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Infancy
Childhood and Society

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Erikson(Norton/

or a culture, may linger excessively over trust and proceed from I over II 2 to II 2, or an accelerated progression may move from I I over II 1 to II 2. Each such acceleration or (relative) retardation, however, is assumed to have a modifying influence on all later stages.

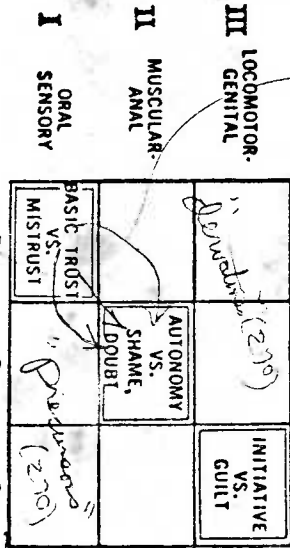


Figure 11

An epigenetic diagram thus lists a system of stages dependent on each other; and while individual stages may have been explored more or less thoroughly or named more or less fittingly, the diagram suggests that their study be pursued always with the total configuration of stages in mind. The diagram invites, then, a thinking through of all its empty boxes: if we have entered Basic I Trust in I and Integrity in VIII 8, we leave the question open, as to what trust might have become in a stage dominated by the need for integrity even as we have left open what it may look like and, indeed, be called in the stage dominated by a striving for autonomy (II 1). All we mean to emphasize is that trust must have developed in its own right, before it becomes something more in the critical encounter in which autonomy develops—and so on, up the vertical. If, in the last stage (VIII 1), we would expect trust to have developed into the most mature faith that an aging person can muster in his cultural setting and historical period, the chart permits the consideration not only of what old age can be, but also what its preparatory stages must

Eight Ages of Man

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have been. All of this should make it clear that a chart of epigenesis suggests a global form of thinking and rethinking which leaves details of methodology and terminology to further study.*

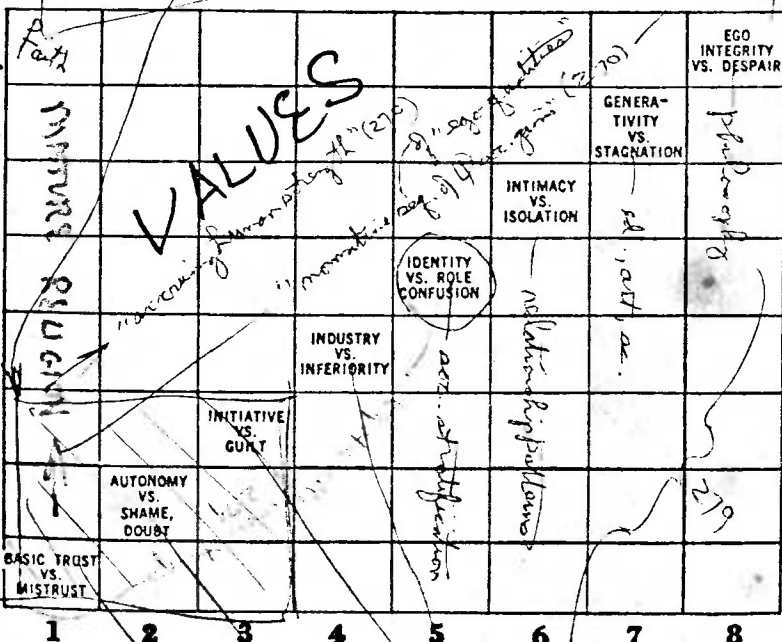


FIGURE 12

*To have that matter truly open, certain measures of the whole conception would have to be avoided. Among them is the suggestion that the sense of trust (and all the other "generative" or "productive" or "creative" or "innovative" or "new" and so on) is a green state. In fact, these words are an accident and making