

ASEM 2410
THE CULTURED APE
Spring 2016

Society and The Sciences of Human Nature

I. Need for Vigilance: Intertwining of Science & Politics

- A. Social Darwinism (a Conservative cause).
- B. Eugenics (a Liberal/Progressive cause).
- C. Nazism.
- D. Sociobiology Wars.
- E. Anthropology Wars.

II. Biophobias

- A. Fear of Inequality
- B. Fear of Imperfectability
- C. Fear of Determinism
- D. Fear of Nihilism

III. “Envirophobias”?

- A. Fear of Utopianism
- B. Fear of Relativism
- C. Fear of Pseudoscientific Quackery
- D. Fear of Legal Tomfoolery

VII. Key Distinctions

- A. Biological Facts vs. Human Values
- B. Proximate vs. Ultimate Causation
- C. Explanation vs. Exculpation
- D. Determinism vs. Potentiality
- E. Cosmic Process vs. Ethical Process (Thomas Huxley)