



Eugenics

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Defining eugenics: “Improving human genetic qualities”

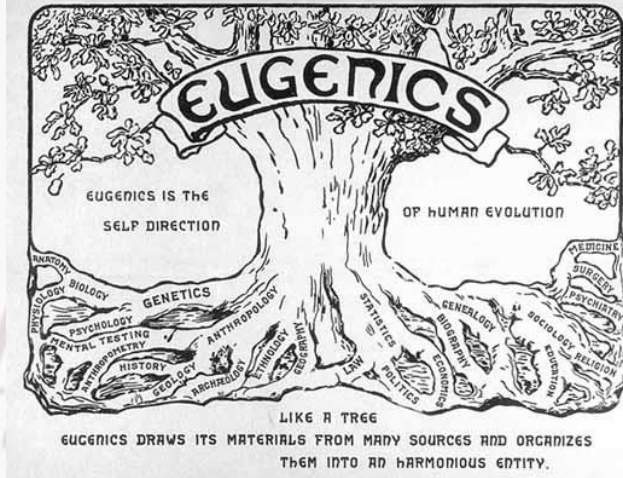


A display from the American Eugenics Society at a fair in Topeka, KS, in 1929. The sign on the top, for example, reads: "Every 15 seconds, \$100 of your money goes for the care of persons with bad heredity, such as the insane, feeble-minded, criminals, and other defectives."

- **Eugenics** is a social philosophy which advocates the improvement of human hereditary traits through various forms of intervention.

Concepts in Eugenics

- Intelligence and social class
- Miscegenation (racial purity)
- Hemophilia and Huntington's Disease
- Genetic defects



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- *Positive vs. Negative Eugenics*
 - encouraging vs. restricting reproduction
 - Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union between



Governments and Eugenics in the 20th Century

- Genetic screening
- Birth control
- Promotion differential birth rates
- Marriage restrictions
- Segregation (racial and mentally ill)
- Forced abortions or pregnancies
- Genocide

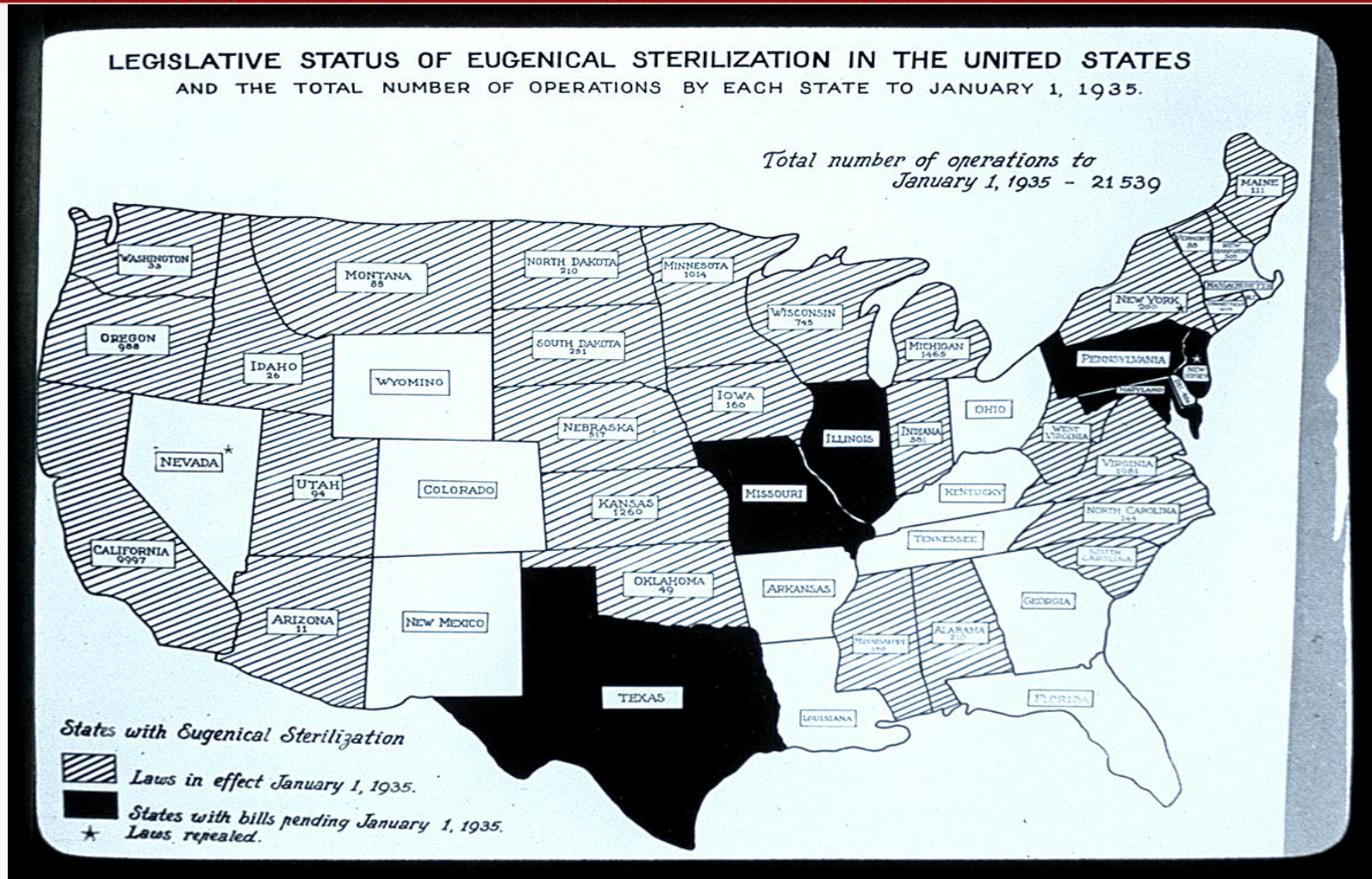


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School of NURSING

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Methods of Eugenics

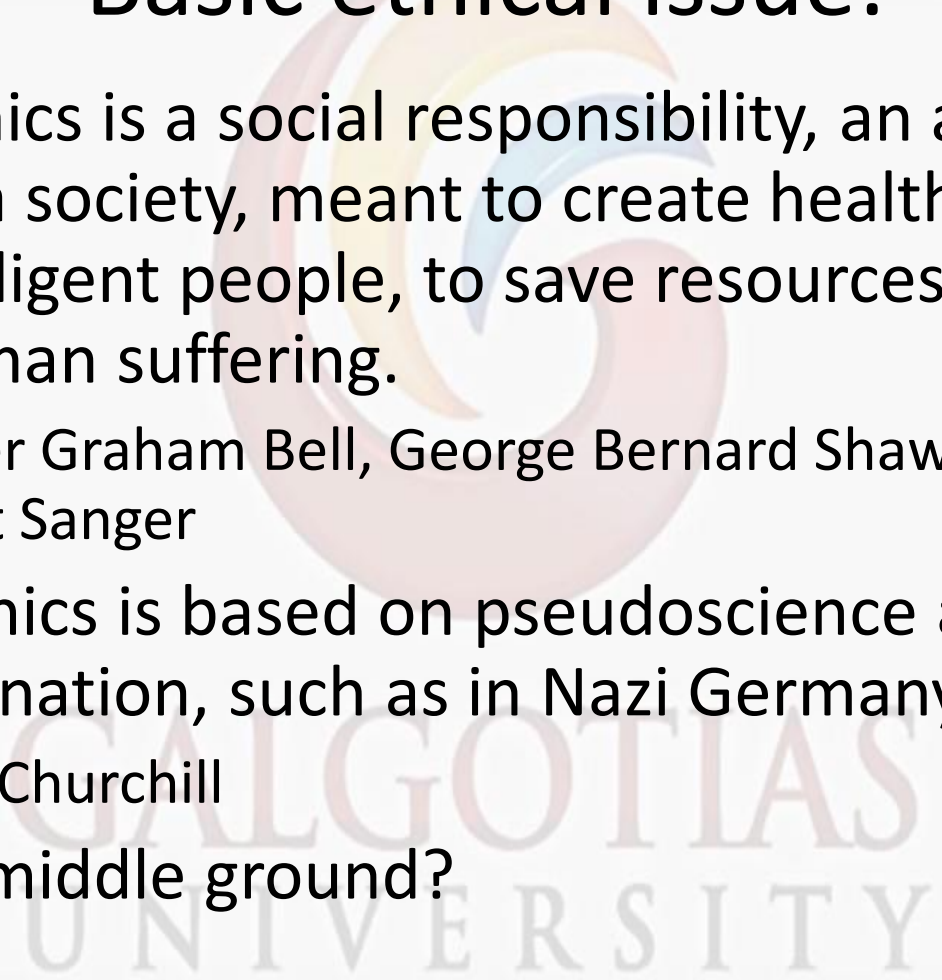


- Mandatory eugenics: government-mandated
- Promotional voluntary eugenics: suggested to the general population
- Private eugenics: voluntary participation

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Basic ethical issue:

- Pro: Eugenics is a social responsibility, an altruistic stance of a society, meant to create healthier and more intelligent people, to save resources, and lessen human suffering.
 - Alexander Graham Bell, George Bernard Shaw, and Margaret Sanger
- Con: Eugenics is based on pseudoscience and leads to discrimination, such as in Nazi Germany.
 - Winston Churchill
- Is there a middle ground?



Eugenics Then and Now

- Then: Focus on selective breeding.
- Now: Focus on prenatal testing and screening, genetic counseling, birth control, in vitro fertilization, and genetic engineering.

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