

## **Euthanasia**

How does legalization of abortion open the way to legalization of euthanasia?	Some assert that we are easily sliding from abortion to euthanasia. Despite all, aren't we dealing with very different problems?	How could German society be led to organize mass extermination?
Did not economic factors reinforce the perverse influence of this irrational vitalism?		

### **How does legalization of abortion open the way to legalization of euthanasia ?**

The conception of human life that inspires promoters of euthanasia is fundamentally the same as for promoters of abortion. Both believe that human life makes no sense except for pleasure, interest or utility. If someone is an obstacle to one's personal enjoyment, if he is useless, one can do away with him. If someone cannot live a life of pleasure, his life can be suppressed.

This last remark shows that there is a real link between eugenics (today euphemistically called *orthogenics*) and euthanasia: whether it is a question of an infant or an older sick person, their existence is not admissible unless they don't bother us or if they can enjoy pleasure.

Therein we see that a hedonist society, one which maximizes the search for pleasure, fatally degenerates into a society of violence and death.

### **Some assert that we are easily sliding from abortion to euthanasia.**

## **Despite all, aren't we dealing with very different problems?**

a) We must insist on a fact: in countries in which abortion was legalized, projects or proposals rapidly arose to make laws authorizing euthanasia. Moreover, among those who fight for euthanasia, we also find people who fight for abortion.

b) We also know that in order to legalize abortion, people almost always began by breaking the law and defying the judges – all that in order to change the law. The tactic of *fait accompli* is also found in the case of euthanasia: they engage in it in order to legalize it eventually. This process of legalization follows a proven schema. At first timidly expressed, combated, lost sight of, revised proposals surface with implacable insistence. Little by little they tame public opinion and bring the reluctance of legislators to an end. They often finish by "triumphing" thanks to the "tactic of dispensation".

c) Contemporary history shows us also that the promoters of euthanasia have sometimes used another route to achieve their end. Nazi Germany, for example, had regulated abortion; it facilitated it for the so-called impure races but opposed it for the Aryan race. But it was above all sterilization on a grand scale that prepared minds to allow euthanasia.

## **How could German society be led to organize mass extermination?**

In Germany the Nazi ideology had been prepared by theorists' exaltation of the Aryan race's superiority. The so-called superiority, of a biological nature essentially, presented the race as one of masters. This superior race, and the superhuman which characterized it, considers itself exempt from good and evil in morality.

Here we are dealing with an *irrational vitalism* whose inevitable corollary is *nihilism* and the fascination with death. The whole of society is organized to serve the protection of the race's purity, always threatened with degeneration by the weak. Starting from that point, Hitler's Germany organized the sterilizations, abortions and euthanasia, as well as the "final solution" according to discriminatory criteria.

## **Did not economic factors reinforce the perverse influence of this irrational vitalism?**

After the First World War, Hindenburg instituted in Germany an obligatory, strictly regulated economy. The application of this regulation was entrusted to a network of omnipresent bureaucrats.

It was notably by this means that the General opened the way for Hitler, whose thought, moreover, was steeped in irrational vitalism. Named chancellor by Hindenburg in 1933, Hitler found at his disposal a bureaucratic apparatus put in place precisely to rule the economy. And, profiting from the organization controlling economic life, he had no difficulty in controlling all of society.