

Summary

The German occupation of the Czech lands and WWII (1939-1945) brought development of new infrastructure to the region. The infrastructure was supposed to help accomplish the official Nazi doctrines called “protection of hereditary health” and “protection of the race”, as it was in Germany since 1933. At the academic level it was supported by new biomedical disciplines such as the *Rassenhygiene* [racial hygiene], or the *Erbbiologie* [hereditary biology] and the *Rassenbiologie* [racial biology] that were developed continuously from the turn of the 19th and 20th century.

In addition to a number of other state and political institutions new university institutes established gradually at three faculties of the *German Charles University* [Deutsche Karls-Universität; hereinafter as the DKU] in Prague between 1939 and 1945 were those of the central and exclusive status. It was the *Institut für Erb- und Rassenhygiene* [Institute for Hereditary and Racial Hygiene] formed at the DKU Faculty of Medicine in 1939, the *Institut für Rassenbiologie* [Institute for Racial Biology] established at the DKU Faculty of (Natural) Science in 1941 and finally the *Institut für Sozialanthropologie und Volksbiologie* [Institute for Social Anthropology and Folk Biology] established at the DKU Faculty of Arts in 1942.

Only after these institutions had commenced their work, hired professional staff and established themselves the axioms of racial hygiene, racial biology and hereditary biology, or more precisely social anthropology and folk biology, regardless of their vagueness, became the basis of targeted expert interventions carried out by academics and professionals of these newly established and state-promoted disciplines at the level of occupation administration, or in the area of official Nazi health, population, social and racial policies.

The objective of this work is to describe and analyze the complex of these new fields of study promoted by the Nazi regime within the context of the occupation policy applied in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia [Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren/ Protektorát Čechy a Morava; hereinafter as the Protectorate] at that time. It does not intend to provide a general analysis or even a synthesis of the German occupation health, racial, population and national policies in the Protectorate, which would be truly desirable; instead it offers a very first overview made after sixty years mapping the endeavors to implement the German variations of hereditary and racial hygiene in the area of biomedical sciences, or their Nazi ideologization and transformation of chosen disciplines into totalitarian science, providing their sources and outlining the consequences. As results from the definition, the study will focus namely on Prague or rather Czech specifics. We believe that this work can be also important for

being an indispensable prerequisite for understanding and interpreting the complicated development of eugenics in the Czech lands and Czechoslovakia in the first half of 20th century in their full extent and significance.

Taking into account the objective we defined, a number of analytical levels was chosen requiring above all few years of demanding heuristic preparation and study of period sources as well as other materials deposited in a number of domestic and foreign archives, libraries, collections and documentary resources of other institutions many of which were used for the very first time, namely as regards health administration and policy, as far as is known.

The first level is the approximation of theoretic bases and a brief time chart of the actual ideography of the German racial hygiene movement. As was indicated by many authors the modern eugenics, including its German version, developed continuously from the turn of 19th and 20th century within the context of and in interdependency with other establishing and developing scientific disciplines, i.e. not in an isolated way between 1933 and 1945. For this reason we have been trying to perceive the eugenics mainly as a significant type of period expert knowledge having a certain degree of interdisciplinary character typical of technologically developed and industrialized countries with advanced scientific infrastructure, derived from the complicated relation between basic genetic research and its potential social applications of that time. The application required political control and regulation, in particular in medical and social areas and were supported and promoted mainly by representatives of specific professional academic groups. The analysis of the relations between considerably diversified genetic knowledge (population genetics, medical genetics, hereditary pathology, chromosomal heredity, etc.) and racial-biological constructs, based namely on the traditional descriptive methodology of physical anthropology of that time, was crucial especially to the situation in Germany, the main concepts being the race (*Rasse*), or the population (*Bevölkerung*). To summarize the same, there was a distinction between the system race (*System-Rasse*) on the one hand and the vital race (*Vital-Rasse*) on the other hand, recognized in eugenic discussions in Germany from the very beginning (Schallmayer, Ploetz). This distinction reflects the differences in promoting and understanding the Mendel's hereditary paradigms of that time. Especially from this point of view it seems to be justified and inspiring not to talk about the development of eugenics like in other countries, but rather about a German "special way" or the *Sonderweg* (Weindling) that resulted in the murderous science (Müller-Hill) in the totalitarian Nazi political regime when it became an unprecedented political instrument. The connection with politics was a casual necessity in that case not only for the general acceptance of racial hygiene and biology, but mainly for the implementation of Utopian visions of the racial hygienists. In our opinion the historic analysis should also attempt to cover this relation of mutual cooperation / collaboration between racially based (natural) science and

political ideology and its highly visible irrational racial myths, especially in a political regime where biomedical sciences were supposed to be fundamentally transferred from the racial point of view to become a new leading science (Leitwissenschaft), or more precisely they were supposed to become the base of a new biologicistic world picture (Weltbild). The effort to provide systematic support to this transformation which showed both fragmentation and synthesis tendencies is crucial to the DKU and from a certain moment it was closely related to the formulation and gradual technocratic elaboration of occupation strategies that resulted into the preparation and implementation of measures that were referred to as genocidal after the WW2. Using especially the Nazi “euthanasia” program we try to show the following aspects of the racial hygiene: i) The way it was used a specific ideological instrument of the Nazi occupation policy; ii) How it became an expert basis for formulation of extermination strategies applied within its scope; iii) The way it profited from these strategies, or iv) How contributed eventually to their dramatic development. As we can see neither the inner differentiation according to the research methods (e.g. twins-research), nor application of knowledge from other progressive tendencies were contradictory to this. As far as the other tendencies are concerned then from the biological point of view we should point out especially population genetics, blood type genetics or evolution biology in its protosynthetic and German version from the end of the 1930s and the first half of the 1940s. With respect to close relations among sciences, concretely the biomedical disciplines, radical abstract biomorphic modeling in the Nazi Germany required further experiments with mutual syntheses extending beyond the border of purely biological or medical disciplines (e.g. sociology or psychology).

The second level is the description of practical implementation that had been proposed by the racial hygienists since WWI, which means in particular the approximation of relations between practical hygienic measures in the health system and extermination measures implemented within the special Nazi program called “euthanasia”, or other mass extermination projects of the Nazi regime, focusing namely on the situation in the Czech lands. This level takes into account especially the role of centralized and state-controlled health systems, or their subsystems, as well as a whole number of other issues, such as the relation between a physician and the state, the impact of political and economic measures on doctor’s work, the role of a physician as a scientist and educator, the conflict between individual health care and its population aspects, namely as regards preventive medicine, doctor’s competence to provide euthanasia to patients in a terminal condition, and last but not least the moral and ethical aspects.

The third level describes the role and contribution of the institutions that were considered crucial for the new racial hygiene infrastructure established by the Nazis. First is a brief outline of the development of the major institutions in Germany itself, as built gradually from 1933 or even earlier in

some cases, covering the expansion or transformation of some local German academic places into this framework. The main one is the former DKU in Prague that was supposed to play the key role in promoting new scientific disciplines at all faculties starting from 1939. In many aspects this work is based on the latest research into the history of the university which was started only in the 1990s. A big part is focused on the SS structures (SD, RuSHA-SS, Ahnenerbe etc.) that played an important, although not always clear role in the academic environment of the Protectorate.

Finally the fourth level describes and reconstructs personal and personal-professional relationships from the prosopographic point of view showing not only its own inner order and the establishment of the racial hygiene movement within the national (German) *scientific community*, but also a close connection to the exponents of other professional and political institutions of the Nazi Germany.

The work is divided into four chapters completed with a separate section called *Epilogue* (in addition to the traditional introduction and conclusion).

The chapter called the *Between Science, Ideology and Politics* is focused on general issues and tries to provide a brief outline of the constitution and formation of the German national school of racial hygiene in the context of contemporary biological, neo-Darwinist and social-Darwinist milieu, or more precisely the concepts and hypotheses of human hereditary mechanisms at the beginning of the 20th century. It outlines the parallelism between the origins of racial hygiene in the conditions of Wilhelmian Germany at the end of the 19th century and the Anglo-Saxon (i.e. British and American) eugenics of that time, emphasizing the difference and discrepancies of the programmatics that formed its fundamental specific features from the very beginning, as we believe. We also try to find a relation between the development of the socialist movement and the reformatory endeavors of general practitioners and hygienists of that time, in case of Germany influenced by a strong movement for the *Lebensreform* [life reform] and the *Rassentheorien* [racial theories]. Later in the chapter we focus on the acceptance of German racial hygiene among the academic elite of the post-war Germany, its development as well as systematic support of racial hygiene research work from foreign, especially American resources. We also try to show the importance of contemporary and at that time independent experiment heredity science (genetics) and their mutual, rather ambivalent relation, namely for their medical application. In relation to the big economic crisis at the turn of 1920s and 1930s, or more precisely the assumption of power by the Nazi Party at the beginning of 1933, we also explore the oversimplified endeavors to solve social problems by biological methods and related attempts to restrict the human nature by obligatory sterilization surgeries (sterilization, castration) that were controlled and performed by the state. This will be followed by an analysis of racial hygiene as an integral part off the totalitarian ideology and the Nazi world picture [Weltanschauung] and world view

[Weltbild]. We focus on practical measures of the racial hygiene (i.e. the eugenics) of the Nazi state, including the preparation of forced sterilization combined with racial discriminatory measures, oriented above all on Jewish people, and later transition to targeted and systematic extermination of certain groups of people within the “euthanasia” program. We also investigate the readiness and willingness of a certain part of the German academic elite to participate in the conceptualization of “protection of hereditary health” and “protection of race”, or more precisely its institutional preconditions. Last but not least we examine the very beginning of establishment of racial hygiene infrastructure of the Nazi state and resulting conflicts among the individual state and political institutions and elements between 1933 and 1939. However, the focus of this chapter consists in territorial expansion of racial hygiene which has not been given much consideration in relation to the expansive politics of the Nazi state using the example of the *Reichsgau Sudetenland* [Sudetenland], or the Protectorate. Within the context of the Protectorate development, we would also like to emphasize some points of contact between the racial hygienic and biomedical vision on the one hand and the New Europe under the Nazi reign on the other hand over the first three years of the Protectorate.

The second chapter, called *The Strategic Planning*, describes the expansion and the gradual approximation of racial hygiene and social anthropology in its academic version with other prominent disciplines such as the psychology of nations and the science of nations that were promoted in Prague from 1942 within the newly established Foundation of Reinhard Heydrich [Reinhard-Heydrich-Stiftung, hereinafter as the RHS]. The crucial point of this chapter is the cooperation in forming new occupation and assimilation / dissimilation strategies for nations and national groups to the power of the Nazi Germany. Special attention is paid to the biologization of historic concepts, or the completion of racial selective criteria with an allegedly psychological component.

The third chapter, called *The Avant-garde of Race*, deals mainly with relations between the practical measures of exterminating racial hygiene [ausmerzende Rassenhygiene], based on moribund selection of megalomaniac extent preformed within the SS structure or its institutions of racial hygiene, i.e. the Main Race and Settlement Office of the SS [Rassen- und Siedlungshauptamt der SS, hereinafter as the RuSHA-SS] and the Racial Office [Rassenamt]. This chapter also outlines the pursuit of further perfection and medicalization of the selection criteria to be implemented in Prague after 1942.

The fourth chapter, called *The Theory of Race*, summarizes theoretical discourses of the main representatives of the Nazi racial hygiene and racial biology associated in the think-tank of the DKU, or more precisely the RHS and SS structures; on the time line it covers the last years of the war (1944-45), pursuing to describe mainly the dynamics of these theoretical racial discourses, including the cruel “practical” research, that have been neglected and in Prague continued until the very end of the war, or the preparation of the ideological transformation of racial science and racial hygiene after the

war. The question that remains to be answered is the relevance and scope of the transformation, in other words if the transformation concerns only local development, or if we can find a similar process anywhere else in Germany. The complicated part is the transition of racial hygiene and racial biology immediately after the war, or their transformation into other post-war disciplines.

This is also reflected in the final part called *The Epilogue* which tries to cover further professional development of the main representatives of the Prague racial hygienic and biological think-tank.

