



Fatal Tapestry

By William A. Borst, Ph.D.

Many in the Catholic Church hold that a seamless garment inexorably binds the many different life issues from abortion and euthanasia through nuclear war and the death penalty in a consistent fabric. It is axiomatic that a parallel thread binds all the arguments, theories, and beliefs of secular humanists, abortionists, advocates of euthanasia, fetal stem cell research, and cloning into one whole cloth. They reflect a singular viewpoint, rooted in the Enlightenment of nearly four hundred years ago and fueled by the Protestant Reformation a century before.

Their ideas represent a complete break with the traditions of the past. Their new departure has effectively revised God's revered role in the universe with respect to His creation. It was the Enlightenment that relegated His presence to the periphery of human society. The elevation of mankind to near divine status replaced God as the focal point of human existence. The Protestant Reformation, with its emphasis on the sovereignty of the individual will, fueled this egocentric paradigm. This inevitably led to a two hundred year *Age of Revolution*, including Communism, which has effectively assaulted the very pillars of religious and moral faith in the Western world.

THE PERFECT WORD

The common thread was an idea without a name. In the 1850's English agnostic, Herbert Spencer coined the phrase, *survival of the fittest*, in his book, *Social Statistics*. He asserted that humans more naturally followed the will of the jungle than they did that of a loving God. Through evolution the fittest would eventually progress to a perfect society, what St. Thomas More had sardonically called *Utopia*. The unfit would die off and the world would be better off without them. It was after Spencer's seminal work that Charles Darwin published his *Origins of the Species*, which was more a scientific treatise than it was a social commentary. He wrote of his observation in the Galapagos Islands about what he called *natural selection*.

The work of Spencer and Darwin created an environment

where God's creative services were no longer needed. Darwin's acolytes suggested that God had not really done such a good job. A world laden with imperfection, poverty, crime, and birth defects made it plausible that man could do better. The Christian message that humans were all beautiful in the eyes of God was trumped by man's promise of a more perfect creation. Man's creation would be radiantly draped in a shroud of universal freedom.

In 1883 Sir Francis Galton, a cousin of Darwin, coined the perfect word for the perfect creation. Galton's neologism for this new science was *eugenics*. It means *wellborn* and he created it from Greek letters written on scraps of paper. Galton was an eclectic thinker, who was adept at observing patterns of behaviors not recognized by scientists. He noticed that there were identifiable traits and behaviors for the rich and the famous. Galton reasoned that just as physical characteristics could be transmitted through the genes, so could emotional and intellectual characteristics. If the reproductive mechanism could be harnessed and controlled, the negative and weak characteristics of human life could be eliminated.

The ideas of Spencer, Darwin and Galton later coalesced into *Social Darwinism* which led to the idea that most humans were, not only less worthy of life, but a drain on the more productive people of society, the *makers and shakers* of American society. Eugenics provided the basis for scientific racism and is the foundation for all the significant moral debates of today, which revolve around God's creative powers. Birth control, abortion, euthanasia, in vitro fertilization, fetal stem cell research, cloning and designer children all relate to God's creation. Eugenics is the slender thread that binds all distortions of God's creative powers into a man-made tapestry of egotism, pragmatism, and violent death.

God gave humans the ability and the desire to reproduce. He established a highly sophisticated manner by which humans could participate of their own free will in His creative power but it had to be done according to the rulebook of nature, what thirteenth century philosopher, St. Thomas Aquinas called the "natural law."

AMERICAN BIOLOGY 101

Social Darwinism and its racial implications found a willing audience in the United States. As Edwin Black wrote in his recent book, *War Against the Weak*, the United States *was ready for eugenics before eugenics was ready for America*. Good breeding had always suited the nation's elite. While Galton hoped the race would be improved by good matrimonial decisions, *American geneticists thought*, writes Black, *that they could forcibly reshape humanity into their own image*. The last half of the nineteenth century was clearly characterized by the disturbing attitude that many in American society, especially immigrant groups from southern and eastern Europe, were inferior to the original settlers and their descendants. Sterilization and segregation provided the most popular means for curtailing their reproduction.

To affect this strategy, the Eugenics Research Association was founded in 1913. Foundations, such as Rockefeller and Carnegie, funneled millions of dollars into this research to increase the likelihood of a more perfect society and a more perfect race. In 1922 the American Eugenics Society came into being with such luminaries as Harry H. Laughlin, Madison Grant and Irving Fisher. By 1931 sterilization laws had been enacted in twenty-seven of the United States.

THE BLACK STORK

Euthanasia appeared as another tool in limiting the children of the unfit. Harry Hamilton Laughlin, who was the Superintendent of the Eugenics Record Office from 1910 to 1921, was an early advocate of euthanizing the unfit young. Laughlin was an early advocate of implementing a lethal gas chamber similar to those that would be used in Auschwitz and Buchenwald, to accomplish his eugenics ministry.

Child euthanasia crystallized with the career of Dr. Harry Haiselden. He was notorious for his withholding treatment for several handicapped children in his Illinois clinic. Haiselden was afraid that mentally inferior children would unduly penalize society. While the *quiet euthanasia* of newborns was not uncommon in Chicago, Haiselden bragged about how he did society a favor. He offered that he would have suffered pangs of guilt had he kept *alive one of nature's cruelest blunders*. Death was *the greatest and lasting disinfectant*. At the inquest for the death of one of his patients, baby Alan, Haiselden's fellow doctors incredulously ruled that he had been within his rights to withhold treatment. He became an overnight celebrity in the eugenics movement. He went on speaking tours, wrote newspaper articles and Hollywood brought his story to the screen in 1917. Written by Chicago American reporter, Jack Lait, it was entitled *The Black Stork*. An ad for the movie, which ran continuously in one Chicago movie theater, urged *Kill Defectives, Save the Nation, and See the Black Stork*.

USELESS EATERS

Galton's new science had a measured influence on nineteenth century German philosopher Frederick Nietzsche. In 1922 two German professionals, a lawyer, Karl Binding, and a doctor Alfred Hoche collaborated on a short book, *Die Freigabe der Vernichtung lebenswerten Lebens*, which means, *Permission to Destroy Life Devoid of Value*. They argued that the revitalization of Germany was being delayed and undermined by the hordes of *useless eaters* that dominated the ranks of the destitute German population. A decade later, Hitler's scientists introduced the T-4 euthanasia program, incorporating eugenics to build a German master race. The barbaric experiments of Nazi doctors Josef Mengele and Otmar Freiherr Vershuer underscored the evil extent to which eugenics can be extended. What is most disturbing is that the United States had adopted the basic principles of eugenics a generation before Hitler's rise to world power. Hitler only carried the thinking to its most bloody and logical conclusions.

THE BIRTH CONTROL MOVEMENT

From this social milieu Margaret Higgins Sanger emerged as the prime mover in the Birth Control Movement, the forerunner of Planned Parenthood, which today ranks as the leading provider of abortion on demand in the United States. Margaret was the sixth of eleven children. Her father Michael was a freethinking radical who encouraged her to challenge authority. He inhibited his wife from attending the Catholic Church and sending their children to Catholic schools.

Michael Higgins was an early advocate of eugenics and his daughter learned well. Years later after her marriage to William Sanger, noted sexologist Havelock Ellis taught her all the fine points of extramarital sexual relations. Their affair and Sanger's contempt for marital fidelity caused the end of her marriage. She later wed J. Noah Slee, the president of the Three-In-One Oil Company. His wealth and lack of interference in her promiscuous lifestyle provided Sanger with the financial backing that allowed her to effectively step to the forefront of the eugenics movement. In 1917, Sanger started the *Birth Control Review* and remained as its editor until 1938. Her Birth Control League was incorporated in 1922. After a name change or two, it finally became the *Planned Parenthood Federation* in 1942. Sanger's work for accessible birth control brought her in constant conflict with federal and state law, as well as the teachings of the Catholic Church. Sanger became a lifelong opponent of the Church and a forerunner of the feminist movement, which held that the Catholic Church suppressed women and would not bend with the times.

The April 1933 issue of *Birth Control Review* was devoted entirely to eugenics and sterilization. It featured an article by Nazi eugenicist Dr. Ernest Rudin, the curator of the Kaiser Wilhelm

Institute for Anthropology, Human Genetics, and Eugenics, in Germany. His article stressed the need for sterilization to prevent the multiplication of *bad stocks*. Like Sanger he wanted to see more children from the sound stock. At first Sanger's followers accepted the Nazis' program with a hardy approval since the Nazis had improved the race by eliminating the human detritus from their ranks. When the winds of Nazi atrocities hit the public nostrils, Sanger and her allies strategically backed away from any public association with Rudin and the Nazis.

HUMAN WEEDS

Sanger wanted to create a *race of thoroughbreds*. She firmly believed that many people were better off not being born, not only for their own sakes, but also for the general welfare of the human race. Her formidable battle cry was *More children from the fit, less from the unfit*. This was the chief aim of the Birth Control Movement as she described it in her book, *Pivot of Civilization*. She wanted to use this movement to eliminate *human weeds* from the general population. To Sanger, the mongrelized races included Jews, Italians, Eastern Europeans, and especially the American Negro. Sanger estimated that these *dysgenic races* comprised seventy percent of the country's population. The choice Margaret Sanger offered to the inferior races was the unenviable one of *sterilization or segregation*. It was genocide with a smile.

THE NEGRO PROJECT

In 1939, Sanger started the *Negro Project*, which specifically aimed birth control and sterilization at the black community. To implement her plan, she enlisted the support of the prominent black ministers and political leaders. Sanger knew how important the black ministers were to converting their entire congregations to her way of thinking. She was very careful about revealing her true intentions. *We do not want the word to get out that we want to exterminate the Negro population*. Many black leaders erroneously saw birth control as a golden opportunity to attain economic power, elevate the race and gain the respect of the white community. It is not surprising black women account for a third of all abortions in this country, disproportionate for their percentage of the population.

Sanger passed away on September 6, 1986 in a Tucson nursing home a few days before her eighty-seventh birthday. Despite her eugenics past, which Planned Parenthood either ignores or downplays her role, in 1990 *Time Magazine* recognized Sanger as one of its *100 most important Americans of the 20th century*. Most biographers of Sanger and even Edwin Black's book fail to mention anything about Sanger's *special project*. Her books and publications are almost impossible to find, with the exception

of *The Pivot of Civilization*, which has been reproduced on-line by the American Life League because Planned Parenthood had unwittingly allowed its copyright to expire in 1997.

Quo Vadis?

Where are we going? was Peter's question to the Angel on Rome's Appian Way. The battle over the unborn and brain-damaged patients, such as Terry Schiavo in Florida, has already been enjoined. The new battleground will be over fetal research, cloning, and the surrealistic idea of *designer babies*. Eugenacists expect that parents can literally design their children to look like Cindy Crawford or Brad Pitt, possess Michael Jordan's athletic ability, or Einstein's intellect. They want the apparent randomness of nature to relinquish its role to the overriding superiority of the human will and mind. The Human Genome Program, where each and every gene can be mapped out, bears watching. It will be easier to identify genetic causes of human disabilities, diseases, and tendencies for crime, drug, and alcohol addiction, creating a new arena for evil to find a home.

The Catholic Church's dedicated response to the attacks on the Creator has been met with public derision, scorn, and vile attacks. The Church stands as the greatest obstacle to the spread of the deadly eugenics mentality throughout the world. In countless encyclicals, especially *Humanae Vitae* and *Evangelium Vitae*, and other Vatican documents from several Popes, the Church has been consistent in opposing all threats to the family and the human person from conception to natural birth. It should be recognized that the other side has also its own consistent tapestry of death.

William A. Borst holds a Ph.D. from St. Louis University. (1972) He is a weekly talk show host on WGNU radio and the author of the book, "Liberalism: Fatal Consequences," available from PO Box 16271, St. Louis, MO 63105, for \$17.50 ppd.

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NEW CARDINAL MINDSZENTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Reverend Julius D. Leloczky, O. Cist.

We are proud to announce that Father Julius D. Leloczky has joined CMF's remarkable Advisory Council of priests, each of whom has experienced Communism's diabolical assaults.

Father Leloczky is a native of Hungary where as a young student he experienced firsthand Communism from 1947 at its actual brutal beginnings in his country until the 1956 Freedom Fighters revolt. Shortly afterwards he escaped to prepare for the priesthood in the free world under the direction of the Order of Cistercians.

Father Leloczky studied for eight years in Rome, and in 1964 he immigrated to the United States. He was ordained and joined the teaching staff of the Cistercian Abbey Our Lady of Dallas in Irving, Texas, at the Preparatory School for Boys.

Father faithfully followed the career, teachings and spiritual leadership of Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary. Once in 1946 when Father Leloczky was a high school student, Cardinal Mindszenty visited his school. He was about 50 years old, extremely energetic, dynamic, very kind and friendly towards the students. Years later, in 1974 after Cardinal Mindszenty had suffered arrest, torture and imprisonment, he spent 5 days visiting Father's Cistercian Abbey in Texas. Father Leloczky said, "The Cardinal was still full of energy, in fact, his sufferings appeared to have reinforced rather than weakened his strong personality."

We are honored to have Father Leloczky lend his name, guidance and prayers for CMF's apostolate.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

PRAYERFUL THANKS to each CMFer who offered prayers, greetings and gave donations to the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation during the recent Christmas season.

We are very grateful! We ask God to send you and yours many graces, good health and happiness in the New Year. CMF will confidently persevere in its apostolate of defending our faith, family life and freedom, following the example of our saintly patron Cardinal Mindszenty.

The Mindszenty Report is published monthly by the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, 7800 Bonhomme Ave., P. O. Box 11321, St. Louis, MO 63105, 314-727-6279, Fax 314-727-5897. Subscription rate: \$20.00/year, \$36.00/two years. Outside the U.S.A. \$28.00

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Eleanor Schlafly, Publisher

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