

dealing with the larger problems of social science. In relation to these his celebrated contemporary, Thomas Robert Malthus (1766-1834), is of much more importance, and this for several reasons. His well-known treatise on 'Population' directed the attention of social philosophers to a subject which has since become of increasing importance, and upon which most extreme and opposite views have sprung up.

At a time when economists all over Europe considered that economic prosperity went hand in hand with dense populations, when some of the leading countries of Europe were very thinly populated, and when Adam Smith's "Theory of Labour"—emphasised in a one-sided way by Ricardo—encouraged a natural desire to see populations grow, Malthus gave, for a time at least, an opposite turn to speculation on this subject. He did this by his well-known, though somewhat exaggerated, formula, that population tends to increase in a geometrical, while the means of subsistence increases only in an arithmetical, ratio. Malthus does not seem to have been stimulated by Adam Smith, but rather by opposition to views expressed by William Godwin, a direct disciple of Condorcet, on the one side, and by his own father, Daniel Malthus, who had been a personal friend of Rousseau's, on the other.

We thus trace through him the direct influence in this country of a special line of French thought of which Adam Smith took little or no notice. On the other side, Malthus points forward to a much more recent line of thought, which has made itself as acutely felt in sociology as it has done in other regions of philosophy