## The Eight Semantics of Oppression

**by William Brennan**

Dehumanizing the Vulnerable

- **DEFICIENT HUMAN**
- **NON HUMAN**
- **ANIMAL**
- **PARASITE**
- **DISEASE**
- **INANIMATE OBJECT**
- **WASTE PRODUCT**
- **NONPERSON**

| NATIVE AMERICANS | “INDIANS [are]...inferior to the Anglo-Saxon.” (Henry Clay, Sec. of State, 1825) |
| AFRICAN AMERICANS | “A subordinate and inferior class of beings.” (U.S. Supreme Court, 1857) |
| SOVIET ENEMIES | “The inferior Jewish race.” (Dr. Rudolph Ramm, 1943) |
| EUROPEAN JEWS | “They [women] form...the second sex, inferior in every respect to the first.” (A. Schopenhauer, 1851) |
| WOMEN | “The fetus, at most, represents only the potentiality of life.” (U.S. Supreme Court, 1973) |
| UNWANTED UNBORN | “A life...devoid of those qualities which give it human dignity.” (Dr. Harry Hartzell, 1978) |
| DEPENDENT DISCARDS | “A subordinate and inferior class of beings.” (U.S. Supreme Court, 1857) |

### Examples:

- **DEFICIENT HUMAN**
  - “INDIANS [are]...inferior to the Anglo-Saxon.” (Henry Clay, Sec. of State, 1825)

- **NON HUMAN**
  - “The negro is not a human person.” (U.S. Supreme Court, 1857)

- **ANIMAL**
  - “The negro is one of the lower animals.” (Professor Charles Carroll, 1900)

- **PARASITE**
  - “They [Negroes] are parasites.” (Dr. E.T. Brady, 1909)

- **DISEASE**
  - “The negro race is...a heritage of organic and psychic debris.” (Dr. William English, 1903)

- **INANIMATE OBJECT**
  - “A subordinate and inferior class of beings.” (U.S. Supreme Court, 1857)

- **WASTE PRODUCT**
  - “The Reichsgericht itself refused to recognize Jews...as ‘persons’ in the legal sense.” (German Supreme Court, 1936)

- **NONPERSON**
  - “An Indian is not a person within the meaning of the Constitution.” (George Canfield, Am. Law Rev., 1881)