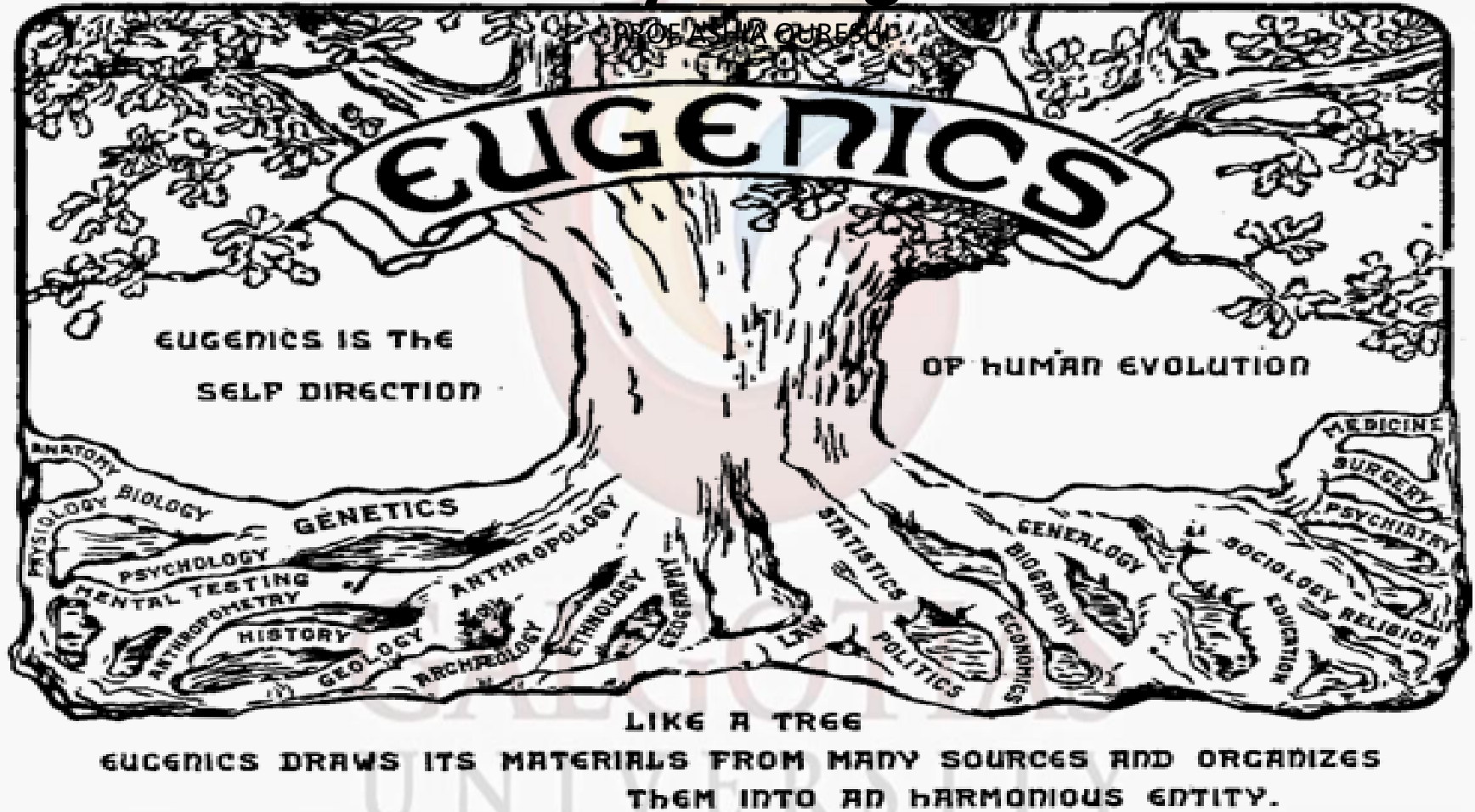


## History of Eugenics



- **Eugenics:** from the Greek “eugenes” for “good birth” **[Greek] eu-** = well **[Greek] -suffix -genēs** = born
- Good in stock, hereditarily endowed with noble qualities
- *Eugenics – well-born, or the study of ways of improving the physical and mental characteristics of the human race.*

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- **Eugenics** is the study of methods to improve the human race by controlling reproduction
- **Eugenic** thought and practice swept the world from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century in a remarkable **transnational phenomenon**, important cultural and social movement
- **Eugenics: liberal welfare measures in emerging social-democratic states, feminist ambitions for birth control, public health campaigns, totalitarian dreams of the 'perfectibility of man', ideologies of 'race', social and racial hygiene, nation building and welfare state, social reformism**

- **Plato** argued that human baby production should be limited to people selected for desirable qualities
- **Tommaso Campanella's** (1568-1639) [late Renaissance] utopian treatise *La città del Sole* (***City of the Sun***) 1623, a community in which unions were arranged by a Great Master (aided by chief matrons) who allowed only superior youths to procreate.



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1870-1914

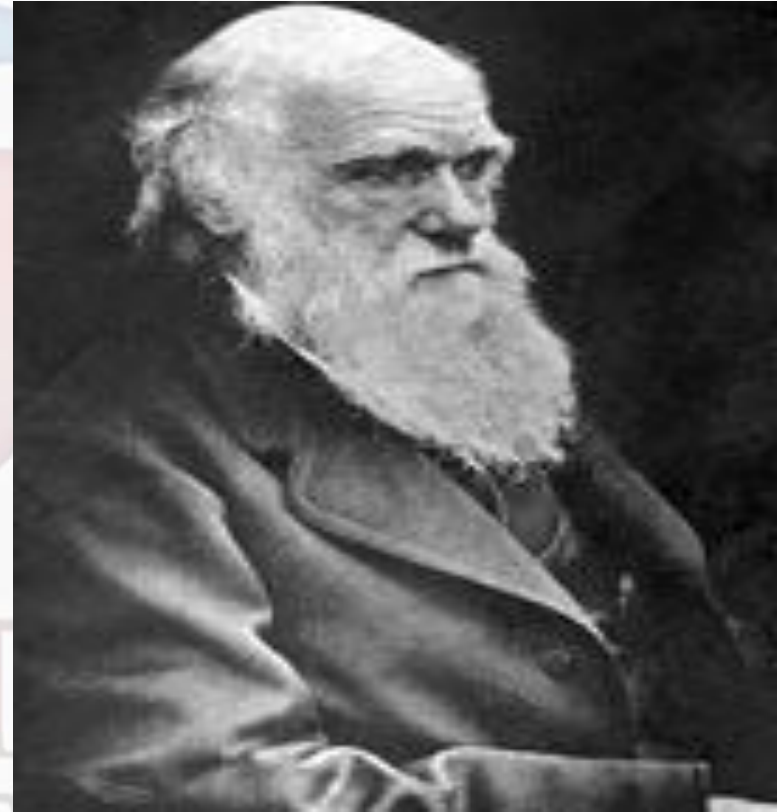
## Scientific Research and Concerns

- **Eugenics**: Term coined in 1883 by Sir **Francis Galton (1822-1911)** English scientist, half-cousin of Charles Darwin, Father of eugenics
- "the study of all agencies under human control which can improve or impair the racial quality of future generations"
- The publication by his cousin Charles Darwin of *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection (1859)*, (1859) changed Galton's life and ideas
- First chapter on "Variation under Domestication" concerning the breeding of domestic animals.
- Applied **Darwinian science** to heredity and "good birth". The need for eugenics to save society from "inferior" minds

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## The Influence of Darwin on Galton's Theory

- **Natural selection** is the process by which traits become more or less common in a population due to consistent effects upon the survival or reproduction of their bearers.
- It is a key mechanism of **evolution**.
- The **natural genetic variation** within a population of organisms may cause some individuals to *survive and reproduce more successfully* than others in their current environment.
- *The Descent of Man, Selection in Relation to Sex* (1871)
- Darwin applies **evolutionary theory to human evolution** and details his theory of **sexual selection**



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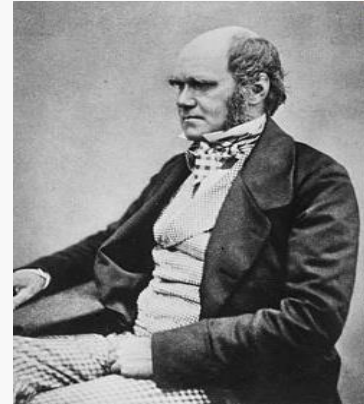
## Galton: Darwinian science to heredity and “good birth”

- **Galton:** exploring variation in human populations, measuring differences and similarities between generations, statistical law of heredity, study of twins to differentiate the effects of heredity and environment on human nature
- *Hereditary Genius* (1869), was the first social scientific attempt to study genius and greatness.
- **1.inequality of human beings-** the fact that a few achieve distinction in life and most only modest or no distinction at all
- **2. he attributed this inequality to heredity**
- **Letter to Darwin Galton :** “The appearance of your *Origin of Species* formed a real crisis in my life; your book drove away the constraint of my old superstition as if it had been a nightmare and was the first to give me freedom of thought”.

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## Malthusian Theories of Population: Darwin and Galton's Reactions

- In 1798, **Thomas Robert Malthus** (1766-1834) an English economist, influential in political economy and demography, published the *Essay on the Principle of Population*.
- **Theory of Population:** population increases exponentially and will therefore eventually outstrip food supply, dangers of overpopulation. (utopian society)
- **Malthusianism:** proof of the impossibility of socialism, no society free of poverty
- **Darwin:** population pressure was the motor of competition within species and competition within species led to natural selection
- **Galton:**
  1. Malthusian checks to population growth –disease, war and famine- had failed in modern society
  2. The characteristics in the individual which led to unchecked population growth were flourishing (differential fertility between social classes)



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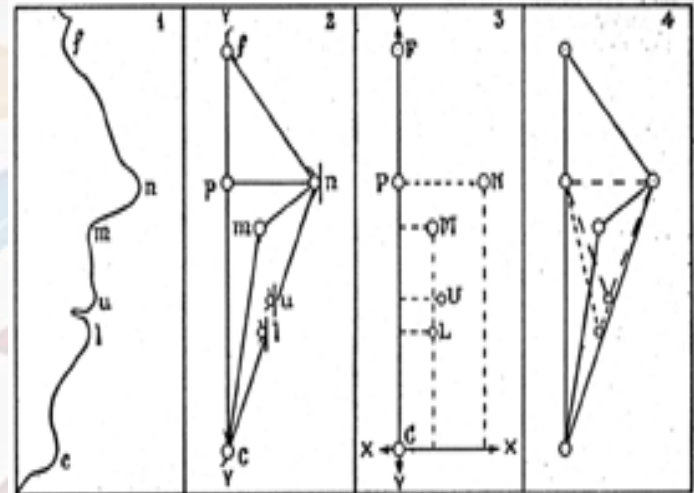
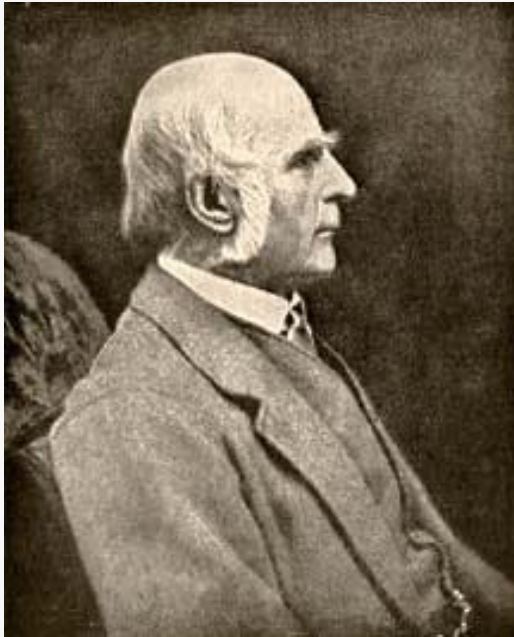
statistical methods to the study of human differences and inheritance of intelligence (questionnaires and surveys for collecting data on human communities, genealogical and biographical works and anthropometric studies).

- The mathematical approach to the examination of individual differences
- An investigator of the **human mind**. He gave statistical legacy to **psychometrics** (the science of measuring mental faculties).
- **Study of human abilities ultimately led to the foundation of differential psychology and the formulation of the first mental tests.**
- **First Psychometric Laboratory: University of Cambridge James McKeen Cattell 1887**
- **A pioneer in eugenics, coining the term itself and the phrase “nature versus nurture”**
- **The nature versus nurture debate concerns the**
  - **relative importance of an individual's innate qualities (nature) versus**
  - **personal experiences (nurture) in determining or causing individual differences in physical and behavioural traits**



- Galton's formulation of eugenics was based on a strong statistical approach, influenced heavily by Adolphe Quetelet's (Belgian mathematician and statistician, 1796-1874, *Treatise on Man*)
- Quetelet: 'social physics'- probability and statistics applied to social science [complexity of social phenomena, variables, measurement (crime rates, suicide rates)] and statistical regularities.
- Relationship between mental and moral characters and human anatomy (Gall, Lavater)
- Improving future generations by encouraging the "best" in society to have more children
- Culling defectives and degenerates from the population to promote and preserve the fittest

- The proper evolution of the human race was thwarted by philanthropic outreach to the poor when such efforts encouraged them to bear more children.
- *Charity upset the mechanism of natural selection.*
- Hence, the human race needed a kind of *artificial selection*: eugenics.
- By the 1860s he had popularized programs of human improvement through competitions for marriage partners, where only "best" would marry "best."
- Galton spoke of eugenics as the **‘new religion of the future’**
- He hoped to convert the next generations to the new scientific faith that these new converts would establish ***eugenics as a universally recognized science.***
- ‘Positive eugenics’



*Galton measured the distances around 'cardinal points' of the face, and translated them into geometrical language so as to 'classify' series of portraits.*

Sir Francis Galton established research programme which embraced many aspects of human variation: mental characteristics to height, from facial images to fingerprint patterns

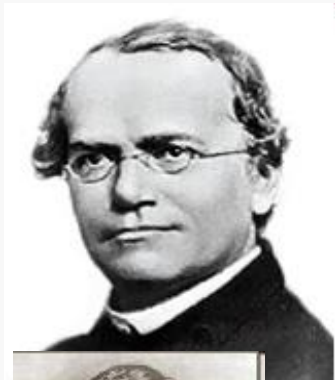
Technique called 'Composite Portraiture' described in detail in *Inquiries in human faculty and its development*, which he believed could be used to identify types by appearance.

He hoped his technique would aid medical diagnosis, and even criminology through the identification of typical criminal faces.

However, he was forced to conclude after exhaustive experimentation that such types were not attainable in practice.

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- Galton and his statistical heir **Karl Pearson** developed the '**biometrical approach to eugenics**' (new and complex statistical models to describe the heredity of traits)
- With the re-discovery of the Austrian monk and scientist, **Gregor Mendel's** (1822-1884) hereditary laws: study of the inheritance of certain traits in pea plants. [*Law of Segregation* and the *Law of Independent Assortment*]
- **Two separate camps of eugenics advocates emerged.**
- One was made up of **statisticians**, the other of **biologists**.
- Statisticians thought the biologists had exceptionally crude mathematical models while biologists thought the statisticians knew little about biology.



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## Karl Pearson (1857-1936)

- Galton bequeathed his Chair of Eugenics at the University of London to **Karl Pearson**.
- Karl Pearson established the discipline of mathematical statistics (first **university statistics department** at University College London, 1911)
- A proponent of eugenics, and a protégé and biographer of Sir Francis Galton
- Pearson openly advocated "war" against "inferior races": a logical implication of his scientific work on **human measurement**
- When Galton died, he left the residue of his estate to the University of London for a **Chair in Eugenics**.
- First holder of this chair: *Galton Chair of Eugenics, Galton Chair of Genetics*.
- Department of Applied Statistics into which he incorporated the Biometric and Galton laboratories co-founder, with Weldon and Galton, of the statistical journal *Biometrika* .
- 



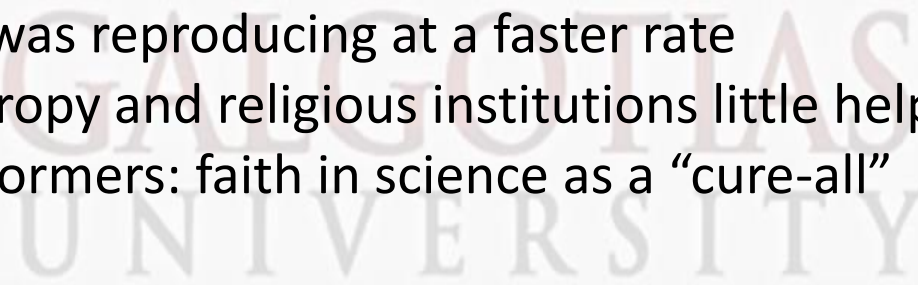
## Positive-Negative Eugenics Darwinism and Social Darwinism

- **The Galtonian ideal of eugenics** is usually termed positive eugenics.
- Negative eugenics, on the other hand, advocated culling the least able from the breeding population to preserve humanity's fitness.
- The term **Darwinism** had been coined by Thomas Henry Huxley (an English biologist, review of *On the Origin of Species*, 1860): evolutionism or development, without any specific commitment to Charles Darwin's own theory
- The first use of the phrase **Social Darwinism** was on a Joseph Fischer's Article (1877) on *The History of Landholding in Ireland*
- **Social Darwinism**: application of the theory of natural selection to social, political, and economic issues (late Victorian era England, America, end of 19<sup>th</sup> century). Evolution as the 'growth of rationality'
- *The strongest or fittest should survive and flourish in society, while the weak and 'unfit' should be allowed to die*
- Explained social and economic inequalities as the "survival of the fittest." (first coined by Herbert Spencer and then adopted by Darwin in the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Origin, 1869)

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## Social Darwinism and Spencer

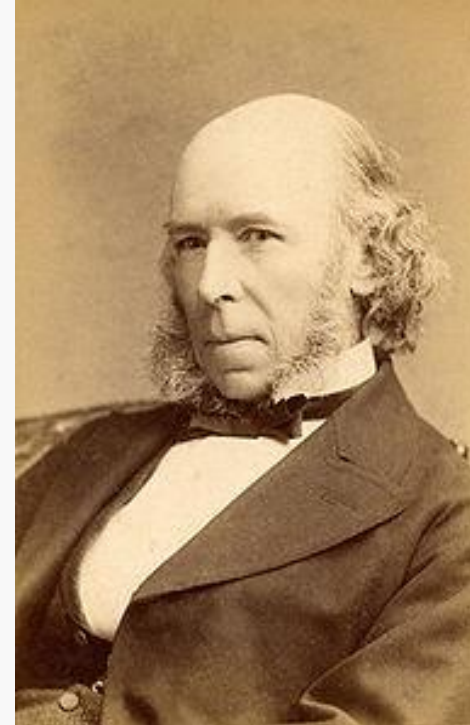
- The theory was chiefly expounded by **Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)** English philosopher, biologist, sociologist and prominent political theorist of the Victorian era
- Spencer's ideas (evolutionary progressivism) stemmed from reading Thomas Malthus
- His later theories were influenced by those of Darwin (*adaptation and natural selection*).
- Spencer's major work, *Progress: Its Law and Cause* (1857) released three years before the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, and *First Principles* was printed in 1860.
- Declining birth rate among the wealthy and powerful
- Working class was reproducing at a faster rate
- Social philanthropy and religious institutions little help.
- Progressive reformers: faith in science as a “cure-all”





## Spencer and Adaptation

- The concept of **adaptation** allowed **Spencer** to claim that the rich and powerful were better adapted to the social and economic climate of the time
- The **concept of natural selection** allowed him to argue that it was natural, normal, and proper for the strong to thrive at the expense of the weak.
- Not only was survival of the fittest natural, but it was also **morally correct**
- extreme **Social Darwinists**: it was morally incorrect to assist those weaker than oneself, since that would be promoting the survival and possible reproduction of someone who was fundamentally 'unfit'
- Justify eugenics programs aimed at weeding "undesirable" genes from the population



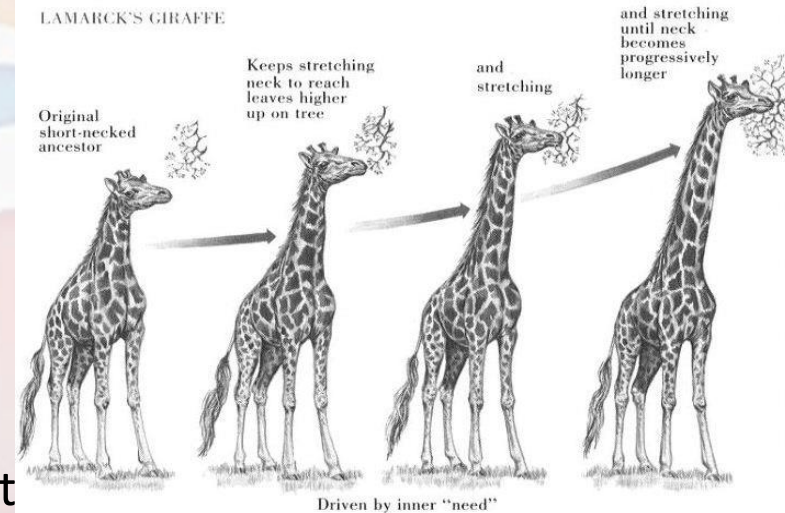
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## Lamarckism

- French biologist **Jean-Baptiste Lamarck** (1744–1829) incorporated the action of ***soft inheritance*** into his evolutionary theories:
- *an organism can pass on characteristics that it acquired during its lifetime to its offspring (also known as heritability of acquired characteristics or soft inheritance).*
- The fecundity and rapid multiplication of organisms, particularly those low in the scale of complexity, posed a threat to the preservation and perfectibility of the higher species

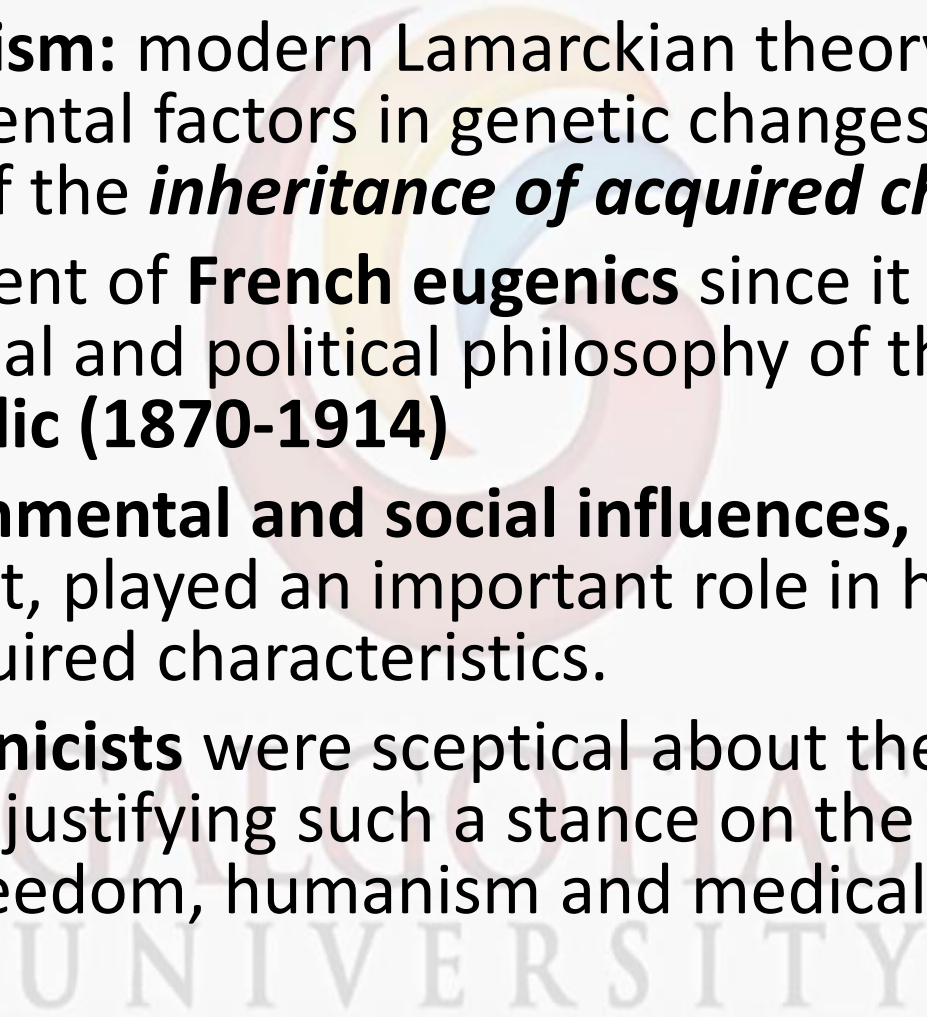
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## Lamarck's Giraffe



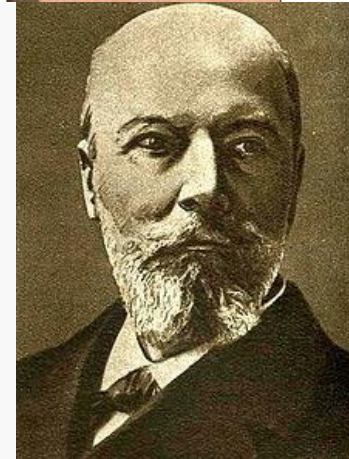
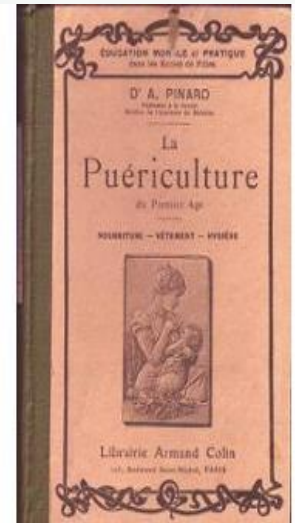
- Evolution occurs because organisms can inherit traits from their ancestors.
- Giraffes find themselves in a changing environment in which they can only survive by eating leaves high up on trees.
- They stretch their necks to reach the leaves and this stretching and the desire to stretch gets passed on to later generations.
- As a result, a species of animal which originally had short necks evolved into a species with long necks.

- **Neolamarckism:** modern Lamarckian theory importance of environmental factors in genetic changes and retaining the notion of the *inheritance of acquired characters*
- key-component of **French eugenics** since it was consistent with the social and political philosophy of the **French Third Republic (1870-1914)**
- **both environmental and social influences**, subject to improvement, played an important role in heredity through acquired characteristics.
- **French eugenicists** were sceptical about the imposition of sterilisation, justifying such a stance on the grounds of individual freedom, humanism and medical ethics



## Motherhood-Procreation-Puericulture

- **Adolphe Pinard** (1844-1934). French obstetrician: 'prenatal care' reviving the concept of **puericulture** (1895): 'knowledge relative to the reproduction, conservation and amelioration of the human species'
- Medical checks at **three stages**: before procreation; during pregnancy; in the period after birth.
- (birth control, natalism, social hygiene measures, prenatal care and infant mortality problems, alcoholism, tuberculosis and venereal diseases)
- **French Eugenics Society**: mild eugenics, instruction, quantity and quality of birth, duty of the individual to society and the race, (political duty)
- **Nation's power**: quality of its biological capital.



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)

- 1904: Galton endowed a research chair in eugenics, University College, London University
- 1905: **German Society for Racial Hygiene**, physician A. Ploetz, Berlin
- 1907: **Eugenic Education Society** England
- 1910: **Eugenics Record Office** (ERO), America
- 1908: **Eugenics Education Society-Eugenics Society (1926) Galton Institute (1989)**
- 1922: **American Eugenics Society** (Madison Grant, Henry H. Laughlin, Irving Fisher)
- 1928: **Human Betterment Foundation** (HBF) American eugenics organization established in California
  
- Eugenic policies, eugenics research projects or publications. Discourse on sterilisation and laws.
  
- **World War I:** the state should control biological reproduction-capital in the interest of *national efficiency*
  
- **Eugenics:** one of the most potent expressions of the modern scientific quest for national *rejuvenation-regeneration* during the 1920s.

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## Other Eugenecists

### America: Charles Davenport (1866-1944)

- Established the Eugenics Record Office (ERO, 1910): trained field workers to collect pedigrees of families with interesting traits
- Wrote extensively on “pauperism,” criminality and “feeble-mindedness.”
- Leader of the American eugenics movement, involved in the sterilization of around 60,000 “unfit” Americans



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## Harry Laughlin (1880-1943)

- A leading American eugenicist in the first half of the 20th century.
- Director of the *Eugenics Record Office* (from its inception 1910 to its closing in 1939), most active individuals in influencing American eugenics policy (compulsory sterilization legislation).
- **Ambitious promoter of laws:** 1. sterilize “hereditary defectives” 2. restrict the inflow of “worthless” immigrants
- Measuring innate (genetically determined) mental traits major part of the psychometric movement in the early 20th.
- Test scores (given as an intelligence quotient, or IQ) used by eugenicists to restrict, control immigration



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# School of NURSING

Course Code : BSCN2004

Course Name: COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING-I



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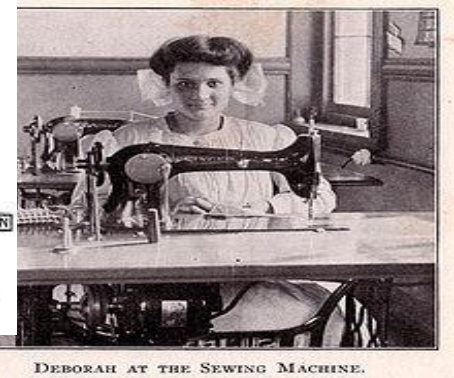
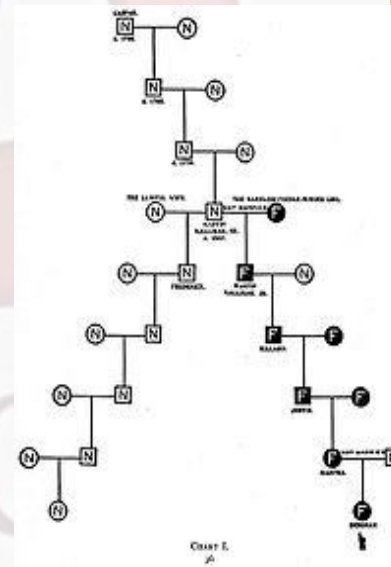
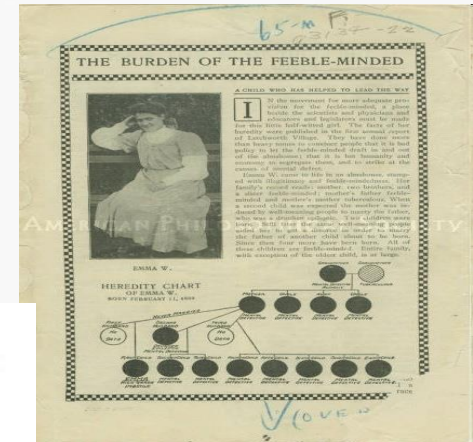
## **Robert Yerkes (1876 –1956)**

**American psychologist, president of the American Psychological Association (APA)**

The Army's Alpha and Beta Intelligence Tests, first nonverbal group tests, which given to over 1 million soldiers during the war: recent immigrants (especially those from Southern and Eastern Europe) scored considerably lower than older waves of immigration (from Northern Europe), Eugenic motivations for harsh immigration restriction. (Immigration Act of 1924)

## Intelligence and Heredity

- *The Kallikak Family: A Study in the Heredity of Feeble-Mindedness*
- 1912 American psychologist Henry H. Goddard.
- Intelligence Tests and **Feeble-minded** (various forms of mental retardation and learning deficiencies)
- Genealogy of Deborah-Pedigree Charts



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## Sanger: Birth Control and Planned Parenthood

- **Margaret Sanger (1879-1966):**  
American sex educator, birth control activist, founder of the *American Birth Control League* (1921)
- **1916:** first *Birth control-Family Planning Clinic* in the United States (contraceptive information , *Planned Parenthood Federation America* in 1942)
- **Proponent of negative eugenics:**  
human hereditary traits can be improved through social intervention, racial politics of eugenic



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- Feminist ideas: Marie Stopes (Britain).
- “Laissez-aller in marriage is no wiser than in other parts of life” asserted the British birth control advocate Annie Besant
- Primary sponsors of abortion rights during her lifetime. Exclusionary immigration policy, free access to birth control methods and full family-planning autonomy for the able-minded, compulsory segregation or sterilization for the profoundly retarded.

Science and Invention for January, 1922

**“WOMAN AND THE NEW RACE”**  
By Margaret Sanger

This book, just published, is Margaret Sanger's greatest work. It contains the very essence of her life's work. It is written for the women of the world in the simplest, most direct, and most convincing manner. It is a book that every woman should read. It is a book that every woman should have on her shelf. It is a book that every woman should give to her friends. It is a book that every woman should give to her children. It is a book that every woman should give to her country. It is a book that every woman should give to her race.

**CONTENTS**

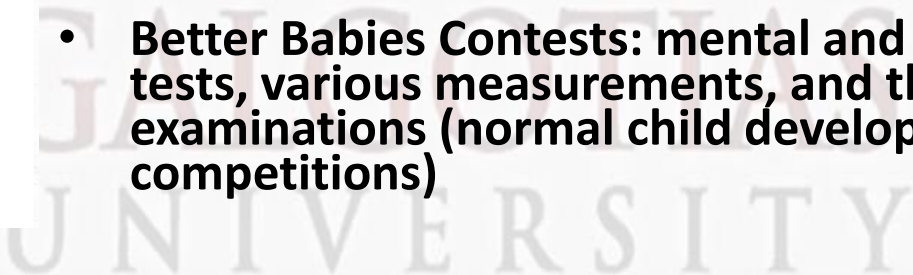
Woman's Struggle and Her Continuity - Is It Feasible or Desirable? - The Struggle for Freedom - Immortality of Unwanted - Causes of Death - Abortion - When should a Woman - Any and every chapter is worth the price of this book.

**THE KNOWLEDGE IS PRICELESS**

This book, "Woman and the New Race," by Margaret Sanger, contains very valuable knowledge, but it would be better to have it in the hands of every woman. It is a book that every woman should read. It is a book that every woman should have on her shelf. It is a book that every woman should give to her friends. It is a book that every woman should give to her children. It is a book that every woman should give to her country. It is a book that every woman should give to her race.

**TRUTH PUBLISHING CO.**  
1400 Broadway, New York

- In 1927 Sanger helped organize the first World Conference in Geneva.
- Better Babies Contests: mental and developmental tests, various measurements, and the physical examinations (normal child development, eugenic competitions)



## Leonard Darwin (1850-1943)

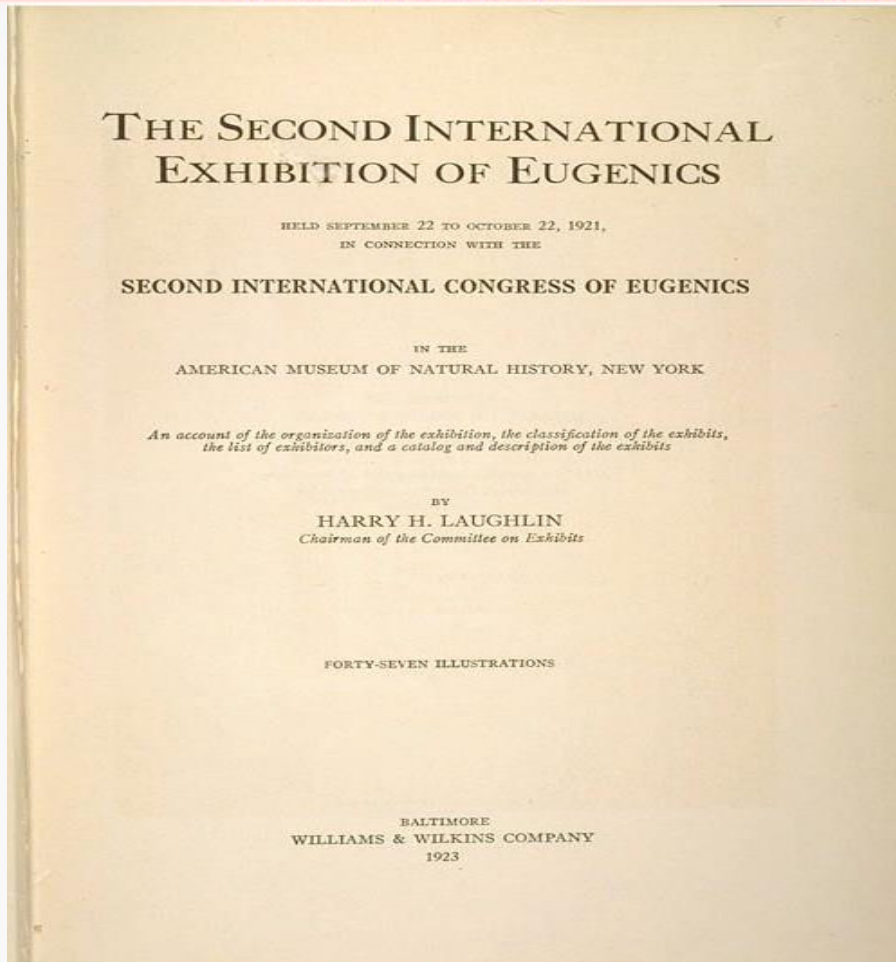
- Son of Charles Darwin, Chairman of the **British Eugenics Society** (1911-1928)
- He took leadership positions in international eugenics events.
- Chairman of the **First International Eugenics Congress** (1912), University of London July 24-30 1912, hosted by the British Eugenics Society (324 individuals from around the world).
- **Second International Congress of Eugenics** in 1921 he gave the lead address 'Aims and Methods of Eugenic Societies'
- **Third Congress (1932)**: American Museum of Natural History, New York City
- **Control of prostitution** to prevent venereal disease.(WWI)



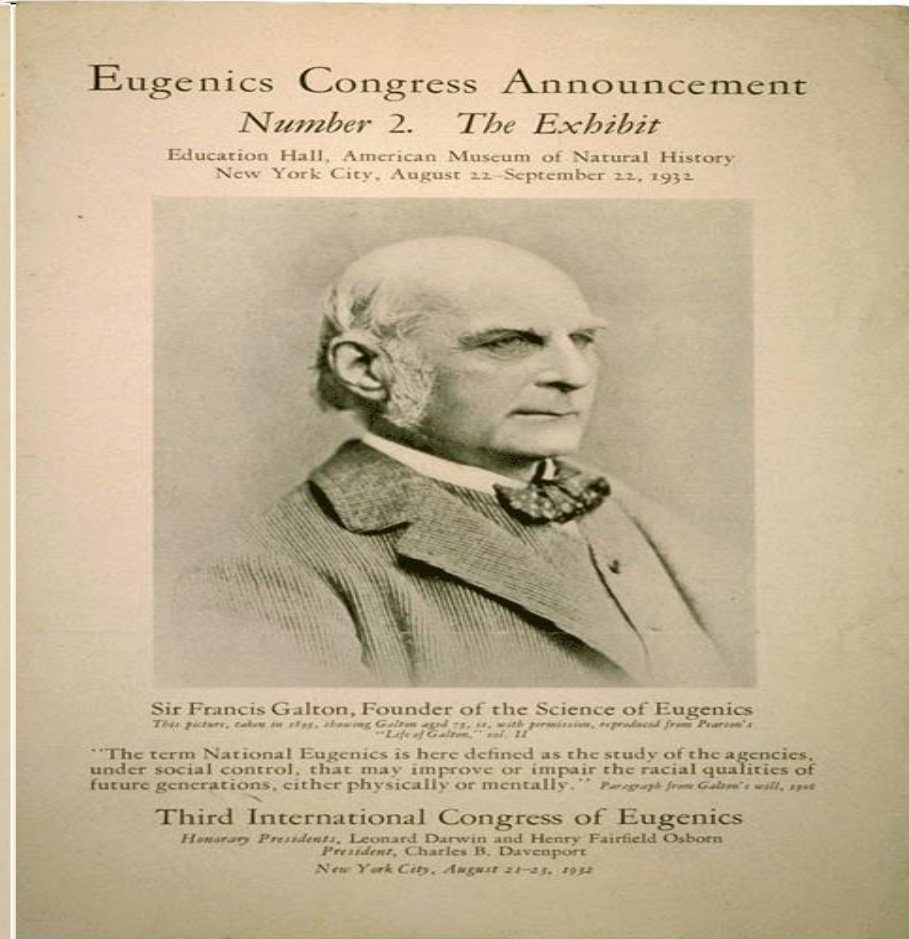
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- **Britain**
- In Britain, eugenics never received significant state funding
- it was supported by many prominent figures of different political persuasions before World War I, including:
- Liberal economists William Beveridge and John Maynard Keynes,
- Fabian Socialists such Irish author George Bernard Shaw, H.G. Wells and Sidney Well
- Furthermore, its emphasis was more upon ***social class*** rather than ***race***.

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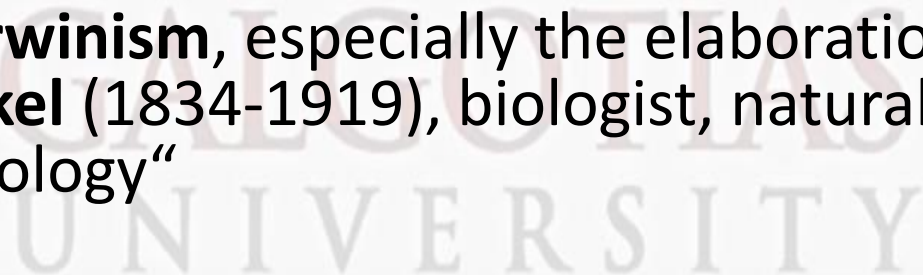
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## Nazi and Racial Hygiene

- Ideas of biological improvement (1933-1940).
- Hitler was the first politician with effective influence to make ***race hygiene*** a central goal of all politics
- Hygienists like **Fischer** saw in Nazism the long-awaited political opportunity for the practical application of the principles of ***racial hygiene***
- German eugenicist **Wilhelm Schallmayer** (1857-1919) one of the founders of German racial hygiene movement
- **Social Darwinism**, especially the elaborations by **Spencer** and **Haeckel** (1834-1919), biologist, naturalist "politics is applied biology"



- Drawing upon the leading German eugenics text, *Human Heredity and Race Hygiene* (1921) and the writings of race theorist Hans F.K. Guenther, Adolf Hitler in *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle, 1925) formulated his 'race purity' theories.
- ***The core idea of Darwinism was not evolution, but of the 'fitter' selection.***
- Increasing the birthrate classes and preventing the reproduction of the unfit
- **Preventing the 'inferior races' from mixing with those judged superior, in order to reduce contamination of the latter's gene pool.**



- ***German Society for Race Hygiene*** (1905, Ploetz, Berlin): improve and purify “Aryan race’
- **1933:** Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring (genetic disorders)
- **1935:** *Law for the Protection of the Health of the German People:* couples had to undergo a medical examination prior to marriage
- **Prohibited the marriage of individuals** with venereal disease or genetic diseases, enforced racial hygiene, extermination of undesired groups, Sterilization laws, premarital health exam laws, immigration-restriction laws

## “We do not stand alone”

Nazi  
propaganda Poster justifying  
the **1934  
sterilization law**, shows a  
German couple  
surrounded by the flags of  
nations which  
already had identical laws.  
*Neues Volk*,  
1936



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## Eugenics and Sterilization Laws in Scandinavian-Nordic countries

- Scandinavian eugenic sterilisation laws: “to improve the genetic make up of a human population” —*eugenic by orientation*.
- **Sterilization Laws:** Norway (1934), Sweden (1934), Finland (1935), Estonia (1936), Iceland (1938), Denmark (1929 voluntary sterilization, 1934 coercive use on mental defectives)
- The future biological quality of the population.
- Complexity of the analysis: moral and scientific reasons

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## **Historiography of Eugenics**

- The relationship of eugenics with Racism, Nationalism, Antisemitism.
- Local eugenic movements, relationship between eugenicists and the nation-state (national rejuvenation), the role of professionals and expert expert knowledge on race
- Role of different eugenic movements especially of British eugenics and German racial hygiene
- Connection of eugenics with modernist ideas, social changes engendered by immigration and racial segregation
- Connection with Traumatic human experiences generated by the Wars.

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