

Originally intended to refute the American System of political-economy, established in the New World only a decade before publication of Malthus's book, the arguments function today to justify the austerity policy imposed by the international banking system on the Third World.

### **Ecologism and pagan idolatry**

The use of fear and hysteria to control populations and to impose dictatorial rule is nothing new in human history. "Totalitarian systems have sought for thousands of years to manipulate their subject populations and make them pliable through fear and terror. Helplessly, weak man stands confronted by gigantic natural forces. . . . In antiquity, the raging gods could only be placated by sacrifice and absolute obedience toward the oligarchical priestly class. Whoever believes that the time of nature gods and idols is long past is making a serious error.

"Today, we are experiencing the rise of a new 'idol': It is the idol of 'Mother Earth,' Gaia; its secular name is 'the environment,' and its altar is called 'Environmental Protection,' on which within a few years more human beings have already been sacrificed than on the ghastly altars of all the idols of the Incas. Shrouded in the gowns of scientific inviolability, a priestly caste proselytizes worldwide for this Goddess Mother Earth."

### **What is science: our debt to Krafft Ehrlicke**

In the last 20 years, Schauerhammer states that the worst effects of environmentalist thinking on human civilization have been on science itself. Science, rather than being the method by which humanity improves its world, has rather become "very successful in answering irrelevant questions." Schauerhammer contrasts the attitude of scientists to hunger and starvation in Africa in the late 1960s and the present. "If we can put a human being on the Moon and bring him back in a healthy condition, then we can also solve the problems on Earth," as opposed to talk about the "unsolvable problem" of "overpopulation" and even the attitude that, perhaps it's better if we let the people of the Third World starve today rather than having more of them around to starve tomorrow. If that is a new discovery, Schauerhammer says, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that in the last 30 years that we have not become more clever but merely more immoral.

Showing an indebtedness to the great German-American scientist and engineer Krafft Ehrlicke, Schauerhammer develops a view of the evolution of life and humanity on Earth that sharply contrasts with that of the malthusians. In the chapter on malthusianism, he argues that malthusians and neo-malthusians have confused mere multiplication with growth, and that the present stage of humanity should be seen in analogy with that of an embryo in the womb, whose growth is about to "continue in another world" in which "biological growth" is no longer the only concern, but rather development of labor power and creative reason. Humanity is now capable

of moving into a new world, and that lies "in the stars."

Schauerhammer argues in his last chapter that the "relevant questions" for science to deal with are, how can we provide the living standard enjoyed during the mid-1960s for the entire population of the world today? When we ask that "the actual scientific challenges appear that the zero-growth ideology today has obscured and driven out of the minds of scientists."

When these challenges are taken seriously, Schauerhammer says we will see that we have "precisely the questions to answer that will arise in connection with a project for the settlement of Mars. We need a great goal, an orientation through which that will pull thinking out of the morass of zero-growth ideology and elevate it into true responsibility for future generations. . . . We need a Mars project to accelerate that which must be done in any case for the development of the Earth. . . . Either we gain Mars and the Earth, or we lose the Earth."

## **Books Received**

**Vietnam Today, Assessing the New Trends**, edited by Thai Quang Trung, Crane Russak, Bristol, Pa., 1990, 126 pages, hardbound

**America and Soviet Intervention: Effects on World Stability**, edited by Karen A. Feste, Crane Russak, Bristol, Pa., 1990, 162 pages, paperback

**Challenges of Leadership in African Development**, edited by Olusegun Obasanjo and Hans d'Orville, Crane Russak, Bristol, Pa., 1990, 258 pages, paperback

**Communist Systems and Challenges**, by Amos Yoder, Crane Russak, Bristol, Pa., 1990, 274 pages, paperback

**Voices of Freedom, An Oral History of the Civil Rights Movement from the 1950s through the 1980s**, by Henry Hampton and Steven Fayer, with Sarah Flynn, Bantam Books, New York, 1990, 692 pages, paperback, \$19.95

**We Are Not Afraid: The Story of Goodman, Schwerner and Chaney and the Civil Rights Campaign for Mississippi**, by Seth Cagin and Philip Dray, Bantam Books, New York, 1990, 512 pages, paperback, \$14.95

**A Testament of Hope, The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.**, edited by James M. Washington, HarperCollins, New York, 1991, 702 pages, paperback, \$16.95