

sterilization, failing which their child should be sterilized. Some of the people quoted seem to combine a pathological hatred of children with a desire to force the American middle class and intelligentsia to commit biological hara-kiri. One regrets that their parents were not all third children in the Martha Willing utopia.

NATHANIEL WEYL

THE HUNTING HYPOTHESIS

By Robert Ardrey. Atheneum, 1976. Pp. 242. Price \$10.00.

Ardrey's latest book co-ordinates the available evidence in support of the significant generalizations concerning human evolution which he has advanced over the past 15 years. Since the publication of *African Genesis*, field studies by Goodall, Kruuk, Mech, Schaller and Turnbull; skeletal discoveries by the Leakeys, Johanson and Howell, and the theoretical and synthesizing works of Clark, Cole, Darlington, Washburn, De Vore and Wilson have reinforced some of Ardrey's insights and helped transform heresy into established dogma.

A central thesis of the present volume is: "Man is a man, and not a chimpanzee, because for millions upon millions of evolving years we killed for a living."

The forced transition of our remote ancestors from arboreal life and a largely vegetarian diet during the Pliocene drought gave them bipedal stance, caused changes in skeletal and foot structure, made them hunters and carnivores, fathered the invention of weapons, and encouraged the growth of brain. A sexual revolution marked by year-round female availability for sex and breeding strengthened the family bond and the sexual differentiation of roles. As predators, we developed such traits as co-operation, courage, and sacrifice of the individual for group survival.

The glacial challenge is depicted as central to the mental and social development of *Homo sapiens*. Originally harnessed to keep man warm in the intense cold of the ice ages, fire became a basic instrument of socialization and a milestone of evolution. It stimulated the development of language and religion. With the evolution of speech, hunting bands could expand into large aggregations under a single command, capable of firedriving mammoth and oryx into cul-de-sacs and over cliffs.

A plausible, but unstated, implication is that those races which remained in regions little affected by glaciation lacked the incentive to create fire (though they probably utilized existing fires) and hence missed a fundamental stage in the transformation of manlike bipeds into human beings capable of creating civilizations.

Ardrey sees the Neolithic Revolution as a direct response to the recession of the glacial ice in the North Temperate Zone some 12,000 years ago. This made whole continental regions suitable for tillage. Mastery of fire, enabling our ancestors to make grains and legumes readily digestible through cooking, was another catalyst. The time-span between glacial recession and Neolithic Revolution may have been devoted to the restoration of formerly ice-covered lands to climax vegetation and to the expansion of human numbers from the hunting bands that created the Lascaux cave paintings to the millions needed for the irrigation civilizations.

Ardrey's new book summarizes a great deal of tantalizing new research and work in progress on the frontiers of the several sciences cognate to the study of the origins of man. The book is marred by an excessively exuberant style and by Ardrey's tendency to describe processes in terms of simple cause and effect rather than casual interaction and positive feedback. *The Hunting Hypothesis* is rich in insights and speculations. It is perhaps more important for the questions it asks than for the answers it proffers.

NATHANIEL WEYL

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