General agreement has been reached that war criminals should be punished. It appears that common consent has also been attained as to which special crimes against the ethical laws of our culture have to be considered as war crimes. But from what has been published and known of utterances of officials, one category of war criminals seems so far to have completely escaped the attention of the authorities in charge of the prosecution of the criminals. This category comprises scientists who advanced the theory of the inferiority of certain races or certain sociological, economic or political groups and recommended the unrestricted application of the power of the Nazi regime to exterminate individuals or entire populations, only because they regarded them as "unfit" and therefore detrimental to the persistence and maintenance of their power and the continuity of the Nazi regime and Nazi state. There were anthropologists in Germany who furnished "biological" proofs to justify the right of the Nazi usurpers to deal with those people as they liked; they preached this doctrine in close collaboration with the Nazi party in books, pamphlets and lectures all over Germany and the occupied countries. Those scientists have to be considered as war criminals; they are more responsible for the crimes such as have been committed in the concentration camps than the Nazi authorities themselves, who ordered the executions, and their subordinates, who carried out
the dirty work.

Any record of the activity of these anthropologists in Nazi Germany and the share they have taken in practical measures to secure the Nazi regime by extermination of the unfit, meets which the difficulty that no anthropological literature has found its way out of Germany to the libraries of this country after 1939 and 1940. It may be that the Library of Congress has such literature; if so, it has apparently not been used for the indicated purpose. Thus nothing has been known about special advice anthropologists have given to the Nazi authorities in this regard. But there can be little doubt that the physical extermination of individuals as it took place in the concentration camps has been practised in closest collaboration with those scientists who promulgated for many years the necessity of the fulfillment of the demands of the "racial hygiene" as one of the main claims of a "self-conscious" Nazi State.

According to Professor Fritz Lenz (cf. annexed list No.25) the group of unfit people is a very large one. It comprises not only persons with "incurable" physical or mental diseases or defects, but also "economically inefficient" persons and members of "inferior" races whose presence in the State was undesirable because of the danger of interbreeding with members of the "superior" races and thus causing deterioration of the latter. In Lenz' s book, "Menschliche Auslese und Rassenhygiene" (Human Selection and Racial Hygiene), 2nd edition, 1923, the category of persons unfit on account of "incurable" diseases and "economic inefficiency" is liable to forced sterilization.
The necessity to sterilize, in the interest of the State, economically inefficient people - e.g. people who have too many children but not adequate means to bring them up (Lenz, p. 185) - is called the "social" indication of sterilization. There is no evidence, at least from what has been published before the Nazi regime was established in Germany, that extermination of individuals regarded as members of "inferior" races, and for this reason detrimental to the maintenance of the "superiority" and "racial purity" of the German master-race, was recommended by Lenz. However, those advices have certainly been given at a later time for they lie in the line of the racial hygienic measures recommended by Lenz and other authors.

The fourth edition of "Menschliche Erblehre" (Heredity of Man) by Erwin Baur, Eugen Fischer and Fritz Lenz, published in 1936, I. F. Lehmann, Munich, contains a chapter (V) which deals with the heredity of mental qualities, and the second section of this chapter especially emphasizes the racial differences of the mentality. It can be easily gathered from these pages that only the German people, particularly as represented by the Nordic race, have a right to live in a German State. Lenz, the author of this chapter, says (p. 773) "The only way leading to the return of the health of the race and to its higher standard is the 'royal' way of selection. In order to introduce and achieve a selection in the sense of racial hygiene, a renovation of our philosophy of life (Weltanschauung) is necessary. ....... The education for such an organic philosophy has been introduced by National Socialism; it is its historic task to open the way.
for a sane selection with the aim of cleansing the race to make it more
efficient and lead it to a higher life." Then comes the following sen­
tence: "It will be set forth in the second volume which ways and means
are offered for achieving this goal by scientific racial biology.""
However, the announced volume is not available; it may have been pub­
lished at a time when communication with Germany was already inter­
rupted.

The same confidence that the National Socialist State will
deal with the population of Germany in the sense of the demands of
racial hygiene has been expressed in an address Professor Eugen Fischer
(cf. annexed list no. 8) delivered before an academic convocation of
the University of Berlin on the occasion of his inauguration as
first Nazi rector in July 1933. In his address entitled "Der Begriff
des völkischen Staates, biologisch betrachtet", (The Conception of the
Nationalistic State, biological aspect), Eugen Fischer stressed the sig­
nificance of the results of genetics for politics dealing with the
population of the state, in particular in respect to its racial puri­
ty. He did not say in which special way the aim of the Nationalistic
State may be attained but he asserts that the National Socialist
German State has recognized and accepted "the eternal laws of heredity,
selection and extermination" and "deliberately put them into action
in the interest of the State" (p.15). In applying the terms "selection"
and "extermination" (Ausmerzung) Fischer made it very clear which way
he has in mind. This is also indicated by the next sentence (p.16),
"Until yesterday people completely failed to recognize that 'the culture'
created by man has interfered - and up to today still interferes - in each natural event, as by the choice of the spouse, reproduction, selection, life and death of peoples and nations, to a much greater extent than the most reckless eugenicist and racial hygienist would dare to interfere if he could and were allowed. This ignorance is a shame today." (Underlining mine.)

In order to achieve the racial hygiene claims of the National Socialist State and direct the measures to be applied for such a purpose, a special department (Rassenamt) has been established at the Ministry of the Interior of Berlin. The head of this office was Dr. Walter Gross (cf. annexed list no. 14) who was also head of the same institution of the Nazi party itself. He acted in close collaboration with the then Minister of the Interior Frick. Both persons are above all responsible for the elaboration, edict and execution of the racial laws of the Nazis and their special application in the form of the extermination of all elements regarded as unfit or undesirable. Offices of the same kind (Rassenämter) have been established in each "Gau" of Germany and occupied countries with the task of supervising the execution of the laws and giving advice to the "Gauleiter" in dubious cases. Teachers of Universities or corresponding institutions headed those offices; they lectured also on human heredity, racial hygiene or racial biology. Some of these officials are known by name (cf. list annexed).

Whether all the anthropologists who headed those offices or worked in them are war criminals in the legal sense cannot be
decided on the basis of the little that leaked out of Germany before and during the war. But it admits of no doubt that all are suspected criminals, and their activities should therefore be investigated and the files of their offices seized. Article 11 of the statements on the Control of Occupied Germany of June 5th provides the possibility of apprehending persons suspected of crimes like the indicated ones. The article reads as follows, "The principal Nazi leaders as specified by the Allied representatives, and all persons from time to time named or designated by rank, office or employment by the Allied representatives as being suspected of having committed, ordered or abetted war crimes or analogous offenses will be apprehended and surrendered to the Allied representatives."

I want to emphasize that I do not intend to accuse as war criminals all those anthropologists who arrived at the conclusion that the Nordic race or the German race as a whole is a master-race and physically and mentally superior to other races - provided such a verdict is based on serious researches made with scientifically acknowledged methods and brought forward in good faith and not for obviously political reasons. But war criminals are certainly those people who recommended, on the basis of those theories, the physical extermination of individuals, races and nations only because they considered them as physically and mentally unfit and dangerous for the persistency of the Nationalistic State.

The annexed list of anthropologists who are suspected to be war criminals does not claim to be complete. There are indications
that many more than the named served as "scientific" advisors of Nazi officials. It may not be difficult to find their names by looking over the files of the racial offices or the most recent lists of the teachers at the Universities and analogous institutions, who were entrusted with lecturerships on racial hygiene and racial biology.

New York City, June 9th, 1946
American Museum of Natural History

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