

11/July/24

Geography Foundation

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Population Geography

12:00 - 2:10 Lec-6

Population Growth Theories

- ① Malthus Theory - 1798
- ② Marx Theory - 1860
- ③ Demographic Transition Theory - 1930, 1940, 1960's

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Malthus Theory -

o He wrote - "Essays on Principle of Population" in 1798.

- o English man
- o Economist turned Demographer

(o Background - 1760's - 70's - Industrial

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Revolution.

o Older concept - Population as imp input for labour, Army \therefore Population

as a resource ∴ Euro-Natalist society.]

o Malthus theory - alternative to Euro Natalist interpretation of population growth.]

o Malthus was trying to give an alternative interpretation of population & was challenging the Euro-Natalist view of population and its importance

o The historical context in which Malthus developed theory was Industrial Revolution in Europe & Britain, Advent of Railway & Industries, growing Pollution, Poverty & conflicts in Industrially developed Britain & London.

o Malthus Theory is also called as Ecological or Biological theory because he interpreted population in context of population - agris & population - land relationship (Biological) theory because he views population growth

theory as sexual drive of Human species)
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o Acc. to Malthus, while populatⁿ can multiply geometrically, food productⁿ can increase only arithmetically i.e according to him Populatⁿ have ability to grow rapidly & food productⁿ cannot keep pace with rising populatⁿ numbers. (He used mathematical terms like Geometrically & Arithmetic, more as figure of speech & not based on ^{Prav80818} mathematical or statistical or data analysis).

o: Acc. to Malthus, Populatⁿ as they multiply & grow will ultimately face food shortage, hunger, famines, epidemics that will result in increase in mortality. This he called as Positive Checks which will ^{Prav80818} restrict the growth of Populatⁿ in long run

◦ This concept of Positive Checks & Mortality increase is inevitable and basis of population growth is the Pessimistic view of population growth & resource. This is the main thinking of Malthus Theory.

Basis of Malthusian Theory -

◦ Acc. to Malthus, Man is a Biological being with 2 fundamental survival instincts that overpower him -

1] Food & Hunger instinct

2] Instinct of Biological Reproduction

◦ Food is dependent on Nature & Land ∴ food production has its limit but the capacity of Biological Reproduction is immense & mismatch is what creates positive checks.

⊛ This interpretation is challenged because man is not actually a mechanical

animal being because Man can think,
[strategize & choose]

- o Malthus had discussed ^{an alternative to} the possibility of positive checks where couples can choose to reduce fertility by use of contraceptives, Sexual Abstinence, Infidelity & Homosexuality. Above are either undesirable (given Catholic background of Malthus) or are difficult to practice. Hence these he referred to as **Negative**

Checks

Analysis of Malthusian Theory-

- o It is a pessimistic view of Man.
- o The inevitability of positive checks as only solution is questionable
- o There is an element of class bias and

Racism because he did not support poor laws in Britain (Poor Laws were social programme to support poor population which included free food, shelter & other amenities)

Acc. to Malthus, abundance of food & poor laws support will only incentivise the population to multiply further

o He was in favour of Capitalism, appropriate wages so as to counter positive checks of Hunger & famine but was against ownership rights or assets to poor population & labour class

* In this interpretation of Malthus it is imp. to note that Malthus is not inhuman he is only pragmatic in what he thinks is deserving for poor in terms of avoiding positive checks

- These are other criticisms of Malthus such as he did not foresee scientific Revolution like Green Revolution & Biotechnology that have helped us to multiply food product^{Prav80818}
- He had predicted populatⁿ would double in every 25 years & would ultimately collapse. In reality, world populatⁿ have been moving towards stabilisatⁿ & there have been decline in growth rate of populatⁿ & not because of positive checks ^{Prav80818}
- In modern populatⁿ control, use of contraceptives & conscious family planning has been very imp.
- There is a correlation b/w poverty & growth of populatⁿ but not like how Malthus had interpreted ^{Prav80818}

◦ While Malthusian interpretation of Population Growth & Positive Check is questioned but Malthusian wisdom about limits of earth to support life and development is valid.

◦ Earth Resources are limited - PH water, its ecosystems, its ability to absorb pollutants & earth's ability to heal & regenerate itself. - These ideas are

called as New-Malthusian Concept

which are at basis of Modern Envi.

Movement like Sustainable Development

≡ Neo Environmentalism

Was Pandemic (Covid) a Malthusian event -

• For an event to be Malthusian, the following conditions must be fulfilled-

a] It must be related to Food problem or Hunger

b] It must be related to rapid growth of population

c] It should have impacted poor population more & developing countries

• Given the fact that, Pandemic impacted developed countries more (Japan, Italy, Germany, USA) & it was not the consequence of high growth of P of developing countries \therefore cannot be called as Malthusian event in classical sense

◦ However, if we analyse at more deeper level, it was the consequence of Earth's Ecosystem getting compromised & it did impact more because of climate change, shrinking forest & compromised Earth's Ecosystem.

◦ It can be viewed as Neo-Malthusian event.

Are Positive Checks inevitable, natural & distinct -

◦ For Malthus, positive checks are natural, consequence of man's Biological instinct. They are related to Population growth alone.

◦ In reality most of problems are Governance issues, Bad Policy & Political systems that are unresponsive, exploit -ative & those that deliberately ignored Developmental Priorities