

THE UNITED STATES,

THEIR

GROWTH IN POPULATION

IN

TWO HUNDRED YEARS.

In 1798, eight years after the first census of the United States was taken, Malthus, in England, published his "Treatise on the Law of Population," which excited great interest, and brought the author much hostile criticism. In June, 1890, we shall take the eleventh census of the United States, and will know with certainty what has been our increase in a hundred years. We expect to find a population of 67,240,000. Malthus held that population in a wide country, affording plenty of space and producing abundant food, doubled every twenty-five years. Trying his estimate by the recorded figures of ten decennial census enumerations, we find that he was very nearly correct.

With the aid of this information, we attempt to discuss the results to date, and to infer something of the progress of the next hundred years. We do not think it rash to infer the work of a century from the known advance during one just expiring. Taking the figures of the past from "Johnson's Cyclopædia," we find the population of the North American Colonies estimated by Bancroft as follows:

Year.	Population.
1750	1,260,000
1754	1,425,000
1760	2,195,000
1770	2,812,000
1780	2,945,000

The following table shows the rate of increase since 1790, as shown by the census returns :

Year.	Population.	Increase in 10 years.	Negro.	Increase in 10 years.
1790	3,929,214		757,208	
1800	5,308,483	35.1%	1,002,032	32.32%
1810	7,239,881	36.3	1,377,800	37.5
1820	9,633,822	33.1	1,771,656	28.65
1830	12,866,020	33.5	2,328,642	31.44
1840	17,069,453	32.6	2,873,648	23.40
1850	23,191,876	35.8	3,638,803	26.6
1860	31,443,321	35.6	4,441,830	22.1
1870	38,558,371	22.6	4,880,009	9.8
1880	50,155,000	36.0	6,580,000	34.8
1890	67,240,000	34.0	8,000,000	21.5
	Average	33.46	Average	26.81

The population of 1790 became in 1860, 8-fold or 31,443,321, which is equivalent to doubling every 23½ years.

The mean of the rates is 33.46 per cent. If we substitute for 22.6 (the exceptional rate of the increase between 1860 and 1870) 34.8 per cent. (a mean between the rates immediately preceding and following the decennial epoch), we find as probable rates of increase and aggregates of population, had peace continued, the following :

Year.	Population.
1870	42,380,000
1880	57,130,000
1890	77,100,000
1900	103,314,000

This is 9,860,000 more than the population actually to be expected in the next census—loss to be attributed to a great war. Other variations in the decennial rate of increase are due to the war of 1812, the Mexican war, the cholera epidemics, etc., and to emigration.

In estimating the progress of population during another century, it is not perhaps rash to assume a rate of 33.46 per cent., which is the mean rate, including war and pestilence, which has ruled our growth in the last century. Adding that to each decennial estimate, we find the probable population to be as follows, the negro rated at 26.81 per cent. :

Year.	Total Population.	Negro.	Proportion.
1890	67,240,000	8,000,000	8 to 1
1900	89,738,000	10,144,000	
1910	119,650,000	12,862,000	
1920	159,840,000	16,309,000	10 to 1
1930	213,320,000	20,681,000	
1940	284,697,000	26,223,000	11 to 1
1950	379,960,000	33,252,000	
1960	507,090,000	42,163,000	12 to 1
1970	676,760,000	53,463,000	
1980	903,200,000	67,790,000	
1990	1,206,400,000	85,957,000	14 to 1

This completes the century. Then, as the area of the territory of the United States is 3,026,494 square miles, the density of its population in 1990 will be 398 to the square mile. The density of population in certain countries is given in the same cyclopædia (printed in 1878) as follows : United States, 12.7 per square mile; Atlantic States, 46.6; basin of the Ohio, 37.7; Massachusetts, 201; Ohio, 66; Belgium,

434; China, 420; England, 389; Europe, 71; Asia, 46; Africa, 16; America, 6; Australia, $\frac{1}{2}$. Such a nation will have a power and a commerce and industry not heretofore known to the world. Our ships and those of our allies will bring the spare products of every land to our shores. Systems of interior land and water transport, perhaps mostly operated by electric power, will rapidly and cheaply distribute them.

For a century we may hope to live comfortably and abundantly within our boundaries. But other people must grow also. The now empty and waste places of the earth will be occupied by civilized and industrious nations. We have in this generation made wonderful and rapid progress in the discoveries and inventions of science. We use the electric force, as did our fathers that of steam. In all probability, electricity will heat as well as light our houses, and will cook our food. It will drive other as well as our city passenger railroads. And it is not probable that man has yet discovered all the resources laid up by the Creator to be discovered and utilized by his creatures when needed for their happiness and comfort.*

The Anglo-Saxon race will occupy the continent from the Isthmus to the Arctic, and, when crowded therein, must spread over South America, or perish. That they are not likely to submit to; as the prairie wolf disappears when man drives off or subjugates the animals on which he lives, and for whose regulation he appears to have been created, so will the weaker races give way to the stronger. It has been thus in all history, and the law still holds. There are in the United States a majority of whites over blacks of 51,000,000. They will be able to settle without bloodshed most of the apparently troublesome questions as to races, as may to them seem best; and when they agree upon the

* Since this was written a parlor car has been heated, meals at a restaurant cooked, and a car driven two miles in a minute by electricity.

methods, and necessity enforces the duty, they will settle them for the best good of the greatest number.

Soon after the civil war it was often said that they who believed in the success of the United States, and conducted their affairs on the theory of such success, grew rich and prospered. They who took the opposite belief were unsuccessful, and lost their fortunes. Those who believe in the prospects here set forth will rule their undertakings and investments in the expectation that property in real estate must advance in the next half-century; that commerce and transportation and production must increase enormously. As the discoveries and inventions of science and industry make towns more and more healthful, convenient, interesting, and agreeable places of residence, our people will tend more and more toward them. Museums, libraries, public halls for the education and instruction and amusement of the people, will be more and more numerous and cheap. The streets and parks will be embellished and made gay with public and private buildings. Electric engines will do the heavy work of the day. More time will be at the disposal of men for enjoyment, as these improvements relieve men and women from slavish toil for the means of living.

It may be assumed that the cities will grow at least as fast as the country. In 1790 the urban population was estimated at one-thirtieth the whole; in 1840, at one-twelfth; and in 1870, at one-fifth. In 1990 the urban population will be 240,000,000; and of these, New York will probably contain over 30,000,000. What will be the value of lands in that city then, may be inferred from the auction-sales of London, which has 4,000,000 people. But there is here an inexhaustible field for investigation and speculation. We leave it to others to explore, having fulfilled the task we set ourselves, of calling the attention of those who inaugurate or direct great enterprises to the need of looking, in arrangements for the future, to a longer period than the decennial census, which is the limit of all speculations on the subject

of population and growth which I remember to have seen in print. Twelve hundred millions of intelligent, educated, industrious people, of one race and blood, under one free government, armed with all that science teaches and man has invented—who will wish to interfere with their happiness? -Who will attack them?

The probable increase in the ten years from 1930 to 1940 will be about 68,000,000. This is equivalent to 13,600,000 families. Considering only the building trades, this will require the construction in ten years of 14,000,000 new domiciles or family residences. Each will need as much floor and window area as now. Does any one yet foresee the volume of business and its activity, in constructing within a single decade as many buildings as at this time exist within the limits of the United States?

What work for architects, contractors, builders, carpenters, masons, brick-layers, plasterers, brick-makers, quarriers, saw-mills, lime-kilns, sand-gatherers, rolling-mills, structural and roofing iron in sheets and beams, for tinnerns and roofers, and the thousand other trades engaged in construction, not only of the 14,000,000 new homes, but of the markets, stores, warehouses, post-offices, court-houses, city-halls, jails, penitentiaries, etc., necessary in the administration of an additional population equal to all that exists now on the northern continent! What will be the work of providing, and delivering at every house, three meals a day, and every day, for each inhabitant thereof?

THE LAW OF POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

Pursuing the investigation of the law of population, we come to a question of importance in an economical and ethnographic view. What is to be the relative progress in numbers of the Caucasian and the African races here?

The late revolution in Hayti has led to the publication in the daily press of America of so many concise abstracts from the history of that African republic as to make it

familiar to all who interest themselves in these matters. It is to be regretted that the progress of regulated liberty in that island has not, in a century, been greater. It is a prevailing belief that with us the African increases faster than the Caucasian. The figures of the census during a hundred years do not confirm this opinion. We find that while the whites since 1790 have increased on the average in each decade by 33.46 per cent, the blacks have gained in the same time only 26.81 per cent.

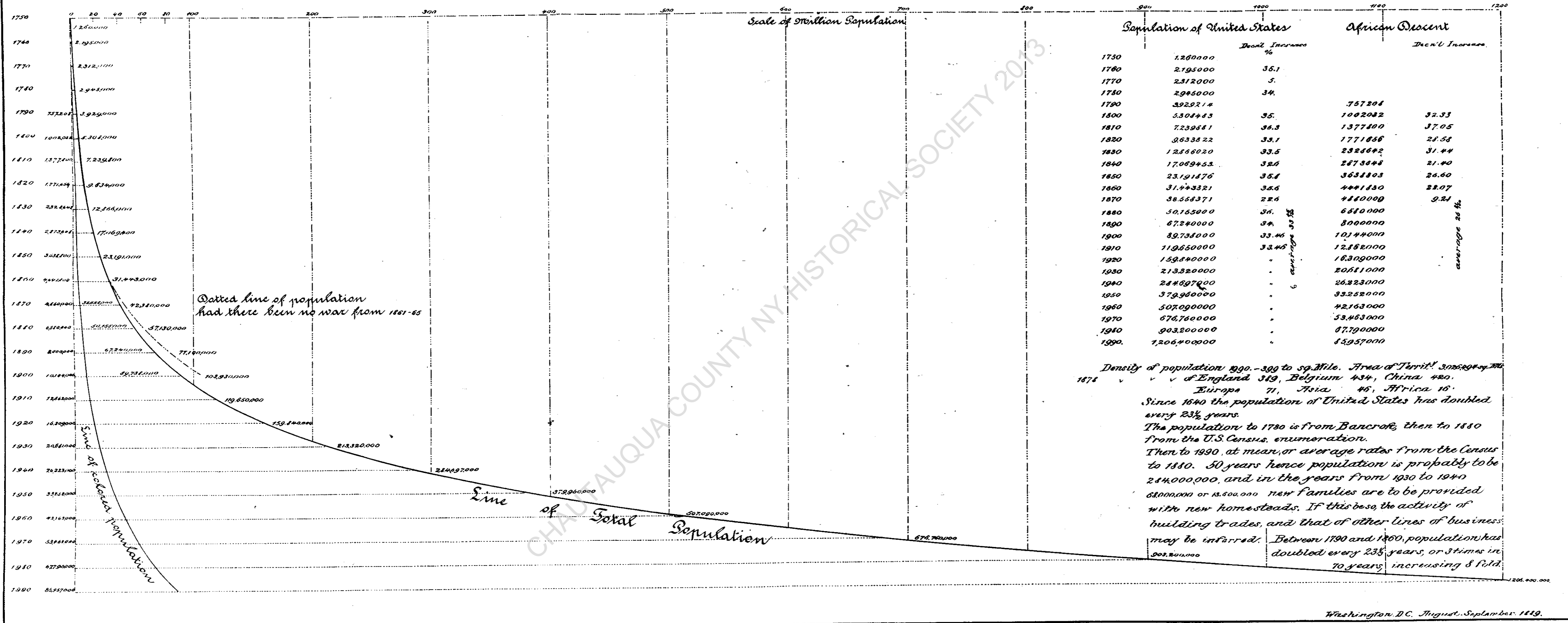
The reader can draw his own inferences from these significant figures. We only say that in 1940 and thereafter this country will not be able to offer free space and citizenship and suffrage for the surplus overflowing of China, to a race which does not assimilate with us, and which is pagan; and that it is time to discontinue the complaint that the Chinese exclusion act was mere demagogism. In the light of these figures, it was the highest statesmanship. The importation of native Africans ceased by the Constitution in 1808, though it is alleged that a few fanatics imported cargoes later. But practically the forced importation ceased then. There never has been any voluntary immigration from Africa.

Both Malthus, in 1794, and Alison, 1840, held that the population of the United States after 1640 doubled every twenty-three and a half years. This rate has continued to 1890, for two hundred and fifty years.

M. C. MEIGS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 2.

GRAPHIC AND TABULAR REPRESENTATION OF THE PROGRESS OF POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES FROM 1750 TO 1990.



Washington, D.C. August-September, 1889.

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