

## **Science and Society**

### **The effects of evolutionary thinking**

1. If science is empirical, values neutral and "simply the facts, nothing but the facts" what do you make of these two quotations?

"At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilised races of man will almost certainly exterminate, and replace, the savage races throughout the world. At the same time, as Professor Schaaffhausen has remarked, the anthropomorphic apes will no doubt be exterminated. The break between man and his nearest allies will then be wider, for it will intervene between man in a more civilized state, as we may hope, even than the Caucasian, and some ape as low as a baboon, instead of as now between the negro of Australian and the gorilla." Charles R. Darwin, *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*, 2nd ed. (1871; reprint, London: John Murray, 1922), 241-42.

T H Huxley who was a powerful advocate of Darwin and critic of the Bible:

"No rational man, cognizant of the facts, believes that the average negro is the equal, still less the superior, of the white man. And if this be true, it is simply incredible that, when all his disabilities are removed, and our prognathous relative has a fair field and no favour, as well as no oppressor, he will be able to compete successfully with his bigger-brained and smaller-jawed rival, in a contest which is to be carried out by thoughts and not by bites." T.H. Huxley, *Lectures and Lay Sermons* (1871; reprint, London: Everyman's Library, J.M. Dent, 1926), 115.

2. .How is it that racism and evolution were such good companions?

3.. Hitler and the Nazis were able to promote the belief that a superman/race was emerging through The Third Reich, eliminating sub humans in occupied countries was seen as being moral as it was cleansing the gene pool. What is the error of such "scientific thought"?

4. What is meant by this word: *eugenics* ?

5. Are there places in history where "Christians" were also guilty of racism? i.e. is it just the preserve of evolutionists? Research this question and write your comments.