

Society of Catholic Social Scientists Catholic Social Science Review

Dec. 16, 2005

Edwin Black
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Black:

We are publishing the following statement with regard to a recent review of your book on eugenics *War Against the Weak* which appeared in the *Catholic Social Science Review*. Because our publication is an annual, this notice will not be printed until Fall 2006. The notice is shown below.

Thank you very much for calling your concerns to our attention.



Mark Lowery
Editor, *Catholic Social Science Review*

To be Published:

In a recent review (Volume 10) of Edwin Black's award-winning bestseller on eugenics, *War Against the Weak*, our reviewer asserted in unqualified terms that "Black is clearly biased in favor of abortion" and later referred without qualification to "Black's pro-abortion bias." In fact, Black is unalterably opposed to all forms of abortion, and has gone on record stating as much. Elsewhere, the review criticized Black for portraying DNA pioneer James Watson as a "humanitarian" when Watson has advocated infanticide for so-called imperfect children. In fact, however, *War Against the Weak* offers no approval of Watson's views on this question and indeed contains an explicit criticism of Watson's eugenic opinions. Finally, the review used Black's supposed "advocacy of abortion" to link him "inexorably with euthanasia." In fact, Black has been a lifelong crusader against all forms of passive and active euthanasia and much of his book is devoted to this topic. Black invented the word eugenicide to depict eugenic euthanasia. We wish to correct the record and regret the misimpressions created by the review. We are happy to note that our review was elsewhere overwhelmingly positive, calling the book "extensively documented and provid[ing] important historical perspective on the history of eugenics in the United States."