

The Geography of Stupidity in the U.S.A.

By NATHANIEL WEYL

The analysis of the mental test scores of men drafted into the armed forces of the United States provides a valuable mine of information on regional and racial differences in intelligence.¹ In 1968, 1,009,381 Whites (non-Negroes) and 155,531 Blacks were given the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT), a general aptitude test that is comparable to such widely used intelligence tests as the WAIS and Stanford-Binet. The numbers and percentages failing the mental tests are reported by states for both Whites and Blacks. The percentages falling into each of the four mental test groups are reported by army recruiting districts. Unfortunately, no breakdown of test scores by state and by race is available and my efforts to obtain such a breakdown have thus far been unavailing. Accordingly, the data provide a breakdown of gross stupidity by states and by race, but provide information on the prevalence of superior and very superior mental aptitude by race and by region only.

Nationally, 35.5 per cent of the Blacks, but only 6.3 per cent of the Whites (more accurately, non-Negroes) failed the Armed Forces Qualification Test and hence were deemed mentally inadequate for military service. These figures apply to the Zone of Interior, that is to say, the United States excluding Alaska, Hawaii and overseas possessions. Since the white total given includes everyone but Negroes, it seems desirable to bar consideration of the two newest American states, Guam and Puerto Rico, all of which are racially mixed.

Within the Zone of Interior, large regional and state differences exist and are revealed by the statistics of AFQT failure. The usual Northern assumption is that stupidity among Whites is concentrated in the Deep South (which can be defined approximately as comprising North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana) and that it reaches its maximum in Mississippi, a state which, for a variety of reasons, is the *bête noire* of liberal sociologists. The most general reasons for hypothesizing this pattern of stupidity are the belief that chattel slavery discouraged initiative and education among poor

¹ Medical Statistics Agency, Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, *Supplement to Health of the Army: Results of the Examination of Youths for Military Service*, 1968, Washington, D.C., 1969.

Whites, that only the more shiftless and degraded white workers and farmers remained in areas where they had to compete with slave labor, and that the effect of a warm-to-torrid climate on intellect was enervating.

TABLE I
Percentages of 1968 white (non-Negro) inductees into the U.S. Armed Forces failing the mental test by states (excluding Alaska, Hawaii and U.S. possessions)¹

10 worst states	% failing	10 best states	% failing
Kentucky	14.8	Wisconsin	1.2
Tennessee	14.2	North Dakota	1.4
West Virginia	13.4	Rhode Island	1.4
New Mexico ²	13.0	Minnesota	1.5
North Carolina	11.9	Washington	1.6
Georgia	11.5	Nebraska	1.7
Mississippi	10.9	Iowa	1.8
Alabama	9.5	Kansas	2.6
South Carolina	9.5	Utah	2.7
Virginia	9.1	Wyoming	2.9

¹*Health of the Army Supplement*, pp. 46-47, Table 17.

²The high failure rate is due to the presence of a large number of Mexicans, Indians and "old Spanish" (people of Spanish or Mexican blood who inhabited the region when it was annexed by the U.S.) in the population. They are included in the tabulation because it refers to "non-Negroes" rather than to Whites.

The most salient conclusion that can be drawn from the table is that low mental scores are most prevalent, not in the Deep South, but in the Appalachian region. Kentucky, the leading state in this respect, had a Negro population of only 13 per cent on the eve of the Civil War as compared with South Carolina's 57 per cent. The state sided with the North against the Confederacy, but was deeply split, the mountain folk favouring the Union and the plains people siding with the South. Tennessee also has a large montane and piedmont population. While she fought on the Confederate side, the mountain folk of English and Scottish descent generally supported the North. West Virginia, the third worst state in terms of white stupidity, separated from Virginia at the beginning of the Civil War because its mountain people supported the North. There were few Negroes in West Virginia and its hill-billy people had little or nothing in common with the plantation economy and culture of the South.

There is little correlation between the prevalence of slavery and white intelligence, as measured by the Caucasian mental-test failure rate. Louisiana, for example, one of the great centers of the plantation and slave labor system, reported a white failure rate of 7.1 per cent, which is significantly lower than New York's 8.2 per cent. It may be worth adding that two other states which

formed part of the Confederacy, Florida and Texas, reported proportionately lower failure rates for non-Negroes than New York State.

Almost half a century ago, Nathaniel D. M. Hirsch gave Pintner-Cunningham and Dearborn mental tests to 1945 school children in Kentucky mountain communities. The average I.Q. decreased consistently from 86.6 at ages five-to-six to 74.6 at fourteen. The shortfall in intelligence was greater than that currently prevailing between Whites and Blacks.² However, it is probable that at least half of the I.Q. deficit was due to an intellectually impoverished home and school environment.

There are three probable genetic causes for the abnormally large proportion of white mental defectives in the Appalachian region. The South was the main recipient of deported English felons and paupers, of the scourings of the poor houses, of those sent to America because brain damage or innate low intelligence made it impossible for them to earn a livelihood at home. Most of them migrated from the tidewater areas, where they could not earn a livelihood in competition with slave gangs, to the mountainous hinterland of the South where a man could eke out a subsistence by farming, logging and hunting. White indentured laborers would often move westward once their period of bondage was over for the same reasons.

Some of these people were of good, even superior, stock. Some were adventurous, but poor, people, who entered into temporary peonage to enjoy later the great opportunities America had to offer. Others were prisoners-of-war taken in such religious struggles as the Monmouth Rebellion and Cromwell's campaigns in Ireland. But by and large, they were deemed poor human material. Thus, Benjamin Franklin³ complained in 1751 that "all the Newgates and Dungeons in Britain are emptied into the Colonies" and suggested that America export rattlesnakes to England in return:³

What is a little *Housebreaking*, *Shop'lifting* or *Highway Robbing*; what is a *Son* now and then *corrupted and hang'd*, a *Daughter debauch'd* and *pox'd*, a *Wife stabb'd*, a *Husband's Throat cut*, or a *Child's Brains beat out* with an *Axe*, compar'd with this "IMPROVEMENT and WELL PEOPLING of the Colonies?"

² N. D. M. Hirsch, "An experimental study of the East Kentucky mountaineers: a study in heredity and environment," *Genet. Psychol. Monog.*, 3, 183-244. Mean I.Q. rose to 81.1 at age 15 and over, but this reflects the fact that high school attendance was selective for intelligence at that time.

³ Leonard W. Laboree (editor), *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, New Haven, 1964, IV, 133.

And Rattle-Snakes seem the most *suitable Returns* for the *Human Serpents* sent us by our Mother Country. In this, however, as in every other Branch or Trade, she will have the Advantages of us. She will reap *equal Benefits* without equal Risque of the Inconveniencies and Dangers. For the *Rattle-Snake* gives Warning before he attempts his Mischief; which the Convict does not.

One consequence of the dominant egalitarian ideology in English-speaking countries is that no thorough study has ever been made of the regional distribution of deported felons and indentured laborers in the American colonies, of their subsequent areas of migration and settlement, and of the contributions of their descendants to the American élite and to American delinquency, pauperism and crime. For the same reason, no similar study has, to my knowledge, been undertaken of the genetic consequences of the deportation policy to Australia.

The second probable genetic reason for I.Q. shortfall is the notoriously high rates of inbreeding among the Appalachian population. The inverse correlation between I.Q. and inbreeding has been established by a large number of studies, which are so generally known that their citation in this article would be superfluous.

Finally, either because of its deficient resources or because of the character of its population or both, the Appalachian region has been one of minimal economic progress. Consequently, the more able, energetic and adventurous elements in its population have tended to emigrate.

Further examination of the concentration areas of stupidity, as shown by the armed forces mental tests, suggests that the late Ellsworth Huntington was mistaken when he concluded that "place" rather than "race" was the mainspring of national character and of economic progress.⁴ Huntington's belief that invigorating, cold climates, particularly those with pronounced seasonal variation in temperature and frequent electrical storms, are the ideal zones for mental work seems to be generally supported by the geography of stupidity in the United States. But the association between climate and AFQT failure among Caucasians is erratic and unreliable.

Maine, which is one of the coldest states in the nation, has a white AFQT failure rate of 8.8 per cent, making her the eleventh worst state in the Union and ranking her below such former Confederate states as Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana and Texas.

⁴ Ellsworth Huntington, *Civilization and Climate*, New Haven, 1915, 11-35.

Maine's wretched showing is almost certainly due to the fact that a large proportion of her population descend from French Canadian immigrants. By contrast, Rhode Island, another New England state and one with a climate not too dissimilar from that of Maine, ranks third best in the U.S. with a failure rate of only 1.4 per cent. Rhode Island is a traditional area of Puritan settlement.

In general, the zone of minimal mental test failure among Whites consists of the northern tier of states, stretching from the Pacific to the Great Lakes. Thus, North Dakota ranks above South Dakota, Washington above Oregon, Nebraska above Kansas.

Cold unquestionably plays a rôle, but it is by no means evident that it is the chief causal factor involved. The states with the lowest rates of white AFQT failure are more homogeneous in terms of ethnic origin than the nation as a whole. Being primarily agricultural and small-town areas, they lack the ethnic *mélanges* characteristic of the metropolis. They are also less alluring to the floating populations of hereditary relief recipients, delinquents and criminals than the great cities. Finally, this northern tier of states has been differentially attractive to Scandinavian and German immigrants, stocks which make a considerably better than average contribution to the American intellectual and achievement élites.⁵ Climate again makes this region differentially unattractive to conspicuously low-I.Q. stocks (in terms of the American scene) such as Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Portuguese, Spanish and Italian.⁶

Unfortunately, no data are published which show the percentages of white draftees scoring in Group I (very high intelligence) or Group II (high intelligence) by states. This material is broken down by race and by army recruiting district only. If the United States population were regionally homogeneous, this limitation would not be too serious. There would be reason to presume that the geographical pattern of intelligence was essentially the reverse of the geographical pattern of stupidity. Thus, if proportionately seven times as many Whites as Blacks have I.Q.s of 115 and over, it is also true that about seven times as many Blacks as Whites have I.Q.s below 70—that is to say, are mentally retarded.⁷ We are dealing in that instance with overlapping frequency distributions that can be described approximately in terms of the normal curve of error.

⁵ Nathaniel Weyl, *The Creative Elite in America*, Public Affairs Press, Washington D.C., 1966, 58-76.

⁶ The bulk of the immigration to the United States has come from Sicily and other parts of southern Italy.

⁷ Arthur R. Jensen, "The differences are real," *Psychology Today*, December 1973, 7:7, p. 80.

No such conclusions are warranted in regional comparisons of high intelligence. The fact that New York has a large proportion of mentally retarded Whites does not mean that it suffers from any dearth of people of exceptionally high intelligence. The ethnic homogeneity that gives Wisconsin the lowest rate of white AFQT failure does not necessarily equip her with a superabundance of brilliant people. The shapes of the curves and, above all, their variances, are significantly different.

Nationally, 7.3 per cent of male Caucasian inductees in 1968 were in Group I. (The corresponding proportion of Blacks in this top I.Q. military category was 0.4 per cent.) The Fifth Recruiting District, comprising essentially the Midwest and the Great Plains, had the highest number of white Group I recruits—8.8 per cent of the total. Army Recruiting District No. 6 (Pacific Coast) followed closely with 8.7 per cent classified as very superior. The First Recruiting District (Northeastern U.S.) followed with 6.7 per cent, then the Fourth (Southwest) with 6.2 per cent and finally the Third (Southeast) with 4.3 per cent.

Expressed somewhat differently, the Great Plains produces 21 per cent Caucasian male recruits in the top mental test score category than the national average and the Pacific Coast produces 20 per cent more. The Northeast lags 8 per cent below the national average, the Southwest 15 per cent below and the Southeast 41 per cent below.⁸

A detailed comparison of White and Black performance on the mental tests seems superfluous. Twenty to thirty years ago, social scientists reiterated the misleading conclusions drawn by Klineberg, Benedict and Weltfish, and others that army I.Q. data supported the proposition that Negro I.Q. inferiority was environmentally caused. Relying on First World War data, even when the much more accurate Second World War data were available, psychologists sought to show that Northern Blacks in one or two

⁸ *Supplement to Health of the Army*, p. 61, Table 31. Army Recruiting District No. 1 comprises Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. ARD No. 3 comprises Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. ARD No. 4 consists of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. ARD No. 5 comprises Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming. ARD No. 6 consists of Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington. For a reason unknown to me, there is no 2nd Army Recruiting District.

The data in this case are not for non-Negroes, but for Caucasians. The national average given is for the Zone of Interior, that is to say, it excludes Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico.

states had average scores which exceeded the white averages in those Southern states where the Whites did worst. From this, it supposedly followed that Negro I.Q. was held back by discrimination and inferior education and that it would equal the white average once these disabilities were removed.⁹

More recent military mental test data, stretching from the Second World War to the Vietnam conflict, revealed that, despite equalization of educational facilities for the two races, the Black I.Q. deficit has increased. Nationally, there are almost twenty times as large a percentage of Whites as of Blacks in the very intelligent (Group I) AFQT category. About six times as many Blacks as Whites failed the mental test.

In summary, the zones of greatest white stupidity, as revealed by armed services AFQT failures, are the Appalachians and the Deep South in that order. Probable causes include a high proportion of descendants of people deported from Great Britain to the American Colonies as felons, paupers or morons, excessive inbreeding, the emigration of the brighter and more self-reliant elements, and a climate not conducive to mental alertness or concentration. The indicated regions of greatest intelligence among white draftees are the northern tier of states from the Pacific to the Great Lakes plus Rhode Island. Probable causes include: a homogeneous stock of vigorous, largely Nordic elements, with a heavy Scandinavian and German component, absence of the descendants of persons deported for crime or pauperism, comparative absence of great cities with their large populations of delinquents and chronic welfare clients, and, finally, a cold, bracing climate which stimulates the intellect.

⁹ R. Benedict and G. Weltfish, *Races of the World*, New York, 1943. Weltfish's egalitarian conclusions were not unrelated to the fact that he was a communist. Benedict was a fellow traveller.

The Structure of the Turkish-Cypriot Race

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INTRODUCTION

This paper discusses the ethnic origin and composition of the Turkish-Cypriot race in the island of Cyprus. It traces, in broad outline,² its "birth" in 1571 and ends with conclusions, set out in summary form, as respects its subsequent hybridisation.

Until 1571, when the Turks conquered Cyprus from the Venetians, there were no Turkish inhabitants on the island. The bulk of the indigenous population comprised Greeks. There were also Franks, Venetians, Maronites, and Armenians. Many had soon emigrated. These were mostly the surviving Venetians and Franks. But there were also what were known in the Near East as Latins of Syrian, Ionian, Genoese, French, and Maltese descent.

Soon after the conquest, twenty thousand demobilised Turkish soldiers were given parcels of land, called *fiefs*, and settled on these State lands granted to them by Sultan Selim II. These people formed the original core and nucleus of the present Turkish element in the Cypriot population. Historical sources are unanimous on this important point.³ The fighting forces, many of whom possessed pre-Seljuk and pre-Ottoman origins, were principally drawn from Anatolia and were full of renegades. They consisted, in part at least, of *Yenicheries* (Janissaries) who were men of non-Moslem birth but brought up as Moslems. The twenty thousand colonists contained many Turks of this sort.⁴

These settlers were supplemented from time to time by Turkish

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² "Generalisation of a demographic history such as that of Cyprus must be formulated in broad outline" *per* I. W. Taeuber in "Cyprus: the demography of a strategic island," *Population Index*, Vol. 21, 1955, p. 8.

³ See, in particular, C. D. Cobham, *Excerpta Cypria*, Cambridge University Press, 1908, p. 344; Sir George Hill, *A History of Cyprus*, Vol. IV, (1571-1948), Cambridge University Press, 1952, pp. 20 and 27; Franz Georg Maier, *Cyprus* (English translation) Elek Books, 1968, p. 117; Sir Harry Luke, *Cyprus under the Turks*, Hurst and Company, 1969, p. 22; William Forwood, *Cyprus Invitation*, Garnstone Press, 1971, p. 32; Professors Clarke and Fisher (editors), *Population of the Middle East and North Africa*, University of London Press, 1972, pp. 171-172.

⁴ Sir George Hill, *op. cit.*, p. 27; William Forwood, *op. cit.*, p. 33.