“France is an Empire” (1938)

“A Mission to Civilize”:
Surveillance at Home / Discipline Abroad

Week 6 – Lecture 2

21 February 2008

Charles Darwin:
*On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* [1859]

**HEREDITY**

Marx + Darwin: The world is a harsh world of competition and survival of the fittest

[“Home” = safe warm refuge]

NB: We are far from Newton!!!
Emile Zola  Edith Wharton
Literary Naturalism: Nature/Fate/Society crush human beings
Anti-Romantic: Nothing noble about being crushed

III. “End of the Soul”:
  Psychology
  Anthropology
  Sociology

IV. “Mythologies of Heredity” [Jean Borie]:
  Terror of passing on polluted / weak blood

Bedrooms are separated: “A temple to procreation”
[Remember: birth-rates / contraception]
• Prostitution is publicly regulated:
  – men need “outlets”
  – prostitutes as “sewers”:
    necessary to carry away male lust
  – public /medical registry: avoids STDs

Manet, painting of Zola’s prostitute Nana (1877) from novel

Victorian brothel
Decorated “just like home”

SYPHILIS:
Terror for both men and women

Edvard Munch, *Heredity* (1897-99)
Not just women “medicalized”.
New terror for men: masturbation
[“onanism” – Bible: Onan]

Note the fundamental liberal shift from religious/moral to medical/criminal:
“sin” → unhygienic

cf. “witch” → “hysteric”
cf. “from heathenism → racialism”
At the age of 17, he dies, while suffering horrible torments.

cf. Marie-Antoinette: rhetoric/reality

British version

“General appearance of the features through onanism”

“Spermatorrhœa: Ophthalmic consequent through Onanism” [i.e.: BIG EYES]

Far left: “The meagre appearance of the features through Onanism” [NB: looks very much like pre-modern depictions of madness]

American version 1875:

From:

Emery C. Abbey, The Sexual System and Its Derangements (Buffalo, New York, 1875)

“Masturbation”

A 17 ans, il expire, et dans des tourments horribles.

cf. Marie-Antoinette: rhetoric/reality
Helpful aids to preserving vital fluids

"Apparatuses against Onanism"

British device
[Postcard from the Victoria and Albert Museum, London]

Full-body protection

Notice "modernity" of the rhetoric: electricity!!!
Sum: bourgeois hygiene --- passing on inheritance through “clean genes” and avoiding the reproduction of “degenerates” requires **SERIOUS SELF-SURVEILLANCE!!!**

I. Solving the problem of Liberalism [3]:

Surveillance / Conformism / Consumerism

[1] “Class” identity
[2] “Gender” identity

Jeremy Bentham, *Panopticon* 

[“pan” = “all”; “optic” = “see”]

Brixton Prison treadmill, 1830s

Conforming to “normal” = self-surveillance

NB: Mill; Nietzsche (“herd / slave morality”)

Modern Prison

Jeremy Bentham, *Panopticon*
Mazas Prison, 1850

Technology aids police surveillance

Photographs of Persons Subject to Special Surveillance at the Borders

Am I on campus camera?

Schools say videos are deterrents, security measure

Milwaukee Sentinel Journal
29 May 2001
The Panopticon = Surveillance

- Complete surveillance
  - Psychological, not physical
  - We try to rehabilitate, re-create the person: “discipline” = “re-form”
  - Foucault: panopticon symbolizes liberal society in general
  - Liberalism— not so much free; rather, discipline comes from within
    - Self-censored, self-imposed, self-restrained
  - The way that Liberal society glues individuals into a body
    - We keep an eye out --- on one another, on ourselves --- so no deviation from the “norm”
    - We want to be just like everyone else!!! i.e., “normal”

What’s important:
Not so much to be free as to be normal [Freud!]

- The burden of bearing psych. “normalcy”
  - e.g., not standing out; masc / fem norms
- The burden of bearing phys. “normalcy”
  - e.g., clothes; body definition; beauty; race

- Foucault: the “mechanics of power” are subtle methods of surveillance
  - including self-surveillance

Liberal society ➔ consumer society

Mere coincidence?

“Normalization” of advertising:
Internalize the “norms” of society as both surveillance and punishment
“False Faces”
from
_The Women of New York_,
1869

Rousseau: masks?

Tom Ripley: Better to be a fake somebody?

- Face Bleach and Hair Straightener
- Advertisement in _The Colored American Magazine_, 1903

“Natural” or “Artificial”?
San Jose Mercury News
[Silicon Valley, August 2002]

Why do liberal society and “mass consumer” society seem to be so closely linked together???

Back to “identity” / Frankenstein / Robespierre / Ripley:

What “glue” to use for “belonging”? NOT external violence … but rather

- Q: Who am I in a liberal society?
- A: One who is “normal” and “fits in”
- NB: internal contradiction of “liberal consumption” → freedom = fitting in?
II. Liberal Imperialist Racialism:  
From Self-surveillance to Surveillance abroad

Nuala looks at severed hand and foot of 5-yr-old daughter Boali  
Victim of the Anglo-Belgian India Rubber Company militia

Late 19th-c. birth-control: “The English rubber”  
Rubber trees of colonial Africa/Indochina  Cf. Michelin tire!

British missionaries with men holding hands severed by A.B.I.R. militiamen, 1904
III. 19th-century Racialism: Competition between Species and Races

- Colonialist fantasies: natives are depraved / without restraint ≠ no European recognition of order already in these societies
- Colonial project: impose liberal notions of order, restraint, surveillance, discipline

- Food supply: arithmetic
- Population: geometric
- Competition for scarce resources

“Man Descending towards the Brute” [1843]
from *Heads of Men and Animals Compared* [1844]
Herbert Spencer --- “Social Darwinism” [NB: before Darwin!]
Belief that strongest / fittest should survive and flourish;
weak and unfit should be allowed to die.
[Invents the term “survival of the fittest”]

1852: The Developmental Hypothesis
Popularizes the term “Evolution”
→ society evolves toward increasing freedom for individuals
→ holds for minimal government intervention

A competition between “races”
• Competition: not just a by-product of liberalization of economic protectionism;
• Now seen as built into the very destiny of biology itself.

Morphological Tree of the Human Race [1880s]
• “Morph” = “shape”
• NB: Both teleological and hierarchical
• European is end-point [telos]
• In descending order:
  • Aryans - Semites - Japanese - Chinese - Americans - Finns - Australians - Negroes - Negritos

1859 Charles Darwin:
On the Origin of Species,
or, the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life

“Family Group”
• Bottom to top: from “primitive” [archaic] to modern
• Evolutionary progress demonstrated by marks on the body / skull
• Again: European is the end-point [telos]
Evolutionary Hierarchy
written on the skull / cranium

- Fig. 339 --- "Apollo Belvidere"
- Fig. 341 --- "Negro"
- Fig. 345 --- "Young Chimpanzee"

• Radical revision of traditional worldview, i.e., a hierarchical ladder of Being
  • "Lower" beings "participate" in Being to a lesser degree than "higher" beings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Attribute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>God</td>
<td>&quot;Everything and more&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angels</td>
<td>Intuition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minerals</td>
<td>Existence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals</td>
<td>Existence, Growth, Reason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>Existence, Growth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Medieval essence radically differs from modern evolutionism: the "essence" of a thing is what it is vs. its "what-ness" — Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas
• For mediavls, "essence" [what a thing is] precedes its "existence" [the fact that it is]
  • i.e., your identity / meaning is fixed and unchangeable even before you are born
• Unchanging: BLOOD / GENEALOGY
• Changing: meritocracy / individual effort --- "Social Darwinism"

IV. Race as a social construct

- Contrast with Darwin’s “evolution”:
  • Darwin: things get better over time
    - Medieval: things get worse the farther away from their source [“devolution”]
    - Modern: “change” is a good thing
  • Modern: “becoming” [change] better than unchanging
    • Medieval: “being” better than “becoming”

- St. Sava Serbian Men’s League
  South St. Paul, Minnesota

- IV. Race as a social construct

- St. Sava Serbian Men’s League
  South St. Paul, Minnesota
Race:
Biology as Destiny or Cultural Construction?

Problem:
What is a “European”?

A member of the “Christian race” is a baptized person...

But what is a member of the “European race”?

South --- North
Black --- White
Harper’s Weekly
1876
Phenotype

“all the observable characteristics of an organism --- such as shape, size, color and behavior --- that result from the interaction of its genotype (total genetic inheritance) with the environment.”

From race as religious ["heathen"]

to race as physical ["non-white"]

The Terrible Transformation: told in marriage legislation

FROM HEATHENISM TO RACIALISM

The American Colonial Example

From American Negro slavery and abolition: A Sociological Study

Walter E. Moore, 1971 (BT341: 6441, M73 [1981])

1680 Christian heathen union forbidden: "religious impartiality"

1683 Free / slave marriage --- the germ of moral discrimination first introduced:

“divorce free-black slaves, forgetful of their free condition, do intermarry with negroes...”

(May) 1683

cf. Mary Douglas: anxieties of the body politic are written on individual bodies --- e.g., legislation regarding sexual unions of bodies
Race: always a politically driven category
  – neither “scientific” nor “natural” nor even “physical”!
  e.g.: Middle Ages: religious: the “Christian race”;
  – America: White = Protestant

How (and whether) to reconcile Liberal idea of “equality” with the demands of difference?

V. 19th-century Imperialism

New v. Old Imperialism

Pre-19th c.: A trade colonialism
  Europeans want to invest capital in resorts, hotels, plantations, factories: they ask local governments to let them invest

New: “acquisition”: they simply displace the local governments; want political control as well as economic investment

19th c. “acquisition” colonialism made possible by railroad and telegraph: hardware necessary to unite a massive landmass

Reasons for late 19 c. Imperialism

A. Political =Nationalism
  – How does a “nation-state” “measure” its “national strength”?
  E.g., 1960s USA: “space race”, “arms race”
  Today: Putin!!

  – Late 19c: National strength defined by territorial acquisition
B. Economic
- Thesis: capitalists need new markets and new sources of raw materials
- Objections:
  • capital investment was higher in USA / W. Europe than in colonies;
  • colonialism never profitable. Colonies cost more than they produced

C. Ideological: “The Civilizing Mission”: need for Europe to civilize “savages”
- *Heart of Darkness* --- Conrad is not interested in telling us about the reality of colonialism; rather --- interested in telling us about the cultural fantasy of it all
- A fantasized version [in Western imagination] about what rest of world is like

Imperialist Expansion in late 19th century
- Territorial “acquisition”: note metaphors of “acquisition,” “consumption,” “ownership"
- The Other is something I acquire
- Carving up “a piece of cake”: Africa, S.E. Asia, India: 1/4 of world’s land-mass!
“Determining the new borders of the Congo between France and Germany”
[Petit Journal, Nov. 1913]

“Civilizing Mission to Morocco”
[Le Petit Journal, 1911]

Civilization: the “White Man’s Burden”