



education

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT

GRADE 11

HISTORY P1

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ADDENDUM

This addendum consists of 5 pages

QUESTION 1: WHAT WAS THE IMPACT OF PSEUDO-SCIENTIFIC RACE THEORIES ON NAZI RACIAL POLICIES IN THE 1930s AND 1940s?**SOURCE 1A**

The source below highlights the origins of Social Darwinism.

Social Darwinism is a loose set of ideologies that emerged (began) in the late 1800s in which Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection was used to justify certain political, social, or economic views. Social Darwinists believe in 'survival of the fittest' – the idea that certain people become powerful in society because they are innately better.

Social Darwinism has been used to justify imperialism, racism, eugenics and social inequality at various times over the past century and a half. According to Darwin's theory of evolution, only the plants and animals best adapted to their environment will survive to reproduce and transfer their genes to the next generation. Animals and plants that are poorly adapted to their environment will not survive to reproduce. Charles Darwin published his notions on natural selection and the theory of evolution in his influential 1859 book, *The Origin of Species*.

Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection was a scientific theory focused on explaining his observations about biological diversity and why different species of plants and animals look different. Yet in an attempt to convey his scientific ideas to the British public, Darwin borrowed popular concepts, including 'survival of the fittest', from sociologist Herbert Spencer and; 'struggle for existence' from economist Thomas Malthus, who had earlier written about how human societies evolve (change) over time.

[From <https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/social-darwinism>. Accessed on 12 February 2024.]

SOURCE 1B

The source below is an extract explaining how eugenics policies were implemented in Germany.

On July 14 1933, the National Socialists introduced the Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring. As a result, hundreds of thousands of people were forcibly sterilised. Others were murdered. By the summer of 1933, the Nazis had Germany firmly in their grip. With this newfound power, the far-right party decided to mould German society in the image of its own making.

The law stated that people suffering from particular illnesses could be forcibly sterilised in order to prevent the spread of hereditary diseases. Followers of the eugenics movement believed that the German population could be genetically 'improved' and welcomed the law. For the victims of forced sterilisation, this violent physical intrusion (disturbance) meant a life without the possibility of having children. Many were heavily traumatised and suffered their entire lives.

The National Socialists hoped to realise the dream of 'master race' in which 'diseased' and 'weak' people had no place. The new law listed the types of 'illness' that warranted the sterilisation of carriers. This list included congenital mental deficiency, schizophrenia, epilepsy, hereditary deafness and blindness, as well as people with 'any severe hereditary deformity' and alcoholics. "One cannot say that it was the 'evil' Nazis alone," said Christiane Rothmaler, a doctor and historian who has spent many years researching the history of forced sterilisation. She knows that the issue of eugenics was already being discussed in the 19th century.

[From <https://www.dw.com/en/remembering-the-victims-of-nazi-eugenics/a-16945569>. Accessed on 12 February 2024.]

SOURCE 2C

The source below explains the effects of Germany's sterilisation policy on non-Arians in Germany in the 1940s.

Rita Reinhardt Seibel is the daughter of Gabriel and Theresia Reinhardt. She and her sister, Rolanda, were born on 3 March 1943 in Wuerzburg, where her parents were both working in the Stadt Theatre. In 1941 several members of Theresia's family were brought to Gestapo headquarters where they were forced to sign sterilisation authorisation forms. They were threatened with deportation if they refused. Before Theresia's sterilisation was scheduled, she made a conscious decision with her boyfriend, Gabriel, to get pregnant.

By the time she was called in for the procedure, she was three months pregnant with twins. When this was discovered by the racial hygienists, she and her family were detained and word was sent to Berlin to determine what should be done. The response was the Theresia should be allowed to continue the pregnancy on condition that the babies would be turned over, upon their birth, to the clinic at the University of Wuerzburg. There, Dr Werner Heyde, professor of neurology and psychiatry, and a key member of the Nazi euthanasia program, was conducting research on twins. The twins were born in the presence of Dr Heyde at the University of Wuerzburg. They were allowed brief stays at home with their parents, but generally were confined to the clinic.

... Theresia and Gabriel received notices to report for deportation (expel from a country). The babies were not included, and Theresia immediately went to the clinic to see them. When she arrived, she was told she could not see them, but Theresia pushed her way in. She found Rolanda lying dead in a ward with a bandaged head, the victim of experiments with eye colouration. Hysterical at this discovery, Theresia grabbed the surviving twin, Rita, and fled.

[From <http://www.prezi.com>. Accessed on 27 February 2024.]

SOURCE 2D

This source below depicts Gabriel and Theresia Reinhardt, a Sinti couple, pushing their twin children in a baby carriage, Rolanda and Rita, along the Domstrasse in Wuerzburg under Nazi escort during a propaganda photo shoot in April 1943.



[From <https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/pa1151175>. Accessed on 27 February 2024.]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Visual sources and other historical evidence were taken from the following:

<https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/social-darwinism>

<https://www.dw.com/en/remembering-the-victims-of-nazi-eugenics/a-16945569>

[http://www.prezi.com.](http://www.prezi.com)

<https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/pa1151175>