

Madison Grant (1916): The Passing Race, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons

Review by Irina POP

Why about an old racist and xenophobic book?

I struggled whether I should do a review of such a book, offensive to the European Values; and to the history of sufferance's here. I struggled if a racist book should be in the attention of the pro-European journal as JIMS. Finally, I decided to submit the presentation as an alert against the racism and xenophobia's revival in EU certain circles.

The subject of the book, *The Passing of the Great Race: Or, The Racial Basis of European History* represents today a real manifesto of the racism, reinforced by the messages of the other old racist books or by new books written by the xenophobic extremist parties' ideologues. To decipher the dangers behind such messages, their force of multiplication – visible in the book availability (free to be downloaded on the internet archive, free on the kindle, easy to be purchased via Amazon etc.) together with its popularity in 2019 – I think it could be presented as a book which raises significant concerns about the future.

It proposed the major themes that confronted our time: 1. Immigration and Identity; 2. Demographic declines of the White Europe; 3. Questioning Equality and Democracy, 4. Discussing the Justice in terms of the Corruption of the Others.

In some circles, the mentioned above topics simply obscured the main European ideals: 1' *"United in diversity!"*, Multiculturalism, Inclusion; 2' *Overcrossing the ageing, stimulating the Young generations*; 3.' *Promoting Equality and Democracy, fighting xenophobia*; 4' *Promoting equal access to Justice and eliminating Corruption, whatever their sources will be.*

The book *The Passing of the Great Race* is confronting the readers with a long story – starting from the biological bases – where only the Nordic race are valuable for human civilization.

It is – as the history reveals – a major part in preparing 1924, US Law of

Immigration – of selective immigration which barred the access in the US of the Poor Eastern Europeans. Unfortunately, it was also known as “Hitler’s Bible”, as the Führer named it in a letter addressed to Grant.

The historical experience with such literature effects on the public policies – xenophobia directed towards the Jews, Roma people; the racial hygiene and finally, the holocaust – alerted on what the similar trends could cause in our Europe.

The Passing Race book’s structure

The book in the final reviewed edition, the 1921’ one, comprises a Preface (of Osborn), the proper text (written by Grant) an Appendix with Maps, a Documentary Supplement added by Henry Fairfield Osborn.

The main text is structured in an Introduction – important as a methodological guide in understanding the concepts and the position of the book towards the issues covered; and into two sections.

The Part I is devoted to clarify the notions RACE, LANGUAGES AND NATIONALITY and to answer questions related to them as: *I. Race and Democracy; II. The Physical Basis or Race; III. Race and Habitat Race Languages and Nationality, VI. Race and Language 69 The European Race in Colonies.*

The main message is that the European (Caucasian) Races, are grouped as Nordic, Alpine, and Mediterranean.

The Part II, entitled EUROPEAN RACES IN HISTORY, is about a composed history of humanity. The sub-divisions (14) in the text are *I. Eolithic Man, II. Paleolithic Man, III. The Neolithic and Bronze Ages, IV. The Alpine Race, V. Mediterranean Race, VI. The Nordic Race, VII. Teutonic Europe, VIII. The Expansion of the Nordics, IX. The Nordic Fatherland, X. The Nordic Race Outside of Europe, XI. Racial Aptitudes, XII Arya, XIII Origins of the Aryan Languages, XIV. The Aryan Languages in Asia.*

The three main races European races - conserved themselves, from Eolithic to nowadays, biologically and as aptitudes. The Nordic race - Teutonic being included - “proved” to be the creator of the great civilizations, the American one inclusively. In its core is the race of Aryans. Biased assumptions are mainly those in the chapters: The Expansion of the Nordics; Racial Aptitudes.

The main text assumed as its major topics the immigration danger, racial hygiene, white superiority, social costs with the poor or dis-genic people. It also supports the correspondent policies: selective immigration; conservation of the

white people qualities – claimed monopoly on the morality, right religion, responsibility - associated with physical features (high stature, blue eyes, blond hair); the reducing the social costs with the non-creative people.

The methods to make the book's claims acceptable for the scholars' requirements are of three types. Firstly, the book appeals to the measurements, rigorously done and to an impressive bibliography. The measurements seem to be borrowed from the police arsenal - the facial index, e.g. and they are serving racial purposes. That is they promote the racial pattern. Secondly, the Bibliography – in the final reviewed edition, the 1921 one – is composed by 388 books + 13 others. Reported to a text of 242 pages it represents a highly documented text. The sources are many times large books authored by scientific authorities in their fields. The highest authorities are listed with 4 or 5 titles. The general works as encyclopedias (13 titles), histories, reports or administrative documents (as census e.g.) are also quoted. As ratio between the no. of the sources on the page, we estimate that he used an average of 7 sources on the page. Qualitatively, it is easy to note that the literature used is largely accredited in the scientific circles who explain the social life using biological patterns only. The critical points of views – as those formulated by Franz Boas - are not ignores (to not affects the book credibility among the scholars), but they are simply mentioned, not discussed). That is highly qualified technically literature is biased, is racially and xenophobically oriented. Thirdly, the book appeals to an Appendix, composed by colored maps, illustrating the races distributions. The measurements, the references and the images (maps) are the tools of an inexpugnable scientific citadel difficult to be immediately denounced. On brief, the book rejects the political correctness the multiculturalism and diversity as EU values, and it pronounced against the equal rights, against the human rights, against the democracy.

In the defense of the EU values

In the year (2019) when, there are celebrated 10 years, from the entering into force the *EU Charter of the Fundamental Rights and Liberties*, to unveils the underneath tide of the racism and xenophobia promoted in the literature, it is to stand for the EU values. It is to say no to idolatry, no matter how perfectly it imitates the serious scholarly works; to call to the promotion of the Values embraced in the EU Treaties.