

What Hitler (and California) Got Right and Wrong: Eugenics and Euthanasia

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Reading is not an end to itself, but a means to an end.

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*
(*We're quoting Hitler? Well, even a stopped clock...*)

If more than 47% of white army enlistees were feeble-minded that would make the United States, as one critic observed, 'a nation of morons.'

Adam Cohen, *Imbeciles*:

Maybe so, or at least seemingly quickly becoming so. The former formal progression was Idiot, Imbecile, Moron – through to an IQ of about 80 (and less) under the Stanford-Binet test. Above that threshold – 80 – one is considered leaning toward “average” and only slightly impaired. People of average intelligence ranged (and range) from 90 to 110. We often meet people of the Moron persuasion, functioning within society to varying extents and performing tasks (currently) critical to our economy. We thank them for their help, smile, and walk away mumbling, “Jesus, what a moron.” Now, empirically, you may better understand the subtext of your comment.

The problem we have, though, is that with increasing rapidity the jobs currently fulfilled by these people are going away: disappearing into the abyss of technological advancement. Combine that with out-of-control population growth and the future looks, at the very least, bleak.

I elected to re-read *Mein Kampf*, this time in full, after reading Cohen's *Imbeciles*. *Imbeciles* speaks to America's early Eugenics program whereby we applied varying standards across our many states, sterilizing those who did not fit our definition of those who should be generating our future citizens: a jump start on natural selection, much as Hitler initiated in Germany some years later. I recalled in many other books references to *Tiergartenstraße No. 4*, such as in Erik Larson's *In the Garden of the Beasts* (commented on in an earlier piece – see far below on this site). It was arguably at this location that Hitler began his sterilization program, then advancing the Nazi effort to the eradication of those deemed un-German, interpreted to mean through precise definition, *anyone but those who were relatively pure Aryan*. This left a lot of people *who thought they were German*, such as Albert Einstein, confused, and to befuddle Einstein was no easy task.

So, to begin this article, let me summarize *Mein Kampf*:

Hitler reflected what I might call traditional Calvinistic, American values with regard to child raising and obedience to law, little of which applies to our society as it has emerged in the last few decades. He was firmly committed to the German ideal of adhering to

society's statutory and normative behavior standards, vis-à-vis: "You must follow *zee* rules!"

We were a lot like that when I was born a long time ago. I was one of the many people who derailed that normative train, along with millions of others of my (and subsequent) generations along with the help of Social Media (for the last 20 years), television, and a popular disdain for History. In today's parlance, *We f***ed it up*. Too late now.

Mein Kampf, quite honestly, is filled with many tracts one might confuse, if lifted from context and anonymized, to those of modern day Christian conservative America (except for the *Jew thing*, in some cases). The book begins with an alternative universe version of Abraham Lincoln's biography in a roughly equivalent parallel Austrian setting of a log cabin; raised in modest conditions; intellectual curiosity; an unquenchable thirst for reading; a forceful desire to create (in Hitler's case, *Art*); and an emerging social consciousness.

Well, you know, I love to read. Actually, I'm looking at a book, I'm reading a book, I'm trying to get started.

Donald Trump *on Reading* to Tucker Carlson

Hitler suffered from all the typical symptoms of an autodidact. He was driven, self-possessed to an extent, he believed firmly in the responsibility of the individual to improve his or her life continuously in a never ending process of reading and thinking about what he had read, and how it may apply to the German republic at that point in time, dismal as it was. *Zee* Germans have a word for this life process – one I embrace in my life – *Bildung*. Thomas Mann popularized this concept in many of his writings, as did others like Goethe, as an example.

If you read *Mein Kampf*, you will likely find that you share much in common with the more youthful Hitler, if you are worth your salt as a human. If you are not, you're not reading this anyway (does that sound judgmental?). However, if you share much in common with the older Hitler, there are many diverse governments globally who would welcome you to their kith. Ironically, I might suggest Israel.

It was this sense of the younger Hitler that first inspired ire in me when I heard people compare Donald Trump to Hitler. I found myself feeling angry that someone would so slight *young* Hitler's posthumous reputation as to compare him to that *numbnut* then in office. This is called, dissonance: *major dissonance*. This realization was very disturbing: *My God! Am I really insulted on behalf of Hitler for what I suppose to be an egregiously defaming comparison?* Yes, I was: comparing a man who committed his early life to the acquisition of knowledge to that of one who is uncertain *which way is up in a book*, is patently truncated logic. I dismissed the thought.

From the *first part of the first book* – there are essentially two volumes to the book – Hitler summarizes what's wrong with Germany at that point in time, winning many friends along the way speaking to the travesty of the *Treaty of Versailles*, which

facilitated his emergence as a formidable political leader. He speaks also to that little thing that happened in Sarajevo, and all that followed. Austrians, Hungarians, Russians, Italians... no one is left out.

Following this recitative he moves on in a flurry of invectives regarding Jews, Jewish, Jew things, Jewishness, and finishes with a flourish: World-Jew-Domination. In Germany then, if your toilet backed up, there was a Jew at the root cause. The same held true for flatulence, impotence, schnitzel shortages, devaluation of the Mark, and that nebulous feeling of nausea (regardless of Sartre): Jew. Jews caused *this* and Jews caused *that*. It was very much like in America, 2001, thanks to Bush, Cheney, and the rest of those rascals who successfully schemed to incite war against those who controlled the vast reserves of Oil for their personal gratification and enrichment, and for those with whom they associated, resulting in the deaths of, perhaps, millions of Iraqi civilians. Only the culprit then was *Muslim*. Off-and-on, although they would largely hesitate to agree for obvious reasons, they are the *Jews of today* to many.

Overall in the book, *Teutonic* superiority weaves its way through *world domination*, *anti-Communism*, *anti-Homosexuality*, *anti-Anything-Other-Than-Pure Germans in the missionary position*, and the book ends with the words, "A State which, in an epoch of racial adulteration, devotes itself to the duty of preserving the best elements of its racial stock must one day become ruler of the Earth." (*Insert evil, villainous laugh here.*)

Two thoughts emerge. One: Hitler's rhetoric and associated beliefs were not going to garner world support for his regime, except with Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and other very wealthy American anti-Semites of the day. (Read, *Who Financed Hitler*, by James and Suzanne Pool.) The *not-wealthy of America*, just didn't care. Jews in America were *just people* (admittedly for some, about whom one could tell a clever joke typically authored by a Jew, since they tended (and still do) to save the sharpest knife for themselves). Two: had he not effectively evicted or killed a large segment of Europe's Jews, he would have conserved the abundant scientific and otherwise creative minds present in Germany at that time, and Germany may very well have won the war, ignoring other factors significant to events, and the last sentence of this paragraph would read, *und unsere landessprache wäre Deutsch*. Of course, *Hate* was integral to his thought processes, necessitating an object for his mania, stoked passionately by Goebbels.

In truth, I've struggled over this brief article for months after reading Adam Cohen's enthralling analysis of the case of Carrie Buck, or what came to be known as *Buck v. Bell*, after the legal issue of forced sterilization of the *feeble minded* meandered its way through the American judicial system, ultimately to Justice O. W. Holmes, Jr., and thus foundationally influencing our earliest position regarding forced sterilization, and oddly enough, serving as the platform by which Germany's Third Reich based its laws regarding "practical" Eugenics.

Only, initially the Nazis were far less committed to the Eugenic ideal than the State of California, foremost, and others, secondarily. California's statutory practices basically served as the Nazi guidelines by which the German *Hereditary Health Court* decided

who was, and who was not, required to submit to mandatory sterilization. The Nazis thought California's laws were too broadly encompassing, and chose to *mitigate the more far-reaching California standard*. Not really news today, but worth repeating: it's like quite pleasurably sticking a finger in self-righteous California's eye.

At that time in America, we, and Germany, and many other countries were dealing with the unconstrained propagation of the human species and thus generating masses of people, somewhat less than half of whom were unable to fully participate in government, society, and to contribute to the economic stability and growth of their country: rather, they served as a drain on the progression of their respective society, both from an enlightenment and economic perspective, very much like today here and elsewhere in the world as we seek as a majority, apparently, to preserve the life of every nitwit, criminal, and incompetent. (You know it's true, but you won't say it. And, if you don't know it, perhaps you're one of the legions of those described at the beginning of this article.)

Much people is killed of course. Velly cruel. But we have lots more, yes? Ha, ha, ha, ha!
Christopher Isherwood, *Journey to a War*, quoting Mayor of Canton

Eugenics is a logical heuristic response, but one we in the USA and many other countries choose not to pursue, instead indulging the "Maudlin Sentimentalism" of those who lead and control our various churches, social welfare programs – both government and NGO, Penal systems, Police, Judiciary, Health Care, Rehabilitation and a myriad of other institutions, both public and private, who would find themselves *substantially out of work* if it weren't for the steady, increasing population of those who are mentally and/or physically defective or inherently aberrant.

You have been taught that it is wrong. Moses, Jesus, Mohammed (pbuh), and a plethora of other spiritual and civic leaders have cautioned us that kindness and understanding towards our "brethren" is central to the advancement of world civilization. (Logically, nothing can be more contradictory.)

And here's fifty for you, fatso.
Groucho Marx, *You Bet Your Life*, to an obese contestant

Not any more: We cannot afford the luxury of pandering to the masses, like it or not. Take the obese, as an example:

When I was born total world population was about *two billion*. Within my lifespan it has increased 400% where today, we now have *eight billion people* to feed and clothe and employ and house and...

Multiply the world's out-of-control population by 40% to account for the plethora of fat people, and you'll see what's wrong with our current population models.

And we are failing miserably. Our climate, as a result of this incredible population boom has been destroyed. Natural resources are greatly diminished. Our ability to grow food

and get it to the tables of those in need is failing. *Yet, in America, 40% of the adult population is more than 40 pounds overweight. That is to say, in America there is a total of about 5.4 billion pounds of excess fat. This is equivalent to nearly 40 million additional people of healthy weight.* And, 40 million is far more than the number of US citizens who are experiencing what is called “Food Insecurity.”

To counter this phenomenon, Social Media and the other dwindling popular media have taken to condemning ***Fat Shaming***, to assuage the emotions of the many millions – billions worldwide – of fat people. *And here’s fifty for you, fatso.*

And *the fuel*: The EPA registers a 2% savings in fuel economy for every 60 pounds of weight removed from a car.

Then too, more than 10 million US citizens are receiving Social Security Disability, some/many of whom are disabled for obesity-related illness, others causally linked to alcohol, drugs, laziness, intellectual simplemindedness, or a lack of education.

Stupid is as stupid does.
Forrest Gump, from the eponymously entitled movie

While reading ***Imbeciles*** I made a note on the frontispiece. It was a fleeting thought, but one I did not erase after considering the veracity of my conclusion:

Everything derisive, factionalizing, destabilizing that occurs in America today can be construed as a result of a lack of a national Eugenics policy.

I believe that. The difference between that conclusion and Hitler’s Eugenics policy, as it evolved, is that our country’s early Eugenics practices, and my conclusion above, are devoid of any racial or religious considerations. Black, white, red, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and the many and myriad other prejudices each of us carries and sometimes lets out for a brief period of exercise, are not part of the criteria, nor should they ever be: this is called naïve optimism on my part, I know. Euthanasia is not part of the process, only sterilization, and I know several parents who retrospectively wished they had been forcibly sterilized. But, who can predict the future?

Genetics make up who we are, to some extent and to varying opinions, and so do environmental and nutritional factors. It’s the old Margaret Mead, *Nature-Nurture* argument. We may predict with some accuracy who will reproduce a Moron, but it’s not a certainty. Smart children have issued from *stupid parents*. Conversely, *the smart have bred the stupid*.

Today, we are so many that unless something dramatic happens to bring about a massive loss of population, we are doomed to some nebulous and probably catastrophic conclusion, adrift in a sea of idiots, imbeciles, and morons – elected and otherwise.

To quote the mayor of Canton in 1938, *Much people is killed of course. Velly cruel. But*

we have lots more, yes? Ha, ha, ha, ha!