

Lecture: 1.3.2. Inequality & Humanity

Feminism, demography, inclusion

Bellamy's *Looking Backward*: The elimination of housework, and of a servant class:

- ““Who does your house-work, then?” I asked.
- ““There is none to do,” said Mrs. Leete.... “Our washing is all done at public laundries at excessively cheap rates, and our cooking at public kitchens. The making and repairing of all we wear are done outside in public shops. Electricity, of course, takes the place of all fires and lighting. We choose houses no larger than we need, and furnish them so as to involve the minimum of trouble to keep them in order. We have no use for domestic servants....”
- ““What a paradise for womankind the world must be now!” I exclaimed. “In my day, even wealth and unlimited servants did not enfranchise their possessors from household cares, while the women of the merely well-to-do and poorer classes lived and died martyrs to them...””

What has happened to patriarchy since 1870?

What has happened to gender roles in production and consumption since 1870?

What has happened to demography since 1870?



Childbed: British Queens

- 16 generations from Henry IV to Victoria
- 5 queens (or heiresses apparent) dead in childbed: Charlotte (Victoria's generation), Catherine Parr, Jane Seymour, Elizabeth of York, Mary de Bohun
- At an average of two queens per generation, this is a 16% childbed mortality rate for the most cosseted women in England
 - 2% maternal mortality per birth
 - 1% extra mortality from nursing sick children



Demographic Transition

Agrarian Age:

- 8.5 pregnancies
- 6 live births
- 3.5 survive to age 5
- 2.5 survive to adulthood
- 2 reproduce in their turn

How many years eating for two?

- Pregnant: $8 \times 9 \text{ mo} = 6 \text{ years}$
- Nursing: $2 \times 6 = 12 \text{ years}$
- Total: 18 years

Why?

- Birth control technology not well-developed
- Need to have surviving descendants as the only form of social insurance
- Being a mother as a form of social power

Modern Age:

- 2.5 pregnancies
- 2.0 live births
- 1.98 survive to age 5
- 1.96 survive to adulthood
- 1.75 reproduce in their turn

How many years eating for two?

- Pregnant: $2.2 \times 9 \text{ mo} = 1 \frac{2}{3} \text{ years}$
- Nursing: $1 \frac{1}{6} \times 2 = 2 \frac{1}{3} \text{ years}$
- Total: 4 years

Women in Their Place...

- Even today
 - Disparate impact
 - Even in Denmark:
 - 7% lower employment probability
 - 7% lower hours per week conditional on employment
 - 7% lower wages and salaries conditional on employment and hours...

Racial Hierarchies

Woodrow Wilson:

A great change in the character of immigration which our newly industrialized country began now to attract from abroad. Down to 1880 the vast proportion of immigrants to this country were from the easily assimilable stock of western Europe, who, upon their arrival here, largely sought the land.... There is no longer any land to seek, and even if there were, the poverty-stricken Italians, Hebrews, and Slavs, who in 1905 made up three fifths of the immigrant arrivals to these shores, are neither disposed nor able to make their way to it.

The general questions raised by the new type of immigration on a large scale were first raised, and in an exceptionally acute form, by Chinese immigration. Chinese began coming to this country in considerable numbers about the close of the Civil War and were of the greatest possible service in completing the great transcontinental railways. The Treaty of Washington with China in 1868 was therefore giving voice to no mere banality in recognizing the mutual advantage of this migration. But it was also this very fact of the completion of the Pacific roads that brought about a great reversal of feeling with regard to the Chinese, who now began to make their way eastward, where their abhorrent social arrangements and filthy habits of living made them local nuisances....

In 1879 Congress passed a resolution ordering the President to declare the Treaty of 1868 null and void.... The Angell Treaty of 1880, according the United States permission to "regulate, limit, or suspend" the immigration of Chinese laborers. The bill passed by Congress early in 1882 "suspended" such immigration for twenty years, but a presidential veto brought about a reduction of this term to ten years in the measure that was finally enacted.

The same year, its attention being now upon the immigrant problem, Congress decreed the exclusion of paupers, criminals, convicts, and insane persons, and imposed a poll tax of fifty cents.... By the Act of 1890 polygamists, diseased persons, and persons incapable of self-support, were excluded. By the Geary Act of 1892 and an Act of 1902 Chinese exclusion was renewed and made more stringent... By the Act of 1903 the capitation tax upon immigrants was raised to two dollars...



But See Also...

Abraham Lincoln:

There is no reason in the world why the negro is not entitled to all the rights enumerated in the Declaration of Independence—the right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I hold that he is as much entitled to these as the white man. I agree with Judge Douglas that he is not my equal in many respects, certainly not in color—perhaps not in intellectual and moral endowments; but in the right to eat the bread without the leave of any body else which his own hand earns, he is my equal and the equal of Judge Douglas, and the equal of every other man...

Theodore Roosevelt:

There is nothing easier than to belittle the great men of the past by dwelling only on the points where they come short of the universally recognized standards of the present. Men must be judged with reference to the age in which they dwell, and the work they have to do.... We have traveled far since [the Puritan's] day. That liberty of conscience which he demanded for himself, we now realize must be as freely accorded to others as it is resolutely insisted upon for ourselves.

The splendid qualities which he left to his children, we other Americans who are not of Puritan blood also claim as our heritage. You, sons of the Puritans; and we, who are descended from races whom the Puritans would have deemed alien—we are all Americans together. We all feel the same pride in the genesis, in the history, of our people; and therefore this shrine of Puritanism is one at which we all gather to pay homage, no matter from what country our ancestors sprang.

We have gained some things that the Puritan had not—we of this generation, we of the twentieth century, here in this great Republic; but we are also in danger of losing certain things which the Puritan had and which we can by no manner of means afford to lose..



Catch Our Breath...

- Ask a couple of questions?
- Make a couple of comments?
- Any more readings to recommend?

