

# ANNOTATIONS

## POSTWAR PLANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS<sup>1</sup>

THIS volume was designed to present a brief factual survey of the proposals for postwar economic organization and planning advanced by official and private groups in the various United Nations.

As might be expected, major attention is directed to proposals developed in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the various members of the British Empire group, with brief sections on planning in the Latin American countries, and somewhat more extended outlines of the programs of China and the Soviet Union. A few pages are devoted to the proposals of the governments in exile, and to the scattered impressions that could be gathered, at the time the study was made, of the thinking of underground groups in the axis-occupied territories.

Although any survey of postwar planning prior to the turn of the tide in Europe is necessarily dated as regards specific proposals, the volume is nevertheless useful for the broad picture that it affords of the diverse strands of thought that have been revealed in the consideration of postwar problems throughout the world. Although the study explicitly avoids critical analysis the various programs are set forth against the background of varying basic economic conditions and ideologies that prevailed before the war and are likely to continue to influence the policies of different countries after the war. Thus the study helps to put in perspective the difficulties that are now being and will hereafter continue to be encountered in achieving a stable basis for harmonious economic relationships among the countries of the postwar world. It will, accordingly, be useful for some time to come in providing an orientation and point of departure for the consideration of the problems of economic, social, and political

<sup>1</sup> Lorwin, Lewis L.: *POSTWAR PLANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS*. New York, The Twentieth Century Fund. 1943, 319 pp. \$2.50.

relationships as they now emerge into the foreground of national and international discussion.

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## POPULATION FACTS AND POLICIES IN GREAT BRITAIN<sup>1</sup>

ACCORDING to estimates of various British and American demographers, England is now experiencing the crest of her population growth. Among the latter, Notestein and his colleagues have said, "Even before the present war there was a strong probability that England's population would commence to fall in the near future. On the basis of the projections [of the population of European countries to 1970], with the exception of France, England and Wales experiences the greatest population decline among the countries of Europe. From its assumed maximum of 41.1 million in 1945 it drops to 37.1 million in 1970, or about 10 per cent."<sup>2</sup>

Whether or not the current year actually witnesses the peak population, there is no doubt that England and Wales are confronted with the prospect of an early decline in numbers unless substantial and unexpected increases in fertility occur. The need for preventing or minimizing this future decline has been repeatedly emphasized in the so-called "Beveridge Plan" and in the speeches of Winston Churchill. Last year a Royal Commission on Population was appointed to study the factors underlying the trend of population and to make recommendations.

In the search for ways and means of encouraging larger families Great Britain will doubtless be satisfied only with those schemes that are consonant with the principles of a democracy. Indeed, the very appearance of the booklet under review, *POPULATION FACTS AND POLICIES*, suggests that any plan that Great Britain finally evolves will not be one that is "handed down" by the politicians or even by the experts on the Royal Commission, but will to some extent be an outgrowth of what the people want. For this booklet was prepared in response to the demands for a "study outline," for purposes of group discussions throughout the country.

<sup>1</sup> Hubback, Eva M.: *POPULATION FACTS AND POLICIES*. London, George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1945, pp. 48 (paper), 2s. 6d.

<sup>2</sup> Notestein, F. W.; Taeuber, I. B.; Kirk, D.; Coale, A. J.; and Kiser, L. K.: *THE FUTURE POPULATION OF EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION*. Geneva, League of Nations, 1944, p. 60.