

**THE NEW MORALITY; AN
INTERPRETATION OF PRESENT
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
FORCES AND TENDENCIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649293711

The new morality; an interpretation of present social and economic forces and tendencies by
Edward Isaacson

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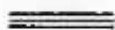
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BY

EDWARD ISAACSON



UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

NEW YORK
MOFFAT, YARD AND COMPANY
1913

HB 871
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Indonesian (Kluksun)
TO THE
AMERICAN

PREFACE

HANSEN's theory of the *Bevölkerungsstrom*, or population current, is in sociology what the theory of the circulation of the blood is in medicine. This book owes much to him. My earlier data have been drawn largely from American conditions; the differences between them and those in Germany, which Dr. Hansen knows best, led me to my first new idea — that the nearness or remoteness of the Malthusian limit is the key to these differences in conditions.

This brought me to the theoretical consideration of a static condition, and the generalization of a two-class system, which covers Hansen's three classes in a different perspective, and seems the logical extreme. This gives a long-needed division of the troublesome question as to whether the family or the individual is the unit of society. Provide recognition for both, in distinct classes necessitated by understood conditions, and the whole social organism seems simplified.

As the book grew, it appeared that the keynote to the forces and movements involved in the discussion is not economic but pedagogical; it is what Solomon and Socrates and Confucius have all told us: that wisdom is better than riches. In other

words, what makes a fecund class is not the possession of land, but the intelligence which enables them to get and hold control of the first condition of existence — food supply; and the permanence of the land-holding class is due to the educative influence of their mode of life, which automatically makes abler men of them than life in the cities does. The same pedagogical key — conditions which make automatically one environment or mode of life contribute more to intelligence and will-power than another, appears in other lines of thought in the book.

If I had had more time and opportunity, I should have verified quantitatively many of the data which I have used in a general way. It makes, however, no difference with the main theses if the facts differ by centuries or millions of square miles from the estimates I have used, which are in all cases the best accessible to me. The quantitative facts in many cases are not known accurately to anyone. Many of the straight lines in the diagrams are generalizations of curves which could be actually plotted if statistics were available.

I have no desire to initiate any propaganda in favor of the establishment of a system of society different from the present one; I have simply taken up what seems to be an actual tendency in the normal course of evolution, and thought it out to the logical extreme. It has thrown much light for me upon many of the puzzling questions of the day, and I hope it may do the same for others. If new argu-

PREFACE

ix

ments can be drawn from the book in favor of such recognized salutary measures as the "Back to the land" movement and efforts for world peace, and against over-hasty Socialism and indiscriminate charity, I shall be glad to have contributed my mite to the work of human progress.

E. I.

NOTE TO THE AMERICAN EDITION

This book is published in England with the title, "THE MALTHUSIAN LIMIT: A THEORY OF A POSSIBLE STATIC CONDITION FOR THE HUMAN RACE."

While that is clearly a logical title for the contents of the book as a scientific thesis, it says nothing as to the practical lessons to be drawn from it; it has therefore seemed to the author and publishers that the American reader will get a more definite idea of something of interest in the book under the title chosen.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

PAGE

Rapid increase in the numbers of the human race; due to increased facilities of transportation—Possible full population of the earth before A. D. 2200—Possible delay by increased production of food, but Malthusian limit inevitable in time—Rapid occupation of new countries—Problem of static condition must be met	ix
--	----

CHAPTER I

POPULAR OPINION OF CITY AND COUNTRY LIFE

City population recruited from the country—Vices in cities; soundness of country life basis of national prosperity—Cities important for higher successes—Fruition stage of society; growth stage in country—City has produced great men, but generally of patrician stock—Country bred on the whole more successful	3
---	---

CHAPTER II

ADVANTAGES OF COUNTRY LIFE: THE YEOMAN

Yeoman taken as the best type of country life—Farm work done by farmer and sons, household work by wife and daughters—Sound physical condition the result—Surroundings less favorable to disease than in cities—Mental qualities; habits of observation; manual training—Moral qualities: training of the will by steady application—School opportunities of country children fit them for city as well as country life; those of city children do not fit them for country life and they have nothing which does; therefore they cannot succeed in country—City-bred persons seldom go to country to earn their living	6
---	---