

Rushton, J. P. (1997). Afterword. In J. P. Rushton Race, Evolution, and Behavior (Softcover Edition). New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.

Afterword

Race, Evolution, and Behavior describes three distinct racial profiles ranging over 60 anatomical and social variables, including brain size, personality and temperament, sexual habits and fertility, and speed of maturation and longevity. East Asians are, on average, slower maturing, higher achieving, more maintaining of family structure, more law abiding, and less sexually active than Africans, who tend to the opposite in each trait, with Europeans regularly falling between the other two racial groups. This racial matrix is internationally generalizable and therefore goes well beyond U.S. particulars. Evolutionary (and hence genetic) models are needed to reconcile the disparate sets of data. Exclusively sociocultural models will not do the job.

Following its publication, several reviewers offered positive assessments, sometimes accompanied by substantive critique (e.g., Brand, 1995; Browne, 1994; Flew, 1995; Francis, 1995; Gottfredson, 1996; Harpending, 1995; Lynn, 1996a; Ree, 1996; Salter, 1996; Snyderman, 1994; Taylor, 1994; Thiessen, in press; Whitney, in press; commentary in Jacoby & Glauberman, 1995). Other reviewers criticized the work as "bad science" (e.g., Ahmad, 1995; Armelagos, 1995; Barash, 1995; Brace, 1996; Blinkhorn, 1994; Lewontin, 1995; Palmer, 1995; Relethford, 1995; Sperling, 1994; Wahlsten, 1995; commentaries in Jacoby & Glauberman, 1995). One reviewer called the book a "betrayal of science" (Kamin, 1995). This Afterword responds by bringing the reader up to date on what has occurred, scientifically speaking, since the book went to press 3 years ago. Some of the data that have accumulated were gathered by me, some were gathered by colleagues, and some were gathered by people I don't even know. Together, however, they confirm much of what was written in the book.

Bell Curves

The simultaneous publication of Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray's (1994) *The Bell Curve*, Seymour Itzkoff's (1994) *The Decline of Intelligence in America*, and the one you hold in your hands, all addressing the issue of race, genetics, and IQ, made it likely that they would be jointly reviewed. On October 16, 1994, Malcolm Browne, science writer at the *New York Times*, linked them in his *New York Times Book Review*. Browne concluded that "the government or society that persists in sweeping their subject matter under the rug will do so at its peril." Sweeping the topic under the rug, however, is exactly what was attempted.

The Bell Curve took most of the attention. It reported original analyses of 11,878 youths (3,022 of whom were African American) from the 12-year National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY). Most 17-year-olds with high scores on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (black as well as white) went on to occupational success by their late twenties and early thirties whereas many of those with low scores went on to welfare dependency. The average IQ for "African" Americans was found to be lower than those for "Latino," "white," "Asian," and "Jewish" Americans (85, 89, 103, 106, and 115, respectively, pp. 273–78).

The flashpoint of discussion was whether the black/white difference was partly genetic in origin. *The Bell Curve* presented a clear rendition of the usual syllogism, that (a) IQ test scores are heritable in both black and white populations, (b) white IQs average higher than black IQs, therefore probabilistically (c) the black/white IQ difference is partly heritable. This syllogism, plus other findings like the black/white IQ difference being related to a test's heritability and to its loading on the general factor, or psychometric *g*, led a plurality of experts in behavioral genetics and psychometrics to give their opinion that part of the black/white IQ difference was genetic in origin (see p. 9 of this book). Herrnstein and Murray's book represented the mainstream view of IQ researchers.

My great admiration for *The Bell Curve* was overshadowed by the fact that it did not deal thoroughly enough with the genetic basis of racial differences. Equivocation was displayed even on whether "races" existed, and the position taken seemed unnecessarily vulnerable to environmentalist attack. Accordingly, I sifted the evidence it presented in a special symposium on *The Bell Curve* in *Current Anthropology* (Rushton, 1996a) and set out a basis for why the differences could only be understood fully from a gene-based evolutionary perspective. In an interesting afterword to the paperback edition of *The Bell Curve*, Murray accepted that Herrnstein and he had played down the heritability of race differences. Citing *Race, Evolution, and Behavior*, Murray drew attention to the significant and substantial relationship that exists between brain size and measured intelligence, to the differential distribution of brain size across races, and to the very low IQ scores of Africans south of the Sahara.

The furor over *The Bell Curve* led the American Psychological Association (APA) to establish an 11-person task force to fill an "urgent need" for an authoritative report "about the meaning of intelligence test scores and the nature of intelligence" (Neisser et al., 1996: 77). The report is generally even-handed, but on race it concluded: "There is certainly no [empirical] support for a genetic interpretation" (p. 97). Because this conclusion is likely to be cited against *Race, Evolution, and Behavior*, I will respond in some detail.

Among the facts omitted by the APA report are the following: (1) racial differences in IQ and speed of decision making found within the United States