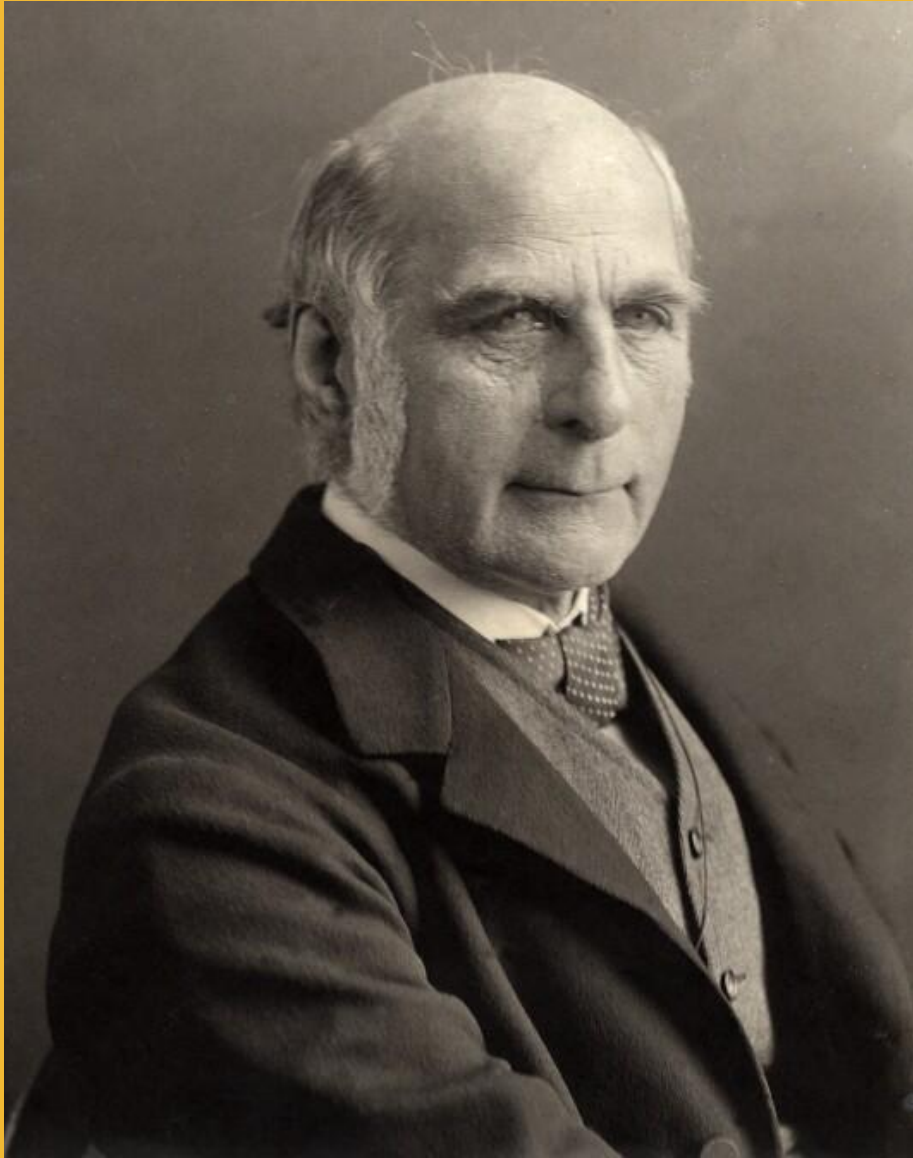


UNITED STATES
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MEMORIAL
MUSEUM ushmm.org

EUGENICS

Eugenics:

- The false belief, based in discredited science, that the human population can “improve” with selective breeding. This belief led to laws legalizing the forced sterilization of people deemed racially and genetically “inferior” so they could not have children.
- In Germany, eugenics was also called “racial hygiene.”



Sir Francis Galton, a British scientist, created the term “eugenics” in 1883. His ideas, which linked human heredity to moral and social issues, quickly became popular in northern and western Europe, and in the United States.

564
302

A DECADE *of* PROGRESS IN EUGENICS

Scientific Papers *of the*
Third International Congress of Eugenics
held at

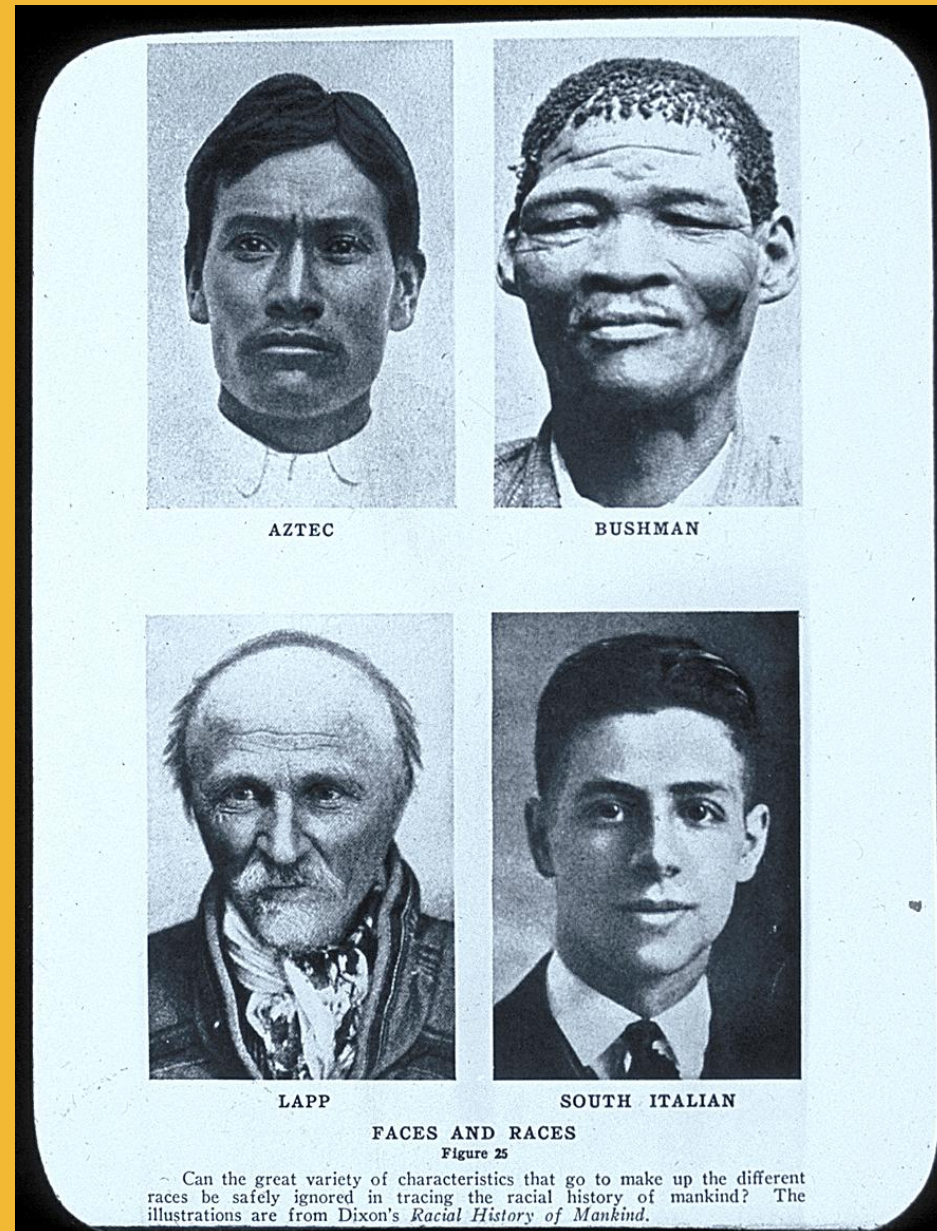
American Museum of Natural History
New York, August 21-23, 1932



Scientists from all over the world gathered for international conferences to discuss eugenics. Colleges and universities taught the theory of eugenics as if it was a proven fact.

Eugenicists argued that where you were born, your race, and who your parents were determined what kind of person you were going to become.

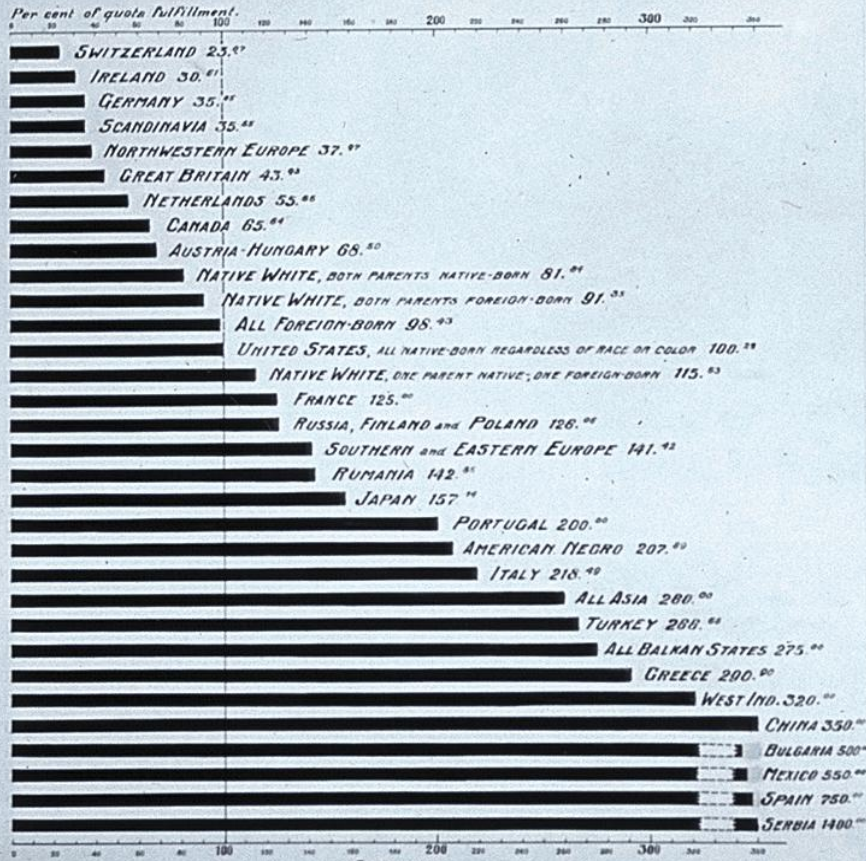
They believed they could predict whether you would become a criminal, or if you were going to be a “burden on society.”



*Relative Social Inadequacy of the Several Nativity Groups
and Immigrant Races in the United States.*

CRIME.

*Based upon an analysis of the population of 155 state and federal
custodial institutions.*



Eugenicists argued that criminal behavior was linked to genetics and race. This chart supposedly measured the “criminality” of various “races.”

In reality, there is no biological link between genetics and morality, or between race and criminality.

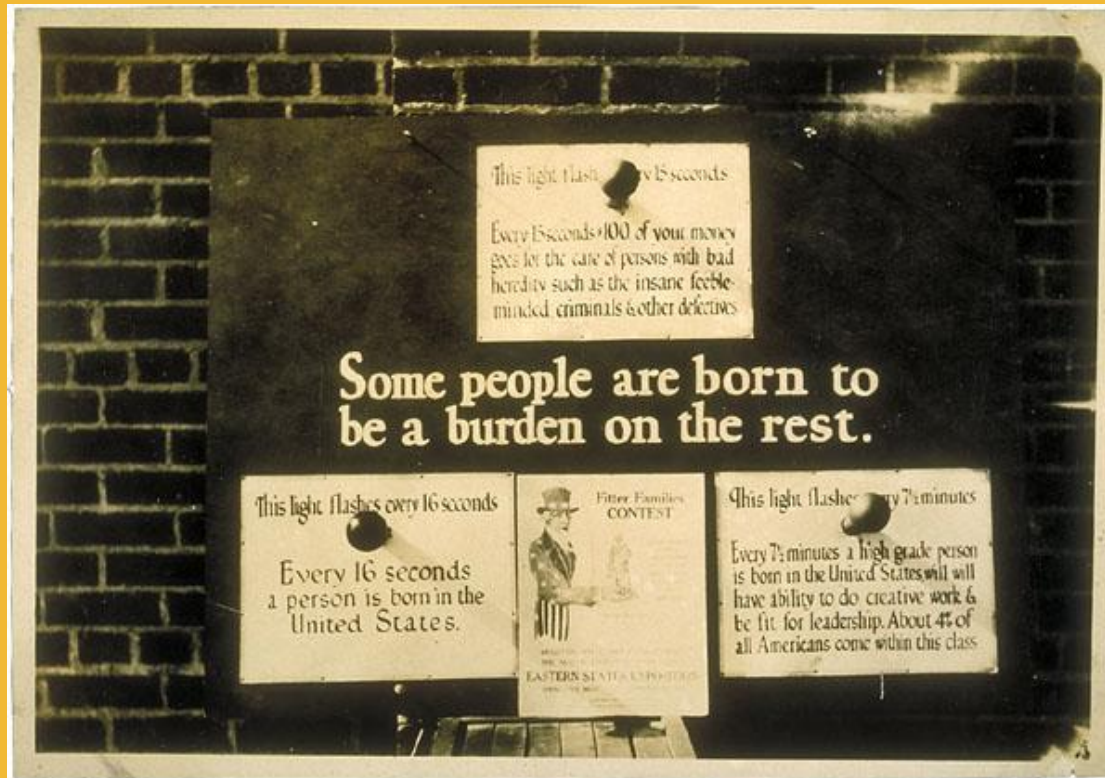
1. Institutional quota is determined by apportioning numbers on subdividing the whole institutional population, found by special useful alien survey, among the several nativity groups and alien races according to their relative numbers found in the whole population of the United States by the Census of 1910.

2. The ratio or quota fulfillment for each nativity group or race is found by dividing the actual number of institutional inmates

of the particular group or race by the quota allotted to the particular group or race.
3. Thus, if the percent or quota fulfillment is greater than 100, the particular group or race has exceeded its quota in supplying social inadequates in state and federal institutions in the United States. If it is less than 100, the particular quota lacks fulfillment by such proportion as the particular percent is less than 100.

In the United States, organizations held “Fitter Family” contests at state fairs, awarding families who supposedly had “superior” genes.

This display warned fair-goers that people with “inferior” genes would become financial and genetic burdens on the country.



Eugenicists argued that they were not racist and that their arguments were based in measurable science.

In the United States, eugenics led to:

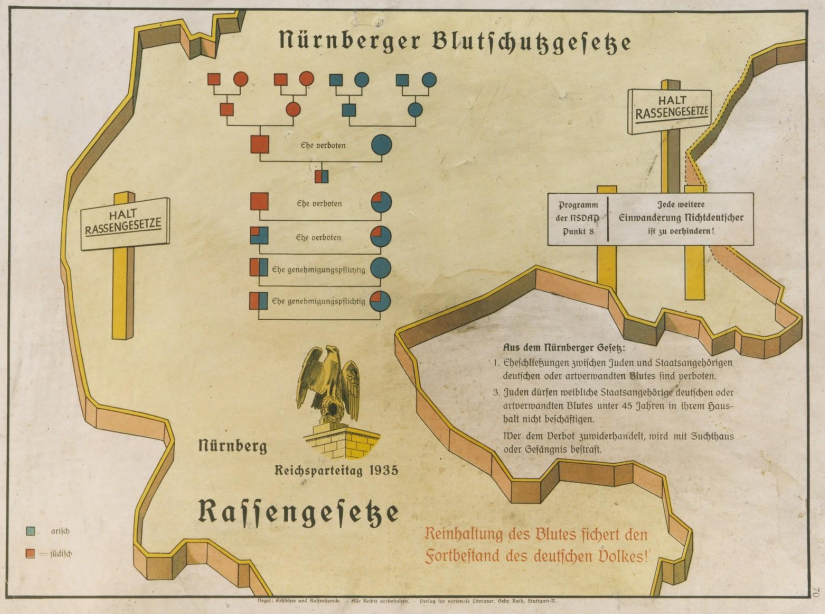
- **new immigration laws limiting immigration and giving priority to countries with “good” immigrants**
- **laws forbidding interracial marriage**
- **laws allowing doctors to forcibly sterilize people deemed genetically “unfit” to have children**

Some of these laws were in place for decades. Hundreds of thousands of people were affected by them.

In Nazi Germany, lawmakers and scientists quickly used the already-popular theories of eugenics (or “racial hygiene”) to advance Nazi racial goals.

The Nazis classified Jews as a separate, inferior race, and outlawed “interracial” relationships. They claimed this was necessary for Germany to prosper.

This poster is subtitled “Maintaining the purity of blood insures the survival of the German people.”



Id. Nr.	Hand- nummer	Familien-Nr.	Vorname	Stand- und geb. ort	Geburts- tag	Alter	Schicksal	Schicksal und Ort	Todesursache	Bestattungsort
1916	129		Juraw	Wost	15.3.95	43	1.11.41	-	Striße des Rückenleitenzungen	Bestattungsort
1917	130		Korowenko	Wost	-	40	9.9.49	-	Die des Lungen u. des Darmes	-
1918	131		Korowenko	Wost	-	40	10.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1919	132		Korowenko	Wost	-	41	17.11.43	-	-	-
1920	133		Korowenko	Wost	-	42	17.11.43	-	Striße des Rückenleitenzungen	-
1921	134		Korowenko	Wost	-	43	15.7.49	-	Die des Lungen	-
1922	135		Korowenko	Wost	-	40	15.8.49	-	-	-
1923	136		Korowenko	Wost	-	41	3.6.47	-	-	-
1924	137		Korowenko	Wost	-	42	15.8.46	-	Striße des Rückenleitenzungen	-
1925	138		Korowenko	Wost	-	43	15.8.46	-	Die des Lungen	-
1926	139		Korowenko	Wost	-	44	6.11.46	-	-	-
1927	140		Korowenko	Wost	-	45	17.11.49	Niem	and der Nieren	-
1928	141		Korowenko	Wost	-	46	18.9.43	-	-	-
1929	142		Korowenko	Wost	-	47	16.12.43	Ballanin	and des Darmes	-
1930	143		Korowenko	Wost	-	48	15.8.49	-	-	-
1931	144		Korowenko	Wost	-	49	15.8.49	-	-	-
1932	145		Korowenko	Wost	-	50	15.8.49	Barowka	Status epilepticus	-
1933	146		Korowenko	Wost	-	51	6.9.45	Kauzelli	Lungenentzündung	-
1934	147		Korowenko	Wost	-	52	6.9.45	-	Die des Darmes	-
1935	148		Korowenko	Wost	-	53	11.8.43	-	Offene Die des Lungen	-
1936	149		Korowenko	Wost	-	54	16.11.47	Lapowa	Die des Lungen	-
1937	150		Korowenko	Wost	-	55	16.6.46	-	-	-
1938	151		Korowenko	Wost	-	56	3.3.44	Wassner	Die des Darmes	-
1939	152		Korowenko	Wost	-	57	15.9.46	-	Die des Lungen	-
1940	153		Korowenko	Wost	-	58	11.9.48	-	-	-
1941	154		Korowenko	Wost	-	59	9.7.43	-	-	-
1942	155		Korowenko	Wost	-	60	15.8.43	Niem	Die des Nieren	-
1943	156		Korowenko	Wost	-	61	15.8.43	Wassner	Offene Die des Lungen	-
1944	157		Korowenko	Wost	-	62	15.8.43	-	Die des Nieren	-
1945	158		Korowenko	Wost	-	63	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1946	159		Korowenko	Wost	-	64	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1947	160		Korowenko	Wost	-	65	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1948	161		Korowenko	Wost	-	66	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1949	162		Korowenko	Wost	-	67	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1950	163		Korowenko	Wost	-	68	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1951	164		Korowenko	Wost	-	69	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1952	165		Korowenko	Wost	-	70	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1953	166		Korowenko	Wost	-	71	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1954	167		Korowenko	Wost	-	72	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1955	168		Korowenko	Wost	-	73	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1956	169		Korowenko	Wost	-	74	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1957	170		Korowenko	Wost	-	75	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1958	171		Korowenko	Wost	-	76	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1959	172		Korowenko	Wost	-	77	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1960	173		Korowenko	Wost	-	78	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1961	174		Korowenko	Wost	-	79	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1962	175		Korowenko	Wost	-	80	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1963	176		Korowenko	Wost	-	81	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1964	177		Korowenko	Wost	-	82	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1965	178		Korowenko	Wost	-	83	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1966	179		Korowenko	Wost	-	84	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1967	180		Korowenko	Wost	-	85	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1968	181		Korowenko	Wost	-	86	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1969	182		Korowenko	Wost	-	87	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1970	183		Korowenko	Wost	-	88	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1971	184		Korowenko	Wost	-	89	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1972	185		Korowenko	Wost	-	90	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1973	186		Korowenko	Wost	-	91	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1974	187		Korowenko	Wost	-	92	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1975	188		Korowenko	Wost	-	93	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1976	189		Korowenko	Wost	-	94	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1977	190		Korowenko	Wost	-	95	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1978	191		Korowenko	Wost	-	96	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1979	192		Korowenko	Wost	-	97	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1980	193		Korowenko	Wost	-	98	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1981	194		Korowenko	Wost	-	99	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-
1982	195		Korowenko	Wost	-	100	15.8.43	-	Die des Lungen	-

Nazi authorities forcibly sterilized people they deemed “racially inferior.” They also launched a “euthanasia” program, murdering approximately 250,000 people with physical and mental disabilities whom they declared unfit to live and a burden on German society. This is a page of names of people who were murdered.

- After the Holocaust, eugenics was discredited.
- In 2000, scientists announced that they had mapped the human genome. They discovered that human beings are genetically 99.8% identical.
- Eugenics is false. No human beings are genetically superior or inferior.
- The idea that “races” are genetically different is also false. There is often a greater genetic difference between individuals within a “race” than between people of different “races.”