
ECONOMICS, LABOR & BUSINESS

from economic hardship. Far from expecting ever higher living standards, most 19th-century Americans worried about recurrent economic depressions. Since the Great Depression of the 1930s, however, federal social programs and fiscal policy have put "floors" under most economic activity. Social Security, unemployment compensation, parity payments to farmers, federally insured bank deposits, and public works programs provide "a degree of economic safety totally unknown in the era of pregovernmental capitalism," contends Heilbroner.

Just as important, the growth of Big Labor and modern corporations has neutralized much of the competitiveness that restrains prices. These institutions have turned into monolithic "bargaining blocs" able to keep both wages and prices artificially high.

Heilbroner rules out a return to the world of 1880—Americans will no longer tolerate the periodic blights of unemployment and business failures that previously checked inflationary pressures. He urges instead the matching of today's economic "floors" with inflation "ceilings." For example, all 1980 earnings that exceed 1979 earnings might be taxed away. This would reduce the demand for "cost of living" pay raises. Government agencies could be set up to determine exceptions—e.g., individual raises stemming from promotions or higher profits. Even acceptable salary gains, however, would escape taxation only if deposited into savings accounts or productively reinvested. Prices will stabilize, says Heilbroner, once incomes are limited.

Such a program, heavy with red tape, will never be enacted if inflation remains tolerable, Heilbroner concedes. But, he predicts, 50 percent inflation will make a new layer of bureaucracy seem a godsend.

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Ethnicity in America, 1790

"The Ethnic Origins of the American People, 1790" by Forrest McDonald and Ellen Shapiro McDonald, in *William and Mary Quarterly* (Apr. 1980), P.O. Box 220, Williamsburg, Va. 23185.

What was white America's ethnic makeup in 1790 when the first U.S. census was taken? A widely accepted 50-year-old study estimates that 60 percent of the white population of 3 million was of Anglo-Saxon (English) descent, 17.6 percent of Celtic (Scottish, Welsh, and Irish) stock, the rest being Germans, Dutch, French and Swedes.

But the McDonalds, historians at the University of Alabama, claim that genealogist Howard F. Baker and historian Marcus L. Hansen vastly undercounted America's Celtic population, particularly south of New York, in their famous 1931 study. Barker and Hansen, they find, ignored the centuries of wars, conquests, and intermarriages that in-

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jected Anglo-Saxon surnames into Celtic areas of the British Isles but left Celtic cultures intact.

According to the McDonalds' new estimate, which takes into account the ethnic traditions of immigrant Americans as well as "bloodlines," less than half the population south of Pennsylvania was Anglo-Saxon. (Unreliable figures from several states make accurate new nation-wide estimates impossible.)

Where Barker and Hansen classified 64.5 percent of Marylanders as Anglo-Saxon, the McDonalds' figure is 47.4 percent. North Carolina's percentage of Anglo-Saxons drops from 66 to 40.6, while the Celtic percentage rises from 26 to 52.6. In New England, Anglo-Saxons, as expected, comprised a high 77.6 percent of the population, according to the McDonalds.

The proportion of Celts increased within individual states as one moved inland. In North Carolina, for example, Celts made up roughly 40 percent of the inhabitants of most coastal counties but between 63 and 99 percent of the populations of western districts.

"When [Celts] appeared in sufficient numbers, they composed a disruptive element indeed," say the authors. The Whiskey Rebellion of 1794 broke out in western Pennsylvania's Washington County, where more than 75 percent of the population was Celtic. The authors speculate that most of the sectional disputes (East-West as well as North-South) that plagued the young United States were exacerbated, if not caused, by ethnic differences.

When Jews Marry Gentiles

"Processes and Outcomes in Marriages Between Jews and Non-Jews" by Egon Mayer, in *American Behavioral Scientist* (Apr. 1980), Sage Publications, 275 South Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif. 90212.

Do American Jews marry outside their faith to reject their parents or their religion? Is intermarriage always the first step down the road to assimilation into the larger society? Mayer, a Brooklyn College sociologist, says no.

He surveyed 446 mixed couples in eight American communities. In two-thirds of the marriages, the husband was Jewish. In most of the marriages, the Jewish spouses were better educated. However, whereas mixed marriages with Jewish wives tended to be unions of educational and occupational equals, Jewish husbands were significantly better educated and/or held more prestigious jobs than their non-Jewish wives. Eighty-one percent of the Jewish wives and 80 percent of their husbands held bachelors degrees, compared with 90 percent of the Jewish husbands and only 72 percent of their wives. Further, fully half the non-Jewish wives were housewives, students, retirees, or unemployed. Only 39 percent of the Jewish wives did not work outside the home.

As for the mothers and fathers, roughly three-fifths of the Jewish