific Islanders	7.3
Native Americans, Eskimos, and Aleuts	1.9
Hispanics	22.3
All Others	58.0
Totals	248.7

Race and Identity

*How Social Functions
Trump Biological Functions*

Race as a Concept

- Goes back to the ancient world
- Often confused with social identity
 - National identity
 - Tribal identity
 - Religious identity
- Predates understanding of biology and inheritance



Social Uses

- Why are very visible traits used to define race?

Example: Skin Color

- In the modern western world this is the key determinant of racial identity
- But really only related to distant physical adaptations
- Skin color derives from...
- Melanin
- Carotene
- Solar radiation

Example: Eye Color

- Eye color derives from multiple factors
 - Melanin
 - Adds browns to reds to iris
 - Includes layers on the posterior (inner) iris
 - Prevents reflection within eye, like a camera lining
 - Differential smoothness of iris
 - Breaks in iris forms crypts, in which water pools
 - These reflect and refract light just like the sky
 - Blue eyes LACK the inner layer of melanin on the iris
 - Thus they reflect and refract light like the sky – i.e. blue

Eye Color – Adaptive Significance?

- Difficult to determine
 - Light eyes tend to come from northern and western Europe
 - Adaptive significance?
 - Increased vision in light-poor climates?
- Not the case in other species
- Only definite visible difference in light & dark eyes is ability to see dilation of pupil

Adaptive Differences Related to Culture

- Nearsightedness (Myopia)
 - Extremely rare in Native American, African, and Australian populations
 - More common in European and central & western Asian populations
- Natural selection acts against nearsightedness among hunters

Color-blindness

- Occurs most commonly in males
- Occurs most commonly in Europeans and Northwestern Indian populations
 - Up to 8% of a population
 - Again, selected against among hunters and gatherers
 - Most stridently impacts males
 - Presumably because males venture further from safety while hunting & foraging
- Color recognition perhaps more essential in hunting rather than gathering

What is Race... Really?

Could be defined as...

- A population that differs in genetic composition from other similarly-defined populations
- This reflects gene pool
- Is a product of breeding history
- No such thing as a pure race

All populations have gene flow somewhere in their past or present

Are There Races Then?

You can define races any way you want, thus making the term meaningless

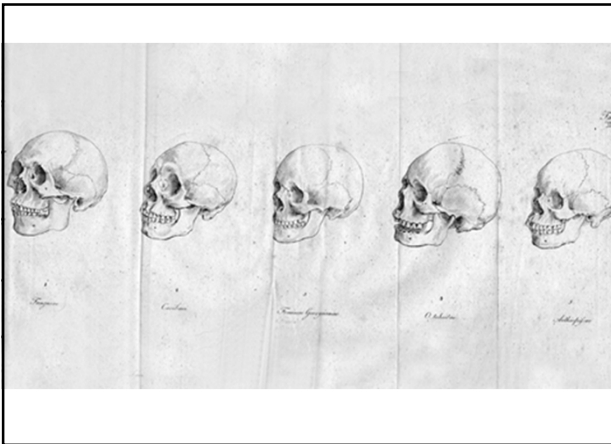
BUT...genetically, we can identify about 1000 population stems/lines that some argue to be as close to race as we will ever get

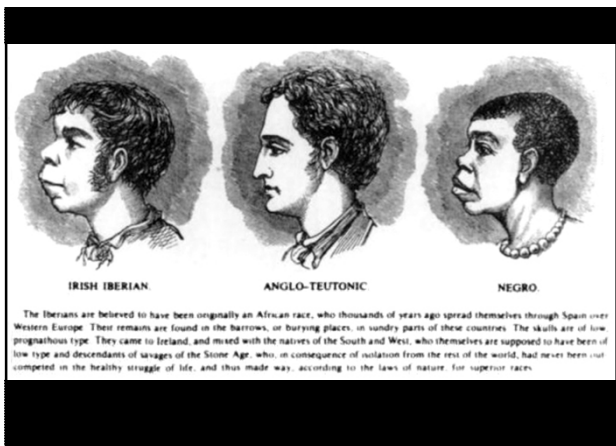
The Uses Of "Race" – or Racism 101

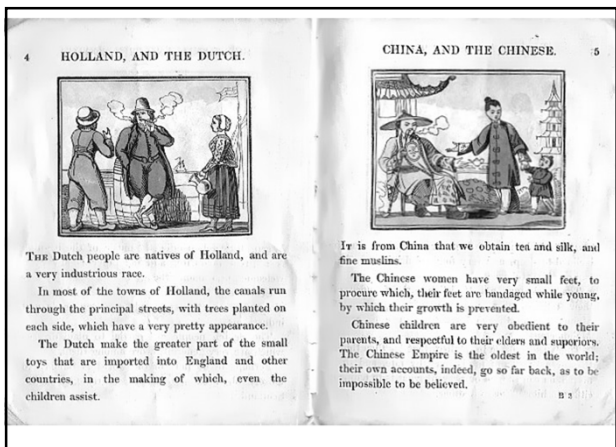
- Most uses of race have strong social agendas, even if these are implicit and not at the forefront of all user's thoughts
- They are related to world history and culture contact
- Define "us" versus "them" sorts of encounters
- Often used to justify perceived technological dominance of a group

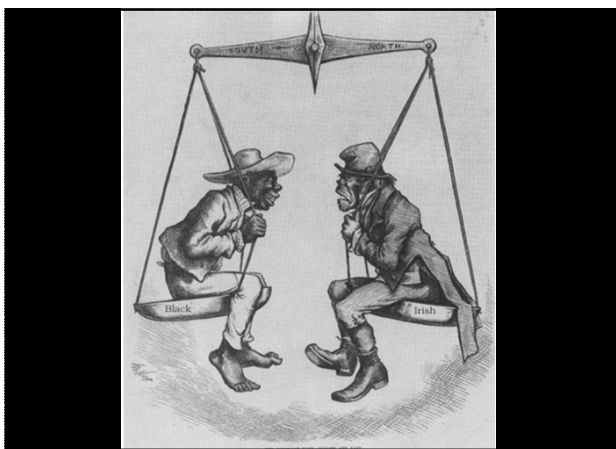
Blumenbach's Scheme

- 1776 but still going strong today
- Races tied to colors and geography
 - Most people just took the colors
- White - European
- Yellow – East Asian
- Brown – South and Southeast Asian
- Red – Native Americas
- Black – Africa and Australia







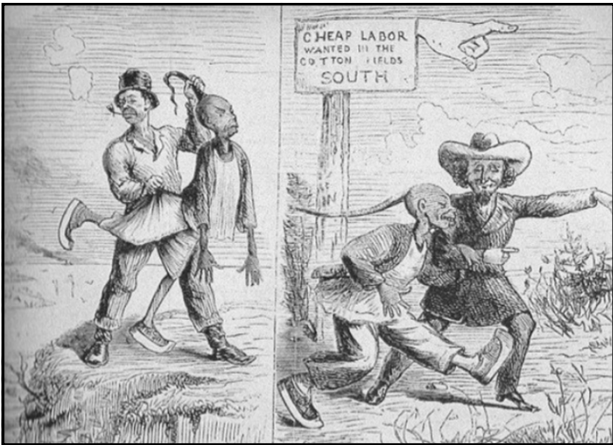




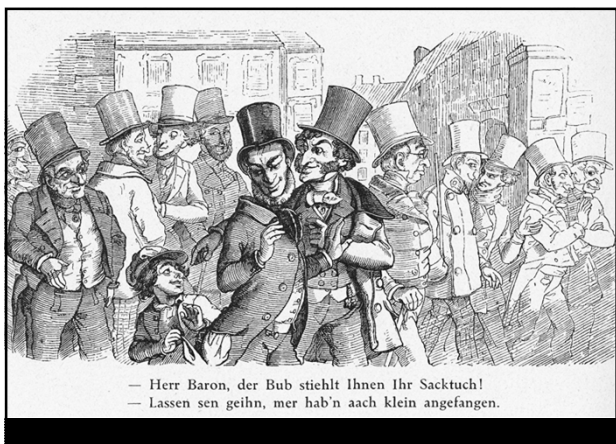










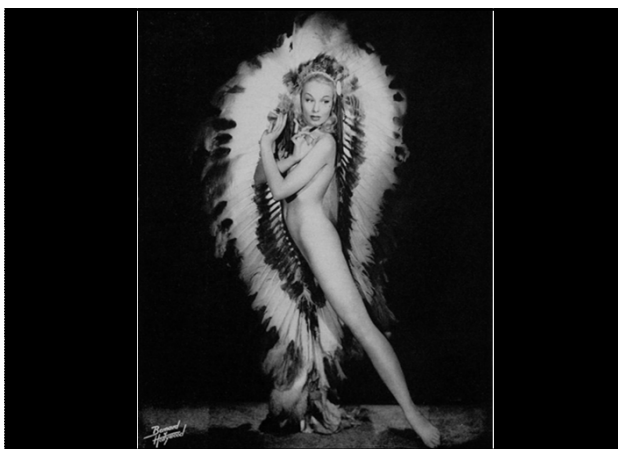














Racism Applied

Myth of Superiority

- Fallacy of ranking from best to worst
- Benefits to the "superior" at cost to "inferior"

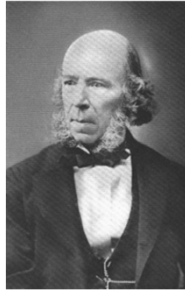
Myth of Biological Inheritance

- Fallacy that race is genetic and immutable
- Justifies economic and social dominance of prominent group

Systematic Creation of Race: Eugenics

Social Darwinism

social & cultural differences in human societies arise through processes of natural selection, similar to those that account for biological differences among populations & species



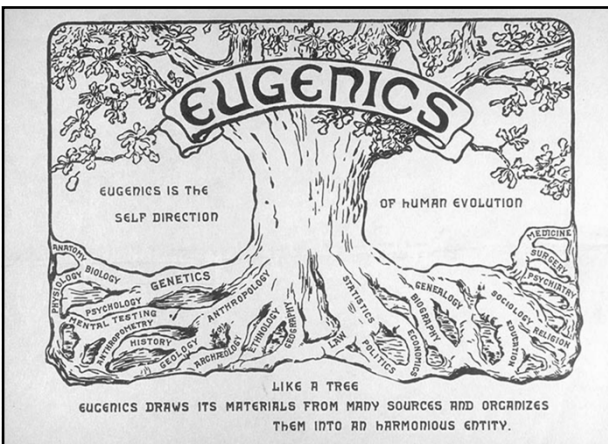
Herbert Spencer

Social Darwinism

Appealing to those in 'superior' social positions
Assumes society operates through same laws as biology
False assumption!
No evidence that what is in biology, is or ought to be in society

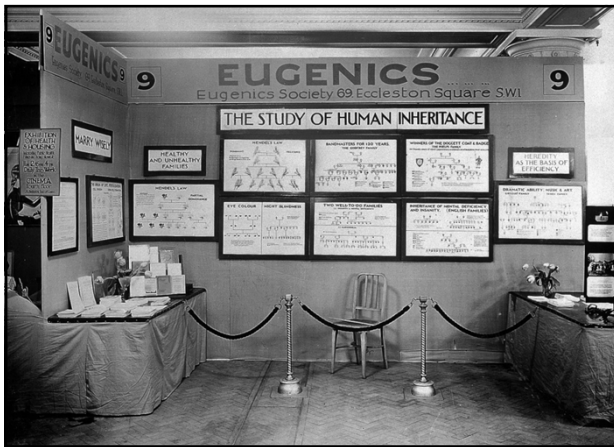


J. D. Rockefeller



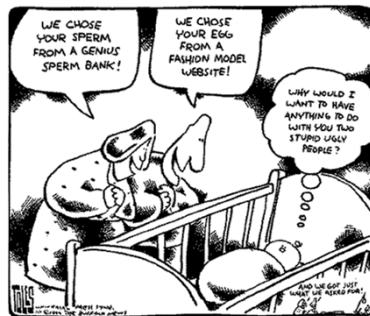
Eugenics

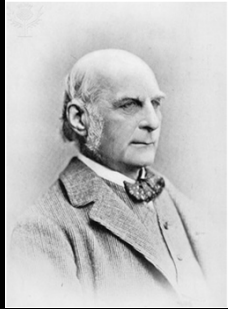
- humanity can be improved by altering human genotypes or their frequencies
- evolution of human traits by natural selection could be substituted by evolution through social selection
- Positive eugenics
 - increase frequency of beneficial genes
- Negative eugenics
 - decrease frequency of deleterious genes

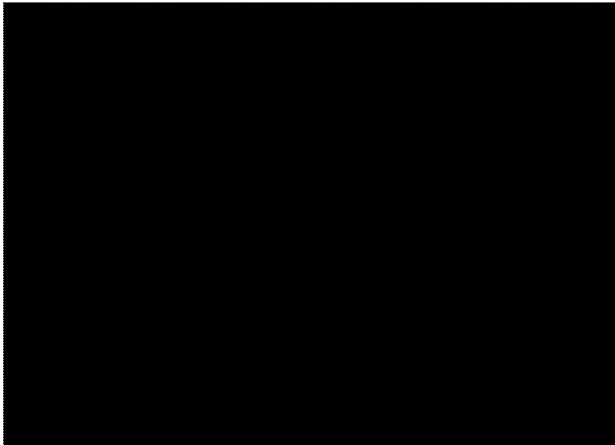


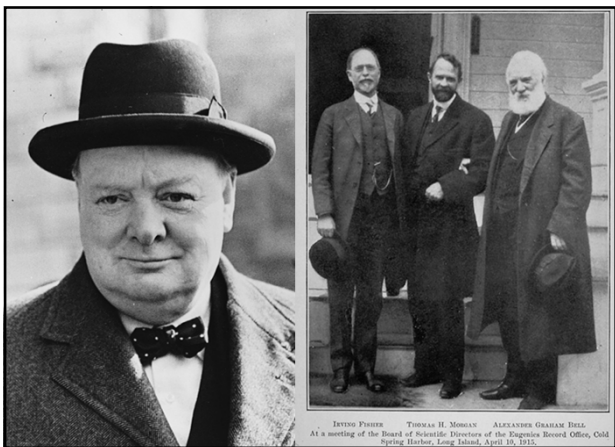
Positive Eugenics

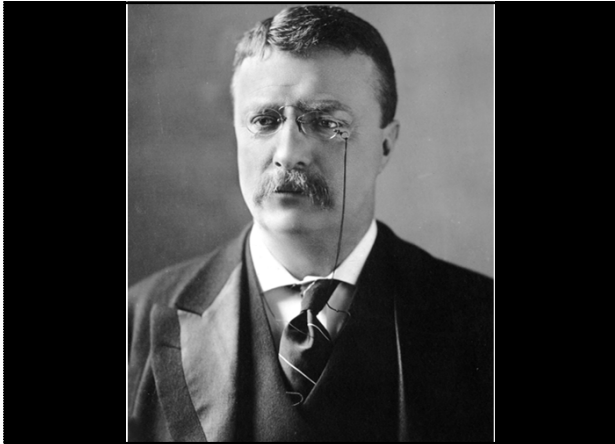
- increase frequency of beneficial genes
- Sperm banks
- Genetic engineering
- Parthenogenesis
- Cloning







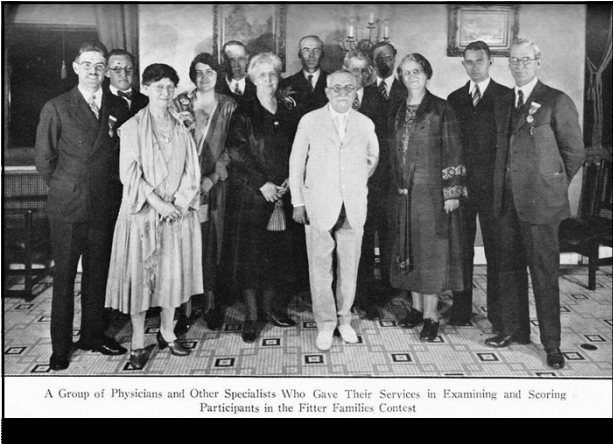


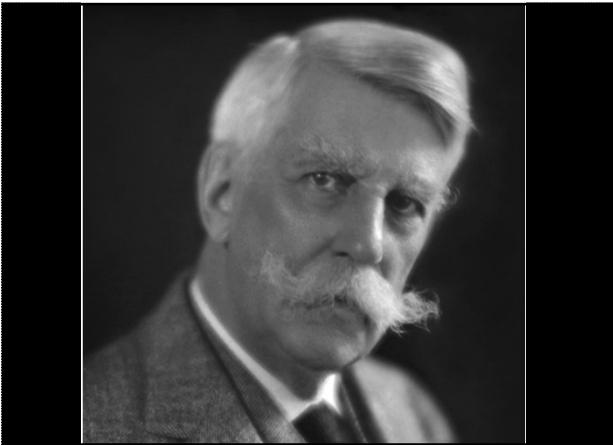




American Eugenics Movement

- At height in 1920s
- Intelligence, sexual orientation, and criminality caused by bad blood

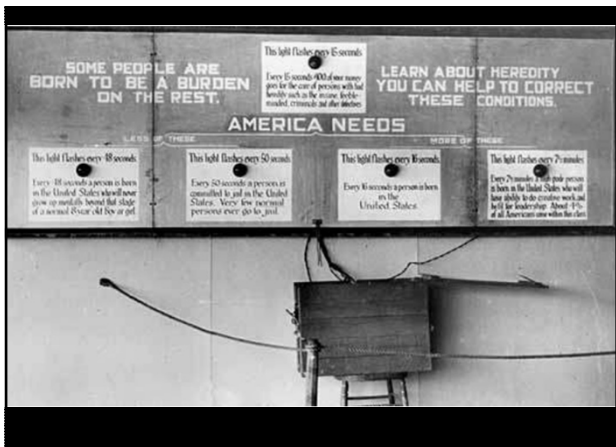


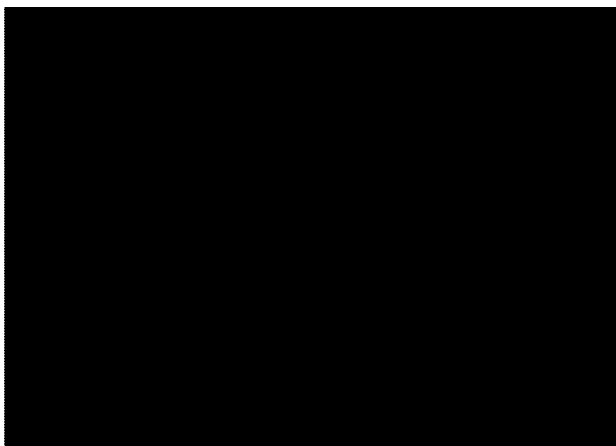


• It is true that the right to beget children is a natural and constitutional right, but it is equally true that no citizen has any rights superior to the common welfare. Acting for the public good, the State, in the exercise of its police powers, may always impose reasonable restrictions upon the natural and constitutional rights of its citizens. Measured by its injurious effect upon society, what right has any citizen or class of citizens to beget children with an inherited tendency to crime, feeble-minded, idiocy or imbecility? This is the right for which Willie Smith is here contending....Under the existing circumstances it was not only its undoubted right, but it was its duty to enact some legislation that would protect the people and preserve the race from the known effects of the procreation of children by the feeble-minded, the idiots and the imbeciles (*Smith v. Wayne Probate Judge*, 1925)



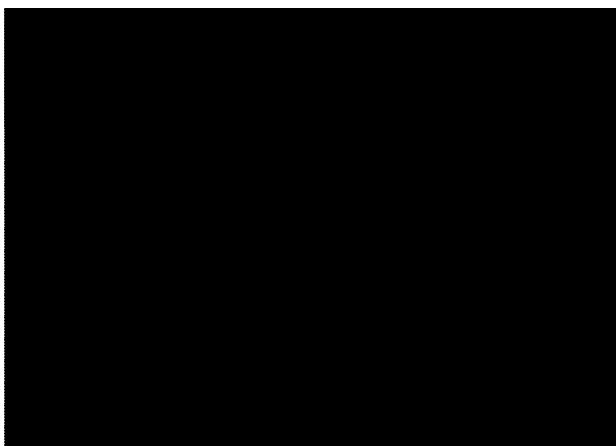






STATE CRITERIA FOR LEGAL EUGENICAL STERILIZATION

STATE	TYPE OF PATIENT
Alabama	"Feeble-minded."
Arizona	"Inmates of Hospital for Insane."
California	"Feeble-minded, habitual criminals, insane, idiots, mental defectives."
Connecticut	"Feeble-minded, insane, idiots, imbeciles and those with inherited tendency to crime."
Delaware	"Mentally defective, insane, feeble-minded or epileptic persons."
Idaho	"Feeble-minded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminals, morally degenerate persons."
Indiana	"Hereditary insane, feeble-minded or epileptic."
Iowa	"Feeble-minded, insane, syphilitic, habitual criminals, morally degenerate persons."
Kansas	"Feeble-minded, insane, habitual criminals."
Maine	"Feeble-minded."
Michigan	"Mentally defective, insane."
Minnesota	"Feeble-minded, insane."
Mississippi	"Persons with hereditary form of insanity, feeble-mindedness, idiocy, epilepsy."
Montana	"Feeble-minded, insane, epileptic."
Nebraska	"Insane and feeble-minded."
New Hampshire	"Feeble-mindedness or certain forms of other mental diseases."
North Carolina	"Mentally defective persons."
North Dakota	"Feeble-minded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminals, moral degenerates and sexual perverts."
North Dakota	"Habitual criminals, hereditary feeble-minded, insane, idiots, imbeciles, epileptics."
Oklahoma	"Feeble-minded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminals, moral degenerates and sexual perverts."
Oregon	"Feeble-minded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminals, moral degenerates and sexual perverts."
South Carolina	"Hereditary form of insanity, idiocy, imbecility, feeble-mindedness or epilepsy."
South Dakota	"Feeble-minded."
Utah	"Habitual criminals, insane, idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded, or epileptics."
Vermont	"Prevent procreation of idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded or insane persons."
Virginia	"Hereditary insanity, idiocy, imbecility, feeble-mindedness or epilepsy."
Washington	"Feeble-minded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminals, moral degenerates and sexual perverts."
West Virginia	"Insanity, imbecility, epilepsy, idiocy, feeble-mindedness."
Wisconsin	"Insane, feeble-minded, epileptic and criminal persons."





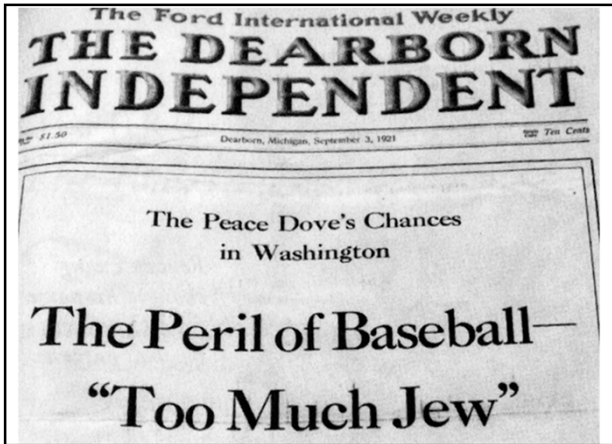
regard Henry Ford as my inspiration", Adolf Hitler 1931

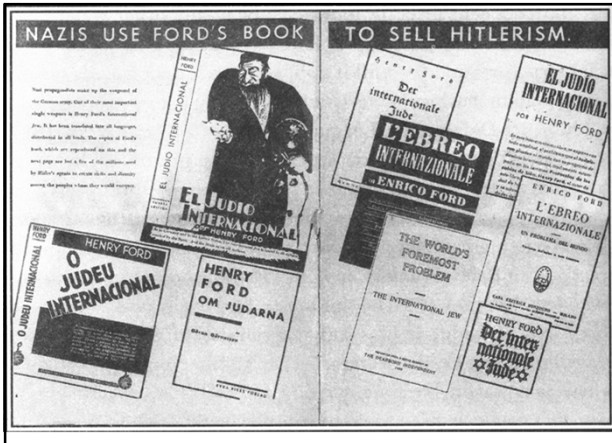
The Ford International Weekly
THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT
 One Dollar Dearborn, Michigan, May 22, 1920 Five Cents

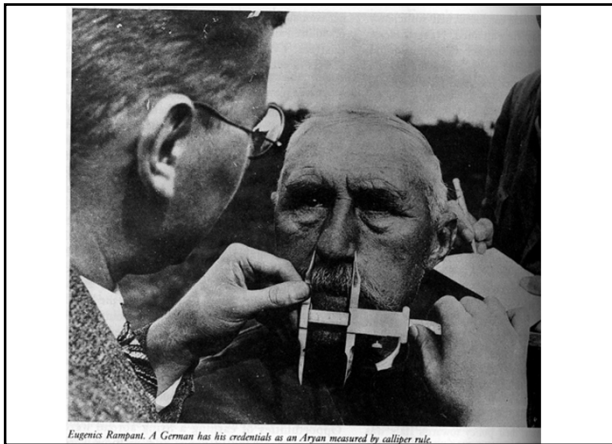
*The International Jew:
 The World's Problem*

"Among the distinguishing mental and moral traits of the Jews may be mentioned: distaste for hard or violent physical labor; a strong family sense and philoprogenitiveness; a marked religious instinct; the courage of the prophet and martyr rather than of the pioneer and soldier; remarkable power to survive in adverse environments, combined with great ability to retain racial solidarity; capacity for exploitation, both individual and social; shrewdness and astuteness in speculation and money matters generally; an Oriental love of display and a full appreciation of the power and pleasure of social position; a very high average of intellectual ability."

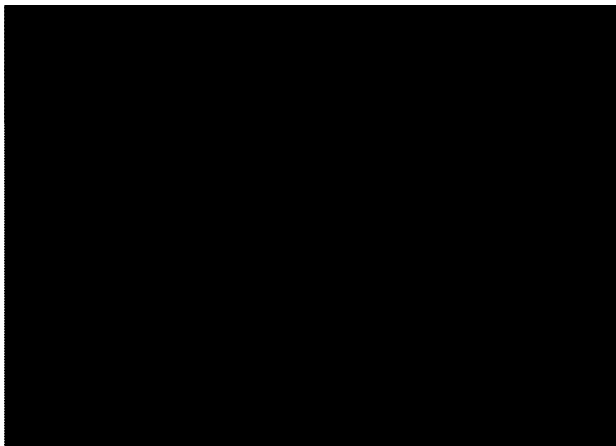
<p>The Ford International Weekly THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT <small>1¢ 27.00 Dearborn, Michigan, August 6, 1920 5¢ Per Copy</small></p> <p>And Now Leprosy Is Yielding to Science <small>Years of experimenting bring a remedy</small></p> <p>Fountain Lake, the Home of John Muir <small>A story of nature's wilderness shrine</small></p> <p>Fighting the Devil in Modern Babylon <small>Plot of a series of crimes in New York by Ben Dr. John Brand Service</small></p> <p>Jewish Jazz—Moron Music—Becomes Our National Music <small>Story of "Popular Song" Control in the United States</small></p> <p>The Chief Justices of the Supreme Court <small>Only one man has held two posts since the William was first organized</small></p> <p>Teaching the Deaf to Hear With Their Eyes <small>How Chicago is educating afflicted children</small></p> <p>Many By-Products From Sweet Potatoes <small>Recent discoveries prove great possibilities</small></p>	<p>The Ford International Weekly THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT <small>1¢ 27.00 Dearborn, Michigan, July 26, 1920 5¢ Per Copy</small></p> <p>Melting Pot Dross Takes Fifth of Tax Dollar</p> <p>How America Would Save China Millions Spent on Indians Wasted Advertisers Control Newspapers</p> <p>To Discuss Wisconsin Is to Discuss "Bob"</p> <p>CHRONICLER OF THE NEGLECTED TRUTH</p>
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Eugenius Rampant. A German has his credentials as an Aryan measured by calliper rule.







A CALIFORNIA BERRY FARM, OWNED AND WORKED BY JAPANESE. The University of Calif. has granted complete exemption to the San Joaquin Valley, which are being granted in the future. Of the Supreme Court the year before Japanese in the English category for voting they are not of the "white" or Caucasian race.

JAPANESE BARRED FROM CITIZENSHIP

NOVEMBER 13 was an unlucky day for the Nipponese who like the climate, opportunities, and other good things to be found in the United States, for on that date the United States Supreme Court decided that Japanese can not be naturalized in the United States and can not become citizens of this country. The reason, set forth in two opinions handed down by Justice Sutherland, is that Japanese people are not of the "white" or Caucasian race, and therefore are not entitled to citizenship. The new ruling, it is said, will affect not only Japanese aliens in this country, but also all Japanese who by reason of Army or Navy service with American forces during the World War were granted citizenship papers. "This is indeed a staggering blow," admits the Japanese editor of the Salt Lake City Rocky Mountain Times, one of the score or more Nipponese papers published in this country which were asked by THE DIXIEY to send in their opinion of the Supreme Court ruling by telegraph.

THE LITERARY DIGEST
December 2, 1922

In the Supreme Court opinion, Mr. Justice Sutherland was careful to point out, "there is not implied any suggestion of individual unworthiness or racial inferiority. These considerations are in no manner involved." Continued the Justice in this, his first opinion delivered from the Supreme bench:

"In all of the naturalization acts from 1790 to 1906, the privilege of naturalization was confined to white persons (with the addition in 1870 of those of African nativity and descent), altho the exact wording of the various statutes was not always the same. The Federal and State courts, in an almost unbroken line, have held that the words 'white person' were meant to indicate only a person of what is popularly known as the Caucasian race. With the conclusion reached in these several decisions we see no reason to differ.

"It is urged that we should give to this phrase ('free white persons') the meaning which it had in the minds of its original framers in 1790, and that it was employed by them for the sole purpose of excluding the black or African race and the Indians then inhabiting this country. It may be true that these two races were alone thought of as being excluded, but to say that they were the only ones within the intent of the statute would be to ignore the affirmative form of the legislation. The provision is not that negroes and Indians shall be excluded, but it is, in effect, that only free white persons shall be included. The intention was to confer the privilege of citizenship upon that class of persons whom the fathers knew as white, and to deny it to all who could not be so classified."











