

SURVEYof

CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGY

Edited by

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New York University



THOMAS NELSON AND SONS New York 1934

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INTRODUCTION

The group relationships of human beings become more intricate, more complex, and more significant both for the individual and the group, with each successive stage in social evolution. These relationships, broadly speaking, constitute the subject matter of sociology. Since almost every event that is likely to be recorded in a newspaper involves, directly or indirectly, the relation of a human being to a group, or of groups to each other, it follows that practically the entire aggregate of news items carried by a paper in the course of a year is of sociological significance. Consequently, the task of making selections for a year-book of reasonable proportions resolves itself largely into a process of drastic, and sometimes almost painful, elimination. Obviously, no two persons charged with such a task would perform it in precisely the same way. The appraisal of importance must necessarily be influenced by the attitudes, interests, convictions, and general predilections of the editor.

Furthermore, such a year-book cannot possibly undertake to be a real record of the sociological occurrences of the year. In any one of a dozen or more specific fields the complete record would constitute a sizable volume. For example, the story of the strike movement in the United States, to say nothing of the world at large, since the beginning of the year 1933 would by itself fill up enough pages of engrossing and illuminating reading matter to make one worth-while book. It becomes necessary, therefore, to select items that are in some genuine sense typical and illustrative, not only of classes of events, but of trends, social attitudes, and sociological principles.

Fortunately, from time to time and rather frequently, single individuals, objects, or sequences, by the inherent logic of events, emerge above the level of the commonplace and assume the character of epitomes of comprehensive and weighty interests or trends. A single banker or powerful financier, because of the focussing of public attention upon him, comes to symbolize a sweeping current of social movement. A little group of Negro boys, no one of whom on the strength of his own personal qualifications might ever have been heard of outside his immediate restricted locality, suddenly becomes the vortex of a surge of convictions, emotions, and legal complications that puts them in the headlines for months. Milk becomes

the strategic center about which is waged the struggle for the government provision of the basic necessities of the people, while group medicine becomes representative of the trend toward socialization on a wider scale. A single strike exemplifies in a peculiar way the features that are likely to display themselves in any labor disturbance.

This process of elimination and typification must be applied not only to the vast aggregate of stories, but also to the separate items themselves. The great majority of the paragraphs in this book represent only a portion of the stories from which they are taken. Many of them will doubtless be tantalizing in their incompleteness. They will leave the reader inquiring, "And then what?" The only way out of this dilemma is to turn to the complete files of the newspaper, provided they are fortunately accessible.

The general difficulty of drawing a dividing line between sociology and economics, on the one hand, and history on the other, cannot be escaped in a book of this kind. The pursuit of economic interests actuates many of the most important group relationships, and their sociological significance cannot be ignored. In this volume the attempt has been made to include only such economic events, or such aspects of them, as have distinctly human implications, and are tinged as little as possible with technicalities. With respect to history, the distinction between it and sociology is largely one of approach and emphasis. Both deal with the same materials; both seek to interpret them and to derive their generalized meaning. History lays more emphasis on the facts themselves, their determination and recording; sociology is more immediately concerned with their analvsis and their reduction to laws and principles. History has its eve characteristically on the past, sociology on the present and future. But with respect to a given period of time, particularly recent time, the sociological record and the historical record are virtually the same.

On account of the complexity of group relationships, already referred to, the problem of classification and arrangement of data covering the whole range of social experience becomes exceedingly difficult—indeed, a strictly logical, unitary, one-way classification is impossible. The same item often reasonably falls under several different heads. Thus disease may be considered as an aspect of the growth of population, or of occupational efficiency, or of state regulation, or of human happiness. The depression and the New Deal affect practically every department of social life. There are only two possible lines of procedure, either to repeat a given item wherever it is logically appropriate, or to include it in the category indicated by its major significance, and either to refer to it or assume that it will

be recalled in other categories. The latter alternative has been adopted in this volume.

Prominence and emphasis in these pages is determined not by the intrinsic importance of the event or subject concerned, but by its news value or its significance in terms of social movement. Thus socialism is no more important than individualism—indeed, it is far less important as a governing principle of modern life—but it represents possible movement and change and therefore it attracts attention.

The arrangement of paragraphs is based sometimes on the chronological principle, sometimes on the topical, and sometimes on a combination of the two. The effort has been to put the items in such order as to make their meaning as clear and comprehensible as possible.

Since this material is taken from a New York paper there is an unavoidable emphasis on the affairs of that locality. However, in many ways New York City is typical not only of the features of modern urban development, but of the trends of contemporary social development in general. The terms "here," "this city," "this state," etc., obviously refer to New York.

The abbreviations and methods of citation correspond to those used in the New York Times Index. The abbreviations for the months are:

Ja	January
\mathbf{F}	February
Mr	March
$\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{p}}$	April
My	May
Je	June
J1	$_{ m July}$
Ag	August
S	September
O	October
N	November
D	December

The abbreviation for the month is given first, then the day of the month, then the last two figures of the calendar year, and then the page number. Sections of the Sunday issue, with the exception of the first section, are indicated by Roman numerals. Thus an item marked O 27, 33: 1 is taken from page one of the issue of October 27, 1933, and one marked My 13, 34: IV: 6 is from the sixth page of the fourth section of the issue of May 13, 1934. Excerpts from The Annalist and Current History are so indicated.

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CHAPTER I

THE PEOPLE

No factor in the life of a society is so important as the people themselves. In sociological terminology this factor is known as Population. Its conceptual boundaries are virtually identical with those of society. Wherever we think of a group as a society we may think of its members as a population. Thus we may speak of the population of a city—or sometimes, rather loosely, of even smaller territorial units—or of a state, a nation, a continent, or a world.

A population always presents two aspects, its numerical or quantitative, and its qualitative. In the former field, the data are based merely upon counting, and are relatively easy to ascertain. In the field of quality there inevitably enter in value judgments, which involve socially accepted general criteria. These are very difficult to discover, to demonstrate, or to justify. It is probably for this reason, in part at least, that sociological science has made much greater progress in the handling of the quantitative than the qualitative aspects of population, and news items in this field are far more numerous.

In the quantitative department of population, the data may be divided into two categories, the static, which deal with size, and the dynamic, which deal with growth. The growth of a population, in turn, depends upon intrinsic factors, births and deaths, and upon extrinsic factors, immigration and emigration. Of course, in the case of world population, the only factors concerned are intrinsic. Births and deaths are customarily recorded and discussed in terms of rates; a crude rate is the number of births or deaths in an average thousand of the population within a year. The rate of growth of population is similarly expressed, and may be computed by subtracting the death rate from the birth rate. If deaths exceed births, the rate of growth of population obviously becomes a minus quantity.

In discussing the qualitative aspects of population, the criteria used are usually those suggested by a common-sense appraisal of social values—health, longevity, intelligence, physical strength and beauty, economic competence, etc.

There are also, it must be added, value judgments applied to the size of population. In general, large and rapidly growing popula-

tions are, or at least have been until recently, regarded as socially desirable and admirable. But the grounds for such judgments are even less based upon a scientific understanding of human welfare than in the case of population quality.

POPULATION TOTAL NOW 125,693,000

Washington, June 30 (A).—The population of the United States has increased 2,917,954 since April 1, 1930, to a new high of 125,693,000.

So declared the Census Bureau today in presenting some complicated additions, subtractions and divisions arrived at by estimating the increase since the 1930 census on the basis of the available data regarding births, deaths, immigration and emigration.

The population of the several States was estimated by distributing to them the increase in the national population according to the per cent which each State increased in relation to the national increase between 1920 and 1930. Where there was a decrease in a State's population, the census figure was retained and no estimate was made. The estimated population by States was as follows:

Jl 1, 33: 1

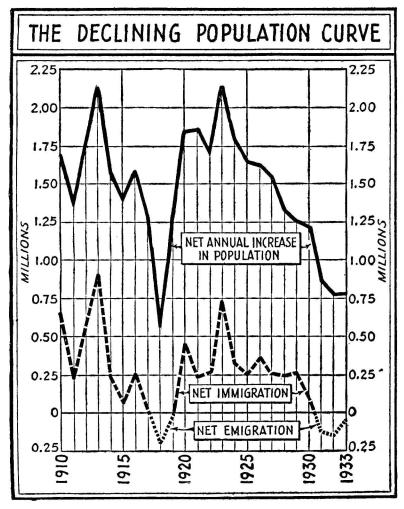
	1020 T	1 1027			
Api	il 1, 1930. J	uly 1, 1933.	Montana	537,606	537,606
United States 1	0.040.040	2,697,000	Nebraska	1,377,963	1,392,000
Alabama	2,646,248	453,000	Nevada	91,058	93,000
Arizona	435,573	1.872,000	New Hampshire.	465,293	469,000
Arkansas	1,854,482		New Jersey	4.041,334	4,193,000
California	5,677,251	6,062,000	New Mexico	423,317	434,000
Colorado	1,035,791	1,052,000	New York	12,588,066	12,965,000
Connecticut	1,606,903	1,646,000	North Carolina	3,170,276	3,275,000
Delaware	238,380	241,000	North Dakota	680,845	687,000
Dist. of Colum	486,869	495,000		6,646,697	6.798,000
Florida	1,468,211	1,554,000	Ohlo	2,396,040	2,459,000
Georgia	2,908,506	2,911,000	Oklahoma	953,786	983,000
Idaho	445,032	447,000	Oregon		9,989,000
Illinois	7,630,654	7,826,000	Pennsylvania	9,631,350 687,497	702,000
Indiana	3,238,503	3,291,000	Rhode Island		
Iowa	2,470,939	2,482,000	South Carolina	1,738,765	1,748,000
Kansas	1,880,999	1,900,000	South Dakota	692,849	702,000
Kentucky	2,614,589	2,648,000	Tennessee	2,616,556	2,664,000
Louisiana	2,101,593	2,153,000	Texas	5,824,715	6,023,000
Maine	797,423	802,000	Utah	507,847	518,000
Maryland	1,631,526	1,663,000	Vermont	359,611	361,000
Massachusetts	4,249,614	4,313,000	Virginia	2,421,851	2,441,000
Michigan	4,842,325	5,043,000	Washington	1,563,396	1,599,000
Minnesota		2,594,000	West Virginia		1,774,000
Mississippi			Wisconsin		2,992,000
Missouri	3,629,367	3,668,000	Wyoming	225,565	231,000
missyutt	0,000,000	-,-,-,-			

POPULATION TREND FORESHADOWS A NEW ERA

By WARREN S. THOMPSON and P. K. WHELPTON

It is now abundantly clear that most of the estimates of our future population made prior to about five years ago are going to prove considerably too high. The two factors which have upset earlier calculations are the more rapid decline in the birth rate than was anticipated, even by the initiated, and the dwindling (at present the reversal) of the stream of immigration. How these changes are affecting our growth is shown in the charts on this page and page 5.

Owing to this slowing up of growth the population of Jan. 1, 1934, was estimated by the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems as only 126,144,000, a gain of not quite 3,370,000, since the enumeration of April 1, 1930. In contrast, during the same length of time after the census of 1920 the population in-



creased by about 6,876,000. Such a falling off, while not likely to be duplicated in amount in the near future, does seem likely to continue at a slower pace. All indications point to the approaching end of population growth during the current phase of our national life.

Many interesting and important problems are created by the change from a very rapidly growing population to one having little growth—perhaps becoming stationary, within two or three decades, at somewhere between 135,000,000 and 145,000,000 (the "low" estimate in the chart at the right, on page 5). These problems may be considered, first, with regard to total population, and, second, with regard to the marked changes in age composition to which a slowing up in growth inevitably leads.

It is not difficult to show that certain social and economic consequences are bound to follow upon the decline in our growth. is quite clear, for example, that given a certain standard of consumption and barring a large increase in agricultural exports (which seems the reverse of what may be expected), the market for many farm products is rather narrowly limited by the growth in number of It seems only the part of common sense, therefore, in formulating land utilization policies for the future, to take most careful account of the probable population in the country in 1940. 1950 and later.

To make this matter more concrete: if there are good grounds for believing that it is reasonable to expect only about 140,000,000 people in 1950, and if each person consumes, on the average, 5.5 bushels of wheat per annum then as now, only about 80,000,000 bushels more will be needed in 1950 than are now used. Already our normal production is well in excess of our consumption by more than twice this amount.

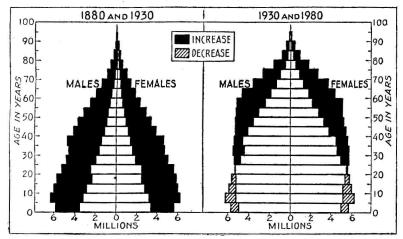
The slower growth of population is also practically certain to affect the constantly increasing intensiveness of the use of land for residence and business purposes in and about our large cities. In the past, the relatively rapid growth of practically all of our larger cities led to a fairly steady appreciation of land values in and around them. It seems reasonably certain that the recovery from the present slump in these values will be decidedly retarded by the fact that population is now growing slowly and will grow even more slowly in the future.

Apropos of city growth, it should be noted that during the last year and a half or two years the cities as a whole have actually lost population. This is probably the first time in our history that this has happened and is quite likely a purely temporary phenomenon, but there can be no reasonable doubt that the cities must cease to grow as rapidly as in the past when the total population is growing very slowly or not at all.

Mr 18, 34: VIII: 1

TOWARD AN OLDER POPULATION

Charts on Pages 3 and 5 from "Population Trends in the United States" (McGraw-Hill).



In the Graph at the Right America's Population in 1930 Is Indicated by the White Pyramid. The Probable Increases by 1980 Are Indicated by the Black Blocks and the Decreases by the Hatched Blocks. It Is Seen That the Population Will Probably Be "Older"—That Is, the Number of People in the Upper Age Groups Will Be Larger in 1980 Than in 1930, While the Number in the Lower Age Groups Will Be Smaller. On the Left Is Shown, for Comparative Purposes, How America's Population Changed in the Preceding Fifty Years, from 1880 to 1930: the Growth, as the Chart Indicates, Was Spread through All Age Groups.

Mr 18, 34: VIII: 1

JAPAN'S POPULATION GAINS 1,007,868 IN YEAR

TOKYO, July 13.—The force behind Japan's political and industrial expansion is again revealed in the Cabinet statistical bureau's report on births.

Japan continues to lead all other countries in the rate of growth of her population, of which the natural increase last year was 1,007,-868.

Several records were created. First is the figure itself. The round million that had been looming in sight for some years has now been passed. The number of births is the highest and the death rate is the lowest ever recorded in Japan.

Births last year numbered, 2,182,743, an increase of 80,737 over the 1931 figure. This was an average of more than four babies every minute. The rate per thousand was 32.92, as compared with 32.16.

Deaths totaled 1,174,875, a decrease of 65,597. The death rate was 17.72, as compared with 18.98 for 1931.

Japan has thus added to her inhabitants the equivalent of the population of the entire prefecture of Iwate. The diminished death rate resulted from the fall in infant mortality, the absence of epidemics and mild seasons.

Yet, side by side with this increase, social tendencies are developing which statisticians believe will effect a slowing down within less than two decades. That tendency is the later marriage age reflected in the statistics, which show that marriages registered in 1931 numbered only 496,574, as compared with 519,193 in 1921. The 1932 marriage figures are not yet available.

Birth control makes no evident progress. A few small clinics exist, but the propaganda is on the smallest scale.

Commenting on these statistics the newspaper Jiji Shimpo says the prospect is not one to inspire optimism. The government's first duty is to insure a food supply for the growing nation, it adds; emigration will not solve the problem and Japan must continue to seek overseas markets where Japanese goods are rapidly consumed.

Greater significance is lent to Japan's population figures by the fact that only about one-fifth of the area of Japan proper is tillable. Thus, as long ago as 1920 the density of population per square kilometer of cultivated area was 969, as compared with 226 for England and 394 for Belgium, which had the highest density for Europe.

JI 14, 33: 19

OVERPOPULATION IS PROBLEM IN CHINA

PEIPING, Jan. 17.—Overpopulation constitutes one of China's gravest problems, in the opinion of some sociologists. Because of a high birth rate, population, in many parts of China, is said to be outrunning the means of subsistence. There are, to be sure, certain tragic but inexorable restraints on population growth, such as civil war, famine, poverty, infanticide and disease. But only in recent years has any attempt been made to tackle the problem "scientifically"—by reducing the birth rate.

Among the few organizations which are pioneering the way for birth control in China is the Peiping Committee on Maternal Health. This group is notable for the number of outstanding medical, educational and government institutions which are represented, unofficially, in its membership. Several of the members of the staff of the Peiping Union Medical College, the great medical centre supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, are given voluntary service to the committee. Other members are recruited from Tsinghua University, also American supported; Yenching University, the Shanghai municipality, the Peiping municipality and the First National Midwifery School.

In a brief report outlining its purposes and reviewing the results of its first three years of activity, the committee points out that "the fundamental need in China is for the Chinese people to learn the intelligent means of adjustment of numbers to resources." Organized in 1930 and reorganized in 1932, the committee has held weekly clinics for Chinese women during a considerable part of the intervening period. Only one paid worker has been employed, and the number of cases treated has totaled ninety-nine. The work of the committee is described as a "humble beginning of what may prove to be an epoch-making movement whose far-reaching influence we cannot forecast."

The report emphasizes the serious aspect of China's overpopulation problem.

F 11, 34: IV: 8

JAPAN'S RECORD CROP OF BABIES ADDS TO HER GRAVE PROBLEMS

By Hugh Byas

Tokyo, Young Mr. and Mrs. Japan last year raised the world record for babies. The number born was 2,182,743; deaths (at all ages) numbered 1,174,875 during the same period. The net increase of population due to an excess of births was 1,007,868.

Several records were made. The first was the figure itself. The round million had never before been reached in Japan. And although the statement cannot be statistically proved, it seems to be a fact that a surplus of 1,000,000 babies in one year is a record for all countries. America, with 120,000,000 people as against Japan's 66,000,000, had last year an excess of births over deaths of only 800,163. The biggest American year was 1927, when the natural increase was 961,031.

Even Mother India, with a population of 315,000,000, increases at an annual average rate of only 380,000. China produces more babies than Japan, but the positive checks of Malthus—famine, war, disease and death—all in full operation there, and it is questionable whether China's population is increasing at all. At the other end of the scale, the Japanese death rate was last year the lowest recorded—17.72.

While the rest of the civilized world is going back in the matter of babies, Japan is going forward. It is true that there is a decrease of the birth rate per 1,000 of population, which has fallen from 35.1 in 1921 to 32.16 in 1932. But as the population is always growing larger, and as it is predominantly a young population with a very large number of boys and girls reaching the marriageable age yearly, the actual number of babies increases. This increase must be expected to-continue for some years.

Yet there is a social cause at work which, some statistical authorities hold, will bring about equilibrium inside of twenty years from now, the population becoming stationary between 80,000,000 and 90,000,000. The age of marriage is gradually growing later. The married student, though by no means a rare bird, is less common than he was. Middle-class families no longer hasten to marry their sons at 21 and their daughters at 18 or 19. The effect is statistically visible in the smaller number of marriages registered yearly. In 1921, 519,193 couples were married; ten years later the number had fallen to 496,754.

D 10, 33: IX: 3

ITALY GIVES PRIZES IN POPULATION DRIVE

Rome, Dec. 24 (AP).—All Italy paused to pay tribute to mother-hood today before turning to the celebration of Christmas.

Thirty thousand prizes were distributed over the nation to mothers of large families, to newlyweds and parents of their first child in observance of Mothers' and Infants' Day in Premier Mussolini's drive to increase the population.

In Rome fathers of large families also shared in the awards. They received street car passes valid for one year.

Ninety-three mothers, who were received by Mussolini yesterday, were escorted in automobiles through lines of an applauding public this morning to the Augusteo Theatre, where they were honor guests in the day's principal ceremony. Fascist boys and girls massed at the Augusteo and sang hymns exalting motherhood.

Cash prizes were presented to the mothers who have reared the largest families and to those who have reared the healthiest children.

Cheers greeted fathers when they filed in to receive prizes. Rome's contingent of couples married since Dec. 1 then received cash prizes.

In addition to cash, baby outfits, household articles, clothing and rent exemptions were distributed in towns and cities. Mothers and children were admitted free to movies. Stores had special displays of infants' attire.

D 25, 33: 15

BIRTHS

BIRTHS IN NATION DROP IN 10 YEARS

A nation-wide decline in births in the decade from 1921 to 1931 is indicated by figures presented by statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for twenty-six States and the District of Columbia. Only those twenty-six States and the District were members of the United States Registration Area in 1921, making their statistics available for comparison.

"The most interesting and possibly the most significant fact brought out in the survey," says the company's bulletin, "is that the greatest declines in the birth-rate have occurred in the States of the northeastern section of the country, where the population is highly industrialized."

Connecticut, with a drop of 34.9 per cent, had the greatest decline in the ten-year period and the District of Columbia the least, 5.9 per cent. The next eleven, after Connecticut, follow:

New Jersey, 34.5 per cent; Massachusetts 31.8, North Carolina 31.1, Rhode Island 30.6, Maryland 30, Virginia 29.5, Washington 29.4, Pennsylvania 29, Oregon 28.8, New York 28.1 and California 28.

"In the few Southern and 'border States' included in the survey," the bulletin points out, "the situation is widely divergent. North Carolina suffered a large decline; so did Virginia and Maryland. In Mississippi, on the other hand, the drop was only 11.9 per cent, and in the District of Columbia, which is really a city rather than a State, the smallest decline of all, 5.9 per cent, was registered.

"Among States with largely agricultural populations Oregon, Washington, New Hampshire and Virginia were those to suffer above-average drops in the birth-rate. Maine and Mississippi, on the other hand, suffered the smallest declines, and Wisconsin, Minnesota, Vermont, Nebraska and Kentucky recorded below-average decreases."

The bulletin points out that pronounced variations appeared in certain adjoining States. New Mexico and Nevada, which had the highest and lowest rates in 1931, were admitted to the area since 1921 and the extent to which their rates have dropped cannot be determined. New Mexico had a rate of 28.4 births per 1,000 population in 1931 and Nevada had 13.2. From 1929 to 1931 there was a slight increase in New Mexico and in Nevada there was a small drop.

Georgia was the only State to show a higher birth-rate in 1931