

THE DECAY OF CAPITALIST CIVILISATION

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649003525

The decay of capitalist civilisation by Sidney Webb & Beatrice Webb

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

SIDNEY WEBB & BEATRICE WEBB

**THE DECAY OF
CAPITALIST
CIVILISATION**

71

THE DECAY
OF CAPITALIST CIVILISATION



THE DECAY OF CAPITALIST
CIVILISATION. BY SIDNEY
AND BEATRICE WEBB

THIRD EDITION

PUBLISHED BY THE FABIAN SOCIETY,
25 TOTHILL STREET, WESTMINSTER; AND
BY GEORGE ALLEN AND UNWIN, LIMITED.

1923.

HB

501

P35

1923



PREFACE

WE may as well forestall the obvious criticism that this little book is not "constructive." It is not intended to supply a plan of reconstruction. For such a plan, in considerable detail, the reader is referred to the works advertised in the final pages; and particularly to *A Constitution for the Socialist Commonwealth of Great Britain*, and, on another plane, *The Prevention of Destitution*; or, in the form of a political programme, the pamphlet of the British Labour Party, *Labour and the New Social Order* (33 Eccleston Square, London. Price Threepence).

We gratefully acknowledge the help of various friends, who will excuse the omission of their names. But we cannot refrain from expressing our deepest gratitude to our oldest friend and comrade, Mr. Bernard Shaw, who kindly undertook the revision of the proofs in the midst of a General Election when we were otherwise engaged.

41 GROSVENOR ROAD,
WESTMINSTER, *January 1923.*

[The opportunity of a Second Impression has been taken to correct various verbal and literal errors, principally in the quotations and references.]



CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	v
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER I	
THE POVERTY OF THE POOR	7
CHAPTER II	
INEQUALITY OF INCOME	16
CHAPTER III	
INEQUALITY IN PERSONAL FREEDOM	45
CHAPTER IV	
THE INITIAL SUCCESS OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM	63
CHAPTER V	
THE EVENTUAL FAILURE OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM	85 —
CHAPTER VI	
THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM AS A CAUSE OF WAR	147
INDEX	178