Human	Dive	rsity	&	Race
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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.

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#### **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.

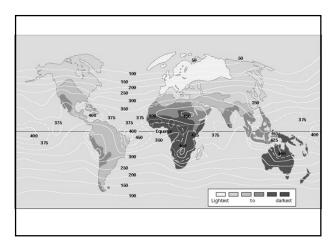


### **Explaining Skin Color**

- 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, 19	
-	
	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	y



#### 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	
<ul> <li>Eye color derives from multiple factors</li> <li>Melanin</li> <li>Adds browns to reds to iris</li> <li>Includes layers on the posterior (inner) iris</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Prevents reflection within eye, like a camera lining</li> <li>Differential smoothness of iris</li> <li>Breaks in iris forms crypts, in which water pools</li> </ul>	
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	
<ul><li>Adaptive significance?</li><li>Increased vision in light-poor climates?</li></ul>	
<ul><li>Not the case in other species</li><li>Only definite visible difference in light &amp;</li></ul>	
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

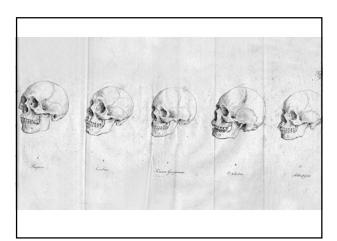
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#### The Uses Of "Race" – or Racism 101

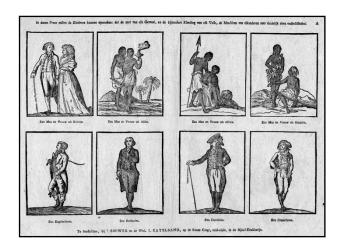
- Most uses of race have strong social agendas, even if these are implicit and not at the forefront of all user's thoughts
- They are related to world history and culture contact
- Define "us" versus "them" sorts of encounters
- Often used to justify perceived technological dominance of a group

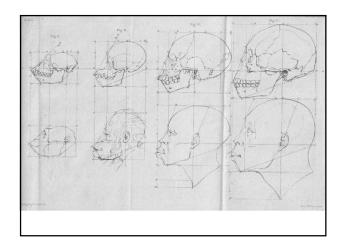
#### Blumenbach's Scheme

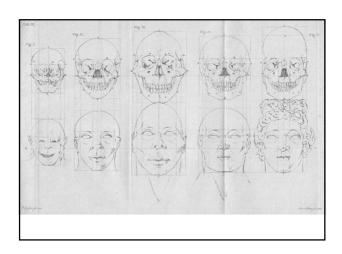
- 1776 but still going strong today
- · Races tied to colors and geography
- Most people just took the colors
- White European
- Yellow East Asian
- Brown South and Southeast Asian
- Red Native Americas
- Black Africa and Australia



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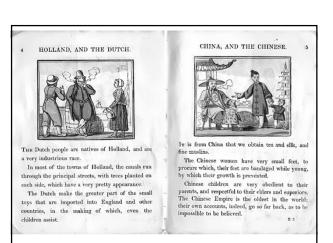


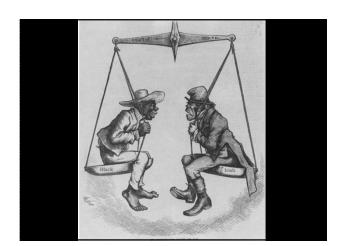






The Iberians are believed to have been originally an African race, who thousands of years ago spread themselves through Spain over Western Europe. Their remains are found in the barrows, or buying places, in sundry parts of their countries. The skulls are of low-progrations type. They came to befound, and mixed with the natives of the South and West, who themselves are supposed to have been found to be upon and descendants of susages of the Stone Age, who, in consequence of inclains from the rest of the world, had never here not competed in the healthy surage of the San of the Age. Who, in consequence of inclains from their rest of the world, had never here not competed in the healthy surage of the Land thou made way, according to the laws of feature for superior races.

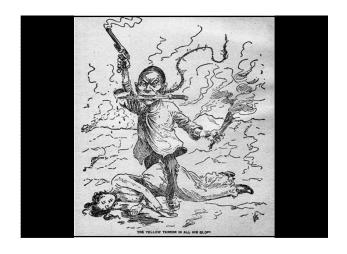


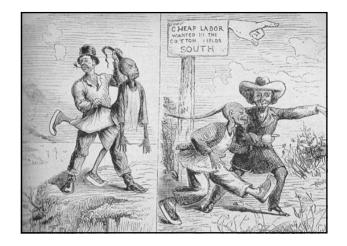




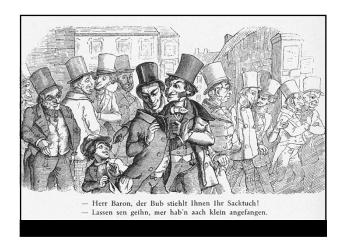


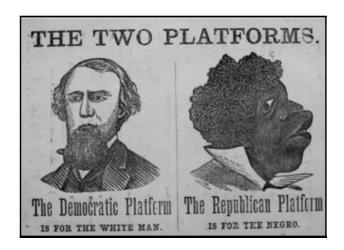




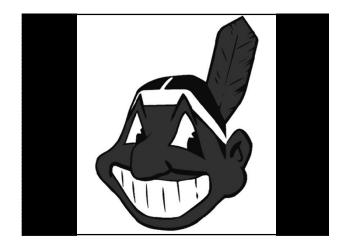






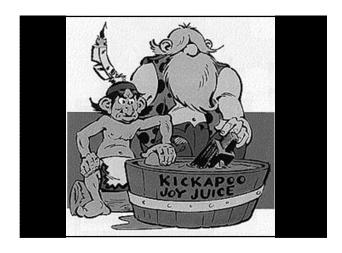












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Myth of Superiority

- •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

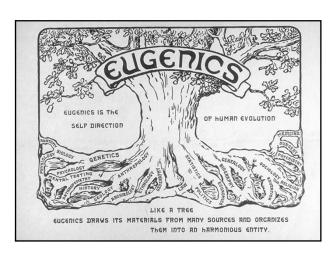
Assumes society operates through same laws as biology

False assumption!

No evidence that what is in biology, is or ought to be in society

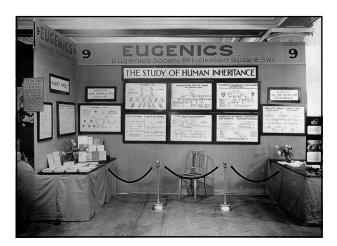
J. D. Rockerfeller





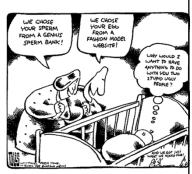
#### Eugenics

- 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

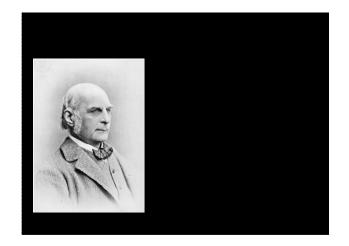


#### **Positive Eugenics**

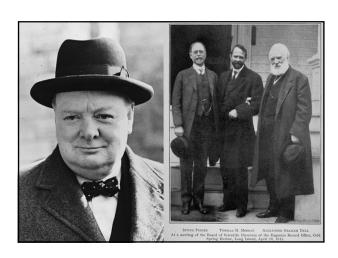
- increase frequency of beneficial genes
- Sperm banks
- Genetic engineering
- Parthenogenesis
- Cloning

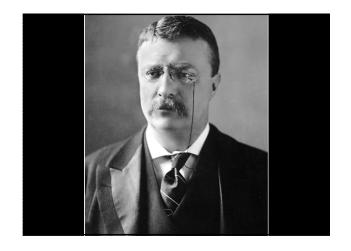


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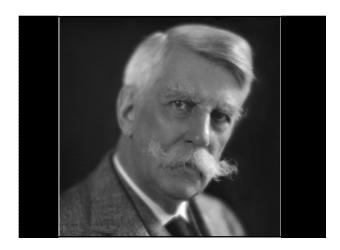


## American Eugenics Movement

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



A Group of Physicians and Other Specialists Who Gave Their Services in Examining and Scoring Participants in the Fitter Families Contest



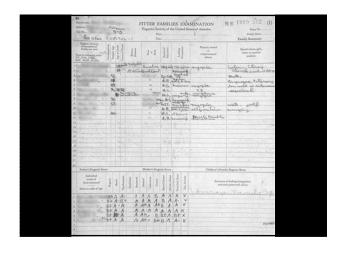
It is true that the right to beget children is a natural and constitutional right, but it is equally true that no citizen has any rights superior to the common welfare. Acting for the public good, the State, in the exercise of its police for the public good, the State, in the exercise of its police powers, 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 neonle and 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)







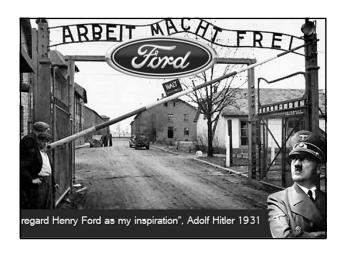




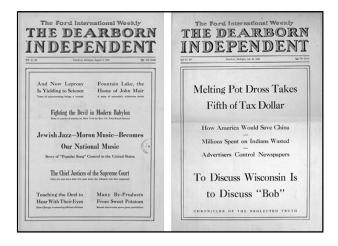
### **Negative Eugenics**

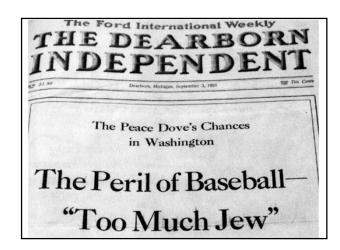
- decrease frequency of deleterious genes
- 2 2.5% of children born in the US are markedly defective mentally or physically
- Two reasons for prevalence of deleterious genes
- although deleterious in homozygous condition, may produce hybrid vigor in heterozygous
- frequency of deleterious genes is now high because natural selection has been artificially reduced

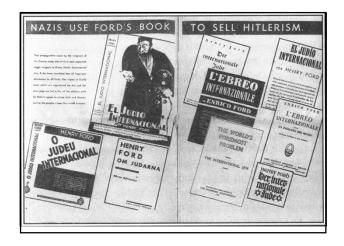
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#### A CALIFORNIA BERRY FARM, OWNED AND WORKED BY JAPANESS. orthly of last by present intiglish to interest by its birth and fart, which is now hold total out in the courts of the court new puts the Japanese in the ineligible category by railing they are not of the "white" or Cascasian race.

JAPANESE BARRED FROM CITIZENSHIP

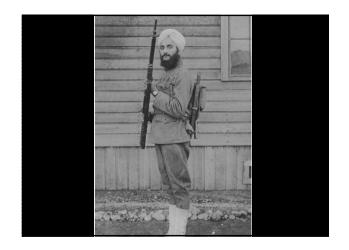
NOVEMBER 13 was an unleely day for the Nipposes
who like the elimate, opportunities, and other good
things to be found in the United States, for on that date
to United States Supreme Court decided that Japanese can
elimate the Country of the Country of the Country of the Country
The reason, set forth in two opinions and the country of the Countr

## THE LITERARY DIGEST December 2, 1922

In the Supreme Court opinion, Mr. Justice Sutherland was eareful 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

"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), alto 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 Caucian race. With the conclusion reached in these several decadant race.

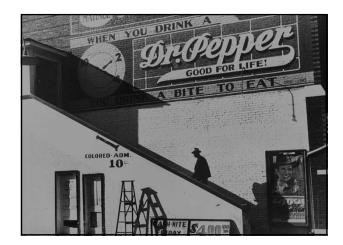
"It is urged that we should give to the phrase Cfree white process," 127.00 and that was the the minds of its original purpose of excluding the black or African near and the Indian purpose of excluding the black or African near and the Indians then inhabiting flui seountry. It may be true that these two races were alone thought of as being excluded, but to say that the process of the process of the process of the process of 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 it is not that negroes and Indians shall be excluded. The intention was to confer the privilege of citizenship upon that to all who could not be so classified." white, and to deep it



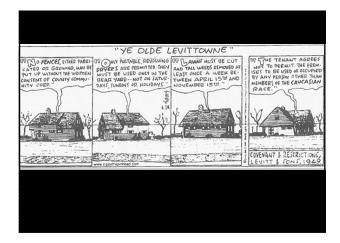












# So. Pasadena for 'Whites Only,' Says City Mgr. Telling of Racial Bars

Existence of a typical fascist set-up in South Pasadena in which anti-democratic practices are actively enforced, by the city government was revealed this week when South Pasadena's city manager, Frank Clough, admitted that since 1941 the city has been writing restrictive covenants into the deeds of all property obtained by the city through delinquent taxes. Clough boasted:

"We do not have ony Negroes nor do we here only either nea-Gaucasian people in South Fasadenan rentinuouse of this policy, seven the continuouse of this policy seven the continuous of this policy is a continuous of the policy seven the continuous of the policy seven the continuous of the policy seven the continuous of the city of the continuous of the continuous of the city of the







