

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-45753-8 - Faces of Degeneration: A European Disorder, c. 1848 - c. 1918

Daniel Pick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

IDEAS IN CONTEXT

FACES OF DEGENERATION

A European Disorder, c. 1848–c. 1918

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-45753-8 - Faces of Degeneration: A European Disorder, c. 1848 - c. 1918

Daniel Pick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

IDEAS IN CONTEXT

Edited by Quentin Skinner (General Editor),
Lorraine Daston, Wolf Lepenies, Richard Rorty and J. B. Schneewind

The books in this series will discuss the emergence of intellectual traditions and of related new disciplines. The procedures, aims and vocabularies that were generated will be set in the context of the alternatives available within the contemporary frameworks of ideas and institutions. Through detailed studies of the evolution of such traditions, and their modification by different audiences, it is hoped that a new picture will form of the development of ideas in their concrete contexts. By this means, artificial distinctions between the history of philosophy, of the various sciences, of society and politics, and of literature may be seen to dissolve.

The series is published with the support of the Exxon Foundation

A list of books in the series will be found at the end of the volume.

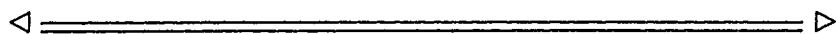
Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-45753-8 - Faces of Degeneration: A European Disorder, c. 1848 - c. 1918

Daniel Pick

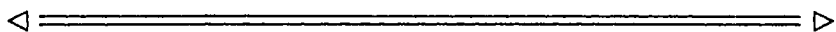
Frontmatter

[More information](#)



FACES OF DEGENERATION

A European Disorder, c. 1848 – c. 1918



DANIEL PICK

Lecturer in History,

Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-45753-8 - Faces of Degeneration: A European Disorder, c. 1848 - c. 1918

Daniel Pick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211 USA
 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1989

First published 1989

First paperback edition 1993

Reprinted 1996

British Library cataloguing in publication data

Pick, Daniel

Faces of degeneration: a European disorder,
 c. 1848–c. 1918. – (Ideas in context)

1. Society. Degeneration. Theories, 1848–1918

I. Title II. Series

303.4'5

Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data

Pick, Daniel.

Faces of degeneration : a European disorder, c. 1848–c. 1918 / Daniel
 Pick.

p. cm. – (Ideas in context)

Bibliography.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-521-36021-8

1. Degeneration – History – 19th century. 2. Europe – Social
 conditions – 1789–1900. I. Title. II. Series.

HM111.P54 1989 89-31452 CIP

306'.094—dc20

ISBN 0 521 36021 8 hardback

ISBN 0 521 45753 X paperback

Transferred to digital printing 1999

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	vii
<i>Notes on the text</i>	viii
1 Contexts	1
PART I FRANCE	
2 <i>Dégénérescence</i> and revolution	37
3 Zola's prognosis	74
4 The wake of <i>dégénérescence</i>	97
PART II ITALY	
5 Lombroso's criminal science	109
PART III ENGLAND	
6 Fictions of degeneration	155
7 Crime, urban degeneration and national decadence	176
8 Concluding remarks	222
<i>Bibliography</i>	241
<i>Index</i>	271

PLATES

1 and 2	The medico-psychological investigation of Zola (from E. Toulouse, <i>Emile Zola. Enquête médico-psychologique sur la supériorité intellectuelle</i> , Paris, 1896)	page 77
3	'Criminal skulls' (from C. Lombroso, <i>L'uomo delinquente</i> , Turin, 1889), vol. I)	123
4	'Faces of criminality' (from Lombroso, <i>L'uomo delinquente</i> , I)	124
5	'Faces of criminality' (from Lombroso, <i>L'uomo delinquente</i> , II)	125
6	'Faces of criminality' (from <i>Archivio di psichiatria, antropologia criminale e scienza penale</i> , vol. 6, 1885)	127
7 and 8	In search of a scientific physiognomy of the criminal (from S. Ottolenghi, <i>Trattato di polizia scientifica</i> , Milan, 1910, vol. I)	133–4
9	Galton's composite photography machine (from K. Pearson, <i>The Life, Letters and Labours of Francis Galton</i> , 1924, vol. II)	163
10	Criminal composites (from Pearson, <i>The Life, Letters and Labours of Francis Galton</i> , II)	164

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-45753-8 - Faces of Degeneration: A European Disorder, c. 1848 - c. 1918

Daniel Pick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

Amongst those who have advised and helped me during my research, I would particularly like to thank Gareth Stedman Jones, who as supervisor of the thesis on which this book is based provided invaluable guidance and insight; in addition, I am greatly indebted to Tony Tanner for patiently reading and discussing my work at various stages and giving so much support. I would also especially like to acknowledge Isobel Banks, Eric Brenman, Roy Porter, Jennifer Davis, Simon Schaffer, Gillian Beer, Quentin Skinner, Michael Neve, Paul Ginsborg, Stephen Heath and David Feldman, all of whom have generously given up time at some stage of this project to make specific comments on the material or to offer encouragement and observations. But no one, needless to say, can bear responsibility for the limitations and deficiencies which remain except myself. I would like to express thanks to Sylvia Sylvester for her kind and efficient help with the production of the final text. The Economic and Social Research Council, the Political Science Fund (Cambridge University), the British Academy and Christ's College, Cambridge have provided grants which enabled me to carry out various research visits to France and Italy. I must also record my gratitude to the Master and Fellows of Christ's for electing me to a Research Fellowship in 1986.

It is, however, to my mother that I owe the most; and it is to her that I dedicate this book.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-45753-8 - Faces of Degeneration: A European Disorder, c. 1848 - c. 1918

Daniel Pick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

NOTES ON THE TEXT

Where the footnotes to quotations rendered in English refer to a foreign language source, the translation is mine. For the sake of clarity, I have also frequently translated foreign titles in the main text whilst indicating the original in both the accompanying reference and in the bibliography. I leave the term 'dégénérescence' in the French, since, as will be emphasised below, it often carries quite specific connotations and resonances which are important in my argument. Footnote entries qualified by '(per.)' and '(diss.)' refer the reader to the periodical and dissertation sections of the bibliography. Italics are in the passages I quote unless otherwise stated. I have tried whenever possible to refer to easily accessible editions of the novels which are discussed below. An earlier version of my account of Lombroso and Italian criminal anthropology in part II was published in *History Workshop Journal*, issue 21 (Spring 1986) and the discussion of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* in part III has appeared in a slightly more extended form in *Critical Quarterly*, 30 no. 4 (Winter 1988).