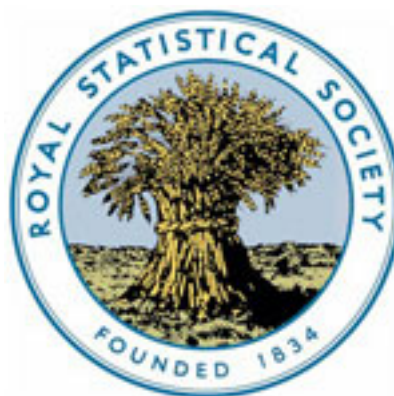


WILEY



Die Übervölkerung Deutschlands und ihre Bekämpfung by Ferdinand Goldstein

Review by: A. D. W.

Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Vol. 73, No. 2 (Feb., 1910), p. 173

Published by: [Wiley](#) for the [Royal Statistical Society](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2340160>

Accessed: 25/06/2014 09:11

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Wiley and Royal Statistical Society are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

5.—*Die Übervölkerung Deutschlands und ihre Bekämpfung.* Von Dr. Ferdinand Goldstein. 128 pp., 8vo. München : Ernst Reinhardt, 1909.

The problem of over-population in a limited sense is an eminently practical one, and any proposals for solving it are of interest. Dr. Goldstein enters on his treatment of the over-population of Germany by impugning the Malthusian doctrine of the dependence of the number of the population on food supply. He substitutes for it the proposition that the size or density of the population is determined by the amount of work to be done, or in other words by the demand for labour. Taking things as they are there is a great deal to be said for the view that "whoever has work can procure the means of life," though this does not appear to us to falsify the position of Malthus. Proceeding, the author supposes general over-population to be practically impossible, although partial over-population may and does occur. Particular industries can give employment to only a limited number of persons. Agriculture is one of these industries. Hence there arises in rural Germany (and elsewhere) an over-population, which is termed "social over-population," that is, an excess in the supply of a particular kind of labour over the demand for it. The excess must either emigrate to other countries or to towns, the numerous industries of which may be, and in Germany are, able to absorb a never-ending supply of labour. It is to this "social over-population" of the rural areas, and not to the amusements or other attractions of town life, that Dr. Goldstein ascribes the rural exodus, an incidental consequence of which is asserted to be the growth of social democracy. There may be also over-population in the towns, as shown by excessive supply of labour in particular industries, and by overcrowded dwellings, which give rise to high rents, great infantile mortality, and other evils.

There is, however, a general cause at work tending, in the author's view, unduly to increase the population of Germany, and especially to increase the least desirable classes of it. This cause is the legal prohibition of artificial abortion, to the discussion of which Dr. Goldstein devotes much of his book. We doubt whether Dr. Goldstein, in recommending the abrogation or modification of the laws in question, has fully estimated the grave dangers attaching to the freedom he advocates. He does not believe, however, that such a change in the law will of itself raise to a higher level "the deeply-sunk population of Germany." Something more positive is required, and the author's final suggestion is the formation by the middle classes, in whom alone reside the necessary qualities, of co-operative undertakings or establishments on a dual basis of agriculture and industry, the latter absorbing the labour not required by the former, and so stopping the flow to the towns.

The book is interestingly written, and contains many suggestive ideas, though there is much in it, as already indicated, with which we cannot agree.

A.D.W.