

# Sailing the Malthusian Sea

Underlying every social maladjustment is an economic error. Until the error is understood and corrected, the maladjustment will continue. For behavior can be explained only in the light of understanding.

A boat containing nine hundred souls is floundering about in the Caribbean Sea. Running away from one country where the right to live has been denied them, they find that those in control of other parts of the world also deem them undesirable. They are not permitted to land. They are not permitted to live.

Why? It is not because of their race or religion—although that is the ostensible reason. The whole world has immigration quotas and “exclusion acts,” which apply to peoples of varying nationalities; none is excepted. It is not because they are unwilling to add to the common store of wealth—in fact, their ability to produce too much is frequently given as an excuse for their undesirability. It is not because of anything—except an economic error.

That error is that there are more people in the world than the earth can support. Or, as that befuddled English cleric, Mr. Malthus, put it, population increases faster than the means of subsistence. Nature has made the mistake of putting more people on this planet than can be taken care of, but nature has also provided a Caribbean Sea in which to sink them. Nature has, apparently, also provided the wise rulers to do her bidding.

Untenable and ridiculous as this idea is, it has nevertheless persisted in the public mind, aided and abetted by the pundits who purvey knowledge, by our politicians whose understanding is inferior only to their honesty. Until we un-teach ourselves this economic falsehood—propagated for the vicious purpose of justifying the poverty of the many, the privileges of the few—we shall never be able to solve our social maladjustment, of which the so-called Jewish question is only a phase.

Nature provides nothing—except the opportunity to labor. Man lives only by what he produces, and lives according to his ability to produce. He

can produce the things he needs and wants only by altering or moving the things he finds on this earth. And nature has never been lacking in providing him with these things. It has never been niggardly. Until nature ceases to operate, until man's ability to utilize its forces disintegrates, nature will always provide enough.

Provided, of course, that man's access to nature is not denied. It is to this denial of the use of the earth that we must look for the cause of all our social maladjustments—of all our “minority” problems. It is true that we have millions of unemployed in this country—in all countries—and that more population anywhere, more births, would merely add to our fund of hardships. But, it is not true that any living, physically sound person is unable to earn a livelihood. There never has been, never will be, a “surplus” population.

Likewise, there never has been and never will be a “race” question. This fiction has been foisted on us merely as an excuse for the maintenance of the status quo. Some explanation, other than the true one, must be given by those who live on the labor of others to justify the apparently unjustifiable, unnatural state of affairs which results from their robbery of labor.

There are no races, there are no classes, there are no innate differences between peoples. Economically there are only workers and non-workers. The story that there are “undesirable” or “surplus” peoples who must be got rid of was invented by the non-workers to hide from the workers the cause for the depressed condition of the many, the reason for the luxurious living of the few: the private ownership of the Earth.

And until that error is rectified, not only will ships of “undesirables” be floating about in oceans of barbarity, but our ships of state, laden with millions of unemployed, manned by privilege and corruption, will flounder about in the seas of war, hatred, destruction, until the seams burst, the will to go on against the insurmountable waves fails, and this civilization goes down to meet its predecessors.