

Physician-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

**Before, During, and
After the Holocaust**

Edited by
Sheldon Rubenfeld and Daniel P. Sulmasy

With Astrid Ley

LEXINGTON BOOKS
Lanham • Boulder • New York • London

Contents

List of Tables	xi
Acknowledgments	xiii
Introduction	1
<i>Sheldon Rubenfeld</i>	
PART I: THE HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS OF PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA IN EUROPE	
1 On a Slippery Slope: The Historical Debate on Euthanasia in Germany	29
<i>Gerrit Hohendorf</i>	
2 International and German Eugenics from ca. 1880 up to Post- World War II Period: Medical Expertise—Political Ambition— Relations to Euthanasia in the Nazi Context	45
<i>Volker Roelcke</i>	
3 Euthanasia in Nazi Germany: Children’s Euthanasia Program, <i>Aktion T4</i> , and Decentralized Killing	59
<i>Gerrit Hohendorf</i>	
4 Ethics and Ideology for Future Doctors: How Nazi Values Were Taught in the German Medical Curriculum 1939–1945	77
<i>Florian Bruns</i>	
5 A Protagonist’s View of Euthanasia in the Netherlands Today	89
<i>Eduard (A.A.E.) Verhagen</i>	
6 The Case Against Physician-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia	113
<i>Stephan Sahm</i>	

7	Palliative Medicine and the Debate on Physician-Assisted Death in Germany <i>H. Christof Müller-Busch</i>	129
PART II: PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA AFTER THE HOLOCAUST		
8	Helping the Few: Historical Perspectives on Aid in Dying <i>Barron H. Lerner</i>	143
9	Palliative Care, Hospice, and Last-Resort Options <i>Timothy E. Quill</i>	155
10	Race and Physician-Assisted Death: Do Black Lives Matter? <i>Alan Elbaum and LaVera Crawley</i>	171
11	Understanding the Role of Suffering in Legalized Physician-Assisted Dying <i>Robert A. Pearlman</i>	193
12	Physician Countertransference and Patient Requests for a Hastened Death <i>Diane E. Meier</i>	207
13	The Value of Life vs. the Principle of Autonomy <i>Avraham Steinberg</i>	223
14	The Distinction Between Voluntary and Involuntary Euthanasia and the Critical Role of Eugenics <i>James Downar</i>	233
15	Euthanasia Old and New: Lives Not Worth Living and Unequal Respect for Autonomy <i>Scott Y. H. Kim</i>	247
16	Can a Person Ever Be “Not Useful”? A Critical Analysis of the Anthropological Roots of Euthanasia Under National Socialism and Today <i>Ashley K. Fernandes</i>	261
17	The Best Physicians Are Destined for Hell <i>Kenneth Prager</i>	277
18	Pediatric Euthanasia: A Call for Civil Disobedience <i>Eric Kodish</i>	291
19	“The Syringe Belongs in the Hand of a Physician”: Power, Authority, Control, Death, and the Patient-Physician Relationship <i>Daniel P. Sulmasy</i>	299
	Index	325
	About the Contributors	339