

Making Sense of Race

This book would be dangerous if it were widely read. It will not be.

Edward Dutton is a heretic. His YouTube channel carries that title – The Jolly Heretic. Fortunately he has other outlets, because YouTube would drop him like a hot rock for the ideas expressed in this book.

In his introduction he states the obvious. It is impossible to have an honest conversation about race today. It is forbidden in almost any university setting, any work setting, and any social setting except for perhaps the lowest sort of a dive bar. The proscriptions notwithstanding, everybody with an IQ above room temperature recognizes the truths that they are not allowed to express.

The PC police have done their work. Very few of Dutton's generation are willing to talk about the subject. The way in which those of prior generations – Arthur Jensen, Philippe Rushton, Hans Eysenk and others – were treated had a profound cautionary effect. Those who ask probing questions will be dismissed from their jobs and shunned by polite society. No debate is allowed on the merits of any argument. Simply requesting discussion, inviting debate is heresy.

The happy consequence is that as the members of the silent generation who wrote the truth is they saw it fade from the scene, Dutton has the field almost all to himself. He enjoys an extensive communication with all of the leading lights, and they generously help him promote the truth as they see it.

Dutton has written extensively on all aspects of the question. Most of the material in this book will be familiar to readers of his previous works. However, his succinct and pithy formulations are useful summaries, well suited to quoting.

Dutton's first chapter, entitled Understanding Darwinian Evolution and Heritability, is totally uncontroversial as far as it applies to every species on earth except man. Dutton patiently explains evolution for the people who have the Darwin Fish bumper stickers but refuse to see how it applies to man. His next chapters go on to present the best modern thinking on how the races of man evolved to be, and how the field of anthropology came to be dominated by cultural Marxists who contend that noticing differences among human populations is an immoral activity.

Drawing on his book about Philippe Rushton, Dutton presents the Life History Strategy as it relates to human beings. In summary, *r* (for reproduction) strategy populations are conditioned to benign but unpredictable environments in which it pays to have lots of children and not invest much in them. *K* (German for carrying capacity) strategy populations are conditioned to harsh but predictable climates, where having fewer children but investing more in them leads to reproductive success. The extremes among human populations are Africans and Northeast Asians.

A vast number of traits covary along the *r*-*K* continuum: age of sexual maturity, level of sex hormones, aggressiveness, agreeableness, longevity and... intelligence. *K* strategists have evolved higher intelligence to deal with the harsh environments in which they find themselves. Planning ahead for things like long winters and scarce food takes intelligence.

Connecting the dots, this leads to a discussion of population differences in intelligence. Dutton and just about all psychometricians of the past century, most notably James Flynn, Richard Lynn, Tatu Vanhanen and Arthur Jensen have written about them. The last credentialed authors to write books advocating the lack of differences were Stephen J Gould, Richard Lewontin, Stephen Rose and Ashley Montague three decades ago. Those books were discredited at the time as being based on studies that the authors should have known would not stand up. There is no more discussion. Not ventured, and no longer allowed.

Race differences in ethnocentrism was the title of one of Dutton's recent books. Contrary to the message being spread throughout every Western society, Europeans are the least ethnocentric group on the planet. They lack both positive ethnocentrism – sticking up for their own kind – and negative. The irony is that they have not pushed back when they have been accused of the exact opposite – historical colonialism and slavery, without regard to the fact that slavery was a worldwide phenomenon until Europeans ended it – and the omnipresent charge in today's world of hidden racism. Dutton provides both the theoretical basis and statistical demonstration that these things simply are not so.

Globally, the smarter a population, the lower their relative religiosity. There are countertrends. Former communist countries tend to be less religious than expected, and Muslim countries more. This is important because religiosity involves a defense of traditional values such as sex roles, marriage and children. The upshot of this is that populations of European and Northeast Asian descent are simply not reproducing themselves. Dutton does not go into the fact that the K-selected Asians in addition to having a relatively lower sex drive, have abandoned the village level society with extended family that would encourage them to have children and provide support as they raise them.

Dutton's last chapter, entitled *Race and the Jews*, is too explosive for your intrepid reviewer. He draws on a number of good sources including Kevin MacDonald and Jewish authors such as Yuri Slezkine. Some he omits, such as Alexander Solzhenitsyn, whose book on the subject is no longer available in English.

One can ask what drives Dutton on his quixotic mission to express truths that are so dangerous to mention. One motive might be to be demonstrably on the right side of history when the cumulative absurdities of the modern age lead to a global collapse, such as predicted by Dmitri Orlov a decade ago in his book "Reinventing Collapse." My take is that at this point in history the people are being asked to accept so many patently untrue propositions, and being firmly instructed not to mention the discrepancies, that the individual must rather quietly gather as much information as possible from the still available sources and plot his own course through a very uncertain future. Much as Dutton has done in his obscure corners of world geography and Internet space.