

RACE, DYSGENICS, AND THE SURVIVAL OF THE WEST

An Interview with Richard Lynn¹

The Occidental Quarterly: What factors contributed to the trajectory of your career and your interest in researching empirical aspects of personality, IQ, racial differences, and eugenics?

Richard Lynn: My father was a geneticist and eugenicist and he was the first influence on my thinking. Then when I was a student reading psychology at Cambridge I read Francis Galton's *Hereditary Genius* (1869), which argued that intelligence is the key to civilization, that there are race differences in intelligence, and that intelligence declines in advanced civilizations because the more intelligent cease to have children. I also read the work of Cyril Burt and Ray Cattell that confirmed the tendency of the more intelligent to have fewer children. It struck me that this was enormously important for the future of our civilization.

TOQ: Who has had the most important impact in shaping your outlook and perspective as a psychologist? (Historical figure, colleague, mentor, or scholar.)

RL: Francis Galton pretty well said it all. The only significant thing he missed was the high intelligence of the Chinese and Japanese.

TOQ: What was it like to work with Hans Eysenck?

RL: Eysenck was an inspiration. He was a hereditarian at the time when almost everyone was an environmentalist. His judgment was almost invariably sound and he was always helpful.

TOQ: Who else has influenced you?

RL: The two most significant influences have been Art Jensen and

¹ Originally published in *The Occidental Letter*, vol. 1, no. 1 (Fall 2007): 1, 4–6. The interviewer was Kevin Lamb.

Phil Rushton. Art Jensen came first with his path-breaking 1969 paper that opened up the issue of black-white differences in intelligence and his numerous subsequent books and articles. Phil Rushton's *r-K* theory of race differences is a hugely creative work of genius and explains numerous other race differences such as those in brain size, rates of maturation, testosterone, and crime. Several years ago I said in an interview that Phil Rushton deserves a Nobel Prize for his *r-K* theory of race differences.

TOQ: *What do you regard as your most important work?*

RL: First, the discovery of the high intelligence of the East Asians at 105, five IQ points higher than Europeans.

Second, that the IQ of blacks in Africa is about 70. Previously, people had believed that the black IQ is about 85, but this is the IQ of blacks in the United States and Britain, who enjoy all the advantages of living in a white society, such as a high standard of living, good nutrition, and health.

Third, my compilation of studies of the IQs of the ten major races worldwide, and the formulation of the theory that these have evolved as adaptations to the cold environments of Europe and East Asia, which required higher intelligence and greater brain size than were needed in Africa.

TOQ: *President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" Act seems to make certain egalitarian assumptions in regard to closing the "education gap." What do you see as the likely consequences of ignoring and disregarding the body of literature on racial and sexual differences in IQ? Will educational "reform" initiatives ever incorporate IQ research findings into public policy measures on education?*

RL: I shouldn't think so. It is impossible to envision the president saying that nothing can be done to advance the blacks, Native American Indians, and Hispanics because of their low IQs and personality characteristics.

TOQ: *If you were selected to head up a Department of Eugenics (as a cabinet-level department in the British or American governments), with unlimited authority and unlimited budgetary discretion, what reform initiatives would you implement? What priorities would you establish as policy initiatives?*

RL: I would implement the “parental licensing” scheme first advocated by Galton. Under this scheme, couples would have to apply for and obtain a license to have children, analogous to obtaining a license for driving an automobile. Only those who passed the tests would be granted the license. To obtain a parenting license, couples would have to demonstrate that they have sound genetic qualities and parental skills. This scheme was also advocated by the late David Lykken. I discuss this and other eugenic proposals in my book *Eugenics*. But I point out that it would be impossible to implement this proposal in liberal democracies.

TOQ: *In terms of eugenic social policies, what do you view as critical, threshold reforms that Western societies should, as a minimum, adopt in order to avoid future dysgenic trends? Can dysgenic trends be reversed by public policies?*

RL: I doubt whether much can be done in Western societies at present. For the future, the most promising development will be the use of embryo selection to produce genetically desirable children. The procedure will entail the growth of a number of embryos by IVF, ascertaining their genetic characteristics, and implanting the most desirable. This is prohibited in most western nations, except for the selection of embryos carrying certain genetic disorders, but we can see a time when these prohibitions will be lifted or overcome.

TOQ: *In your chapter in Race and the American Prospect, you addressed the subject of racial differences in psychopathological personalities. What do you view as the underlying explanation for a greater degree of violent tendencies among blacks?*

RL: I think the problem should be posed as the reduction of psychopathological personality among the European and East Asian peoples. This likely evolved for the same reason as their higher intelligence, namely as an adaptation to the cold environments of Europe and East Asia. This would have demanded a greater degree of forward planning, e.g., in collecting and storing food for future consumption, and of emotional intelligence to keep social relations harmonious.

The issue of race differences in personality is one of the big problems that still has to be tackled. I attempted to make a start on this in 2002 with a paper in which I assembled evidence suggesting that psychopathic personality is highest among blacks and Native Americans,

next highest in Hispanics, lower in whites, and lowest in Orientals. But there is still a lot more that needs to be done on this.

TOQ: *Political correctness has become a menacing force in terms of stifling free speech and enforcing constricting barriers on what is acceptable and unacceptable for discussion, as Charles Murray would say, in "polite company." Where do you see this "PC" trend headed?*

RL: I guess PC is a contemporary fad that will pass in time. Most ages have had their PC fads that last for a century or so and then fade away. In the seventeenth century it was PC in Protestant countries to wear black and smash statues of the Virgin Mary in Roman Catholic Churches. In the nineteenth century it was PC to avoid any mention of sex. In the second half of the twentieth century it became PC to condemn any mention of racial or social class differences in intelligence. This will very likely last for a few more decades, but eventually this fad will surely pass.

TOQ: *Despite all the criticism leveled against Herrnstein and Murray for their conclusions in *The Bell Curve*, have their findings been largely vindicated? By the same token, *The g Factor* was largely ignored by many of the critics (in the press and academe outside the psychometric community) who were so largely critical of *The Bell Curve*. (One could point to Michael Levin's book *Why Race Matters* as a comprehensive examination of the subject of racial differences, and yet it was equally ignored.) To what do you attribute to this peculiarity?*

RL: Everything in the *The Bell Curve* was correct, and it received quite a lot of flak. Other non-PC books on intelligence and race have been ignored by the media. I have had quite a lot of experience with this. For instance, the *National Review* asked me to review *The g Factor*. I agreed and sent in the review, but they declined to publish it. In the case of my own books, I have sent review copies to numerous quality magazines but none of them has carried reviews. I sent copies of my *IQ and the Wealth of Nations* and *IQ and Global Inequality* (both written with Tatu Vanhanen), which set out the theory that national differences in IQ are a major factor in economic development, to the *Economist*, but they did not review or mention them. I guess this is because the prevailing PC zeitgeist frightens journalists and editors from touching books of this kind.

TOQ: *Your two books coauthored with Tatu Vanhanen stress the importance of intelligence by showing that advanced, wealthier nations have higher average national IQs (and free-market economies). What other major national, social, cultural, and racial areas of IQ research are there left to explore?*

RL: I think the most important is the decline of the world's IQ arising from below-replacement fertility in the entire economically developed (high-IQ) world, and the high fertility in the underdeveloped (low-IQ) world. The details and implications of the decline of the world's IQ need to be worked out.

TOQ: *In your interview with Right Now! editor Derek Turner, you seem pessimistic about the future of the United States and Western civilization and believed that the problems of the former would eventually split up the United States and that white states should secede from the Union; and that in terms of the latter, racial conflict would dominate Western societies. Do you see any encouraging signs on the horizon to indicate a reversal of these predictions?*

RL: I remain pessimistic about the future and see no prospect of the split up of the United States.

TOQ: *Are Western democracies inherently anti-meritocratic? What are the prospects for returning to strictly meritocratic standards for employment selection, career advancement, and promotion?*

RL: I see Western democracies as pretty meritocratic. Of course they are required to promote less able people to positions they would not obtain on merit, but broadly speaking I would say the cream rises to the top.

TOQ: *What do you see as the most important issues/problems facing Western societies?*

RL: The single most important issue is the increasing immigration of low-IQ third-world peoples into the United States, Canada, and Europe. The effect of this, combined with their higher fertility, is that they are replacing Europeans. By the end of the twenty-first century Europeans will become minorities in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe. Yet this huge demographic catastrophe has been barely noticed by the media, and anyone who mentions it is con-

demned as a “far right racist.”

This phenomenon raises what is perhaps the most baffling problem of the present age, which is why the European peoples are so complacent about being dispossessed in their own countries by the influx of non-European peoples. Normally, people resist invasion by alien peoples and it seems natural for them to do so. In England we have the Norman conquest of 1066 seared in our national consciousness as the last time we were invaded, and we are equally conscious of our successful resistance to the threat of invasion by the French under Napoleon and the Germans in World War II. Yet in the last half century we have been invaded by non-Europeans, and most of us are quite complacent about this. It is the same with the European peoples in Continental Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. There seems to be something profoundly unnatural about this complacency and it defies explanation.

TOQ: *Do you see any hope for the future?*

RL: I believe the best hope for the future of civilization lies with the Chinese and Japanese. They have not been infected with the virus of Political Correctness, and they are not admitting large numbers of immigrants. They have low fertility but this is not too much of a problem for the present and can probably be corrected in the future by paying people to have children. These are highly intelligent peoples and will probably carry the torch of civilization when it is extinguished in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

*Richard Lynn, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Ulster. He is the author of sixteen books, including **Dysgenics** (Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1996), **Eugenics: A Reassessment** (Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2001), **IQ and the Wealth of Nations** (with Tatu Vanhanen) (Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2002), **Race Differences in Intelligence** (Augusta, Ga.: Washington Summit Publishers, 2006), **IQ and Global Inequality** (with Tatu Vanhanen) (Augusta, Ga.: Washington Summit Publishers, 2006), and, coming in 2008 from Washington Summit Publishers, **The Global Bell Curve**, plus scores of published research papers, including six articles in **Nature**.*