

Brandon Smith
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Gelding the Naked Ape

One of the most pathetic—and dangerous—signs of our times is the growing number of individuals and groups who believe that no one can possibly disagree with them for any honest reason. (Sowell 254)

Males have been highly respected during most of our recorded history and perhaps for hundreds of thousand years before that. In the past, the concept of “masculinity” was identified with many positive attributes—strength, power, leadership, success, victory, achievement, protection, and independence. Men were revered for their masculinity but as Bob Dylan mournfully sang, “the times they are a-changin’.” In the immortal words of Chuck Palahniuk in *Fight Club*, what we see today “...is a generation of men raised by women.” (50) Today the demonstration of masculinity is often disparaged and in many cases now illegal and subject to severe criminal penalties.

The collection of male traits normally referred to as “masculine behavior” is partially the result of mankind's adaptations to environments that existed ten thousand generations or more in the past. They were encoded in our genes and had survival value during the stone age when most groups were hunters/gatherers; however, because our present environment is vastly different from the uncivilized environment that existed in the past, many of these inherited traits may actually render males less fit to survive in today's civilized environment.

According to the distinguished biologist William K. Purves in his book *Life: The Science of Biology*, the millions of species that live on Earth today, along with the multitude that have become extinct, formed from a single common ancestor. Early life on our planet probably originated from nonliving matter approximately 4 billion years ago. (379-380)

Many experts including Purves believe that the most likely primate ancestors of humans lived approximately 3.5 million years ago (597) There were several different types of early

hominids—members of the genus *Homo*—that co-existed for about half a million years but it appears that conflicts may have occurred between the different hominid species that resulted in mass extermination as recently as 200 thousand years ago. The result is that the only surviving species today is our own—*Homo sapiens*. (598)

The development of two human phenomena had incredible survival value in the competition for scarce resources—complex language and culture. These traits could have had significant survival value for our early ancestors and in fact still do.

According to Richard Learner, Plato was the first philosopher to make the claim that human nature is not determined by experience or education. Plato expressed the view that the role of “nurture”, or experience, was far smaller than common sense might suggest. According to Plato, a child begins life with knowledge already present within him — there is no such thing as learning new things, “what we call learning is really just recollection” (20-21)

In his dogma-shattering publication, *On the Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin shocked the civilized world with his well-documented observations that variations in inherited traits of individuals can have a significant effect on the ability of that individual to survive and reproduce in a given environment. (361-363) Darwin believed that we must also consider the non-physical characteristics of evolution and he felt that individuals inherit predispositions to respond in certain ways to a stimulus or a pattern of stimuli. He called these inherited predispositions “engrams” and Darwin explained that some engrams can determine whether an individual is either better or more poorly fitted for their particular cultural environment. (130)

According to Steven Pinker, the controversy surrounding the relative importance of heredity and environment affects people's beliefs in an astonishing range of topics. Are humans inherently aggressive or can they become peaceable and cooperative? Are humans born with a universal aesthetic tendency to appreciate great art or are their tastes determined by their

particular era and specific culture? It is not surprising that debates over nature and nurture cause intense differences of opinions. The doctrine that the mind is a blank slate has been the basis of several schools of thought in psychology and sociology. (1)

Margo Wilson courageously challenges current dogma when she discusses the issue of violence. She raises the issue that because many people have preconceived notions that "violence is learned behavior", it is common to treat violence as a public health problem like malnutrition or infectious disease. The possibility that the tendency for the strategic use of violence could have become an inherited trait in human evolution, as it has been in the evolution of other primate species is not considered. (164)

Researchers have documented that there are significant physical and mental differences between males and female members of primates including humans. Two perceptive scholars at Stanford University, Elanor Maccoby and Carol Jacklin point out that:

(1) Males are more aggressive than females in all societies for which evidence is available. (2) The sex differences are found early in life, at a time when there is no evidence that differential socialization pressures have been brought to bear by adults to 'shape' aggression differently in the two sexes. (3) Similar sex differences are found in man and sub-human primates. (4) Aggression is related to levels of sex hormones, and can be changed by experimental administrations of these hormones. (242-243)

The insightful psychiatrist Carl Jung theorized that humans have a collection of inherited instincts that make up the "collective unconscious" of the human mind. He explained that "the collective unconscious contains the whole spiritual heritage of mankind's evolution, born anew in the brain structure of every individual." (54) The collective unconscious contains the instinctual forces of the psyche. He argued that all of the most powerful ideas in our history are based in the collective unconscious and a function of consciousness is to reconcile those images contained in the collective unconscious, through the senses, with those aspects of the visible

world in our environment. He felt that humans exaggerate the rational basis for their own behavior because they do not feel comfortable with the idea that their actions are being influenced by a "collection of instincts." (45-54) He was convinced that the contents of the collective unconscious had accumulated over thousands of years as a result of natural selection and had survival value for early humans. Each triggers specific reactions in response to certain patterns of stimuli in the environment.(221) Jung defined the soul as being a person's personality, and states that if the soul loses its way, a psychological complex is free to form and become a "tyrannical usurper of consciousness", which prevents the person from being complete. "They act irrationally and with such blind one-sidedness that their actions inevitably lead to self-destruction." (226)

Deborah Blum, a director of the National Association of Science Writers, expressed the insightful observations that

"Violent males are quick to take on challenges and might well stand the best chance of reproducing. Natural selection might have favored those males who would risk it all for immortality. But where, in evolution, is the comparable incentive for females to become so physically nasty over sex? They seem surrounded by potential and even over-eager mates. It makes more sense for the female to be choosy – pick a mate carefully, go for the good genes." (XVI)

Lionel Tiger discusses the mating consequences of males developing reputations for effectiveness in whatever competitive arena that they find themselves. He believes that the purpose of male competitiveness is to establish a hierarchical order. The females of the group will tend to select their mates based on their relative success in that particular arena of competitiveness. For example, among the Yanomano Indians of Amazonas, 44% of men over the age of 25 have been involved in one of the revenge killings that are common in that community. The men who have killed obtain more wives and produce more children than those who have not killed. (73) The common duels that occurred during the nineteenth century, a adolescent male's

obligation to return with a scalp in head-hunting societies, the drug and drinking binges of urban men, and the reckless driving habits of men around the world are all versions of an ancient biological system of sorting males and provides information to their particular group about their capabilities. (75)

Our behavior evolved in the same way as our bodies, and along the way, the social and sexual choices of thousands of generations were genetically established. The result became our human nature for the next hundred thousand years, and we still carry those patterns with us in our DNA. (Tiger 30-31) Males have an instinctual need to be aggressive – a male passes on his genes most efficiently by aggressively seeking out multiple mates – whereas women benefit most from being cautious when choosing a mate. (Blum xvi)

According to the erudite Edward O. Wilson, modern man has preempted all of the other hominids. Although two or more species of hominids did coexist in the past, when the Australopithecus man-apes lived in Africa, only one line survived to become modern day humans. (551-562)

In his wonderfully engrossing writing, Jaret Diamond explores the consequences of the rapid increases in the creation of civilizations since A.D.1500. He estimated that before that date fewer than 20% of the world's land area was divided into formal states governed by laws and run by bureaucrats. "Today, all land except Antarctica's is so divided. (266)

The societal requirements imposed on individuals by civilizations have also evolved over the centuries. Edward O. Wilson points out the fact that the nuclear family is the building block of nearly all human societies whether they are members of a large industrial city or from a band of hunter-gatherers in a desert. In order to insure some degree of harmony, all groups of humans must adopt some system of rules so that the group can compete effectively for scarce resources and ensure their continued survival. Women and children remained at home while the men

foraged for game or its symbolic equivalent in the form of barter and money. “Males typically cooperate in bands to hunt or deal with neighboring groups....Sexual bonds are carefully contracted in observance with tribal customs and are intended to be permanent. Polygamy, either covert or explicitly sanctioned by custom, is practiced predominately by the males.” (553-554)

Wilson surely incurred the wrath of some when he wrote about the possibility that there exists a genetic predisposition for humans to gravitate to certain societal classes and to play certain roles based on variations in their intelligence. He observed that although humans sometimes cooperate, as do social insects, it is more common for humans to “compete for the limited resources allocated to their role-sector.” The most successful gain large rewards—the less successful must accept less. It is possible that within civilized societies socioeconomic groups will be increasingly defined by genetically based differences in intelligence. (554-555)

This may be evidenced today by the importance given to scoring high on the S.A.T.. Those with the highest scores are more likely to be accepted and more likely to obtain a degree from a highly-rated college or universities. For males, this will often earn him prestige, the opportunity for a desirable job, and more opportunities to mate—sometimes with the woman of his choice.

For the majority of man’s history, humans have been hunter-gatherers, but the development of civilizations required dramatically different behaviors to ensure the smooth functioning of the society. As civilizations grow in size, so do the restrictions on individual freedoms. The high concentration of people in our highly civilized and urbanized society have become breeding grounds for intellectual elitists who sincerely believe that they know what’s best for all the members of our society. These individuals have been highly successful in promoting laws that impose their ideology upon all members of society. The advantage in women’s communication skills virtually guarantees that their interests will not be ignored.

As our society has grown in size and complexity, the creation of intrusive laws, regulations, written professional standards, and other rules of conduct have grown exponentially. However, because some women feel threatened by the superior size, strength, and independence of aggressive males, they have effectively used the legislative process to effectively nullify the physical advantages that men possess. Today it is a serious crime to demonstrate or even mention violence. Although many of these laws have been created simply to "tame the savage beast", feminists and feminist sympathizers have effectively gelded the American male.

As Lionel Tiger explains in *The Decline of Males*, "There has been a dramatic redefinition of traditional roles largely by feminist leaders." Disparities between the sexes have been prohibited by law, resulting in low moral among men as well as feelings of "resentment, demoralization, and confusion." (60) Whereas the women are gaining power that they have never before enjoyed through these role shifts, men are becoming more powerless.

The ease of contraception now available to women has further negated the power of men to propagate their genes and a wife can abort their offspring without even consulting her husband. Lionel Tiger stresses the fact that after nearly fifty years of female-controlled contraception made possible by "the pill", there has been a dramatic redefinition of traditional roles largely by feminist leaders. The inequalities that existed in the past have been outlawed, and women have gained many advantages, often to the disadvantage of men. "Many men feel that their moral worth has been denigrated, and this has caused a great deal of resentment, demoralization, and confusion." Also, we are subjected to insulting T-shirt slogans like "A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle." from the likes of Gloria Steinem. (60)

Yet women continue to be portrayed as victims. The fact that there are fewer women in some professions such as mechanical engineering is attributed entirely to prejudice and hidden barriers. The possibility that, on average, women might be inherently less interested than men in

certain pursuits is similarly unspeakable. The point is not that we know that evolution or genetics are relevant to explaining these phenomena, but that the very possibility is often treated as an unmentionable taboo rather than as a testable hypothesis. Larry Summers was forced to resign from his position as president at Harvard University in 2005 after making an off-hand remark at a conference about considering research as to whether innate differences regarding men and women's proficiency at math and science affected the ratio of male to female professors in higher level math and science classes. (Summers) Our society is in serious trouble if we can't even question the gender equity dogma spewed forth from feminist "equity experts."

In her popular book titled *In a Different Voice*, Carol Gilligan, a professor at Harvard University, complains that the God of monotheistic religions is always portrayed as a male. She criticizes the bible story of Adam and Eve in which the woman was portrayed as the deviant. She also resents the fact that Sigmund Freud attributed psychological problems suffered by women to "penis envy". She goes on to claim that although male aggressiveness has been thought to be instinctual, male violence actually is caused by men's lack of communication skills and their ignorance regarding human relationships. (4-6)

The popular American novelist Marilyn French expressed the views held by many feminists in an interview she gave to The New York Times in July 1995 when she made the following statements: "I think men would be much happier if they behaved like women. I think they would get much more out of life and would have much more easier selves if they were like women, if they behaved like women." (French)

High grades in school and educational degrees are increasingly being used as a basis for job hiring and professional advancement. This results in discrimination against men in general because they are not as likely as women to excel in an academic environment. The ratio of male students compared to female students enrolled in our nation's colleges has been declining for

many years and their graduation rates are much lower than for females. Men now make up only 40% of the nation's college students and a lower percentage will graduate. (Lewin)

Today government programs have taken over many of the roles that were traditionally provided by men resulting in men becoming less and less valued in their traditional roles as fathers. In 1996 half of all births in New York City were to single mothers. (Tiger 68) Although there has been criticism about "creeping socialism" and the growing "welfare state", government involvement in family matters continues to grow. According to the insightful and influential George Gilder, although white men experience much suffering caused by the mental abuse and discriminatory treatment from the "equity experts", black men suffer even more.

Gilder documents the many unintended consequences the multitude of government programs that undermine the value of the American black man. An unwed black woman can obtain such large amounts of government aid that it often doesn't make economic sense for her to marry. The result is that the self-image of many black men and many black families have been seriously damaged by the very government programs "designed" to help them. (148-150).

The disparagement of males is also exemplified by the ways in which the highly emotional topic of sexual abuse has been exploited in order to greatly expand the definition of improper male behavior and make it illegal. This is an area of the law where a man is often assumed to be guilty simply because a female has accused him.. Section 290 of the California penal code is known as the "Sex Offender Registration Act." It requires every person convicted of violating any section of over thirty-five different sections of the penal code since 1944 to register with the authorities in the city or county in which that person resides. These individuals must comply with this requirement for the rest of their life while residing, attending school, or working in California. (Cal. Penal Code §290. 1 Jan. 1947) These individuals must suffer the embarrassment of having their actual name, picture, and other personal information posed an

Internet-based database available to the public at <http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/>. Every real estate agent in California is required to inform all buyers or renters about this database.

In addition to mentally castrating males by publically ridiculing them through the Internet, in 1996, California became the first state to enact a draconian measure that gives a person convicted of any one from a wide variety of sexual offenses the choice to either spend the rest of their life in jail or, at the discretion of the court, undergo physical or chemical castration. (Cal. Penal Code §645. 1 Jan 1996)

At the end of her lengthy book, feminist Susan Faludi concludes that the only chance males have of reaching fulfillment is to surrender the dying traces of their masculinity and join women in searching for new mindsets that will "open doors for both sexes." (607-608)

The highly acclaimed feminist Sandra Lee Bartky summarizes the opinions of many feminists when she states that humans are fundamentally androgynous at birth, and are "transformed [by our society] into male and female gender personalities, the one destined to command, the other to obey." (50) More and more "mothers and female teachers...believe that the key to producing a non-violent [male] adult is to remove all conflict – toy weapons, wrestling, shoving, and imaginary explosions and crashes – from a boy's life." (1)

Paul Nathanson and Katherine Young state in *Spreading Misandry* that since the 1980s the study of gender in college implies the study of victimization of women by men and also why men should feel the collective guilt for the multitude of problems in our society that are caused by them. Implication of a typical class synopsis: Women are good—men are evil.

A commonly expressed analysis and solution to the angst felt by alienated males in our society is exemplified by Ronald Levant in his book *Masculinity Reconstructed*, chooses to ignore the existence of inherent masculine traits and claims that "our old masculine ways don't cut it anymore," and that our future success "hinges on our ability to develop the more traditional

feminine skill of being sensitive and responsive to other people's feelings." (2) His message seems to be "Men must repent, give up their evil ways, and become more like women."

The response of many self-respecting males to those who share Ronald Levant's view would likely be: "Stick it!"

The day may hopefully come when, as a society, we again acknowledge the inherent worth of males and recognize the value of evolutionary theory as a legitimate component in studying the social behavior of all animal species. Everyone who is truly interested in understanding the true nature of ourselves will surely welcome that day. As Chuck Palahniuk states in the last sentence in *Fight Club*, "We look forward to getting you back." (208)

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