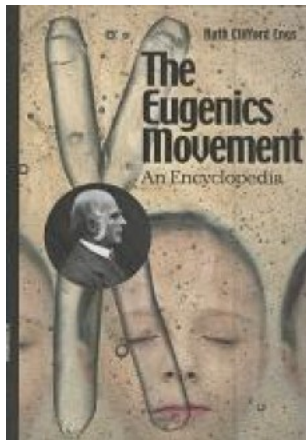


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Sinopsis

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Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century and continuing into the twentieth, culminating with Nazi Germany, eugenics was the theory that we can improve future generations through selective breeding. The other side of the movement was that the "less fit" had to be controlled, whether through immigration restriction, sterilization, or other procedures and laws. The focus of the current work, by a professor of applied health at Indiana University who has written extensively on health movements, is primarily on the movement in the early-twentieth-century U.S., although with links to parallel activities in Great Britain and Germany.

In 250 alphabetically arranged entries on people (including birth and death dates), organizations, publications, conferences, and concepts, the author describes how the movement developed and spread. Entries are clearly and succinctly written, with enough length when necessary, such as the two pages on the Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes in Germany. Extensive cross-references are in bold type, and further reading is suggested at the end of each entry. While recognizing that some entries and terminology may be offensive, the author points out in her preface that it is important to examine such terms in their historical context. There is some information on today's issues of cloning and genetic engineering.