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Eugenics and Racial Hygiene: The Connections between the United States and Germany

By: Nicholas Baker

Primary Reader: David Doellinger. Secondary Reader: John Rector.



Regular exchanges were made between the United States eugenicists and German National Socialist eugenicists in Weimar Germany beginning in the early twentieth century and lasting until 1941 during the Third Reich. The Third Reich was during the years 1933 to 1945, when Germany was governed by a dictatorship under the control of Adolf Hitler and the NSDAP (The National Socialist German Worker's Party). These exchanges were made by renowned eugenicists worldwide both on the local and international level. The term exchange is used to mean the interplay of eugenical communication between different countries to further their own research and get support for their eugenics movement's validity. Communication took on different forms and occurred through letters, articles, journals, research, laws, conferences, propaganda, pamphlets, and newspapers. The International Committee on Eugenics (ICOE), later the International Federation of Eugenic Organizations (IFEEO), repeatedly served to make exchanges between a plethora of member countries all under the guidance and aegis of the United States eugenics movement. Eugenics movements were in countries on almost every continent with communication of research and ideology being exchanged regularly. Countries with eugenical movements included: the United States, England, France, Belgium, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, Romania, Switzerland, Italy, South Africa, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Japan, China, and many other countries not mentioned also had eugenical movements. The emphasis here being that eugenics was a worldwide movement, and not an isolated movement in one country. Renowned eugenicists visited and stayed in other countries and brought home information on their eugenics movement. American and German eugenicists communicated and shared their research and beliefs on an international scale. This exchange culminated in some ideology of the fascist Nazi party under its leader, Adolf Hitler. The ideology that originated from the United States eugenics movement was the idea of the blonde-

haired blue-eyed individual epitomizing the ideal of Nordic race supremacy, the poisoning and contamination of those of pure blood by those of unfit blood, and the idea that sterilization would help take care of the unfit individuals in state institutions.

The science of eugenics developed, and eugenics movements proliferated during the late decades of the nineteenth century and continued until the middle of the twentieth century. Eugenics as a science was utilized for recommending solutions to the social ills for modern life. One major contributor was British philosopher Herbert Spencer, who first used the phrase survival of the fittest, after reading the work of Charles Darwin entitled the *On the Origin of Species* in 1864. Within Spencer's *Principles of Biology*, published in 1864, he would draw parallels between his own economic theories and Darwin's own biological theories. Spencer is most often remembered for his doctrine of Social Darwinism that was popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Social Darwinism is the principles of evolution and natural selection applying to human societies, social classes, and individuals. Spencer argued that Social Darwinism served to justify laissez-faire economics and the minimal state that were believed to best promote the gradual improvement of society through the survival of the fittest. According to Edwin Black, "In 1859, some years after Spencer began to use the term 'survival of the fittest,' [sic] the naturalist Charles Darwin summed up years of observation in a lengthy abstract entitled *The Origin of Species*. Darwin espoused 'natural selection' as the survival process governing most living things in a world of limited resources and changing environments... Darwin was writing about a 'natural world' distinct from man."¹ Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection in breeding and Spencer's in survival of the fittest happened

¹ Edwin Black, *War against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create a Master Race* (New York: Four Walls Eight Windows, 2003), 12.

to just coincide with the beliefs about biological determinism in heredity and the fears of individual and societal deterioration of the day. Thomas Malthus, an English cleric and scholar, was influential in the fields of political economy and demography. Malthus proposed the need for population control within his work entitled *An Essay on the Principle of Population* published in 1798. The work focuses on future human population growth and food output, and argues that eventually human population growth would exceed the resources available and there would be no food available. To avoid the Malthusian catastrophe Malthus recommended controls on population growth. The ideas of Darwin, Spencer, and Malthus fused to become a term that Darwin never used himself: Social Darwinism.

Sir Francis Galton coined the term eugenics and just so happened to be a relative of Charles Darwin, his cousin. Galton was not a scientist, but a statistician. According to Ellen Brantlinger, “Although the word ‘genetic’ was not coined until 1905, the term ‘eugenics’ was adapted from the Greek word *eugenes* (meaning ‘wellborn’) by British scientist Francis Galton in 1883 to encompass the social uses to which knowledge of heredity could be put in order to achieve the goal of ‘better breeding.’”² Galton believed that talent and quality were more than an accidental occurrence. He also believed that heredity was transmitting physical, mental, and emotional features; as well as creative qualities. He believed they could be quantified, managed, and honed into creating a gifted race through healthy marriages. Galton defined eugenics as, “The study of all of the agencies under social control which may improve or impair the inborn

² Ellen Brantlinger, *Sterilization of People with Mental Disabilities: Issues, Perspectives, and Cases* (Westport: Auburn House, 1995), 3.

qualities of future generations of man, either physically or mentally.”³ Galton himself came to be known as the father of eugenics.

It is pertinent to differentiate between the two forms of eugenics that existed: positive eugenics and negative eugenics. At first eugenicists started out practicing positive eugenics, but once that didn't start to yield results most shifted to negative eugenics. Positive eugenicists sought an increase in the birth rate of superior populations. Galton proposed positive eugenics through his advice in writing to couples about to be wed. Galton advocated prior to getting married the couple should first be sure to determine if they were genetically fit and would produce genetically fit children, and not create unfit children that exacerbated the social ills of society. Galton only advised couples about to get married, not through forceful acts such as barring their marriage. Other examples of positive eugenics are encouraging having a large family and constructive health practices. Galton later realize that positive eugenics did not work as people married whoever they wanted to. Negative eugenics on the other hand are negative aspects and actions associated with the regeneration of a socially ill society. Negative Eugenics took on many forms: sterilization, miscegenation, segregation, and laws that made it illegal to get married to someone who suffered from a contagious or unfit disease.

Historiography on eugenics movements gives a general background of the American and German eugenics movements and their exchanges. Historiography illustrates the arguments being made by scholars within the historical field on the topic, and whether there is an ongoing argument occurring within historical scholarship. There is no apparent dispute within historiography between historians over exchanges and their importance; except perhaps whether

³ *American Philosophical Society*, “Eugenics: A Journal of Race Betterment (vol II:8), title page including Francis Galton's definition of eugenics and Fitter Families medal,” *Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory*, Accessed February 1, 2017, http://www.eugenicsarchive.org/eugenics/view_image.pl?id=1724.

the international aspect of eugenics is important in studying the development of individual countries eugenic movements. The general consensus of historians is that exchanges of eugenics materials was utilized to further the worldwide movement and to gain approval for the eugenics movement. The purpose of this work is to illustrate the importance of the international eugenics movement communications between different countries, more specifically Germany and the United States.

In *War against the Weak*⁴, Edwin Black eloquently displays the interplay made between well-known American and German eugenicists. Exposed within the pages is the role played by entrepreneurial Americans in both funding American and German eugenically inclined institutions and societies. The Carnegie Foundation donated vast funds to the American Eugenics Research Organization (ERO). One such donation made in 1904 by the Carnegie Foundation resulted in the establishment of the laboratory complex at Cold Spring Harbor. Black also discusses how Rockefeller Foundation money funded the Psychiatric Institute of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Germany and the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics in Berlin. The Rockefeller foundation even supported research at the institution until 1939. Joseph Mengele's conducted research under Otmar Freiherr von Verschuer on twins during the years 1938 through 1940 at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics prior to his work at the Auschwitz concentration camp. Their research was funded for by the Rockefeller institution. The Psychiatric institute of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Germany and the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics in Berlin were center stage in the German racial hygienics movement and

⁴ Edwin Black, *War against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create a Master Race* (New York: Four Walls Eight Windows, 2003).

its research. The book illustrates the role that the United States played in dominating the International Eugenics movement; as well as in influencing German eugenics. Black argues that the American eugenics movement arose from the sense of charity and the strain that unfit people were putting upon society within the United States of America.

*Deaf People in Hitler's Europe*⁵, edited by Donna Ryan and John Schuchman goes very deeply into the topic of the eugenics movement during the late nineteenth century through the 1910s, and the persecution, sterilization, and euthanization of deaf people within Hitler's Europe. Robert Proctor's section within the work serves key in illustrating the sterilization of the deaf community within the Nazi Third Reich, under the Law for the Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring that was drafted in Prussian Weimar Germany, but never passed. Connections are made within the book on the role that state sterilization laws within the United States played in the formation on the Nazi Law for the Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring that passed in 1933. Not only are American sterilization laws utilized within this book, but so are laws for segregation, miscegenation, and restriction of immigration. Particularly interesting is the mention of the 1924 Johnson Immigration restriction law and the role it played in keeping those fleeing persecution in Nazi Germany from being allowed to enter due to quotas and ethnic restrictions.

In *Medical Killing and the Psychology of Genocide: The Nazi Doctors*⁶, Robert Jay Lifton details the sterilizations, direct medical killing (euthanasia), resistance to euthanasia, and the wild euthanasia that occurred due to the passage of the 1933 Law for the Prevention of

⁵ Donna Ryan and John Schuchman, ed., *Deaf People in Hitler's Europe* (Washington DC: Gallaudet University Press, 2002).

⁶ Jay Lifton, *Medical Killing and the Psychology of Genocide: The Nazi Doctors* (New York: Basic Books, 2000).

Genetically Diseased Offspring. Lifton also details the early eugenics movement within America and Germany and the significant impact that they had upon one another. It is mentioned within how Laughlin, who ran the American Eugenics Record Office (ERO), received an honorary degree from the University of Heidelberg for his contributions made to the racial hygiene movement in Germany. This text also goes into great detail on the difference between positive eugenics and negative eugenics. Lifton argues positive eugenics was just advice given to individuals to have their genetic background checked prior to conception to prevent the birth of more paupers, unfit, and ill individuals. Negative eugenics Lifton argues went a step further by sterilizing individuals with or without their consent.

In *Crying Hands*⁷, Horst Biesold discusses the forced sterilizations and abortions of the unfit deaf community. Biesold goes into great detail in his first chapter on how Social Darwinism led to National Socialism under which eugenics thrived. Biesold especially goes into detail on Alfred Ploetz, the founder of German racial hygiene. Biesold also focuses on the persecution of the deaf communities under the reign of Hitler's Third Reich. The piece that will be focused on in his work is the first chapter as it covers most closely what this paper is exploring.

In *Racial Hygiene: Medicine Under the Nazis*⁸, Robert Proctor describes the racial hygiene movement within Germany from its early stages during Weimar Germany and through the Third Reich. Key in his book is the connection made between American eugenics movement and its dire impact upon its German counterpart. That impact is the belief in Nordic supremacy and in the degeneration of society as a whole. Also examined are key eugenicists of racial hygiene within Germany like Fritz Lentz and Alfred Ploetz, and the role that they played within

⁷ Horst Biesold, *Crying Hands: Eugenics and Deaf People in Nazi Germany* (Washington DC: Gallaudet University Press, 1988).

⁸ Robert Proctor, *Racial Hygiene: Medicine Under the Nazis* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1988).

the German movement that will be mentioned a little later on. The book also examines the connections of the German sterilization law with sterilization laws within individual states within the United States. One connection being that the same illnesses that were viewed as causing problems in society in the United States being listed in the Nazi Law for the Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring. Another connection was the targeting of individuals for sterilization in psychiatric institutions with both physical and mental disabilities.

In *Sterilization of People with Mental Disabilities: Issues, Perspectives, and Cases*⁹, Ellen Brantlinger goes into thorough detail on American eugenics crusade against the mentally and physically disabled. Brantlinger, although not a historian, approaches the topic from her perspective as a special education teacher. Illustrated within are the key roles that sterilization laws played within the United States; in fact, half of all the states passed sterilization laws, with Indiana being the first state in 1907. Brantlinger discusses tactics of segregation and sterilization that were carried out against mentally disabled individuals. Brantlinger focuses more on Sir Francis Galton, Goddard, and Tredgold and the roles they were to play in the early 1910s of the eugenics movement.

In *Medicine And Medical Ethics In Nazi Germany: Origins, Practices, Legacies*¹⁰, Francis Nicosia and Jonathan Huener in the first chapter go into the ideology of elimination for the years 1900-1945 within both America and Germany. Nicosia and Huener focus on the ERO and the role that it played in influencing German eugenics. The book goes into the role also that philanthropists played in financing the eugenics movement. The inherited behaviors and diseases

⁹ Ellen Brantlinger, *Sterilization of People with Mental Disabilities: Issues, Perspectives, and Cases* (Westport: Auburn House, 1995).

¹⁰ Francis Nicosia and Jonathan Huener, ed., *Medicine and Medical Ethics in Nazi Germany: Origins, Practices, Legacies* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2002).

targeted within the United States as undesirable, and the individuals in possession of the genetics in need of sterilization is also discussed.

In *The Nazi Connection: Eugenics, American Racism, And German National Socialism*¹¹, Stefan Kuhl goes very in-depth into the exchanges made between the United States and German eugenics movements. Kuhl illustrates how the ICOE and IFEO (International Conference on Eugenics and International Federation of Eugenics Organizations) were conducive to transfers of research between the many countries with eugenics movements. Kuhl brings to light the vacations and visits that both American and German eugenicists made to different countries, and how they brought back the information that was going on at the time in the country. They later published the information in their native language. Also brought to the forefront is the connection between philanthropic parties and the funding of both American and German eugenical institutions. Kuhl brings up exchanges made between different organizations. Lastly Kuhl connects the support that almost all American eugenicists gave to the Nazi's Third Reich laws.

The problem with the historiography of these authors' is they narrow their focus to the eugenics movements of individual countries, and thus miss vital connection that existed between eugenics movements that existed in different countries. Although Stefan Kuhl's and Edwin Black's works are outstanding in their findings of the connection between German racial hygiene and American eugenics movements, all historiographical works examined at some point or another explore the element of Nordic supremacy that originated in the United States and made its way to Germany. Stefan Kuhl, Edwin Black, Robert Proctor, and Ellen Brantlinger all go into

¹¹ Stefan Kuhl, *The Nazi Connection: Eugenics, American Racism, and German National Socialism* (Cary: Oxford University Press, 2002), <http://ezproxy.wou.edu:2056/lib/westernoregon/detail.action?docID=10358263>.

the German eugenics movement on some level or another, and explore the American eugenics movement as well, some more briefly than others. By far the sources that focus most on the American eugenics movement are Edwin Black and Ellen Brantlinger. Black and Brantlinger both go into the organizations, individuals, and beliefs that the American eugenics movement espoused. Black however goes more into the German connection than Brantlinger does. What is understood from the relationship between the two countries is that a lot of the United States' eugenical laws, articles, research, beliefs, etc greatly impacted the German racial hygiene movement as they used it in their own way or adopted it completely. Among those things adopted were those that illustrated support for the Nazi movement 1933 sterilization law and Nordic supremacy.

Primary sources from the time period of late nineteenth century to 1943 bring instances of exchange that serve as key in illustrating the reciprocal relationship between the United States eugenics and German racial hygiene movement. The methodology that will be used is exploring a diverse set of primary sources and how they illustrate the different ways that exchange occurred and the purpose it served in being transmitted. The primary sources that will primarily be used will be letters, pamphlets, conferences, and Nazi propaganda. International conferences would usually happen every couple of years. The ICOE and IFEO international conferences will be examined through their focus on topics pertaining to eugenics, the important delegate members who attended and the countries they represented, the purpose that the international conferences were meant to serve, and who dominated the conferences during what years. The international conferences were meant to serve as a place to present eugenical research that was conducted by attending delegate countries, and provide international approval for the pseudoscience of eugenics and their own eugenics movement back home. One letter that is

examined was exchanged between Fritz Lenz and Charles Davenport in which the focus looked at is the encouragement of exchange of pseudoscientific research in eugenics between German racial hygienists and the United States eugenicists. American and German eugenicists communicated and shared their research and beliefs from the late nineteenth century until 1941. It is argued that this bilateral exchange culminated in some ideology of the fascist Nazi party under its leader, Adolf Hitler. Pamphlets that are explored are by the Eugenics Society of Northern California with two published in 1946 and one in 1948, and one pamphlet by the Human Betterment Foundation published in 1933. The Eugenics Society of Northern California's pamphlets are used to illustrate the financial element inflicted upon society that is created by unfit individual, the argument for the contamination of racial stock, and the rapid births of unfit individuals argued both by the United States eugenicists and German racial hygienists. The pamphlet by the Human Betterment foundation is utilized to illustrate the arguments being made in favor of sterilization, and how those ideas and argument for the education of society on sterilization were received and viewed in Nazi Germany.

The American eugenics movement emerged in the late nineteenth century. Some of the famous men at the helm of the early American eugenics movement were: Charles B. Davenport, Harry H. Laughlin, Dr. Kellogg, E.S. Gosey, and Paul Popenoe. Charles Davenport served as president and Harry Laughlin served as vice president of the ERO at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island. This organization was funded by philanthropists like Mrs. E.H. Harriman and Andrew Carnegie's Carnegie Foundation. In the end these members of the higher echelons of society donated what would today be considered millions of dollars to the ERO. According to Francis Nicosia and Jonathan Huener, "It is thus not surprising to find that in the United states eugenics being funded by the wealthiest philanthropic institution of the day [Carnegie, Rockefeller,

Harriman, and Kellogg], all funded by industrial interests. For instance, the Harriman, Carnegie, and Rockefeller institutes contributed over \$1.2 million between 1910 and 1940 to the ERO alone, while other funds supported organizations such as the Race Betterment Foundation, the American Eugenics Society, the Eugenics Research Association, and the Galton Society.”¹² Harry Laughlin was also an officer within the Eugenics Research Association. Davenport Americanized the term eugenics to become, “The science of the improvement of the human race by better breeding.”¹³ Both Davenport and Laughlin served in the political campaign that prevented members of other races and ethnic groups from entering the United States under the 1924 Johnson Immigration Restriction Act. Both Ryan and Schuchman argue, “This act remained the law of the land until after World War II; it restricted the immigration of ethnic groups considered undesirable through the establishment of quotas and was one reason that refugees from Nazi terror and survivors of Nazi genocide had difficulty entering the United States.”¹⁴ The undesirable ethnic groups were coming from Southern and Eastern Europe. Ethnic groups such as Italians, Greeks, Poles, and Russians. Davenport and Laughlin both testified at the congressional hearings for the limited quotas of immigrants and restrictions based on race and ethnicity under the act. American eugenicists believed that elements from Italy, the Mediterranean, and Slavic countries were contaminating the pure Nordic, Germanic, and English Protestant types of earlier generations of immigrants.

Dr. Kellogg with his brother Will Kellogg invented the corn flake cereal that became popular in the United States, and used his profits from their sale to fund eugenically inclined organizations and foundations. Edwin Black brings up one such foundation that was funded by

¹² Nicosia and Huener, 31.

¹³ Ryan and Schuchman, 16.

¹⁴ Ryan and Schuchman, 17.

Dr. Kellogg, “The society was founded [in 1911] by yet another wealthy American, Dr. John Harvey Kellogg of Battle Creek, Michigan. Dr. Kellogg was a member of the state board of health and operated a health sanitarium renowned for its alternative and fanciful food regimens. He had developed for his patients a natural product, a cereal made of wheat flakes...Dr. Kellogg founded the Race Betterment Foundation to help stop the propagation of defectives.”¹⁵ The Race Betterment Foundation attracted some of those most radical in the American eugenics community. The organization had the same goal as the ERO of compiling a eugenic registry and in effect listing as many Americans as possible.

Paul Popenoe was an influential advocate of compulsory sterilization of the mentally ill and mentally disabled. Popenoe reported on California’s sterilization law in a pamphlet that reached a German audience in a translation. Popenoe also wrote a number of articles in the *Journal of Heredity*; which was at the time focused on social hygiene and eugenics. Popenoe was well known for his advocacy of segregation of the unfit and paupers of society. Popenoe was also an influential man within the Race Betterment Foundation.

It was often argued both by German racial hygienists and American eugenicists that the undesirable immigrants were of low intelligence and attracted to committing crime; thus costing the American and German people money. The Eugenics Society of Northern California mentions a press story (no date given or where published) that was published prior to rising war costs in World War II, and how they can be prevented in the post-war United States in a 1948 Pamphlet: “Before mounting war costs benumbed us as to what a billion in taxes meant... ‘Crime costs America fifteen billions of dollars annually--\$28,500 a minute.’ Two-thirds of this cost is due to

¹⁵ Black, 88.

persons of low intelligence. Now that we know how these billion dollar bills feel in cutting our daily living standards, we can well commence to plan to reduce costs.”¹⁶ The increase in crime according to eugenicists, that was completely false, was due to individuals of poor intellect, and of unfit stock. Unfit traits that were targeted were feeble-mindedness, epilepsy, criminality, insanity, alcoholism, pauperism, and many other traits. The individuals that were contributing to this increasing crime rate were argued by eugenicists to be the new wave of immigrants coming from Southern and Eastern Europe. The Eugenics Society of Northern California argued in a 1946 pamphlet, “We are proud U.S.A. is the land of highest living standards... The germ of each of these is the highpower intellectual. This group expanded thru a high birthrate lasting from Jamestown, Plymouth Rock until recently. Now our intellectual especially race-suiciding with families of 2, 1, 0 kiddies. Meanwhile morons multiply like rabbits.”¹⁷ Many American eugenicists believed that a race suicide was occurring within the United States. Madison Grant in his work, *The Passing of the Great Race* exposed this concept of race suicide. Adolf Hitler read Madison Grant’s *The Passing of the Great Race* while he was in prison for the Beer Hall Putsch. Upon Adolf Hitler’s release from prison he wrote a letter to Madison Grant in which he stated his book *The Passing of the Great Race* was, “his Bible.”¹⁸ *The Passing of the Great Race* would greatly speak to Hitler, who came to view a race suicide occurring within the German people as well. Hitler viewed the fit as those descended from the Aryan race, and any other race as unfit. The race suicide being due to fit families reproducing with small numbers of offspring, while the unfit immigrant groups were reproducing on a large scale like rabbits. The fit families were those

¹⁶ Eugenics Society of Northern California, *Eugenics Pamphlets*, no. 56, “Crime’s \$28,500 Per Minute,” December 14, 1948.

¹⁷ Eugenics Society of Northern California, *Eugenics Pamphlets*, no. 46, “Our Greatest Asset...Money or Men?” July 17, 1946.

¹⁸ Black, 259-260.

descended from the selective stock of Plymouth Rock, while unfit stock were the new wave of immigrants that were degrading the intellectual original stock. Immigrants were often compared with weeds and invasive species in agricultural America. The Eugenics Society of Northern California published one such argument of immigrant weeds arguing in a 1946 pamphlet, “Today his [editor’s] once weedless acres are ribboned, along the right-of-way with that noxious, alien weed, the star-thistle...Sugarbeets, seed-carrots, seed-onions, alfalfa—all satisfy directly or indirectly, human hunger...No use, however, has ever been found for that UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRANT, the star-thistle. U.S.A. has the world’s highest living standards. These were made possible by the inventiveness of 10 generations of severely-selected pioneers.”¹⁹ The wording used within this pamphlet aligns the star-thistle with the undesirable immigrant: noxious, alien, weed. The immigrant weeds article also used a subtle nuance of the new trains running by the editor’s acreage that were causing the spread of the invasive star-thistle. The subtlety being that the train reference is referring to unfit immigrants coming into the country and race suiciding the fit population there that serves a purpose.

Most American eugenicists focused and only believed in the white Nordic element. Davenport used the Nordic element that was a centerpiece of the American eugenics movement as a way for him to communicate with German racial hygienists. German racial hygienists loved the term Nordic supremacy and used it all the time within their daily language. The term Nordic race and Nordic supremacy was altered and disappeared within Germany in 1933 with the rise of the fascist Nazi party (NSDAP) leader Adolf Hitler and became Aryan race and Aryan supremacy. The Nazis wanted to distance themselves from the Weimar scholars, who epitomized

¹⁹ Eugenics Society of Northern California, *Eugenics Pamphlets*, no. 42, “Weeds and Seeds’ Undesirable Immigrants,” June 28, 1946.

and loved the term Nordic race. Eugen Fischer was one such follower of the Nordic race supremacy argument, but unlike other peers of his day he felt that when unfit races mixed with Nordics they created people who contributed great things to cultures. Fischer would be replaced by Ernst Rudin in 1933 from his head university position at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute.

The early German eugenics movement began a little later than the American eugenics movement. The German eugenics movement began in the early twentieth century. Some of the key leaders of the German eugenics movement were: Alfred Ploetz, Eugen Fischer, Erwin Baur, Fritz Lenz, Geza von Hoffmann, etc. Alfred Ploetz coined the term *rassenhygiene* (racial hygiene) that came to replace the term eugenics, but it had the same connotation as its English form eugenics. Biesold notes, “Within this milieu, in 1895 physician Alfred Plotz first used the concept of ‘racial hygiene’ as he sought to develop an ideal of ‘Germanness’ in human beings. Plotz believed that political and economic measures were insufficient to create a society based on ‘Germanness,’ but he thought that medicine offered hope for creating a new society. Plotz gained acceptance from mainstream medical establishment after founding the *Archive for Racial Science and Social Biology* in 1904 and the *Society for Racial Hygiene* in 1905.”²⁰ The eugenics movement in Germany is usually associated with starting by scholars during the year Alfred Ploetz founded the *Archive for Racial Science and Social Biology*. Ploetz visited the United States in 1884 and headed from institution to institution collecting data on the American eugenics movement that he brought back highly influenced by to Germany when he left. Also interesting is how Ploetz still viewed the Jew as part of the German people, as an asset to the German nation despite him being anti-Semitic himself.

²⁰ Biesold, 14.

Erwin Baur, Fritz Lenz, and Eugen Fischer were all closely allied to Davenport and tied to the Cold Spring Harbor Institute located within the United States of America in New York, Long Island prior to the rise of the NSDAP to prominence in 1933. According to Black:

Baur an intense racist closely studied American eugenic science and formulated his ideas accordingly. He was comfortable confiding to his dear friend Davenport just how those ideas fused with nationalism...Baur wrote to Davenport in perfect English, ‘The Medical Division of the Prussian government has asked me to prepare a review of the eugenical laws and *Vorschriften* [regulations] which have already been introduced into the different States of your country.’ He emphasized, ‘of especial interest are the marriage certificates (*Ehebetimmung*)—certificates of health required for marriage, laws forbidding marriage of hereditarily burdened persons among other—[and] further the experiments made in different states with castration of criminals and insane. [Later on in the quote Baur asked for material from the Carnegie Institution on US legislation].²¹

As can be seen from this statement not only did German eugenicists like Baur have interest in the legislation of the United States that infringed upon others, but the Prussian government was interested as well. The laws that interested Baur and the Prussian government the most were the United States eugenical laws, regulations, and progress in sterilization.

Geza von Hoffman remained the primary link between German and American eugenicists until the late 1910s. Hoffmann served as the Austro-Hungarian vice consul for several years in the state of California. He traveled throughout the United States studying eugenic practices and then popularized them within German scientific and eugenic establishments. Some of the eugenics organizations that Hoffman visited in his travels were the ERO and the Race Betterment Foundation. Hoffman was a critic well known for his criticisms and praises for accurately illustrating the extent to which he believed sterilization needed to be implemented. Laughlin and the ERO served as a key conduit for the transfer of information. According to Stefen Kuhl, “In 1913, he [Hoffmann] published a book, *Die Rassenhygiene in den Vereinigten*

²¹ Black, 270-271.

staaten von Nordamerika [Racial Hygiene in the United States of North America], which later became one of the standard works of the early eugenics movement. After an introduction that sketch the scientific basis of eugenics, he reported on the widespread acceptance of eugenic ideals in the United States. He claimed that Galton's hope that eugenics would become 'the religion of the future' was being realized in the United States...Hoffmann dedicated the largest section of the book to sterilization legislation[.]”²² Within this book Hoffmann also discussed the marriage restrictions in place to keep the fit from reproducing with the unfit of society. As can be seen, Hoffmann's book was very influential in getting across American legislation that contained within it the message for the Nordic ideal.

Fritz Lenz was also to be a significant contributor to the link between the two movements. Fritz Lenz proposed the strengthening of binary exchanges between German and American eugenicists. Lenz held the prestigious position of coeditor of the German journal for racial hygiene. Lenz later took over Hoffmann's role as the main link between the movements. Lenz believed strongly in the Nordic supremacy concept of the United States eugenics movement. Lenz also communicated with Popenoe and Davenport and their organizations themselves. According to Black, “Lenz suggested to Davenport that while he could not participate in international gatherings, German and American eugenics could and should continue to advance eugenic science between them, mainly by corresponding...Lenz wanted such bilateral contact extended to the ERO as well. ‘I would be thankful,’ he wrote Davenport, ‘if I also could secure the publications of the Eugenics Record Office in order to notice them

²² Kuhl, 16.

[report on them] in the *Archiv für Rassen- und Gesellschaftbiologie* [*Archives of Race Science and Social Biology*]...Lenz closed his letter with ‘the hope of a work of mutual service.’”²³

Eugen Fischer was a key figure in the racial hygiene movement of Germany. He did believe in the theory of Nordic supremacy, and believed that other supposedly “unfit” peoples when mixed with Nordics had contributed great cultural innovations. According to Proctor:

Eugen Fischer was appointed director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Genetics, and Eugenics when the institute opened its doors in 1927. ...On January 29, 1933, one day before Hitler’s *Machtergreifung* [Seizure of Power], Fischer delivered a speech to the Kaiser Wilhelm Gesellschaft maintaining that the racial mixing of Nordic with non-Nordic peoples of Europe—Alpine, Dinaric, Mediterranean—was not only not harmful but was in fact responsible for many of the spiritual achievements of present-day peoples. ...Shortly after the rise of the Nazis, however, on June 3, 1933, Fischer was replaced by the psychiatrist Ernst Rudin as head of the Society for Racial Hygiene, as part of a broader effort by Nazi authorities to sever links with the more moderate wing of the Weimar eugenics movement.²⁴

Fischer did not challenge eugenics, but supported it. Fischer viewed the races discussed above as unfit and undesirable; except when they were mixed with a member of the Nordic race. Fischer challenged the common held belief that the racial mixing of these undesirables with Nordics resulted in individuals with deformities, disabilities, or illnesses. Fischer felt that members of the two races mixed together had resulted in many great cultural and spiritual achievements.

The first International Congress on Eugenics was held in London in 1912. The purpose of the meeting was to foster international ties and to publicly present the results of the pseudoscience of eugenics. Many participatory countries attended including the United States and Germany. Leonard Darwin, son of Charles Darwin, was the official sponsor of the congress, and individuals such as Charles Davenport, Alfred Ploetz, Alexander Graham Bell, and many

²³ Black, 272.

²⁴ Proctor, 40.

others served as vice presidents. Leonard Darwin extolled eugenics as a practical application for his father's theory of evolution. Even future Prime Minister Winston Churchill attended. All eugenicists in other countries who had been corresponding with each other for years prior to the congress, felt the need for broader acceptance of their beliefs. All eugenicists' especially American ones wanted it to be applied on a global basis. The international commission had promised to provide German racial hygienists with important contact to the British and American eugenicists. American sterilization laws and propagated compulsory sterilization were discussed as the best way to treat a defective society. American eugenicists dominated the international congress for decades. Black asserts that the global eugenics movement began in 1916, and was dominated by the American contingent:

At that conference, the dominant American contingent presented its report on eliminating all social inadequacies worldwide. Their blueprint for world eugenic action was overwhelmingly accepted, so much so that after the congress the Carnegie Institution published the study as a special two-part bulletin....That first congress welcomed delegations from many countries, but five in particular sent major consultative committees: the United States, Germany, Belgium, Italy, and France. During the Congress, these few leaders constituted themselves as a so-called International Eugenics Committee. This new body first met a year later. On August 4, 1917, prominent eugenic leaders from the United States, England, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and Norway converged on Paris. This new international eugenics oversight committee would function under various names and in various member configurations as the supreme international eugenics agency, deciding when and where congresses would be recognized, and which eugenic policies would be pursued.²⁵

As can be seen the United States had a worldwide goal of eugenics just like many other countries. However America believed in the Nordic ideal that prior to this conference had highly influenced a few countries, two of them being Sweden and Germany. The Nordic ideal sat well with German racial hygienists as it espoused the German Nordic Aryan race as supremely above

²⁵ Black, 235-236.

all other ethnicities and races. The Carnegie Institution often made publications on studies discussed at the congresses available to the public and United States eugenicists.

The Second International Congress on Eugenics was scheduled to meet in 1914 in New York at the American Museum of Natural History. The congress however was postponed until 1921 due to the outbreak of the First World War. Communications between eugenicists worldwide ceased. However communications still continued between the German and American eugenics movement during the war. Partially the continued communications continued due to the communications of Geza von Hoffman through his articles sent to Germany on United States Eugenics, and the Fritz Lenz recommendation of bilateral exchange ties. The other reasoning for continued exchanged was Harry H. Laughlin and the ERO who served as a conduit for the exchange of information with Germany. Stefan Kuhl mentions a pamphlet released in Germany by the Society for Racial Hygiene in Berlin on the events occurring within the United States during the First World War:

European eugenicists admired the success of their American counterparts in influencing eugenics legislation and gaining extensive financial support for the American eugenics movement. The German Racial movement followed the development of the American eugenics movement closely. During World War I, the Society for Racial Hygiene in Berlin distributed a public flyer extolling 'the dedication with which Americans sponsor research in the field of racial hygiene and with which they translate theoretical knowledge into practice.' The flyer referred to a donation of several million dollars by a widow of a railway magnate in support of the eugenics laboratory in Cold Spring Harbor.²⁶

This just illustrates the grandiosity that was the American eugenics movement. It was heavily financed by philanthropists. In fact the philanthropic widow mentioned is Mrs. E.H. Harriman who donated several million dollars to the ERO at Cold Spring Harbor. Also mentioned within the pamphlet was the creation of the Race Betterment Foundation and the extensive amount of

²⁶ Kuhl, 15.

money donated by Dr. Kellogg to found the organization. The Carnegie Foundation also donated a plump sum to the ERO from its foundation in 1904-1939. Also mentioned within the pamphlet was the praise of state commissions that attempted to awaken a eugenic consciousness within the American nation. The Society of Race hygiene was highly impressed also with immigration restrictions within the United States and the sterilization laws that were beginning to pass in many states.

Geza von Hoffmann was responsible for many of the exchanges during the 1910s. In a letter that he wrote to Harry Laughlin in 1914 he thanked him for transmitting vast amounts of reports to him:

The far reaching proposal of sterilizing one tenth of the population impressed me very much. I wrote a review of report No.II. in the Archiv fuer Rassen - und Gessellschaftsbiologie and I shall take pleasure in[~~crossed out 's'~~] sending you a copy as soon as it appears. I shall be pleased to inform you from time to time as to the progress of eugenics on the continent as far as I know about it. I am a member of the organizing committee; work will not be started probably before the next fall...In case there are any new eugenic laws enacted in the United States during the year, I would be grateful for a short information. With best regards, I am Very truly yours [signed] G. von Hoffmann Vice Consul.²⁷

This letter is very interesting as it illustrates the exchange of information going both ways. Laughlin had given Hoffmann exhaustive reports and research that most likely had been conducted at the Cold Spring Harbor institute and at the Eugenics Research Organization. It also displays that Hoffmann transmitted one of the documents sent to him, and made a report of it in the *German Journal for Racial Hygiene and Social Biology*. He also relates to Laughlin new societies dedicated to eugenics and fields close to it within Germany; thus keeping the circle of

²⁷ Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, "G. von Hoffmann letter to H. Laughlin in praise of his goals on sterilization" *American Philosophical Society*, accessed February 1, 2017, <http://www.eugenicsarchive.org/eugenics/list2.pl>.

transmission continuing. Hoffmann is even more curious of any passage of new eugenic laws within the United States that were significant to the German nation. Hoffmann most likely transcribed the material and publish an article about in *the Journal of Racial Hygiene and Social Biology*; which he often wrote for on the American Eugenics movement. It also displays that exchanges continued between the United States and German eugenics movements during World War I; when most countries eugenic movements had ceased international communication.

The Second International Congress of Eugenics was held in New York in 1921 under the sponsorship of the National Research Council. Delegations from almost every major continent attended the Second International Congress on Eugenics. German racial hygienists were however unable to attend due to the aftermath of the First World War. Stefen Kuhl brings up a letter Davenport sent to Alfred Ploetz telling why they could not attend, “Charles B. Davenport, the main organizer of the Congress, expressed his regrets to Agnes Bluhm, one of the early German racial hygienists, and apologetically explained to Alfred Ploetz that ‘international complications have prevented formal invitations to the International Eugenics Congress in New York City.’ He expressed his hope that such complications would be resolved before the next conference.”²⁸ Those international complications were the defeat of Germany and her allies in the First World War. However Davenport at the time was already working on reinstating the German delegates into the International eugenics movement. The Second Congress on eugenics was also predominately American dominated. The majority of papers presented at this conference were presented by American eugenicists.

²⁸ Kuhl, 18.

Prior to the Third International Congress on Eugenics the German Society for Racial Hygiene showed their interest to attend the next conference. German racial hygienists however had demands that needed to be met before they attended. In a Letter from the German Society for Racial Hygiene to Leonard Darwin about participation in future international conferences written in 1923,

The German Society for Race Hygiene is, on principle, prepared to take part in the work of the International Commission for Eugenics, and I have been appointed to represent our Society in this case. The German Society, however, expresses at the same time the distinct expectation that, by the time when the conference of the International Commission begins—which conference according to your communication will also have Belgian and French members—the atrocious wrong which Belgium and France committed on the German people by the invasion of the Ruhr, thereby violating the Treaty of Versailles with the other nations concerned in the Treaty of Versailles looking on, will have been removed again in a completely satisfactory way....[Make] it impossible for any honor loving and decent German to sit at the same table with representatives of the French and Belgian nations.²⁹

The members of the German Society for Racial Hygiene wanted to attend more of the conferences, but not until the occupation of the Ruhr by the Belgian and French peoples came to an end. They especially feared the mixing of the black French soldiers with pure Nordic Aryan German women. The occupation of the Ruhr was due to the Weimar government's failure to make payments for reparations. The occupation lasted from 1923 until 1925. German representatives also refused to sit with delegates of the representative countries whose people were carrying out this atrocity. In 1925 the congresses name changed to the International Federation of Eugenic Organizations.

During the Third Permanent Commission on Eugenics (Davenport renamed and broadened the name at this point) that was held in 1932 relations were restored with German

²⁹ Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, "Letter from German Society for Race Hygiene to Leonard Darwin about International Commission for Eugenics," *American Philosophical Society*, accessed February 1, 2017, <http://www.eugenicsarchive.org/eugenics/list2.pl>.

racial hygienist. Relations were restored thanks to Davenport's work to get German racial hygienists involved in the international eugenics movement. Originally German racial eugenicists Alfred Ploetz and Eugen Fischer were going to attend the commission, but they latter did not attend due economic issues caused by the depression. The theme of the conference was a decade of progress. The theme went over advances in both pure eugenics and applied genetics.

The racial biology of the Eugenics Record Office at Cold Spring Harbor and American sterilization dominated the international congresses of 1912, 1921, and 1932. The topics and presentations of the congresses were dominated mostly by United States eugenicists' research and work. The reasoning that the United States eugenical contingent dominated the international commissions was because they were better funded by philanthropic parties that enabled them to have more research and works to present. In fact, the United States was viewed as being at the pinnacle of the eugenics movement because of the quality of its research on eugenical topics and the vast funding it received. Often other participatory delegates from other countries would complain about the dominance of United States eugenics, and that they themselves could not present their own research at the conference as a result. After the Third Permanent Commission on Eugenics no further international commissions were held. American Eugenicists dominated the international congresses until the 1932 when German Racial Hygienists dominated the International Federation of Eugenics Organizations (IFEEO). The IFEEO was established in 1925 following the First International Conference on Eugenics. Charles Davenport served as the IFEEO's first president, and was later succeeded by Ernst Rudin. The IFEEO would only hold two more meetings one in 1934 in Zurich and the last one at Scheveningen in 1936 (both headed by Rudin). Ernst Rudin being named president served as the demarcating line between the shift of United States Domination and German racial hygienist domination under the NSDAP. The

majority of the research and work discussed and presented at the IFEO in 1934 and 1936 were presented now by Germans racial hygienists. Now instead of the international meetings serving to gain acceptance for eugenics movements in participatory delegates home countries it served to gain acceptance of Nazi practices and propaganda.

The International Federation of Eugenic Organizations (IFEO) meet in 1934 in Zurich. This meeting occurred a year after Adolf Hitler's rise to the position of chancellor of Germany. Hitler's fascist Nazi party arose to prominence now, and dominated the international eugenics movement. The international movement was now be dominated by German racial hygienists. The IFEO committees that were established in the late 1920s were influenced predominantly by the scientists of the United States and Germany. According to Stefen Kuhl at this meeting:

[A resolution was passed in] which Nazi propaganda frequently referred in order to illustrate the international acceptance of their race polices. In this unanimously passed resolution, sent to the prime ministers of all the major Western powers, the IFEO stated that, despite all differences in political and social outlooks, the organization was united by the deep conviction that eugenic research and practice is of the highest and most urgent importance for the existence of all civilized societies. . . German Racial Hygienists and Nazi race politicians viewed this resolution as confirmation of German and American dominance in the eugenics movement and as international approval of the 1933 German sterilization law. Although the resolution did not refer directly to Germany, its adoption was seen as an achievement for National Socialists in gaining international acceptance of their policies.³⁰

It is impressive that the resolution was passed unanimously by the delegates of various countries that were in attendance, and as a result it was viewed as a achievement for Nazi National Socialist policies. The deep conviction expressed by the delegates that eugenic research and practice is of the highest and most urgent importance for the existence of all civilized societies is reminscent to the First International conference on eugenics. When the American eugenicists were holding the wheel of the eugenics movement through extensive funding by the upper

³⁰ Kuhl, 27.

echelons of society they too felt that these international conferences offered broader acceptance of their beliefs. Americans also wanted eugenics to be applied on a global basis, and it was now under the control of the Nazis in Europe. The Nazis viewed the acceptance of their policies by other countries at the IFEO of 1934 and 1936 as a sign of international acceptance of National Socialist policies. In fact, many American eugenicists praised the German 1933 sterilization law for its seemingly unabusive phrasing through which it was thought injustices were not be able to be committed.

Often it was the case that eugenic letters, articles, newspapers, pamphlets, and laws crossed the Atlantic both to Germany and America, and translated into their native language. Paul Popenoe and his colleagues in the California sterilization movement regularly informed German racial hygienists before and after the rise of the Third Reich in 1933 about new developments in California. In California alone half of the United States sterilizations occurred. In a Pamphlet written in 1933 by the Human Betterment Foundation about sterilization the general view of the United States eugenics movement can be discerned,

Strong, intelligent, useful families are becoming smaller and smaller. Irresponsible, diseased, defective parents, on the other hand, do not limit their families correspondingly. There can be but one result. The result is race degeneration. The law of self-preservation is as necessary for a nation as for an individual. When families that send a child to an institution for the feebleminded average twice as large as families that send a child to the university, it is time for society to act.³¹

In many ways the Human Betterment society sought to eradicate the unfit that were supposedly increasing in rapid numbers within the United States. They emphasized Davenport's belief in human betterment through better breeding practices, and the usage of sterilization. The pamphlet set out to clear misconceptions about sterilization. To illustrate what eugenic sterilization was

³¹ Human Betterment Foundation, "Human Sterilization," *University of Vermont*, accessed February 1, 2017, <http://www.uvm.edu/~eugenics/primarydocs/orhbfs000033.xml>.

and was not, and overview sterilization within the state of California for over twenty years. Often sterilization was confused with contraception and as a result the Human Betterment Foundation felt that the two needed to be differentiated from each other. Contraception is a temporary and not always effective preventative measure to prevent pregnancy and the transmission of sexually communicable diseases. Sterilization on the other hand was a permanent preventative measure to prevent pregnancy and the creation of further unfit individuals that will put additional strains on society.

Wide ranging topics were discussed in the pamphlet to prove the usefulness of sterilization and gain general acceptance for its practice. Topics discussed within the pamphlet were: what can be done?, patients are pleased, the families of those sterilized approve, homes are protected, sexual delinquency is reduced, is there any alternative, the twenty seven sterilization laws that were passed within the United States, and the role the Human Betterment Foundation played in creating a solution. The pamphlet discussed the solution that was outstandingly harmless and humane method that was the usage of sterilization. The Human Betterment Foundation mentioned that lack of education even in educated people created misunderstandings about the measure of sterilization. Sterilization is was viewed by the foundation as not a punishment, but a protection of both the individual's health and the health the nation. The foundation argued that most parents of the unfit and the unfit themselves welcomed the prospect of sterilization. The Human Betterment Foundation mentioned how sterilization did not break up the home, but did the opposite fact of bringing them together and allow the patient of the mental institution to remain within their families domicile instead of an institution for the rest of their lives. Sterilization was required often prior to release from psychiatric institutions. The Human Betterment Foundation argued that sexual intercourse among feeble minded girls and individuals

had decreased significantly along with the delinquency of individuals. The foundation also focused on how much it cost the tax payers to take care of the unfit. Lastly the foundation mentioned the twenty seven states that had sterilization laws and the problems with some of them, and finding of unconstitutionality of others. The foundation especially focused on unfit individuals defects and how they were not being utilized to their full potential. This pamphlet was later to be exported to Germany and translated into German and distributed among other racial hygienists and the populace. This pamphlet was used as model of what was wrong with state sterilization laws within the United States, and California's state sterilization law served as a model for the 1933 German sterilization law.

The Nazi journal *NSK* (Nationalsozialistische Partei-Korrespondenz) wrote about this specific Human Race Betterment pamphlet later on in the year of 1933. The *NSK* was the main journal of the Nazi NSDAP party. Nazi propagandistic paper writers at the *NSK* were looking for any publications that might be applied to show support for their sterilization law, or assist in helping their own German eugenics movement. They found the useful piece of information in the survey pamphlet by the Human Betterment Foundation in the focus on educating the public on the truths and falsehoods about eugenical sterilization. Starting in 1933 after the publication of this 1933 pamphlet in German in the *NSK* Nazis felt that the more the public was indoctrinated with propaganda and other sources about sterilization the more it was accepted by the general populace of the German nation. They felt however that just educating the public on the topic of sterilization was still not enough.

The financial aspect that was argued within the Human Betterment Foundation pamphlet in Nazi propaganda targeted at getting acceptance from the general populace for sterilization. The

poster *Neues Volk* (Figure 1)³² depicts very well the financial aspect of taking care of the physically and mentally disabled individuals on German taxpayers. It was created by the NSDAP, the Nazi party (the National Socialist German Workers Party). It however takes what the Human Betterment Foundation was advising of sterilization to the extremist form of euthanasia. The poster argues for the forced killing of physically handicapped by announcing that this one handicapped person cost the nation 60,000 RM over his lifetime. It argues that people this is your money; thus implying wouldn't euthanasia be a godsend as it ends their suffering and yours in having to pay for them.

In 1936 Harry Laughlin sent a letter of thanks to the University of Heidelberg for his honorary PHD of doctor of medicine. Laughlin stated within his letter:

My dear Dr. Schneider, I acknowledge with deep gratitude the receipt of your letter of May 16th in which you state that the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Heidelberg intends to confer upon me the degree of Doctor of Medicine h.c. on the occasion of its 550th jubilee-year 27th -30th of June, 1936, I stand ready to accept this very high honor. Its bestowal will give me particular gratification, coming as it will from a university deep rooted in the life history of the German people, and a university which has been both a reservoir and a fountain of learning for more than half a millennium[sic]. To me this honor will be doubly valued because it will come from a nation which for many centuries nurtured the human seed-stock which later founded my own country and thus gave basic character to our present lives and institutions.

Laughlin was a staunch believer in the Nordic race, and his statements within the letter make this apparent. He viewed the German stock as the basis for the foundation of the United States, and forming the character of our lives and institutions through the hereditary inheritance of the German people genetics. Laughlin felt that the German people historically had for centuries

³² Mike Adams, "Neues Volk," When MEDICINE becomes MURDER: America's vaccine narrative now mirrors Nazi eugenics propaganda, http://www.naturalnews.com/048735_vaccine_propaganda_Nazi_science_eugenics.html.

nurtured the purity of the blood of their people. That an American eugenicist was chosen for an honorary doctorate in medicine shows just how much Laughlin and the Carnegie institution and Eugenics Record Office had an effect upon the German racial hygiene movement. Laughlin also shows his admiration for Germany's culture, people, and their institutions. Laughlin was not able to attend the ceremony to receive his degree; however as he was busy at the time of the jubilee.

In conclusion, eugenicists in the United State and Germany communicated with one another and shared their research and beliefs. This exchange culminated in some ideology of the fascist Nazi party under its leader, Adolf Hitler. For example, the ideal of Nordic superiority that later became Aryan superiority originated in the United States and wa The purported goals of eugenics have variously been to create healthier, more intelligent people, save society's resources, and lessen human suffering. Communications occurred both on international front and local front. Exchanges of ideas of different countries and the fight for acceptance of their eugenical movements began in 1912 and continued in the case of the United States with Third Reich Germany until 1941. The ICOE and IFEO both served as ways to exchange ideology and research; although it also served as a way to gain popular acceptance for their own eugenics movement back in their home country. The United States eugenical organizations' were the envy of many countries worldwide. Eugenic organizations in the United States were envied because researchers could conduct vast research, catalogue the heritage of families, and produce articles on a large level thanks to the vast funding that they received from entrepreneurial parties. For example, Sweden was upset at many of the ICOE because the majority of the work was presented by Americans, and the Swedish eugenicists felt that this was because of the funding they received that made the American movement appear superior to their own. Two organizations that were heavily funded by entrepreneurial parties served at the helm of the

United States' eugenics movement, the ERO and the Race Betterment Foundation. Leaders of industry like Rockefeller, Carnegie, Kellogg, and Harriman contributed millions of dollars in funding to the United States eugenical organizations. They were not only financially but morally supported from their inception by prominent individuals, including Alexander Graham Bell and Winston Churchill.

The research conducted in this paper on both the United States eugenics movement and German racial hygiene movement, and their interplay in exchanges brings a new perspective to the historiography through the utilization of sources overlooked by other scholarly research. Scholarly research has tended to overlook that the eugenics movement was both on a local and international front; most historiographical research focuses just on one country's eugenics movement, and as a result miss key exchanges of ideas and research that between different countries.

A key argument that was brought to the historiography personally was that some of the ideology of Third Reich Germany originated within the United States eugenics movement. The ideology that originated from the United States eugenics movement and that was transplanted to Third Reich Germany was the idea of the blonde-haired blue-eyed individual epitomized in the ideal of Nordic race supremacy that would be changed to Aryan race supremacy; the poisoning and contamination of those of pure blood by those of unfit blood; the idea that sterilization would help take care of the unfit individuals in institutions who were costing German society massive amounts of money for their care.

The American ideal of superiority of the Nordic race was transcribed to Germany to become superiority of the Aryan race. The term Nordic race supremacy existed in the United States long before it did in Germany. It was imported to Germany through United States

eugenicists like David Davenport, Harry Laughlin, and Paul Popenoe. Most American eugenicists focused on and only believed in the white Nordic element. Davenport himself used the Nordic element that was a centerpiece of the American eugenics movement as a way for him to communicate with German racial hygienists like Fritz Lenz and Eugen Fischer. German racial hygienists loved the term Nordic supremacy and used it all the time within their daily language. The reasoning that they loved the term so much is because the German racial hygienists felt that the German people were descended from the great Nordic race, and as descendants they were superior to other non-Nordic and non-Aryan populations. The term Nordic race and Nordic supremacy was altered and disappeared within Germany in 1933 with the rise of the fascist Nazi party (NSDAP) leader Adolf Hitler and became Aryan race and Aryan supremacy. The Nazis wanted to distance themselves from the Weimar eugenicists, who epitomized and loved the term Nordic race. For example, Eugen Fischer who was a prominent supporter of the Nordic supremacy ideal would be replaced by Ernst Rudin in 1933 from his head university position at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute.

The American ideology of the degeneration of humanity and perceived race suicide due to the contamination of the fit individuals by unfit individuals originated in the United States eugenics movement long before it reached Weimar Germany (1919-1933). The idea of race suicide and contamination of the population's genome by unfit individuals was later brought to Germany through exchanges made between United States eugenicists and German racial hygienists. The perceived increase in crime according to United States eugenicists was due to individuals of poor intellect, and of unfit stock; however this increase in crime was completely false, and only utilized to gain support for the internment and sterilization of the mentally ill individuals. Unfit traits that were targeted were feeble-mindedness, epilepsy, criminality,

insanity, alcoholism, pauperism, and many other traits. The individuals that were contributing to this completely false increase in the crime rate were argued by eugenicists to be the new wave of immigrants coming from Southern and Eastern Europe. Nordic supremacy arose as a result of a perceived race suicide and degeneration in modern society at that time.

The practice of sterilizing unfit and feeble-minded individuals through compulsory sterilization originated in the United States of America. Compulsory sterilization occurs in government policies which attempt to force people to undergo sterilization to prevent their reproduction, and the spreading of their defective genetics to another generation. In fact, the United States of America was the first country in the world to get sterilization legislation on the books in 1907 in the state of Indiana. Washington and California enacted sterilization laws in 1909 and Oregon enacted a sterilization law in 1923. The United States sterilization laws were closely monitored by German racial hygienists and often translated into German. The earliest case of the exchange of sterilization laws of the United States can be found in Geza von Hoffman's 1913 book *Die Rassenhygiene in den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika* [*Racial Hygiene in the United States of North America*]. His book dedicated the largest section to sterilization legislation within the United States.

Eugenics movements were in countries on almost every continent with communication of research and ideology being exchanged regularly. Countries with eugenical movements included: the United States, England, France, Belgium, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, Romania, Switzerland, Italy, South Africa, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Japan, China, and many other countries not mentioned also had eugenical movements. How did exchanges occur between these other countries? Do they have a connection to the United States? How did it influence the ideology and practices of the country? How did it affect the national eugenics

movement as a whole? From the research that has been conducted and learned within this study has found that exchanges between countries occurred through many different mediums: letters, pamphlets, articles, federations, conferences, organizations, propaganda, film, etc. Any country that participated in the ICOE and IFEO would definitely have been influenced by the United States eugenics movement as they tended to dominate the presentations being done. The United States dominated as a principle leader of the international eugenics movement until 1934 when Germany was taking hold of the reins of the international eugenics movement. The ideal of Nordic superiority found a keen audience not only in Germany, but also in Scandinavian countries that had a Nordic population. Further research is needed into these other countries eugenical connection. What could be done further is a work that explores the connection between specific countries that practiced eugenics, and how the international eugenics movement influenced their own countries movement.

Images:

Neues Volk (New People)



Figure 1 Mike Adams, When MEDICINE becomes MURDER: America's vaccine narrative now mirrors Nazi eugenics propaganda,

http://www.naturalnews.com/048735_vaccine_propaganda_Nazi_science_eugenics.html.

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