

have gotten nowhere.) The large-scale movements of peoples and the American small town were perhaps seen in their happiest forms in the 19th century; it would take someone more rash or more wise than the present writer to say what the future nature of each and the relations of both will be.

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## CHINA'S POPULATION PROBLEMS

THE 'numbering' of people used to be resented in ancient times as presumptuous, unlucky and only meant as a means of further fiscal extortion. The taking of a census for purely scientific, demographic purposes is something quite modern and goes back to the 'counting of heads', required by democracy, practised for the first time in 1790 by the United States; Great Britain following suit with a first census in 1801. Subsequently most other countries have likewise introduced the system of a decennial census; but there are important exceptions still, the most serious one being that of China, which is quite innocent of any reliable nation-wide statistics of any sort.

To say anything about China's population one is therefore left to shrewd guesses, scientific approximations or a lively imagination. The Imperial Government ordered a census to be taken in 1895 and 1910, which yielded a total of 377 and 316 million inhabitants respectively. The Republic, if only on account of the endemic warfare which has bedevilled its existence from the very start, has had to content itself with 'Post Office Estimates', which in 1920 suggested 428 and in 1930 445 millions as China's total population. Finally in 1932 the Government came out with a fiat declaring 475 millions to be the right figure; against which W. F. Wilcox of the American Statistical Association in its *Journal* for 1930 maintained that 342 millions was the most he could concede.

C. P. Fitzgerald by a painstaking computation of cities actually occupied at different periods of Chinese history arrived at a grand total of 130 millions as China's population under the T'ang Dynasty in 618 A.D. (*China Journal* of 1932). His computation is made province by province and therefore enables one to see that the growth of population has been quite uneven. Whilst Kansu has remained stationary, Shansi and Shensi show an actual drop in population from 15 and 14 millions in 618 to 10 and 9 millions in 1910. On the other hand the southern provinces show a remarkable increase in popula-

tion, Hunan and Szechuan jumping from 5 millions each to 23 millions each, Kwangsi from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  millions, Fukien from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 13 millions, Yunnan and Kwantung from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions each to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  and 28 millions respectively, whilst Kweichow, which in 618 was returned as a blank, being only inhabited by wild hill-tribes, in 1910 showed a population of  $11\frac{1}{2}$  millions. In the same manner the empty spaces of Manchuria were filled up in our own generation by the surplus population of Shantung. By 1900 there were perhaps already 10 million Chinese living in Manchuria, whilst the 1932 estimate puts the population at 30 millions and according to K. S. Latourette (*The Chinese*. New York, 1946. p. 505) there were in a single year (1926) one million immigrants pouring in.

The huge increase in the population of China must therefore be attributed to the increase in the lands effectively colonised by them—the stream of immigration being at first and for long centuries directed towards the south, whilst in modern times there has been an analogous current of immigration into the extra-mural provinces of the north-east. The push southwards is in our days directed from the now densely populated southern provinces towards Annam, Siam, Burma, Malaya, Indonesia and the Philippines, where not far short of ten million Chinese are living; and if their numbers in Australia, Canada and the United States have remained small, it is well known that the reason is not to seek in an unwillingness of the Chinese to settle there, but rather in that of the white population there to have them.

The population pressure in China is intense. In the fertile Yangtse delta there are estimated to live 657 (Prov. of Chekiang) and even 890 (Prov. of Kiangsu) per square mile, whilst in the largely sterile Kansu Province there are only 59 per square mile. The figures for the overpopulated northern provinces of Honan and Shantung are 522 and 614. In the south, Fukien has 309, Kwantung 368, Kweichow 168, Szechuan 238 and Yunnan 75 persons per square mile; Manchuria has still only a density of 66 persons per square mile and therefore could accommodate many more, if only the civil war would let them.

Industrialisation of course has caused in China as elsewhere a dense massing of people in a few urban centres, such as Shanghai, which at present is suffering from an inflated population of quite six millions. During the Japanese régime in Manchuria great centres were created for steel production and heavy industry in general, the country being fabulously rich in coal, iron and water power. Shanghai on the other hand started principally as a centre for textiles and light industry. It is obvious that a systematic industrialisation of the country could absorb most of the existing surplus population, but

for the time being the outlook in this respect as in most others is hopeless. The Russian and Chinese Communists between them have completely sabotaged the magnificent industries of Manchuria, which it would take decades to build up again to the former Japanese standard; whilst to finance the war against them has necessitated an inflation of the currency, which has rendered the formerly proverbially cheap labour of China so expensive that export trade from the rest of China is at a practical standstill; which in turn has necessitated the prohibition of all imports.

Probably in this post-bellum age of ours everybody believes that his own country has been hit hardest and that there misery is greatest and most widespread. But everywhere surely the nadir has by now been reached and things at least do not go on getting worse: everywhere, except in China, where Communist effort is deliberately directed to prevent the peasant from sowing this year's crops, by burning farmsteads, confiscating seed-corn and draught animals (or slaughtering them); where bridges, railways and roads are systematically being destroyed again and again and again; where the reconstruction of the great Yangtse dams and dykes last year was to have been frustrated by them, in order to render homeless millions of people and to make the cultivation of their fields impossible. As long as they can help it, the Red armies are not waging war against the governmental forces arrayed against them, but against reconstruction, order and recovery. Death and destruction are their objectives, epidemics and famine their allies. It certainly is a way of keeping down population figures.

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## THE FIFTH ETAT IN GERMANY

**I**T is gradually becoming possible to assess the figures concerning the expulsion of Germans from the eastern parts of Europe, from Eastern Germany, Sudetenland, Hungary, Rumania, Jugoslavia and adjacent countries. Each new figure implies a larger, more extensive, more irreparable sum of human misery; and means, moreover, an accumulation of new problems in almost every field of human relations, the full size of which is quite obviously not yet realised anywhere.

The latest figures are as follows. Those expelled number altogether about 11 millions, of whom approximately half,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  millions,