

Struggle and Human Progress

THAT social progress has been made mainly through struggle has been well borne out in the writings of modern sociologists. Periods of equilibration occur in human history in which progress is made through social achievement. Studying human history, we find that the balance of forces in the equilibrium ultimately creates the dynamic agent necessary for its destruction.

Another feature well to notice in this connection is, that while in animal life progress is made by the environment through certain adaptations for the end of existence, in human society the environment acts in an indirect manner. A third element now enters the circle of progress. This element has been termed the telic or rational faculty. Sociologists have it that there are two principal methods by which progress is made and has been made since the telic faculty has made its appearance. In periods of equilibration progress has been made by the action of static forces through the telic faculty. The dynamic agents, with their destructive effect on equilibrium, also act through the telic faculty; result in struggle and, as it can be observed, this struggle results in progress. For, as Lester F. Ward says, "The genesis of society as we see it and know it has been through the struggle of races."

While in the case of man's evolution a third element has entered the line of progress, the process of selective elimination of structures remains unmodified. Strong structures survive and weak ones are destroyed in exact proportion as they serve or hinder the onward progress of man.

Human history not only gives a vivid example of the elimination of superfluous structures, but also serves as a basis for observation of the action of static and dynamic agents at work.

Let us make a brief study of the dynamic agent in human history. Primitive men were not warlike beings. In vast hordes they roamed the prairies and inhabited the forests, which abounded in food. War was unknown and unnecessary. The brain of man in this primitive stage was not developed to any appreciable degree. And it was not until the scarcity of food (a dynamic agent created by this condition of equilibrium) and the consequent struggle which it entailed, that the first important development in man's brain became evident. The dynamic agent (scarcity of food) presently led to the origination of race hatred, resulting in the destruction of the then prevailing equilibrium.

Now, let us observe, by following the history of man, how the dynamic agent (race hatred) negates itself by creating, through long development a force equal to itself.

With the scarcity of food man became a hunter. It was necessity that led to the discovery of tools useful firstly in the art of killing. Game became less abundant, and tribe fought with tribe for choice hunting areas. The ensuing struggle of man with man, as Kautsky aptly illustrates, was more terrible, more intense than the previous struggle between man and animal. It was the race that had developed its rational faculty to the greatest extent, enabling thereby the more advantageous action of the dynamic agent, that became the predominant race in most cases in human history. The conquered race was totally exterminated by the practice of cannibalism in the early wars, but in later wars, after the conquerors had gained such skill in warfare that they could subject too many to consume, slavery made its appearance.

The conquering race developed great skill in the art of military organisation, resulting in the still further subjugation of the less fortunate races. Following the period of race subjugation in human history, a development, which sociologists call social karyokinesis (meaning a process of race amalgamation) takes place. Obviously, after the subjugation of races, the society is polarized; and though the conquered race maintains its racial distinctions and also its feeling of bitterness towards its oppressor it submits to its brute force and works for and pays

tribute to it. In caste society, the two classes, though in a sense economically related, arose from racial distinctions. Further development of this caste society resulted in pronounced social inequality. The languages merged and the customs became similar, but the former conquering class now became the economic master and the formerly conquered class became economically enslaved.

Tired of its military occupation, the master class ingeniously invented legal rights and duties by which to keep their slaves in check and give themselves leisure. With the production of law, the state came into being as a means of its enforcement.

The next step in the onward progress of man is the juridical state, in which the human race is said to emerge from barbarism into civilisation. Each individual in this society was apportioned his particular task, thereby creating the division of labor and the development of merchant's capital. Following this compromise between racial distinctions, came the formation of a "people," "a synthetic creation after which animosity abates and toleration increases." In speaking of the formation of a people Ward says, "There are two antagonistic races of nearly equal social value, one of which has by some means succeeded in subjugating the other and is striving to secure the greatest return for the cost involved in so doing."

Growing out of the formation of a "people" is the "nation," which is based on patriotism. Ward refers to "patriotism" in the following way: "It is the basis of the national sentiment or feeling of social solidarity, that is essential to this last step in the process of social karyokinesis. It marks the disappearance of the last vestige of the initial social dualism. It means the end of the prolonged race struggle. It is the final truce to the bitter animosities that had reigned in the group. The antagonistic forces have spent themselves, social equilibrium is restored, and one more finished product of social synergy is presented to the world."

Then with the development of the nation, we find that the dynamic agent, race hatred, is negated by patriotism and other national sentiments. The development of the nation is the end of one circle of progress. Today we are living in a period of equilibrium itself, which, acting through the telic of primitive man, a dynamic agent is created by the equilibrium itself, which, acting through the telic faculty of man, will inevitably result in the destruction of the equilibrium. Again to quote Ward with regard to this inevitable process, "Races, states, peoples, nations are always forming, always aggressing, always clashing and clinching and struggling for the mastery, and the long, painful, wasteful, but always fruitful gestation must be renewed and repeated again and again."

The creators of the dynamic agent today are exploitation, hunger and subjection. The dynamic agent itself is class antagonism, and we find that it is the inevitable result of the prevailing equilibrium.

In order to have freedom, and lack of starvation, an economic revolution must take place giving the workers the means of production. But the master class have always had the state and many other means of coercion at its demand, and are thus enabled to crush any premature attempt on the part of the working class to gain supremacy. Although the aim of social revolution is economic, still the workers will be forced to use political means to that end. Therefore, just as in the case of primitive man, the dynamic agent which will finally destroy the modern equilibrium, will also assume the form of struggle.

Though the process of conquest, struggle, compromise and equilibration in the development of modern society, resulting from race war, took thousands of years to complete—that process in the workers' revolution, necessitated as it is by the existence of class antagonism, will take a much shorter period, and events which stare us in the face today seem to fully justify the statement that the equilibration re-

sulting therefrom will be Communism. After the establishment of that equilibrium the telic faculty of man will have developed to the extent that the expression of the dynamic agent will no longer assume the form of war. And that period will be the end of class war, since there will no longer be any classes to contend for the mastery; and although a struggle for structure will and must go on yet that struggle will assume the form of a mental struggle and the human race will then progress through social achievement.

S. O. S., J. B. G.

CHINA: THE PEARL OF THE EAST

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a great deal of truth in their opinions. To the Chinese, their own life was the best that could be attained. This is the era of machine production, and China has also been invaded. Neither China or Russia can maintain their stability as nations through isolation from the rest of the world. In fact they won't be allowed to.

What will the outcome be? China knows the position well of Britain and America in their dealings with the Chinese. Take a look at an Empress boat discharging her cargo of human beings into Vancouver. There you will see what creates an antagonism in the hearts of the yellow man. The same thing happens in all civilized ports where they happen to land. The Jews under the Czar did not get any worse treatment. The foreign powers in China, with their "Extraterritorial Rights," are hard and agonizing to the Chinese. When she sees her fellow men seized and imprisoned by a foreign power in their own home land can you wonder at the dreaded cry, "Foreign Devils?" When the monarchy was overthrown and a parliament was set up, the ideas of young China had materialized. The millennium had come. Liberty, Equality and Fraternity was their slogan, but that was all. It was only another sweet dream that was soon dispelled.

The war clouds are gathering in the east. China is the goal; who will capture it, America, Britain or Japan? Who can tell! Or will those two nations, with a bond of friendship and a population of close on 600 millions pass into bondage on a scale that history has never known? Will China rise and assert her rights, is for the future to tell. As Marx says: "One nation can and should learn from others. It can neither clear by bold leaps, nor remove by legal enactments, the obstacles offered by the successive phases of its normal development. But it can shorten and lessen the birth pangs."

The chess board is set; each one is waiting for the other to move. War is imminent; the European war will be a mere sham compared to the next. They holler for peace when they want our blood. This will be the test. Will the workers fall for their slogans again, or will they rise to the occasion this time and deal the fatal death blow to capitalism, the menace of the human race?

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS

EVERY SUNDAY

STAR THEATRE, 300 Block, Main Street

APRIL 1st

Speaker: W. A. PRITCHARD

All meetings at 8 p.m.
Questions. Discussion.