

The Nazi Euthanasia Program: Forerunner of Obama's Death Council

by Anton Chaitkin

At his trial in front of the American National Military Tribunal in 1947, Karl Brandt, Hitler's escort physician and later a leading euthanasia operative, testified that, sometime in 1935, Hitler had informed Reich Health Leader Gerhard Wagner of his intention to implement euthanasia of the mentally disabled once war had begun. According to Brandt, Hitler believed the opposition to euthanasia from church circles would be less pronounced during war than in peacetime.

—Michael S. Bryant, *Confronting the Good Death: Nazi Euthanasia on Trial, 1945-1953* (Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2005)

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The world economy is teetering . . . With trillions of dollars evaporating in this crisis, millions of middle-class Americans face the prospect of losing their homes and jobs, and witnessing a dramatic contraction of their retirement savings. In response, the public will desperately want financial security. . . . [B]ailing out bankers and other gamblers [and the] huge increase in the federal debt that these bailouts will entail intensifies the pressure to rein in health-care costs. . . .

The dean of health-care economists, Victor Fuchs of Stanford, has long maintained that we will get health-care reform only when there is a war, a depression or some other major civil unrest. It's beginning to look like we might just have all three. . . .

—Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, "The Financial Crisis and Health Care," the *Chicago Tribune*, Oct. 12, 2008

When Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel wrote those words, he was chair of the Department of Bioethics (euthanasia education) at the United States Institutes of Health. Today he is President Obama's leading representative on a Federal "death council" drawing up a list of medical

procedures to be used to deny care to elderly, chronically ill, and poor people, whose lives are considered of less value. Ezekiel's brother, Obama's Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, is ramming this Nazi-revival policy through Congress.

The President beat the drums on May 11, after meeting with private insurance companies, saying that because of the financial crisis, \$2 trillion must be cut from American health-care spending. The companies promised to help him shut down more "costly" treatments, which typically prolong life.

The Nuremberg Precedent

In the Medical Case conducted from October 1946 to August 1947 as part of the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials, the United States charged Nazi officials and doctors with mass killing of patients in the euthanasia ("mercy death") program. Among the defendants, Hitler's personal physician Karl Brandt created the organization for killing crippled children, and as National Health Commissioner ordered the murder of mental patients throughout the country. Viktor Brack, a member of Hitler's Personal Chancellery, carried out the Hitler-Brandt "Aktion T-4" euthanasia program that trained the doctors in genocide; then he assigned Tiergarten-4 euthanasia personnel to work on the gas chambers for the extermination of Jews. Brandt and Brack were convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity and executed on June 2, 1948.

The U.S. National Military Tribunal identified as a prime motive of the euthanasia program, "to eliminate 'useless eaters' from the scene, in order to conserve food, hospital facilities, doctors and nurses for the more important use of the German armed forces."

That euthanasia program, and the rise to power of the Nazi regime that perpetrated it, had been sold to a population frantic from economic collapse and predisposed, from years of propaganda by the eugenics/eu-



Members of a Nazi Tiergarten-4 (T4) euthanasia team in Trieste, Italy, during World War II. Hitler understood that it would take a wartime crisis to get the German population to accept “health-care reform” (=euthanasia)—a point again made by Obama advisor Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel in 2008, about the U.S. population.

thanasia movement, to consider some lives unworthy to be lived.

After World War II, London and Wall Street supporters of Hitler’s program continued the eugenics/euthanasia movement and spread it globally. Under names including “bioethics,” this movement has prepared public opinion, medical education, and government policy to discard the notion of the sanctity of human life that holds our civilization together.

German advocates of eugenics (a crackpot notion of hereditary superiority and inferiority), law professor Karl Binding and psychiatry professor Alfred Hoche, had written a sensational 1920 pamphlet, *The Permission To Destroy Life Unworthy of Life*, a prime theoretical basis for the Nazi genocide. Binding and Hoche argued that society should cast aside the “obsolete” Hippocratic Oath, that binds doctors to do no harm to patients and commits them to consider only the patient’s welfare.

Obama advisor Ezekiel Emanuel likewise suggested that the Hippocratic Oath ought to be junked to cut costs, in an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, June 18, 2008. “Medical school education . . . emphasize[s] thoroughness,” he wrote. Doctors “are trained to identify and praised for . . . enumerating all possible diagnoses and tests that would confirm or exclude them. . . . Peer recognition goes to the most thorough and aggressive physicians. . . . This culture is

further reinforced by a unique understanding of professional obligations, specifically, the Hippocratic Oath’s admonition to ‘use my power to help the sick to the best of my ability and judgment’ as an imperative to do everything for the patient regardless of cost or effect on others.”

The \$2 trillion health-care cuts, now demanded by Obama and the financiers, were previously promoted in a speech by Dr. Gerhard Wagner, head of the Nazi organization for physicians, at the Sept. 8-14, 1936 Nazi Party rally at Nuremberg: “The millions and billions that we have spent . . . for care of the genetically ill, is a squandering of our national resources that we National Socialists cannot justify when we consider the needs of the healthy population. Healthy working class families with numerous children today earn only enough for the necessities of life, which means that it is irresponsible that the state

must provide the money for some genetically ill families who may have several family members in institutions costing thousands of marks annually. . . .”

The previous year, Hitler had told this same Dr. Wagner, that the doctors, primed for murder through the eugenics/euthanasia movement, would have to wait for the crisis of the war to convince the public to give up their moral principles—the identical point made by Ezekiel Emanuel in October 2008.

Behind the Nazi Health Reform

The death-lobby movement whose propaganda supports the program of Obama and Ezekiel Emanuel, originated with eugenics founder Sir Francis Galton, and Thomas Huxley, Arthur Balfour, and other late-19th-Century British Empire strategists of a new dark age. They spread this filth among Anglophiles in Germany and the United States.

Galton’s British eugenics movement opened its German branch in 1904, as the Society for Race Hygiene, and its U.S. branch in 1910, as the Eugenics Records Office. The movement operated internationally under Galton’s direct leadership, and held world Eugenics Congresses in 1912 (London), 1922 (New York), and 1932 (New York).

The last Congress made Nazi race theorist Ernst Rudin president of the International Federation of Eugenics Societies. Rudin ran Nazi eugenics work in Ger-

many at the Rockefeller Foundation's Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics. After Hitler took power in 1933, Rudin and his followers—with Rockefeller money—shaped the entire Nazi race genocide program, beginning with sterilization and then, euthanasia of “costly patients.” Rudin's men ran the medical experiments on Jewish death camp inmates.

Since, as Hitler noted, the German population was still resistant to euthanasia, the British leaders of the movement acted to break down the resistance globally, with the founding of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society in 1935, and a U.S. branch in London's movement cheered on the German program as the sterilization and killing escalated.

After the war, with corpses still smoking in Europe, the eugenics/euthanasia movement laid low for a time, inventing new names for itself such as “social biology” and “the right to die.”

The British royal family, whose palace physicians such as Lord Thomas Jeeves Horder had officially run the eugenics/euthanasia movement all through the Hitler era, now teamed with their Wall Street moneybags to retool the movement behind population reduction, especially for non-white peoples.

This led to the initiative known as Bioethics (whose U.S. government chief in recent years has been Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel), and to the Obama “death council”—the Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research, of which Dr. Emanuel is a leading member.

A few highlights will suffice to show the nature of the beast.

- The American Eugenics Society merged with, and moved its offices into the headquarters of the Rockefeller family's new Population Council in 1953.

- A eugenics zealot in the Ernst Rudin tradition, Daniel Callahan, got a Population Council grant and continual Rockefeller family sponsorship in 1968-69 to found the **Hastings Center**, in Garrison, N.Y., to push euthanasia under the new title, “Bioethics.”

- Geneticist and evolutionary biologist Theodore Dobzhansky was simultaneously a founding director of the Hastings Center and chairman of the American Eugenics Society. Hastings founder Callahan became a director of the Eugenics Society.

- The Hastings Center is now headquarters for the Obama reform agenda, still under the active leadership of emeritus president Callahan, the Hitlerian eugenicist.

- Peter Orszag, now the White House Budget Director, sent his deputy Philip Ellis to Hastings last May to assure the Center that “comparative effectiveness” would be the criterion for an Obama Administration's attack on respect for human life.

- Regular Hastings writer Henry J. Aaron has now penned a demand for tough adherence to the comparative effectiveness doctrine. Aaron is Orszag's fellow “behavioral economist” and was Orszag's partner on the Brookings Institution team for taking down medical care and Social Security. Regular Hastings writer Anthony Culyer is research director for the British Crown's National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) the model for the Obama-Emanuel “death council.” NICE runs the rationing that has already killed thousands under Britain's National Health Service.

- Ezekiel Emanuel is a Hastings Center fellow, as is his former wife and longtime bioethics collaborator, Linda Emanuel. She set up and ran the death education initiative for the American Medical Association, sponsored by George Soros's Project on Death in America.

- Ezekiel Emanuel's deputy director of the Federal Department of Bioethics, Christine Grady, is a director of the Hastings Center and a Hastings fellow.

- Animal liberation guru Peter Singer is no doubt the most famous Hastings Center fellow, and founding president of the International Association of Bioethics. Singer advocates the killing of handicapped infants, to stop them from being a burden to parents and a cost to society. He believes that humans have no right to life above that of beasts, and that it may be more appropriate to do medical experiments on disabled, unconscious people than on healthy rats.

- In 1980, Britain's Voluntary Euthanasia Society founded the World Federation of Right to Die Societies. They sent London *Times* reporter Derek Humphrey to America, to found the **Hemlock Society** for euthanasia and suicide.

The eugenics/euthanasia movement has now hammered the public for decades to give up their humanity and accept Hitler's point of view, for example, to assent to the demand that old people die now, to make way for others. The “debate” over this crime is sanitized by movement leaders, such as when “Ezekiel Emanuel argues that . . . a third of Americans endorse legalization under a wide variety of circumstances, a third oppose it under any circumstances, and a third support it in isolated cases but oppose it under most circumstances.”

Drive to Legalize 'Mercy Killing' Organized at Rally in London

Church Vicars, Doctors and Lawyers Lead Move to Launch Crusade for Action in Parliament, Public Education on Need for 'Easy Deaths.'

By the United Press.

London, Dec. 10.—Frosted vicars of the church, famous medical men and lawyers met in the great hall of the British Medical Association tonight and organized a crusade to legalize "mercy killings" in Great Britain.

The Voluntary Euthanasia Society, born amid a storm of protest, will in Parliament place the euthanasia proposals before the House of Lords.

"The relief of human misery is the world's great humanitarian challenge today," Lord Moyrahan said. "It is true that at the present time many sufferers do end their lives, but as the law now stands they are guilty of a felony—suicide."

Furthermore, anyone, whether it

Reich Considers Legal Euthanasia For 'Incurables'

Church Groups Aroused by Proposed Extension of the Penal Code

By the Associated Press

BERLIN, Oct. 9.—The Ministry of Justice in a detailed memorandum explaining the National Socialist aims regarding the German penal code Saturday announced its intention to authorize physicians to end the sufferings of "incurable patients."

The memorandum, still lacking the force of law, proposed that "it shall be made possible for physicians to end the sufferings of incurable patients upon request, in the name of humanity."

Legal recognition of a peaceful death—raised fundamental problems scientific and legal

Church Groups Aroused

Catholic newspaper stated to observe: "The faith binds the confessor not to accept shortening the sufferings of those who are tormented

circles, too, the proposed extension of the German penal code in some instances might ignore the existence of euthanasia, which has become a widely

In insisting that euthanasia shall be permissible only if the attending physician is backed by two experts who so advise, the Ministry believes a guarantee is given that no life still valuable to the State will be wantonly destroyed.

The legal question of who may request the application of euthanasia has not been definitely solved. The Ministry merely has proposed that either the patient himself shall expressly and earnestly ask it, or "in case the patient no longer is able to express his desire, his nearer relatives, acting from motives that do not contravene morals, so request."

Realizing that this leaves the question rather vague, the Ministry announced that a special definition would be issued later as to who constitute the nearer relatives and just what method will be permitted for ending a life prematurely.

German Plan Opposed by American Opinion

NEW YORK, Oct. 9 (P).—Prominent members of the clergy, the bar, the medical profession, and an outstanding penologist in interviews last night expressed disapproval of the German National Socialist Government's plan to end the sufferings of "incurable" patients.

The Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, minister of the Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church and president of the Federation of Churches, said the design of the proposal "may seem humane, but its application it would be fraught with numerous dangers, which would have to be very carefully safeguarded."

Dr. William A. White, superintendent of St. Elizabeth Hospital in Washington, said: "I think the medical profession in this country is

Reich Plan to Kill Incurables Opposed by Religious Groups

Doctors Weigh Question of Painless Death When Asked by Sufferers.

Berlin, Oct. 7 (P).—The proposed recognition by law of painless and peaceful death for incurables raised a number of fundamental problems of a religious, scientific and legal nature in Germany today.

The Catholic

nasia overnight has become a widely discussed word in the Reich. In medical circles the question was raised as to just when a man is incurable and when his life should be ended.

According to the government's present plans, incurability would be determined not only by the attending physician, but also by two official doctors, who would trace the history of the patient

Nazis Plan to Kill Incurables to End Pain; German Religious Groups Oppose Move

By The Associated Press.

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According to the present plans of the Ministry of Justice, incurability would be determined not only by the attending physician, but also by two official doctors who would carefully trace the history of the patient and personally examine the

Nazis Drafting Law To Sterilize the Unfit

Details of Unprecedented Experiment Closely Guarded; Hitler-Von Hindenburg Showdown Nears as Eugenics Goes to President.

(Copyright, 1933, by the United Press.) Berlin, June 28.—The government of Chancellor Adolf Hitler is drafting a bill calling for the sterilization of the "hereditarily unfit," the United Press learned on high official authority today.

This unprecedented social experiment was proclaimed by Chancellor Hitler during the days of his phenomenal rise to power, but revelation of the plan actually had progressed to the law-drafting stage came as a

shock, even in quarters close to Fascist leaders here. Drafting of the bill is in the hands of Minister of Interior Wilhelm Frick, who, it was understood, has practically decided the form it is to take. Under the dictatorial powers vested in him by the Reichstag, Chancellor Hitler, once put the law into effect by decree.

In his 2008 book, *Health-care, Guaranteed*, Dr. Emanuel calls for an independent National Health Board to oversee and cut health care in America, and to approve all payments and procedures. "To reduce political interference and allow the necessary tough choices to be made," Emanuel says, this board must be insulated from "pressure" by elected officials such as Congress or the President, and must get funding *independently of Congressional appropriations*. The board's life-or-death decisions would proceed without possibility of objection from victims or voters.

Emanuel's plan is a virtual carbon copy of that put forward by former Sen. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.)—originally slated to be Obama's health czar—in his 2008 book, *Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis*. Daschle demands the equivalent of the Federal Reserve Board, to be run just as the private financiers run the Federal Reserve. Daschle calls for a rule, that all who

U.S. press coverage in the *Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Times*, and *Washington Post* of the Nazi murder or sterilization of "incurables" and the "unfit," in 1933-35. The eugenics/euthanasia movement originated in England, and was backed by powerful British and U.S. interests, including the Rockefeller Foundation. It continued after the war under such names as "Bioethics."

(Ian Dowbiggin, *A Merciful End: the Euthanasia Movement in Modern America*).

Emanuel and some other movement spokesmen have stated that physician-assisted suicide is not necessary, that life-saving care can simply be denied to the elderly and costs will be saved. This will be painless, supposedly, if the patient is unconscious and is starved to death—starvation being one of the first methods used by the Nazi T-4 killers before gassing was adopted.

In line with the central euthanasia administration of the Hitler regime, Obama's health-care advisors want to set up a "non-political" structure which would decide the parameters on who should live, and who should die.

register for Medicare must sign a document outlining the degree to which they consent to be killed in an "end of life" situation.

Dr. Emanuel and the other 14 members of the Obama Administration's death council were confronted by this author at their June 10 public hearing in Washington. I concluded my testimony: "You on the Council are drawing up the procedure list to be used to deny care, which will kill millions if it goes ahead in the present world crash. You think, perhaps, that the backing of powerful men—financiers—will shield you from accountability. But you are now in the spotlight. Disband this Council, and reverse the whole course of this Nazi revival—now."