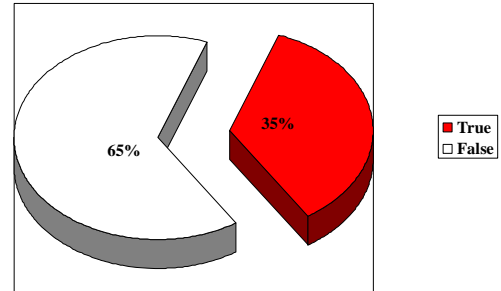


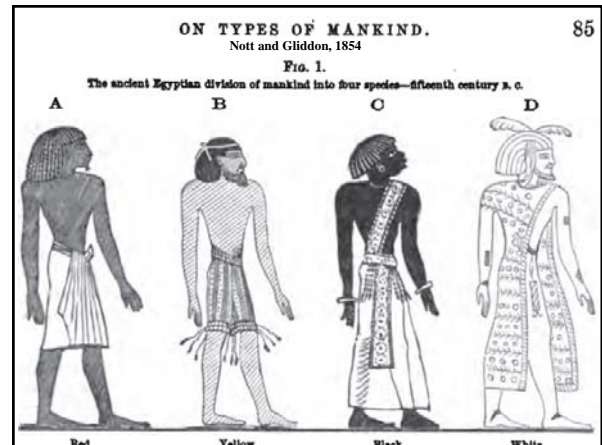
## Early Concepts of Human Variation

The idea that humans are divided into a few races is only about 400 years old



## Egyptian Notions

- The ancient Egyptians did not make racial distinctions
  - The distinctions they made were based on nationality or religion or what we might view as ethnicity today
- Some 19<sup>th</sup> Century anthropologists and some racialists today (e.g., Sarich and Miele in Ch. 2:34) claim that Egyptians did have a concept of race
  - Both cite artwork such as that found on the tomb of Seti I



## Explanation

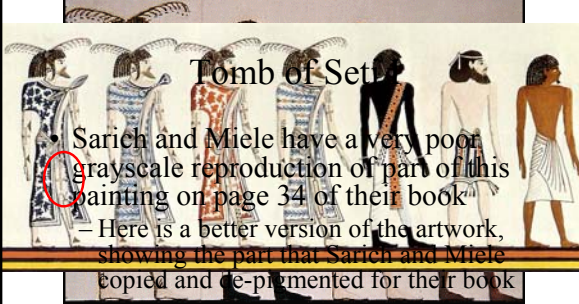
The above figures...display the *Rot*, the *Namu*, the *Nahsu*, and the *Tamhu*, as the hieroglyphical inscription terms them; and although the effigies we present are small, they portray a specimen of each type with sufficient accuracy to show that *four* races were very *distinct* 3300 years ago. We have here, positively, a scientific *quadripartite* division of mankind into *Red, Yellow, Black, and White*, antedating Moses; whereas, in the Xth chapter of *Genesis*, the symbolical division of "SHEM, HAM, and JAPHET" is only *tripartite*—the Black being entirely omitted

(Types of Mankind, Nott and Gliddon, 1854:85-86)

## Figure 1 from Types of Mankind

- This is taken from a drawing found in other sources that liberally rearranges and relabels elements from a tomb painting on the wall of the tomb of Seti I
  - Nott and Gliddon use this to argue for a 4-part division of mankind in Egyptian times, near the beginning of creation (6,000 years ago)
- The original art does not consist of four people and does not label the individuals

**Tomb of Seti**



- Sarich and Miele have a very poor grayscale reproduction of part of this painting on page 34 of their book
  - Here is a better version of the artwork, showing the part that Sarich and Miele copied and re-printed for their book
- Tomb painting from the tomb of Seti I, 1279 BC, depicting four nationalities: *Syrian, Nubian, Libyan, and Egyptian*
  - These groups in no way correspond to Nott and Gliddon's four races

**What Color Were Egyptians?**



- The skin tones in art depicting the Egyptians themselves adhere to convention rather than an absolutely accurate description of reality
- Tutankhamun is variously shown as being black as in the guardian statues found in his tomb, and brown or beige as in the lotus bust

Does the recognition of differences equate with a concept of race?

**All social mammals recognize Us vs. Them**

- Behavior is also conditioned by the recognition of differences
- Gorilla groups (Fossey):
  - Different interactions between groups based on the relationships of the group leaders (silver back males)
  - Does this mean that gorillas have a race concept?

**The Bible**

- All men descended from Adam
  - What does Adam mean?
    - 14 out of 106 occurrences in the Torah refer to Eve's mate
    - Other 92 references translate as man or men
- A categorical term like "race" does not appear in the Bible which refers to differing peoples in terms such as family, tribe, people and nation
  - It groups people according to familial relationships and then into nationalities

**Biblical Explanations of the Origin of Races**

- So where does variation come from?
  - The Curse on Cain blamed for dark skin
    - Cain's children would have died in flood
  - Noah's curse on Canaan and his descendants
    - Ham's descendants to be servants (nothing about physical differences)
  - The Tower of Babel and Noah's three sons

## Noah's Three Sons

- Japheth's descendants settled throughout Europe and the Middle East
  - Japheth is therefore the father of the Caucasian race
- Ham's descendants settled towards the south west along the Mediterranean into North Africa and southward into the rest of the continent
  - Ham is claimed to be the father of the African race under this model—and because of the curse they are doomed to slavery
- The descendants of Shem settled the northern area of Persian Gulf and westward into toward the Indian Ocean, including the lands of Syria, Chaldea and parts of Assyria, Persia and the Arabian peninsula
  - Shem is therefore the father of the Asian race

## Hippocrates (c. 460 - 377 B.C.)

- Provides first conflation of biology and behavior
  - Recognized two fundamental body types adapted to environment
    - Phthisic: long, thin, and choleric (Easily angered; bad-tempered; showing or expressing anger)
    - Apoplectic: short, squat, and phlegmatic (Having or suggesting a calm, sluggish temperament; unemotional)
- Viewed Greeks as being superior, but because of **environment**, not some in-born quality

## Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)

- Greek philosopher and naturalist
  - *Historia Animalium* describes similarities between man, apes, and monkeys, attributed to position in the **great chain of being** or *Scala Naturae*
    - While Aristotle supported this chain of being, he did not support a racial classification of humans along the chain
  - Argued for environmental causes of variation
    - Woolly hair of Aethiopians (Africans) due to harsh, arid climate
    - Straight hair of Thracians and Scythians due to moist air

## Classical Views on Variation

- Hippocrates, Aristotle all saw variation as caused by the environment
  - Differences perceived as continuous, not categorical
    - Major categorical differences were between gods and humans, or giants and monsters and humans
- Travel was primarily by foot, no more than about 25 miles a day
  - The gradation of one human group into another over such short distances belies the existence of categorical differences

## St. Augustine (354-430)

- *De Civitate Dei Contra Paganos* emphasizes the unitary status of the human species
  - All men born everywhere, no matter how strange they appear to us, are descended from Adam
  - This is the basis of **MONOGENISM**—single origin for all humans
  - This opinion did not prevent Augustine from writing about the evils of some groups of men, however, including extremely vituperative anti-Semitic statements about Jews

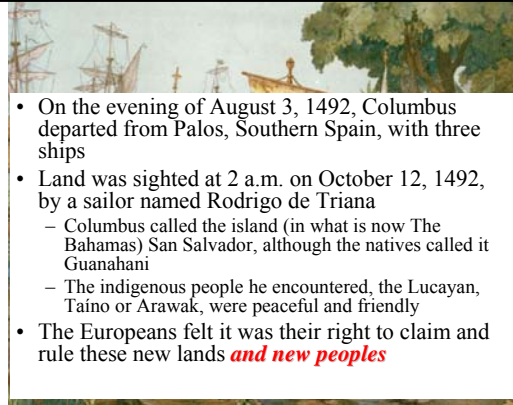
## Marco Polo and Ibn Battutah

(1254 – 1324) (1304 - 1368)

- Medieval travelers
- The modern concept of race is absent
  - Some translators insert race for the original wording about group or people
- Categorizing words primarily take the form of religious designations
  - Saracens, idolaters, and infidels
- Both were aware of differences and described them, but these were not thought to be important

## Renaissance

- 14th - 17th Centuries: Transition from medieval to modern philosophy
  - From interpretations of natural phenomena based on the bible to science and empiricism
- Rise of commercial capitalism
  - Voyages of exploration and discovery lead to the perception of categorical differences between human populations



Columbus Taking Possession of the New World

- On the evening of August 3, 1492, Columbus departed from Palos, Southern Spain, with three ships
- Land was sighted at 2 a.m. on October 12, 1492, by a sailor named Rodrigo de Triana
  - Columbus called the island (in what is now The Bahamas) San Salvador, although the natives called it Guanahani
  - The indigenous people he encountered, the Lucayan, Taino or Arawak, were peaceful and friendly
- The Europeans felt it was their right to claim and rule these new lands **and new peoples**

## Exploration, contact, conquest

- Pizarro vs. Atahualpa, November 15, 1532
  - 168 Spaniards surrounded by 80,000 Inca warriors in the middle of the Inca empire of millions of subjects capture Atahualpa, absolute monarch of the largest and most advanced state in the New World
  - Held for ransom, finally executed



Execution of Atahualpa

## Etymology of “Race”

- Most authorities argue from the Latin *ratio* to Italian *razze* by the 16<sup>th</sup> Century
- Middle Ages Romance language term for a breeding line of animals
  - The Spanish *raza* is used early in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century primarily in reference to horses, but also to refer negatively to Moorish or Jewish ancestry
- By 1737 a Spanish dictionary uses it to refer to the caste or quality of origin or lineage
  - It is likely the English adopted the term from the Spanish

## Etymology of “Race”

- The English first applied this term to the Irish, then extended it to New World indigenous populations
- From the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries race developed as a classificatory term in English similar to people, nation, kind, type, variety, stock, etc.
- By the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century race assumes a unique position emphasizing innate differences, unlike other terms
  - Based on inheritable characteristics that are considered permanent and unalterable

## Monogenesis vs. Polygenesis

- Monogenesis prevailed up to the Renaissance
- Voyages of exploration caused people to see human variation as categorical
  - This led to the explanation that non-European groups were from separate creations--**POLYGENESIS**
  - In the Americas, debate ensued over whether Native Americans were human or beast
    - A papal decree made them human, which indirectly led to the suggestion that slave labor be imported from Africa!

## François Bernier (1620 – 1688)

- In 1656 Bernier set out on a twelve-year journey to Egypt, India, and Persia
  - Record published in 1670 as *Travels in the Mogul Empire*
  - Many European travelers before Bernier noted different physical characteristics of the various peoples but he was the first to group those peoples into “species or races”
  - First text in which the term “race” is used in something like its modern sense—although he conflates it with species—to refer to discrete human groups organized on the basis of skin color and other physical attributes

## Bernier’s Races

- First race (Europeans)
  - Generally all Europe, except a part of Muscovy; in Africa: Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli up to the Nile; and in Asia: Arabia, Persia, India, Siam, Sumatra, and Borneo, Americas
    - Light skins
      - Egyptians, and (East) Indians are very black, or rather copper-colored
      - That color is only an accident in them, and comes because they are constantly exposed to the sun

## Bernier’s Races

- Second race (Africans)
  - whole of Africa, except the Mediterranean coast
    - Thick lips and squab noses
    - Blackness of skin which is not caused by the sun
    - Their skin, which is oily, smooth, and polished
    - Three or four hairs of beard
    - Their hair, which is a species of wool
    - Their teeth whiter than the finest ivory, their tongue and all the interior of their mouth and their lips as red as coral.

## Bernier’s Races

- Third race (Some Asians)
  - Part of the kingdoms of Aracan and Siam, Sumatra and Borneo, the Philippines, Japan, China, Georgia and Muscovy, the Usbek, Turkistan, Zaquetay, a small part of Muscovy, the little Tartars and Turcomans who live along the Euphrates towards Aleppo
  - The people of all those countries are truly white
    - But they have broad shoulders, a flat face, a small squab nose, little pig’s-eyes long and deep set, and three hairs of beard.

## Bernier’s Races

- Fourth race (Lapps)
  - They are little stunted creatures with thick legs, large shoulders, short neck, and a face elongated immensely
  - Very ugly and partaking much of the bear
  - I have only seen two of them at Dantzic; but, judging from the pictures I have seen, and the account which I have received of them from many persons who have been in the country, they are wretched animals

## Who are the Lapps?

- The **Sami people** (also **Sámi**, **Saami**, **Lapps** and **Laplanders**) are the indigenous people of Sápmi, which today encompasses parts of northern Sweden, Norway, Finland and the Kola Peninsula of Russia
  - Their ancestral lands span across an area the size of Sweden in the Nordic countries
    - The Sami are one of the largest indigenous groups in Europe
  - Their languages are the Sami languages, which are classified as Finno-Ugric.
- Traditional Sami occupations are hunting, fishing, reindeer herding and farming
  - Few Sami today make a living from these activities
  - The 2000 population is estimated at about 85,000

## The Age of Enlightenment

Eighteenth Century

- Reason advocated as the primary source and basis of authority
- Attempt to supplant the authority of aristocracy and churches in social and political life
- Explanations of nature become less biblical or supernatural
  - For some subjects, e.g., humanity, there are no other frameworks until the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

## Carolus Linnaeus

(1707 – 1778)

- Swedish Botanist
- Father of Taxonomy
- Viewed the task of classification as one of attempting to understand the pattern of the **Scala Naturae**



## Linnaeus

- *Systema Naturae* (1735 - 1766)
  - Original and ten revised editions
- By 1758 edition, man is considered to be a separate species (*sapiens*) within the genus *Homo*, of the order *Primates*
- Man is divided into four geographic varieties and others
  - Variety is a group with many deviations from the species type in both heritable and non-heritable characteristics
- Very few species classified in varieties
  - Only humans had the descriptors added

## Races of Linnaeus

*Systema Naturae*, 1758

- Americanus: Red, choleric, erect
  - Hair black, straight and thick; nostrils wide; face harsh; beard scanty
  - *Obstinate, merry and free; paints himself with red lines; regulated by customs*
- Europæus: White, sanguine, muscular
  - Hair flowing and long; eyes blue
  - *Gentle, acute and inventive; covered with close vestments; governed by laws*
- Asiaticus: Sallow, melancholy, stiff
  - Hair black; eyes dark
  - *Severe, haughty, avaricious; covered with loose garments; governed by opinions*

## Races of Linnaeus

*Systema Naturae*, 1758

- Afer: Black, phlegmatic, relaxed
  - Hair black, frizzled; skin silky; nose flat; lips tumid; women without shame; breasts lactate profusely
  - *Crafty, indolent, negligent; anoints himself with grease; governed by caprice*
- Ferus: Wild man, on all fours, mute, hairy
- Monstrous: Reported giants of Patagonia and genuine genetic mutants

## George Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon

(1707 – 1788)

- French naturalist and author
- *Histoire Naturelle*
  - 44 volumes published from 1749–1804
- Credited by many with first use of race in its zoological sense in his 1749 volume of *Natural History*
- Ardently opposed classification and argued against Linnaeus' work
- See [My Post on Buffon and Race](#)



Concluding statement in  
*Of the Varieties of the Human Species*

From every circumstance may we obtain a proof, that **mankind are not composed of species essentially different from each other**; that, on the contrary, there was originally but one species, which, after being multiplied and diffused over the whole surface of the earth, **underwent divers changes from the influence of the climate, food, mode of living, epidemic distempers, and the intermixture of individuals**... it is highly probable that in time [these differences] would gradually disappear, or become different from what they at present are, if such causes were no longer to subsist, or if they were in any material point to vary.

In other words ...



- All humans come from a single origin
- The physical differences we see between groups of people are the result of adaptation to differing environmental conditions
- If everyone were subjected to same environment for many generations we would all look similar

(Compare this to Graves table 3.1, p. 39)

Buffon and Degeneration

- The peoples in the vicinity of the Caspian Sea came close to his conception of the original perfection and purity of humans
  - Degeneration from this perfection was manifest in any direction away from Europe
    - Degeneration is not pejorative in this context—it is similar to our use of evolution today
  - To avoid degeneration in the tropics and the New World, Europeans must dominate and subdue nature



Johann Friedrich Blumenbach

(1752 – 1840)

- German Anatomy Professor
- Father of Physical Anthropology
- Father of Craniology
- Founder of Anthropology in Germany



BLUMENBACH.

On the Natural Variety of Mankind

(1775; 1781; 1795)

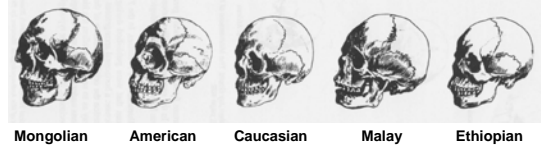
- Advocates monogenism and points out that the varieties blend into one another in imperceptible ways:
 

“Thus too there is with this that **insensible transition by which as we saw the other varieties also run together**, and which, compared with what was discussed in the earlier sections of the book, about the causes and ways of degeneration, and the analogous phenomena of degeneration in the other domestic animals, brings us to that conclusion, which seems to flow spontaneously from physiological principles applied by the aid of critical zoology to the natural history of mankind; which is, That no doubt can any longer remain but that **we are with great probability right in referring all and singular as many varieties of man as are at present known to one and the same species**”

## Blumenbach

- Critiqued Linnaeus' rankings of races while explaining racial origins as degeneration from the Caucasian type (same as Buffon)
- Took special exception to arguments about mental limitations of Africans
- Felt that differences in skull shape and skin color (among other traits) had been caused by the environment

## Blumenbach's five races



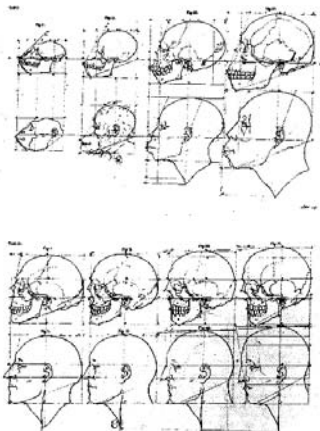
I have allotted the first place to the Caucasian ... which makes me esteem it the primeval one. This diverges in both directions in two, most remote and very different from each other; on the one side, namely, into the Ethiopian, and on the other into the Mongolian. The remaining two occupy the intermediate positions between the primeval one and these two extreme varieties; that is, the American between the Caucasian and Mongolian; the Malay between the same Caucasian and Ethiopian.

## Blumenbach and the term "Caucasian"

I have taken the name of this variety from Mount Caucasus, both because its neighborhood, and especially its southern slope, produces the most beautiful race of men, I mean the Georgian; and because ... in that region, if anywhere, it seems we ought with the greatest probability to place the [original forms] of mankind



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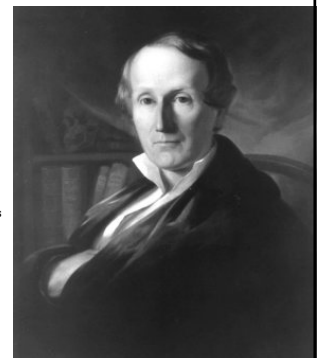


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## Samuel George Morton

(1799 – 1851)

- Philadelphia Physician, Polygenist, Founder of the American School of Anthropology
  - Measured **CRANIAL CAPACITY** (volume of braincase) to assess differential worth
- Very careful scientist
  - Collected over 1000 skulls between the 1820s and 1851
  - Considered a great data-gatherer and objectivist
    - Praised for the "severe and cautious character of his work"
  - On his death, the *New York Tribune* wrote that "probably no scientific man in America enjoyed a higher reputation among scholars throughout the world, than Dr. Morton"



## Morton on race

- Races are primordial divisions of species
- Morton proposed that the five established races (of Blumenbach) would be more aptly described as groups which he divided into families and primary races
  - American race: American family, Toltec family
  - Malay race: Malay family, Polynesian family
- He thoroughly confused the definition of race and species
  - Claimed that interbreeding of human races was not evidence that they were members of the same species
  - Cited evidence of limited fertility in hybrids
    - After an Australian woman gave birth to a child by a European father she could no longer become pregnant by an Australian male—report of a “Polish traveler”

## Morton

- *Crania Americana*, or, a Comparative View of the Skulls of Various Aboriginal Nations of North and South America (Philadelphia: J. Dobson, 1839)
  - Corroborate Blumenbach’s five-fold racial division
  - Concluded that the American Indians were descended from a common stock distinct from the races of the Old World based on cranial capacity
  - Argued against an environmental cause for race formation (contra Buffon, Blumenbach)
  - Demonstrated significant differences in cranial capacity -- and therefore, according to him, intelligence -- among the races
  - Mongolians and Caucasians head the list, and Americans and Ethiopians bring up the rear

### Morton’s Racial Rankings from *Crania Americana*

- Europeans
  - The Caucasian Race is characterized by a naturally fair skin, susceptible of every tint; hair fine, long and curling, and of various colors. The skull is large and oval, and its anterior portion full and elevated. The face is small in proportion to the head, of an oval form, with well-proportioned features. . . . ***This race is distinguished for the facility with which it attains the highest intellectual endowments.*** . . . The spontaneous fertility of [the Caucasus] has rendered it the hive of many nations, which extending their migrations in every direction, ***have peopled the finest portions of the earth, and given birth to its fairest inhabitants.*** . . .

### Morton’s Racial Rankings from *Crania Americana*

- Asians
  - This great division of the human species is characterized by a sallow or olive colored skin, which appears to be drawn tight over the bones of the face; long black straight hair, and thin beard. The nose is broad, and short; the eyes are small, black, and obliquely placed, and the eyebrows are arched and linear; the lips are turned, the cheek bones broad and flat. . . . In their intellectual character the Mongolians are ingenious, imitative, and highly susceptible of cultivation [i.e. learning]....***So versatile are their feelings and actions, that they have been compared to the monkey race, whose attention is perpetually changing from one object to another....***

### Morton’s Racial Rankings from *Crania Americana*

- Native Americans
  - The American Race is marked by a brown complexion; long, black, lank hair; and deficient beard. The eyes are black and deep set, the brow low, the cheekbones high, the nose large and aquiline, the mouth large, and the lips tumid [swollen] and compressed. . . . ***In their mental character the Americans are averse to cultivation, and slow in acquiring knowledge; restless, revengeful, and fond of war,*** and wholly destitute of maritime adventure. ***They are crafty, sensual, ungrateful, obstinate and unfeeling, and much of their affection for their children may be traced to purely selfish motives.*** They devour the most disgusting [foods] uncooked and uncleaned, and seem to have no idea beyond providing for the present moment. . . . Their mental faculties, from infancy to old age, present a continued childhood. . . . ***[Indians] are not only averse to the restraints of education, but for the most part are incapable of a continued process of reasoning on abstract subjects...***

### Morton’s Racial Rankings from *Crania Americana*

- Africans
  - Characterized by a black complexion, and black, woolly hair; the eyes are large and prominent, the nose broad and flat, the lips thick, and the mouth wide; the head is long and narrow, the forehead low, the cheekbones prominent, the jaws protruding, and the chin small. In disposition the Negro is joyous, flexible, and indolent; while the many nations which compose this race present a singular diversity of intellectual character, of which ***the far extreme is the lowest grade of humanity.*** . . . The moral and intellectual character of the Africans is widely different in different nations. . . . The Negroes are proverbially fond of their amusements, in which they engage with great exuberance of spirit; and a day of toil is with them no bar to a night of revelry. Like most other barbarous nations their institutions are not infrequently characterized by superstition and cruelty. They appear to be fond of warlike enterprises, and are not deficient in personal courage; but, once overcome, they yield to their destiny, and accommodate themselves with amazing facility to every change of circumstance. ***The Negroes have little invention, but strong powers of imitation, so that they readily acquire mechanic arts. They have a great talent for music,*** and all their external senses are remarkably acute.

## Morton

- *Crania Aegyptiaca*, or, Observations on Egyptian Ethnography, Derived from Anatomy, History, and the Monuments (Philadelphia: J. Pennington, 1844)
- Compared skulls obtained by George R. Gliddon from archaeological sites in Egypt, then the oldest available
  - Deduced that racial distinctions were as prominent 3,300 years ago (shortly after creation) as they were in 1840
    - *Thus racial differences were primordial and unchanging*
  - The elite of Ancient Egypt, he argued, were Caucasians
  - He claimed that while Negroes were abundant, “their social position, in ancient times was the same as it is now; that of servants or slaves.”
  - He makes his strongest argument for the polygenic origins of humanity and the irreducibility of racial distinctions

## Gould and Morton

(see Graves, p. 45-47)

- Steven Jay Gould argues in his 1981 “Mismeasure of Man” that Morton finagled his numbers to come up with very different average cranial capacities for the racial groups with Africans at the bottom
  - He was working from a bad photo copy and actually got the numbers wrong
  - This was pointed out to him several times but he refused to correct the error in the reprint of his book 15 years later
- Is this an example of culture influencing science—the point Gould was trying to make about Morton?

## Josiah Clark Nott

(1804-1873)

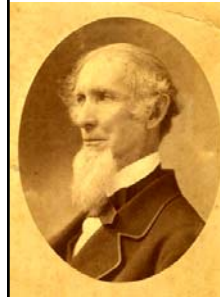
- Well known Physician and successful Gynecologist
- Key in understanding transmission of yellow fever and malaria
- Formed first Alabama School of Medicine in Mobile
- Medical director of the Confederate General Army Hospital in Mobile
- Tried to limit religious influence on science



## Josiah Clark Nott

(1804-1873)

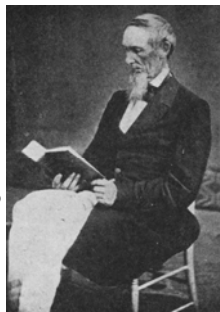
- If I had time I could multiply the proofs of the moral and intellectual inferiority of the Negro and Indian when compared with the Caucasian.
- [Negroes could not live in the North because] a cold climate so freezes their brains as to make them insane.



## Josiah Clark Nott

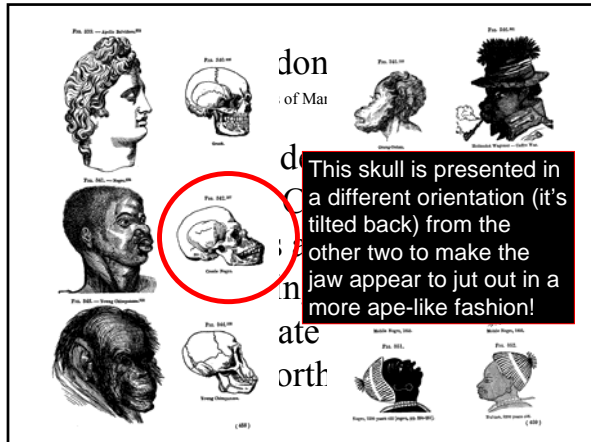
(1804-1873)

- The brain of the Negro, when compared with the Caucasian, is smaller by a tenth and the intellect is wanting in the same proportion.
- Nations and races, like individuals have each an especial destiny: some are born to rule, and others to be ruled. And such has ever been the history of mankind. No two distinctly marked races can dwell together on equal terms.



## Nott and Gliddon

- Types of Mankind (1854) prepared with George R. Gliddon
- Object is to refute the theory of the unity of the human race to validate the inferior position of Africans
  - Pro-slavery argument that became very influential in the pre-war years
  - Based on the research of Morton



### Agassiz' Faunal Realms and Races in Types of Mankind (1854)

- Nott and Gliddon embraced Morton's work and the work of Louis Agassiz arguing that the different species of humans reflected the variation in fauna of the different faunal realms.
- He defined man's races based on climate zones
  - These included Western American Temperate (the indigenous peoples west of the Rockies); Eastern American Temperate (east of the Rockies); Tropical Asiatic (south of the Himalayas); Temperate Asiatic (east of the Urals and north of the Himalayas); South American Temperate (South America); New Holland (Australia); Arctic (Alaska and Arctic Canada); Cape of Good Hope (South Africa); and American Tropical (Central America and the West Indies).

**Honors College**  
of The University of Alabama

**Nott Hall (1922)**  
Named for Josiah Clarke Nott, MD (1804-1873), who founded the University's first medical school in Mobile in 1859. When the Mobile school was discontinued in 1920, the trustees opened a new two-year medical program in this building on the Tuscaloosa campus. In 1945 the medical school was moved to Birmingham and expanded to create a full school of medicine.

### Lincoln on "the black race"

... any thing that argues me into his [Douglas'] idea of perfect social and political equality with the negro, is but a specious and fantastical arrangement of words by which a man can prove a horse-chestnut to be a chestnut horse. I will say here, while upon this subject, that **I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution [slavery] in the States where it exists.** I believe I have no right to do so. I have no inclination to do so. **I have no purpose to introduce political and social equality between the white and black races. There is a physical difference between the two, which, in my judgment, will probably forever forbid their living together on the footing of perfect equality,** and inasmuch as it becomes a necessity that there must be a difference, I, as well as Judge Douglas, am in favor of the race to which I belong having the superior position. I have never said any thing to the contrary, but I hold that **notwithstanding all this, there is no reason in the world why the negro is not entitled to all the rights enumerated in the Declaration of Independence—the right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.** I hold that he is as much entitled to these as the white man. I agree with Judge Douglas that **he is not my equal in many respects, certainly not in color—perhaps not in intellectual and moral endowments; but in the right to eat the bread without the leave of any body else which his own hand earns, he is my equal and the equal of Judge Douglas, and the equal of every other man.** (October 13, 1858)

### Dred Scott (1857)

- The Dred Scott decision that Negro slaves were property followed the American and British science of the day
- Chief Justice Roger Taney:
 

“They had for more than a century before been regarded as beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race, either in social or political relations; and so far inferior that *they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect*; and that the negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery”
- Law of the land until adoption of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment on July 9, 1868

### Darwin and Race

- On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured **Races** in the Struggle for Life (1859)
  - Viewed race as **significant** division of a species
    - Akin to modern subspecies
    - Step in the process of speciation
- Species → Races → New Species

## Darwin on Human Variation

- The Descent of Man (1871):
  - Attempts to account for human origins and human variation
  - Defines sexual selection as accounting for variability between males and females as well as some of the differences between the races
    - Sexual Selection is natural selection on traits related to obtaining mates for sexual reproduction:
      - Intrasexual selection: Ability to compete with members of the same sex for a mate
        - » Increased body size, strength, cunning, intelligence
      - Intersexual selection: Attraction between the sexes
        - » Enhanced secondary sexual characteristics: Large breasts, buttocks, penis

## Male/Female Variability

- Darwin uses sexual selection to account for differences in mental powers of males and females:
  - The chief distinction in the intellectual powers of the two sexes is shewn by man's attaining to a higher eminence, in whatever he takes up, than can woman--whether requiring deep thought, reason, or imagination, or merely the use of the senses and hands
  - Amongst...savages, there have been struggles between the males... for the possession of the females...[which] requires the aid of the higher mental faculties, namely, observation, reason, invention, or imagination
  - Consequently...we might expect that they would at least tend to be transmitted chiefly to the male offspring at the corresponding period of manhood

## Darwin on Race

The most weighty of all the arguments against treating the races of man as distinct species, is that they graduate into each other, independently in many cases, as far as we can judge, of their having intercrossed. [T]here is the greatest possible diversity amongst capable judges whether [man] should be classed as a single species or race, or as two (Virey), as three (Jacquinot), as four (Kant), five (Blumenbach), **six (Buffon)**, seven (Hunter), eight (Agassiz), eleven (Pickering), fifteen (Bory de St-Vincent), sixteen (Desmoulins), twenty-two (Morton), sixty (Crawford), or as sixty-three, according to Burke. This diversity of judgment does not prove that the races ought not to be ranked as species, but *it shows that they graduate into each other, and that it is hardly possible to discover clear distinctive characters between them.*

## The Descent of Man (1871)

- (From the Hottentot Venus) for steatopygia:
  - It is well known that with many Hottentot women the posterior part of the body projects in a wonderful manner; they are steatopygous...this peculiarity is greatly admired by the men
    - [A] woman who was considered a beauty...was so immensely developed behind, that when seated on level ground she could not rise, and had to push herself along until she came to a slope
  - [T]he Somal men are said to choose their wives by ranging them in a line, and by picking her out who projects farthest [to the rear]

A steatopygous  
Andaman Islands  
mother with child



Photo by John Lubbock, M.A. F.R.S., F.R.C.E., F.R.S., The Living Races of Man, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 1916. A. Steatopygia. Anthropometrical studies.