

THE BACKWARD PEOPLES AND OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM

CHAPTER I

WHO ARE THE BACKWARD PEOPLES ?

BEFORE we consider the great problem of the relations between the backward peoples and those races and nations of the world mainly of the Christian and Jewish religions who believe themselves to have the power of enforcing their will on the rest of humanity, let us proceed to define who and what these backward or unprogressive peoples are and to what extent they may be considered to be retrograde and ineffective as compared with the dominating white race. The chief and obvious distinction between the backward and the forward peoples is that the former, with the exception of about 20,000,000 in the Mediterranean basin and the Near East, are of coloured skin ; while the latter are white-skinned or, as in the case of the Japanese and the inhabitants of Northern China, nearly white.

I think if we took all the factors into consideration—religion, education (especially knowledge concerning the relations between this planet and the universe of which it is a minute speck, the history and geography of the planet, the sciences that are a part of earth-study), standard of living, respect for sanitation, infant death rate, bodily strength, manner of government, regard for law and order, position in agriculture and manufactures,—we might appraise mathematically, according to the following ratio,

the principal nations and peoples into which humanity is divided:—

1. Great Britain and Ireland, Canada and Newfoundland, White Australia, New Zealand, White South Africa (south of the Zambezi), Malta and Mauritius, United States, France, Corsica, much of Algeria and Tunis, Belgium and Luxembourg, Holland, Germany, Austria, Chekho-Slovakia, Italy, Switzerland, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland, Finland, Esthonia, Spain, Chile, Argentina, Japan 100 per cent.
2. Poland and Lithuania, Serbia and Croatia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, British Guiana, French and Dutch Guiana, British and French West Indies, Cuba and Porto Rico, Hawaii, Uruguay 98 per cent.
3. Russia, Russian Siberia, Russian Central Asia, the Caucasus, Egypt, British India, French Indo-China, Siam, British Malaysia, Mexico, Central America, Bolivia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Paraguay, Java, Siam, Armenia 97 per cent.
4. Albania, Asia Minor, Morocco, Southern Algeria, Tripoli, Palestine, Syria, Persia, China, Tibet, Afghanistan, Zanzibar 95 per cent.
5. Madagascar, Black South Africa, French West Africa, British West Africa, Uganda, British Central and East Africa, Sumatra, Borneo, the Philippines, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, Angöla, Santo Domingo 90 per cent.
6. Abyssinia, Arabia, Portuguese East Africa, the Belgian Congo, Portu-

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- guese Congo, Liberia, Haiti, Celebes,
Timor, New Caledonia, British Papua . 80 per cent.
7. Dutch New Guinea and New Hebrides,
Portuguese Guinea, French Central
Africa 75 per cent.

This rough estimate of civilization and culture does not imply that the nations or peoples which are classed together resemble one another in all their stages of culture. Some will excel in one direction, some in another. In certain directions a people may be very forward, coupled with retrograde features which reduce their average value.

Obviously, the foremost nations in the world at the present day are Britain and the regions of the British Empire in which the white race predominates; the United States; France; and Germany,—not only by the numbers of their peoples and the degree of their national wealth, but by their industry, commerce and the proportion of educated to uneducated people in their population. In all elements of greatness, but not in potency of numbers, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Holland, Luxembourg and Belgium, are on an equal footing. From their magnificent parts in history, one would like to class Spain, Portugal and Italy with these powers of the first rank, and before many more years have passed Spain and Italy, at any rate, may have attained such a position, when the whole of their peoples are sufficiently educated and political troubles have ceased to hinder progress.

It is the peoples of 95 per cent. to 90 per cent. that may be put in the unprogressive or retrograde class, unable at present to govern themselves in a manner conducive to progress; while those that are graded 80 and 75 per cent. still contain in their midst elements of sheer savagery. Such regions, if left alone by the controlling white man, might easily relapse into the unprofitable barbarism out of which they have been lifted with the white man's efforts during the past fifty years.

With the exception of Uganda, Abyssinia and Madagas-

car, none of these backward peoples can be described as Christian. Liberia is ostensibly governed by 15,000 civilized Christian negroes and half-breeds who have migrated from America during the nineteenth century and around whose settlements dwell about 10,000 Christian natives derived from the aboriginal population. The rest of the population of Liberia,—perhaps a million and a half to two millions,—is Muhammadan and Pagan. At the present day the Peninsula of Arabia, the inner parts of Syria, Turkish Asia Minor, Persia and Afghanistan, govern themselves without the interference of any Christian European nation; though Persia, for its own safety, coherence and prosperity may have, for some time to come, to move very much within the sphere of influence of the British Indian Empire.

The only non-Christian Great Power which is completely independent of 'white' tutelage or advice is Japan. Japan, whether acknowledging it or not, has had its philosophy, mode of life, and aspirations greatly influenced by the Christian missionaries who have taught there since 1870.

The situation in the world of 1920 is that 283,000,000 of Christian white people,—British, French, Belgian, Dutch, American, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Greek,—are directly or indirectly interfering with, attempting to control, 920,000,000 Chinese, Tibetans, Indians, Cingalese, Malays, Papuans, Negritos, Melanesians, Polynesians, Persians, Arabs, Kurds, Turks, Berbers, Hamites, Fulas and Negroes.

With regard to the control of China and Tibet, it has become little more than a benevolent attempt to help them back to complete independence and on to a more progressive civilization. Europe and America have realized that these peoples are more likely to work out their own redemption as independent nations. The same is the case with Persia and the same will be the case, before long, in Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Tripoli, Tunis and Morocco. Force of circumstances, the education of public opinion in the Christian

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white countries, will bring us by degrees to see that our best advantage lies in educating these backward countries of the first category (in most cases lands of ancient splendour, the civilization of which at one time exceeded that of Western and Northern Europe); and then leaving them to work out their redemption alongside the other independent nations of the world.

IN REGARD TO INDIA

In regard to India, however, the problem is more complicated owing to the great difference in race, language and culture which lies between the peoples inhabiting that Peninsula and its adjacent lands. India, indeed, deserves a special description from this point of view. Its political area extends from the frontiers of Persia and Afghanistan to those of French Indo-China and Siam; from the Himalaya mountains to Ceylon—and Ceylon may be included in its survey since its separation from India is only an artificial political arrangement.

What, then, are the races of India and Ceylon, and why, if India is left entirely to itself, might it not become at once a peaceful, well-governed confederation of Asiatic peoples?

In Baluchistan, to begin with, we have two distinct peoples, not, however, differing very markedly in physical appearance, which is usually handsome in both men and women. There are the Baluch tribes speaking one or more languages of the Persian type,—being, in fact, like the Afghans, Armenians, Ossetes and Kurds, little more than an outlying extension of the ancient Persian empire; there are the descendants of former Arab invasions and colonizations (though these seem to have lost their Semitic speech); and there are the Brahuis. The Brahui language is totally distinct from that of Aryan Baluchistan. It is an isolated, far-separated member of the Dravidian group; the other Dravidian languages being found in Southern and Central India and Ceylon. All Baluchistan is Muhammadan in religion, but the