



RACES OF THE WORLD – A DISCUSSION OF RECENT CLASSIFICATIONS

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DURING the last few years several comprehensive ethnological studies dealing with large portions of the world have appeared. It is noticeable that these publications do not support the view of those anthropologists who believe that racial classification is rather a waste of time; since, in their opinion, there is no such thing as a pure race. The problem is admittedly complex; but there are certain regions where fairly homogeneous racial groups occur, as well as transition areas where it is difficult to draw definite boundaries. The writer proposes to discuss in this short paper some of the deductions set forth in such recent books as *Rassenkunde und Rassengeschichte* (Stuttgart, 1934) by von Eickstedt, and *Races of Europe* (New York, 1939) by C. W. Coon; and to compare them with the results, based on an ecological approach, which appear in the writer's book *Environment, Race and Migration* (Chicago University, 1937).

In 1900 Ripley wrote : "Science has advanced since Linnaeus' type of *Homo Europeus alba* was made one of the four great races of mankind". It is disheartening to find that the two authors quoted above still continue to accept the 'European' or 'White Race' as one of the four main classes. I therefore propose to devote a few paragraphs to von Eickstedt's main classes; and then to describe how Coon's volume differs in this respect from earlier classifications.

Von Eickstedt's classification derives directly from the classic divisions originating from Linnaeus (1758), Blumenbach (1806) and Cuvier (1812). He divides human beings into four main divisions in his last enumeration, as follows: Europide, Mongolide, Amerikanide and Negride. Their distributions are shown in Fig. 1. These again are split into smaller groups, which he calls 'series', while each series in turn is subdivided into 'varieties'. There are about 60 of the latter, with which however I do not propose to deal. Apart from these major classes the writer finds most of von Eickstedt's book admirable.

Fig. 1 is traced from von Eickstedt's map, as regards the outline. It is unsatisfactory, since it is split along the Pacific; and so the Behring Corridor is not shown. Thus the map masks the real connection between the Amerind and Asiatic peoples. Only in the case of the large Negride Division is the major ethnic area at all satisfactory in the writer's

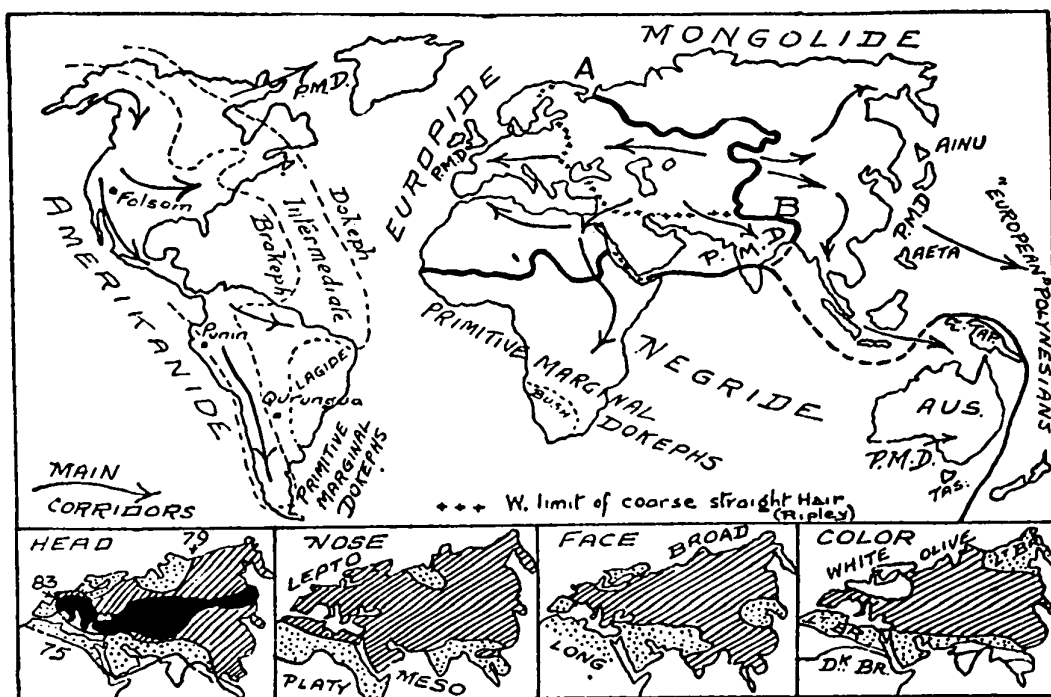


FIG. 1. A WORLD-MAP SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF VON EICKSTEDT'S FOUR MAIN CLASSES: EUROPIDE, MONGOLIDE, AMERIKANIDE AND NEGRIDE

The remaining data shown support the alternative Migration-Zone concept of race. The four small maps demonstrate the inadvisability of separating Europeans and Mongolians as major races.

opinion. Many anthropologists now object to any wide separation of the Amerinds and adjacent Asiatics. Further, even though a similarity between the European types in the west and the Ainu and the Polynesians in the east is admitted in von Eickstedt's discussions, this is not indicated or explained in his main racial maps. Lastly, the heavy line (AB in Fig. 1), separating the European and Mongolian types, seems to the present writer to be contrary to all principles of racial evolution and ecology. I have given my objections to this grouping in my recent

book *Environment, Race and Migration* (pp. 202-206). But some of the more cogent are suggested in the four small maps at the base of Fig. 1.

All students of human migration must admit that there have been agelong westward and eastward migrations across Asia in the region of the Tarim Basin (see arrows in Fig. 1). This is true of the higher mammals, of primitive man, and of modern man. As a result the anthropological *isopleths* (i.e. lines of equal abundance) are *concentric* about this corridor in central Asia. This is shown in the four maps of Head index, Nasal index, Face breadth, and Skin color, which are derived from Biasutti's independent Atlas (*Memoria Geographica*, Florence, 1912). (Hair distribution is charted in the large map.)

If there were a real racial difference between European and Asiatic peoples, then the isopleths would run *parallel* to the line AB; whereas in the four small maps they run at right angles to this line. Hence AB does not separate biological areas in so far as the four very important criteria named are concerned. It is true that the 'epicanthic fold' of the eyelid, and 'shovel teeth' are found mainly in and around Mongolia; but why should such trivial criteria be adopted here and here alone as of major racial importance?

The writer has travelled through Japan, Korea, Manchuria, and Eastern China; and the small divergence which he has noticed as regards essential features between most of these folk and those living round the Caspian is noteworthy. Yet von Eickstedt and others isolate one group (the Mongolians) as a major race, while they accept the Caspian peoples as akin to the Alpines of central Europe. The present writer would extend the major Alpine Race far to the east of the line AB, so that it includes Mongolians, many late Polynesian folk, and most of the later Amerinds. The broken lines in the map of America (Fig. 1) are the writer's subdivisions of the Amerinds. They link directly with similar subdivisions in Eur-Asia.

The anthropologist who follows the century-old classes of Blumenbach and Cuvier does not realize that the continents are best considered as three *peninsulas* projecting from Central Asia. These three are Eur-Africa, southeast Asia with Australasia, and finally northeast Asia with the Americas. As I have demonstrated elsewhere the early human migrations moved into these three peninsulas mainly in order of their accessibility. Africa had the closest and broadest corridor from central Asia and therefore received most of the early Negro migrations. Aus-

tralasia came next, and received Negroes and Australoids in considerable numbers. The Behring Corridor was used by a few primitive tribes (probably of Australoid race), who were pursuing their usual prey thereabouts as far back as the last Interglacial. Among these we may find Folsom Man and Proto-Qurungua Man (*Environment, Race and Migration*, pp. 247, 251). But all the Amerinds undoubtedly entered in Recent times, probably within the last 20,000 years. The latter folk are mostly of Alpine or Mediterranean race.

Twenty years ago the writer discussed these ecological aspects of the problem, and gave it as his opinion that the major classes of mankind moved in the same fashion and in the same order *into all three* of the above 'peninsulas'. In each case somewhat primitive narrow-heads (dokephs) have been pushed to the margin (Fig. 1). Hence the classification of Blumenbach, etc. (which unfortunately is followed by many modern anthropologists) is highly unsatisfactory. It is not supported by modern isopleth maps of distribution, and is very unlikely in view of the environmental factors obtaining at the time of migration.

The ecological approach to the problem is clearly demonstrated in the stage-diagram given as Fig. 2. This shows (in black) the present-day distributions in the Old World for each of the five major races. The main criteria used are head index and hair type, which are surely as satisfactory as any criteria used by rival classifiers. In each case the race has moved out from south-central Asia. (Their abandoned earlier habitats are shown by dots.) No anthropologist has accepted my challenge (of 1919), and shown me why the races of man (prior to 10,000 B.C.) should not have obeyed Matthew's biological rules explaining dispersion in *zones*. All the difficulties with regard to the distributions of Amerinds, Polynesians, Negritos, Ainu, Lolos, etc. are immediately solved if this classification (published in the *Geographic Review*, New York, December, 1919) is accepted. Details of the thesis have also appeared in HUMAN BIOLOGY in February, 1930 and September, 1936.

Let us now turn to the valuable treatise by Professor C. S. Coon *The Races of Europe*. It covers to some extent the same field as Ripley's *Races of Europe* (1900). But there is no similarity in treatment, and considerable difference in many of the conclusions. Ripley's book is very much easier to read, because it deals with races in the simpler fashion current in 1900. Coon's book contains many more anthropometric discussions and tables. A remarkable series of more than 500 photographs of the various types adds greatly to its value. It

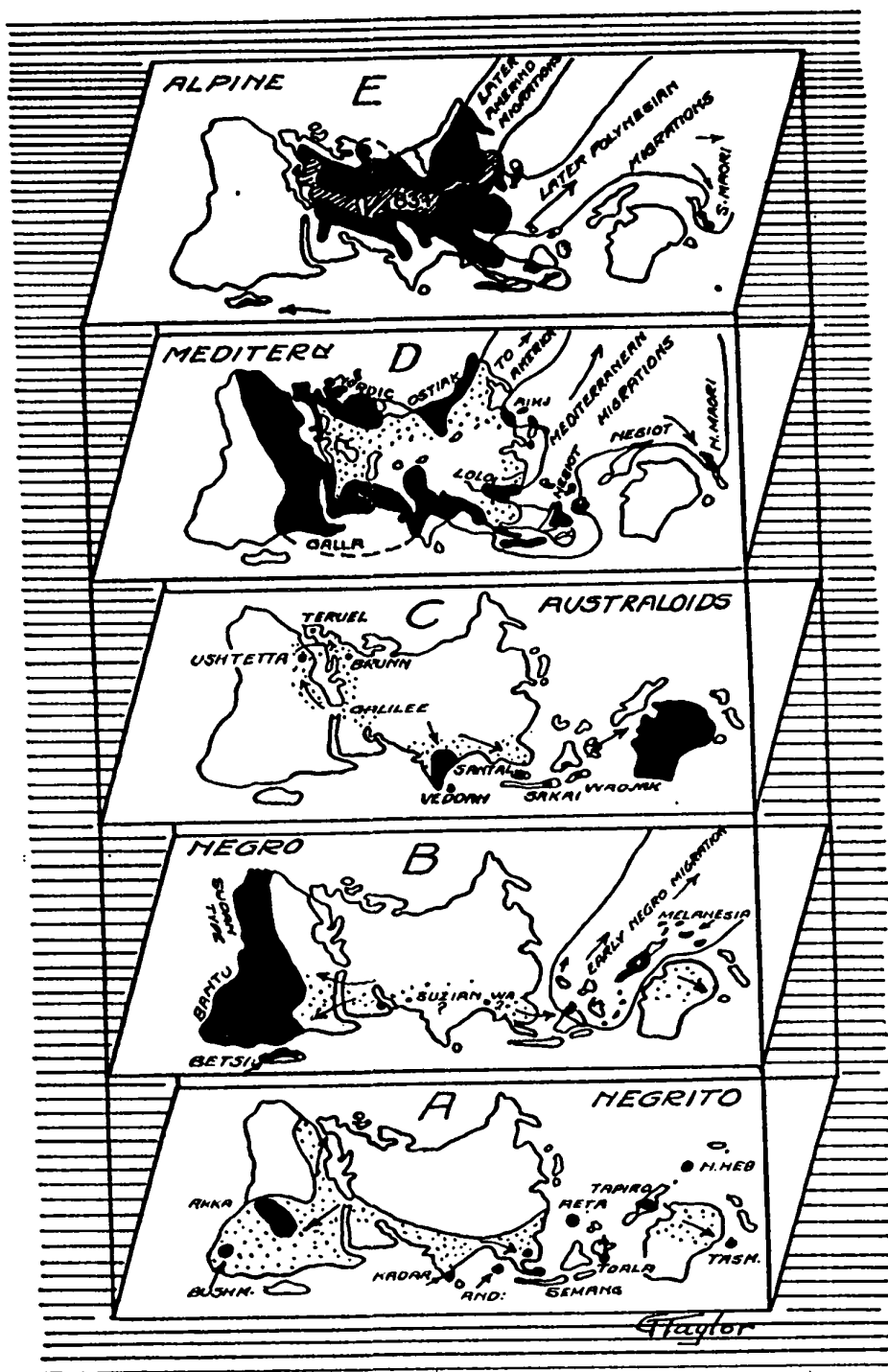


FIG. 2. A STAGE-DIAGRAM SHOWING THE FIVE STAGES OF RACIAL MIGRATIONS IN THE OLD WORLD, EACH REPRESENTING A MAJOR RACE

Black areas show present habitats. Dotted areas show probable early habitats. The lowest race in the diagram was the first differentiated, the highest was the latest.

might be described as an 'anthropological Baedeker' for every region in Europe, and as such is bound to be a valuable reference book for many years.

His main thesis is that the peoples of Europe are descended from two main racial groups. One of these includes the primitive 'Paleolithic Hunters' who lived in Europe in the last Ice Age. He calls these the *Neandertal-sapiens* hybrids. Coon believes that they are the chief components of the Alpine, Brunn, Borreby, Ladogan, and Lappish folk of Europe today. The second great division is descended from *Mediterranean* folk without any Neandertaloid blood; and they first brought agriculture and stock animals into Europe. From these 'Food-Producers' are derived the modern Mediterraneans, the Nordics, Dinarics, Armenoids, and the Irano-Afghan types of today.

Many controversial questions are raised by this book; but we have only space to discuss two or three. Coon seems to have adopted the "White Race" as a scientific entity, though his reasons are not clear to the present writer. Perhaps he felt that dealing chiefly with Europe this controversy was a matter of little import. In view of Ripley's strong and logical opposition to this concept of a White Race, this seems a serious omission. Secondly he does not seem to lay sufficient stress on the fact that numerous migrations (since Wurm Ice Age time) have poured into Europe along the Ukraine Corridor from central Asia. It is much more likely, in the present writer's opinion, that the broadheads (*brakephs*) of Europe today are descended from them rather than from the few brakeph Europeans of the Ice Age. Possibly the custom of cremation has destroyed much of the evidence of these later migrations. I should add that one admirable feature in Coon's book is the way that he has tried to interpret the *fossil* strata in the different districts.

Another important feature is his study of the hybrid types. Coon calls this "Dinaricisation", and discusses it in the light of his recent work on the Albanians. *Dinarics* result from a cross of two parts of Mediterranean with one part of Alpine. The stable type resulting has the narrow face and the long nose of the Mediterranean, while the head-breadth derives from the Alpine. The Dinaric type is also rather tall. *Armenoids* are similar hybrids of Alpine and Irano-Afghan. *Nordics* are "Iron-Age Nordics, brachycephalised by Dinaric mixture" (see Fig. 3).

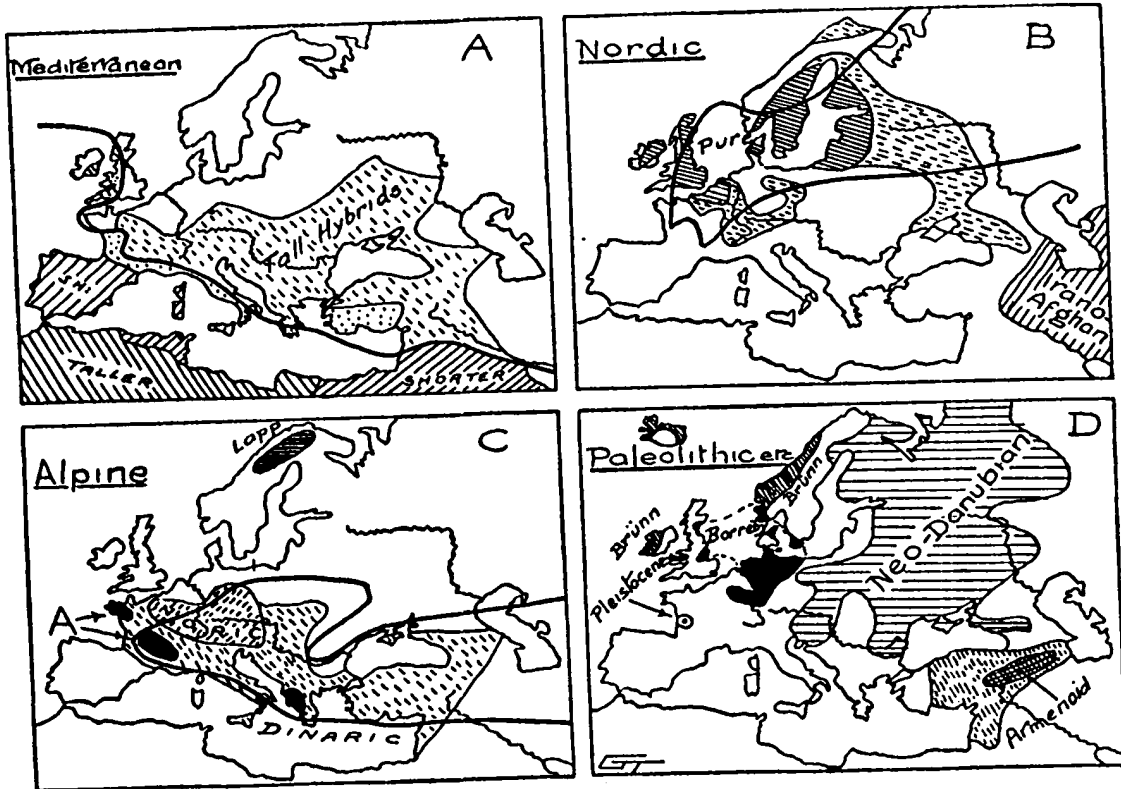


FIG. 3. RACES AND SUB-RACES IN EUROPE

The heavy lines show the generalized boundaries used in the writer's publications. In Fig. 3C the *black* patches show unmixed Alpines. In Fig. 3D the hybrid Neo-Danubians and Armenoids are also charted. (Mainly after C. S. Coon).

It is not easy to follow Coon's description of the *Neo-Danubians*, who occupy most of Russia. In my own published maps these were put down as strongly-Nordicised Alpines. Coon says that they are Ladogan (i.e. partly Mongoloid) crossed with the old *Danubians*. The latter is a Neolithic type of Mediterranean, with a higher vault and broader nose than usual. They do not seem to have had any contact with actual Alpines.

The last concept which I propose to discuss is one of the most interesting. This is the re-emergence of the Paleolithic types around the North Sea. We are all familiar with the ancient 'nests' found in the Dordogne and in Wales. But Coon extends their habitats greatly, and finds them in huge areas in North Germany and elsewhere. He traces

these primitive survivals in part by their *big* heads; and finds that they are most typically preserved in Fehmarn Island near Kiel. But he says that this *Borreby* Paleolithic survival "has become the most important single racial element in modern Germany" (p. 265). Since these folk are relatively brachycephalic, it is difficult to class them as any brand of Nordic.

In Fig. 3 these modifications of the simpler distributions (as employed by the present writer) are charted. They are based mainly on Coon's data, but unfortunately he does not give separate maps so as to isolate his types. Thus in Fig. 3 at A, the area to the southwest of the heavy black line shows the usually accepted realm of the Mediterranean race. Coon separates a taller type, which he calls Atlanto-Mediterranean. He also shows extensions of these two types (naturally in a less pure form) as suggested by the dots (shorter types) and dashes (taller types).

In Fig. 3 at B is shown my own boundary of the Nordics. In Coon's opinion few pure Nordics occur in Germany; and the largest numbers are to be found in Britain, Sweden and Lithuania. This finding should exercise the minds of those who support the 'Nordic Fetish'. He suggests that the *German* Nordics were killed off in the numerous wars of the Christian era. His Irano-Afghans are not far removed from Nordics; and an allied but less clearly defined Nordic type is present in central Russia (see dashes).

In Fig. 3 at C are charted the main Alpine affiliations. As before, the heavy line shows the limit used by the present writer. Only in the three regions of Brittany, Cevennes, and South Albania does Coon find pure Alpines, though he remarks that there are large areas in central Asia with Alpine groups such as the Tajiks. The distribution of the hybrid Dinaric and Nordic types is charted also. In the last map at D the interesting *Borreby* (and allied *Brunn*) 'Paleolithics' are charted. Here also are shown the areas occupied by the Neo-Danubians and Armenoids, though they have no connection with the Paleolithic survivals. One may conclude by saying that no serious student of European origins or cultures can afford to ignore Coon's stimulating treatise.

