Eugenic Sterilization in the United States (1922), by Harry H. Laughlin [1]

By: Gur-Arie, Rachel

Eugenic Sterilization in the United States (1922) is a 1922 book in which author Harry H. Laughlin argues for the necessity of compulsory sterilization in the United States based on the principles of eugenics. The eugenics movement was a branch of social reform that sought to improve the human race by promoting the breeding of people with desirable traits and discouraging the breeding of those with less desirable traits. Laughlin believed that certain individuals were born with defects and that these individuals should be prevented from reproducing to avoid passing on these traits to future generations.

Laughlin was a superintendent and assistant director of the Eugenics Research Office (ERO) and a co-founder of the American Eugenics Society. He was one of the most influential eugenicists in the United States and played a significant role in the development of sterilization laws in the United States.

The book is divided into chapters that cover various topics related to sterilization, including the functions of the testes, sterilization procedures, and the biological criteria for sterilization. Laughlin also discusses the impact of sterilization on society and argues that it is a necessary step to improve the human race.

Sources

Eugenical Sterilization in the United States is a 1922 book in which author Harry H. Laughlin argues for the necessity of compulsory sterilization in the United States based on the principles of eugenics. The eugenics movement of the early twentieth century in the US focused on altering the genetic makeup of the US population by regulating immigration and sterilization, and by discouraging interracial procreation, then called miscegenation. Published in December 1922 by the Psychopathic Laboratory of the Municipal Court of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois, the book reports Laughlin's analysis of how states could benefit from sterilizing their mentally disabled residents, and it reprinted his model sterilization law, which he encouraged state governments to adopt. Laughlin's model sterilization law stressed the need for the sterilization of populations that Laughlin deemed inadequate for reasons ranging from physical appearance to socioeconomic status. The document influenced twentieth century legislation in the US about reproduction and compulsory sterilization.

Subject

Topic
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- The Embryo Project at Arizona State University, 1711 South Rural Road, Tempe Arizona 85287, United States

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