

MACROECONOMICS FOR POETS

William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge
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Chapter 1 - Industrialization and Labor Supply

Slaves cannot breathe in England"--yet that boast
Is but a mockery! when from coast to coast,
Though 'fettered' slave be none, her floors and soil
Groan underneath a weight of slavish toil,
For the poor Many, measured out by rules
Fetched with cupidity from heartless schools
That to an Idol, falsely called "the Wealth
Of Nations," sacrifice a People's health,
Body and mind and soul;

—William Wordsworth, "Humanity," 1829

But where will Europe's latter hour
Again find Wordsworth's healing power?
—Matthew Arnold, Memorial Verses, 1850

"A time there was, ere England's griefs began,
When every rood of ground maintained its man;
For him light labour spread her wholesome store,
Just gave what life required, but gave no more:
His best companions, innocence and health;
And his best riches, ignorance of wealth."
- Oliver Goldsmith, Deserted Village, 1770.

Theocritus and Homer bored him;
If true delight you would afford him
You'd give him Adam Smith to read.
A deep economist, indeed,
He talked about the wealth of nations;
The state relied, his friends were told,
Upon its staples, not on gold --
This subject filled his conversations.
His father listened, frowned and groaned,
And mortgaged all the land he owned.

- Alexander Pushkin, Eugene Onegin, 1833: 1.VII