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Critics Blast Trump's 'Good Genes' Rally Call As A Chilling Echo Of Hitler's Eugenics

Trump is "gleefully" embracing "incredibly dangerous white nationalist tropes and ideas," said a spokesperson for the Jewish organization J Street.

By Mary Papenfuss

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Critics continue to tear into President Donald Trump's shocking praise for Minnesota's "good genes" as chillingly reminiscent of Adolf Hitler's murderous eugenics policy.

Holocaust historian Steve Silberman on Sunday called Trump's determination of who possesses worthy genes "indistinguishable from the Nazi rhetoric that led to Jews, disabled people, LGBTQ, Romani and others being exterminated."

A spokesperson for the progressive Jewish advocacy organization J Street told HuffPost on Monday: "Again and again, President Trump and his allies publicly, gleefully embrace incredibly dangerous white nationalist tropes and ideas."

It's "clear the president's far-right worldview poses an unprecedented threat to refugees, immigrants and vulnerable minorities in this country – one of the many reasons why he faces vehement opposition from the large majority of American Jewish voters," said J Street communications director Logan Bayroff.

Trump last week pointedly praised Minnesotans' genes at a campaign rally in a state that's 84% white and where German and Scandinavian ancestry dominates. In the same speech, he mocked refugees and attacked three Democratic congresswomen of color: New York's Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Michigan's Rashida Tlaib and Minnesota's Ilhan Omar.

"You have good genes, you know that, right?" Trump told the crowd of overwhelmingly white supporters Friday. "A lot of it is about the genes, isn't it, don't you believe?" he added. "The racehorse theory. You think we're so different? You have good genes in Minnesota."

The "racehorse theory" of genetics holds that some human beings are born genetically superior to others.

Halie Soifer, executive director of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, characterized Trump's remarks as "eugenics" — basing a human being's worth on genes. "It was used by Nazis to justify genocide," she tweeted. "Today, it's used by white nationalists — & apparently the @POTUS — to justify hate."

Epidemiologist Eric Feigl-Ding, a senior fellow of the Federation of American Scientists, called Trump's remarks "master race eugenics rhetoric" and warned: "Don't ignore."

Silberman, whose book “NeuroTribes” includes an examination of the killing of disabled children by the Nazis, also linked Trump’s speech to “Nazi rhetoric.” He added: “This is America 2020. This is where the GOP has taken us.”

Trump believes in the racehorse theory for humans and is convinced that he was destined to be a leader because of his own superior genes, according to one of his biographers, Michael D’Antonio. Trump doesn’t believe he needs to study or read or consult with experts because he already has the knowledge he requires and has an innate ability to instinctively know what to do, he told The Washington Post in 2016.

Barack Obama is a different story, however, according to Trump. He told D’Antonio that an understanding of human relationships “is not in” the former president’s “DNA.”

Trump complimented British business leaders in 2018 on their “great bloodlines” and “amazing DNA,” Business Insider reported.

Earlier this year, Trump sparked a major controversy when he praised notorious anti-Semite Henry Ford, founder of the Ford Motor Co., as having “good bloodlines.”