



# FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) - while claiming to represent the “mainstream” of the American anti-immigrant movement - is a carefully crafted entity whose mission is to achieve the goal of zero immigration to the U.S. by blaming immigrants as the cause of economic, population and environmental problems. As the pivotal player in the John Tanton Network, a web of controversial anti-immigrant organizations orchestrated by John Tanton, FAIR pulls the strings of today’s anti-immigrant movement.

Ironically Tanton, who has been called the “father of the anti-immigration movement,” is himself the son of an immigrant. His father left Canada during the Great Depression for Detroit, Michigan where he was born Feb. 23, 1934 the first of three children.

After unsuccessfully trying to convert environmental and zero population growth groups to his anti-immigration views, Tanton founded the Washington, D.C.-based FAIR in 1979. Tanton was chairman for the first eight years of its existence and continues to sit on its board of directors. In spite of FAIR’s and John Tanton’s claim of mainstream respectability, both have long histories of working with and financially supporting white nationalist groups and leaders with virulent anti-immigration agendas.

John Tanton’s tentacles reach deep into white supremacist and anti-Semitic organizations. The founder of FAIR has financially supported platforms to debate pseudo-scientific research (racial eugenics) purporting to show that African Americans and Latinos are mentally inferior to whites because of their genetic makeup. Tanton’s activism with regard to racial eugenics is based on the disturbing belief that those identified as the most productive “gene pool of the human stock” should be the ones with access to and control over scarce resources.

While the false science of racial eugenics lost respectability after the crimes of Nazi Europe in the 1940s, Tanton still clings to these beliefs. In *The Case for Passive Eugenics*, Tanton does not overtly distance himself from Adolf Hitler’s application of eugenics to “cleanse” the German population. He writes instead that “Hitler’s reign in Nazi Germany did little to advance the discussion of eugenics among sensitive persons.”

In 1995 correspondence to Harry Weyher (former president of the white supremacist Pioneer Fund) on racial eugenics, Tanton questions the sexuality of Asian men by claiming that “Male Orientals are less well equipped than those of some other groups.” Despite Tanton’s offensive public pronouncements, the leadership of FAIR has refused to publicly rebuke and distance themselves from him. Tanton remains a board member of the organization. Perhaps this is unsurprising considering that:

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- FAIR sponsored advertising campaigns with John Vinson's American Immigration Control Foundation (according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, Vinson is an advisor to the white nationalist Council of Conservative Citizens).
- FAIR has given grants directly to Glenn Spencer's Voices of Citizens Together, a group which preaches a crude, anti-Mexican conspiracy theory. In 2002, Spencer was a featured speaker at the American Renaissance annual conference, a white nationalist organization championed by David Duke and the Council of Conservative Citizens.
- FAIR solicited and received over \$1.2 million from the white supremacist Pioneer Fund, a foundation that has a history of promoting the genetic superiority of white, European-Americans. The Pioneer Fund uses its financial largesse to fund groups who promote "race-betterment" – a controversial theory that claims there is a biologically-caused IQ difference between white and non-white people.
- In response to public concern and confusion about FAIR's solicitation of funding from the Pioneer Fund, FAIR president Dan Stein has been quoted as saying, "I don't give a sh\*t what they do with their money, my job is to get every dime of Pioneer's money," according to an article published by The Progressive in 1993.
- Two of FAIR's former staffers have been associated with the Council of Conservative Citizens, the reconstituted, segregationist White Citizens' Councils. FAIR's former western field representative, Rick Oltman, is also listed as a member of the Council of Conservative Citizens.
- In 1997, FAIR (along with other extremist anti-immigrant groups) published an advertisement in the Citizens Informer, the flagship publication of Council of Conservative Citizens, to recruit supporters to attend its events.
- FAIR founder John Tanton works closely with Wayne Lutton to edit his publication, The Social Contract. Lutton is also a Board of Director for the Charles Martel Society, an anti-Semitic organization that publishes the Occidental Quarterly.

*To obtain source information, contact the Center for New Community*



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