

Regular Session, 2001
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROOME

CIVIL RIGHTS: Provides relative to racism and education about racism

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, America's foundational document, the *Declaration of Independence*, expresses the self-evident truth "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness;" and,

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974¹ declares that the only legitimate ends of government are to secure justice for all, preserve peace, protect the rights, and promote the happiness and general welfare of the people; and,

[Louisiana State Constitution, 1973.](#)

WHEREAS, empirical science has documented an indisputable commonality among all people groups, or races, and has demonstrated that normal variations in the human gene pool account for our differences, of which racial differences are a trivial portion²; and

"Race is a social construct derived mainly from perceptions conditioned by events of recorded history, and it has no basic biological reality."

Robert Lee Hotz, 'Race has no basis in biology, researchers say', Los Angeles Times article reprinted in the Cincinnati Enquirer, February 20, 1997, p. A3.

"The word race should be abandoned because it's meaningless. We accept the idea of race because it's a convenient way of putting people into broad categories, frequently to suppress them. The most hideous example was provided by Hitler's Germany. And racial prejudice remains common throughout the world."

'We're all the same', American Broadcasting Corporation News, September 10, 1998, www.abcnews.com/sections/science/DyeHard/dye72.html

Researchers argue that the term 'race' is basically so meaningless that it should be discarded.

Susan Chavez Cameron and Susan Macias Wycoff, 'The destructive nature of the term race: growing beyond a false paradigm', *Journal of Counseling & Development*, 76:277-285, 1998.

"If one were to take any two people anywhere in the world, scientists have found that the basic genetic differences between these two people would typically be around 0.2 percent – even if they came from the same people group. But, the so-called 'racial' characteristics that people think are major differences, (skin color, eye shape, etc.) "account for only 0.012 percent of human biological variation." In other words, the so-called 'racial' differences are absolutely trivial—overall, there is more variation within any group than there is between one group and another. If a white person is looking for a tissue match for an organ transplant, for instance, the best match may come from a black person, and vice versa. The ABC news science page stated, 'What the facts show is that there are differences among us, but they stem from culture, not race.'

J.C. Gutin, 'End of the rainbow', Discover, pp. 72-73, November 1994, Cameron & Wycoff, *Journal of Counseling & Development*, ABC News.

WHEREAS, the writings of Charles Darwin, the father of evolution³,

Evolution: a theory that the various types of animals and plants have their origin in other preexisting types and that the distinguishable differences are due to modifications in successive generations, a process of continuous change from a lower, simpler, or worse to a higher, more complex, or better state.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition copyright (c) 2001 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

a. **Macroevolution:** evolution that results in relatively large and complex changes (as in species formation)

Ibid

promoted a justification of racism,⁴

Racism: 1: a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race. 2: racial prejudice or discrimination

Ibid.

"The Races of Man. - At the present time there exist upon the earth five races or varieties of man, each very different from the other in instincts, social customs, and, to an extent in structure. These are the Ethiopian or negro type, originating in Africa; the Malay or brown race, from the islands of the Pacific; the American Indian; the Mongolian or yellow race, including the natives of China, Japan, and the Eskimos; and finally, *the highest type of all*, the Caucasians, represented by the civilized white inhabitants of Europe and America." (Emphasis ours.)

George William. A Civic Biology Presented in Problems, American Book Company, New York, 1914. P. 196. (This quote is taken from the actual textbook used by John Scopes when he filled in as a biology teacher. This is the textbook used in schools at that time and the one Scopes supposedly taught evolution from resulting in the famous Scopes Trial.)

Darwin reasoned that as a married man he would be a "poor slave...worse than a Negro," but then reminisces that, "one cannot live the solitary life, with groggy old age, friendless...and childless staring in one's face...." (1958:234).

(Nora Barlow, Ed.). 1958. The Autobiography of Charles Darwin, 1809-1882. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., Inc.

The Negroid stock is even more ancient than the Caucasian and Mongolians, as may be proved by an examination not only of the brain, of the hair, of the bodily characteristics...but of the instincts, the intelligence. The standard of intelligence of the average adult Negro is similar to that of the eleven-year-old-youth of the species Homo Sapiens.

Henry Fairfield Osborn, "The Evolution of Human Races," Natural History, April 1980, p. 129--reprinted from January/February 1926 issue.

Harvard University's Stephen Jay Gould wrote, "Biological arguments for racism may have been common before 1859, but they increased by orders of magnitude following the acceptance of evolutionary theory."

Stephen Jay Gould, Ontogeny and Phylogeny (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1977), p. 127

Racist attitudes fueled by evolutionary thinking were largely responsible for an African pygmy being displayed, along with an orangutan, in a cage in the Bronx zoo.

Jerry Bergman, 'Ota Benga: The man who was put on display in the zoo!' One Blood, 16(1):48-50, 1993.

and his books, *On the Origin of Species By Means of Natural Selection: or Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*, and *The Descent of Man*⁵

Excerpts from Descent of Man:

"At some future time, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilised races of man will almost certainly exterminate and replace throughout the world the savage races. At the same time the anthropomorphous apes... will not doubt be exterminated. The break will then be rendered wider, for it will intervene between man in a more civilised state, as we may hope, than the Caucasian, and some ape as low as the baboon, instead of as at present between the negro or Australian and the gorilla.

Darwin, Charles. 1896. *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*. New York: D. Appleton and Company.

[Men attain]...a higher eminence, in whatever he takes up, than can women-whether requiring deep thought, reason, or imagination, or merely the use of the senses and hands. If two lists were made of the most eminent men and women in poetry, painting, sculpture, music (inclusive of both composition and performance), history, science, and philosophy, with half-a-dozen names under each subject, the two lists would not bear comparison. We may also infer, from the law of the deviation from averages, so well illustrated by Mr. Galton, in his work on "Hereditary Genius" that...the average of mental power in man must be above that of women (1896:564).

Ibid., p. 201.

postulate a hierarchy of superior and inferior races; and,

WHEREAS, Adolf Hitler⁶

Hitler used the German word for evolution (Entwicklung) over and over again in his book. The very title itself, *Mein Kampf*, ("My Struggle") was influenced by Darwin's subtitle, "...Struggle for Life." Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1943)

In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler spoke of other people groups ("races") as "lower human types." He criticized the Jews for bringing "Negroes into the Rhineland" with the aim of "reining the white race by the necessarily resulting bastardization." He spoke of "Negroes" as "Monstrosities halfway between man and ape and lamented the fact of Christians going to "Central Africa" to set up "Negro missions," resulting in the turning of "healthy . . . human beings into a rotten brood of bastards." In his chapter entitled "Nation and Race," he said, "The stronger must dominate and not blend with the weaker, thus sacrificing his own greatness. Only the born weakling can view this as cruel, but he, after all, is only a weak and limited man; for if this law did not prevail, any conceivable higher development (Höherentwicklung) of organic living beings would be unthinkable." A few pages later, he said, "Those who want to live, let them fight, and those who do not want to fight in this world of eternal struggle do not deserve to live."

Ibid.

"The German Führer, as I have consistently maintained, is an evolutionist; he has consciously sought to make the practice of Germany conform to the theory of evolution...[He] has consistently sought to make the practice of Germany conform to the theory of evolution."

Sir Arthur Keith, *Evolution and Ethics* (New York: G.P Putnam & Sons, 1947), p. 230.

"To see evolutionary measures and tribal morality being applied rigorously to the affairs of a great modern nation we must turn again to Germany of 1942. We see Hitler devoutly convinced that evolution produces the only real basis for a national policy."

Ibid., p. 28

"The leader of Germany is an evolutionist, not only in theory, but, as millions know to their cost, in the rigor of its practice. For him, the national "front" of Europe is also the evolutionary "front;" he regards himself, and is regarded, as the incarnation of the will of Germany, the purpose of that will being to guide the evolutionary destiny of its people."

Ibid., p.10.

and others have exploited the racist views of Darwin and those he influenced, such as German zoologist Ernst Haeckel⁷,

Ernst **Haeckel**:

"The roots of the Nazi racial policies reach back to Haeckel on scientific matters and even farther into history in terms of social attitudes like anti-Semitism and xenophobia." [Haeckel was an ardent evolutionist who popularized the idea of embryonic recapitulation which still appears in most public school textbooks, even though it's been shown conclusively to be fraudulent.]

The Evolution of Racism: Human Differences and the Use and Abuse of Science. Pat Shipman. Simon and Schuster, 1994. P. 135.

"Starting in 1931, members of the elite SS were prohibited from marrying non-Aryans and SS Chief Heinrich Himmler established a Racial Officer of the SS to guarantee that all marriages and sexual liaisons conformed to Nazi racial doctrine. In 1934, an Office of Racial Policy was established by the Nazi State, which was to 'coordinate and unify all schooling and propaganda in the areas of population and racial policy'. Publications, meetings, and films poured out of the Office of Racial Policy, all designed to 'enlighten' the public about the dangers of the inferior races, especially the Jews."

Ibid., P. 137.

to justify the annihilation of millions of purportedly racially inferior individuals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby deplore all instances and ideologies of racism, does hereby reject the core concepts of Darwinist ideology⁹

Darwinism: a theory of the origin and perpetuation of new species of animals and plants that offspring of a given organism vary, that natural selection favors the survival of some of these variations over others, that new species have arisen and may continue to arise by these processes, and that widely divergent groups of plants and animals have arisen from the same ancestors; broadly: biological evolutionism.

Ibid.

that certain races and classes of humans are inherently superior to others, and does hereby condemn the extent to which these philosophies have been used to justify and approve racist practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge and request the public education system of Louisiana, as appropriate in the curriculum, to address the commonalities of people groups and the weaknesses of Darwinian racism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of administration, who will make its contents known to the heads of each Louisiana state department and agency; to the Board of Regents, who will make its contents known to each college and university president of chancellor; and to the state superintendent of education, who will make its contents known to the superintendent of each city, parish, or other local public school system.