

11-28-1949

## Report From Britain, 28 November 1949

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### Recommended Citation

Silver (1907-1988), James W. (James Wesley), "Report From Britain, 28 November 1949" (1949). *Reports from Britain, 1949-1950*. 8. [https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jws\\_brit/8](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jws_brit/8)

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REPORT FROM BRITAIN

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November 28, 1949

Here are some questions posed by the editor of the Scots Independent (November, 1949) which raises once again the brutal thought that England is through as a first rate power. Laugh them off if you will, but then read them the second time:

(1) Are English party politicians, and political economists, not living too much in a dream world of the industrial revolution age of yesterday?

(2) Is the socialist ideology not crying out for a share of the spoils of another age - spoils that have been dissipated, or used up, and which largely may be said to be non-existent today?

(3) Are the trade deficits each year not simply due to other countries catching up with, and even in some cases surpassing us in industrialization, and that as a consequence the advantages of being first in the field in the industrial revolution have been and are rapidly encroached upon?

(4) Has the time not come to recognize that a new world economy has grown up, that the ever advancing world conditions since the industrial revolution era have shown definite tendencies to react unfavorably towards England's economy?

(5) Is it safe to plan on the broad assumption that this new world (no matter what particular type of party government may be in power) can, or will be willing to, accept ALL the huge quantities of goods essential to provide FULL employment for ALL of England's existing population?

(6) Can we rely on this new world supplying us with ALL the huge quantities of raw materials, foods, and other necessities, (and at prices suitable to us), that may be considered by any English political party to be essential to keep England's huge industrial machine working to FULL capacity, and to sustain ALL her existing population at such high levels of living as may be thought to be desirable by the English people?

The fiery editor summarized Britain's history in two neat packages which he terms 1) the expanding process (1770-1914) and 2) the recession process (1914-1949). He then answers his own question, "Can England Recover?"

"If England is to maintain her present population she will require to export more, and it is doubtful if she will find a market for all her goods, work longer hours, receive less pay and cut down not only her defense expenditure but also restrict her welfare schemes. The alternative to this is to cut down drastically the number of her population to bring it into line with what she can support at reasonable standards of living. Capitalism or Socialism, or Communism or London nationalization will not in themselves alter this state of affairs. England will, however, continue no doubt, to lean on the support of other countries ...to postpone the evil day. But postponement it will be, and the harder the fall will be when the day comes."

The author of this dire prophecy is a leading Scottish nationalist whose feeling toward England he himself sums up with "...do not let us fall with her." Admittedly, and regardless of his predilections, he has a strong case. But if every assumption he makes is basically sound, does that not still leave the United States with the absolute necessity, in its own self-interest, or exerting its great power to keep Britain the strongest possible ally in the world's uncompromising ideological struggle?

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