

ACCUMULATION OF CAPITAL by RL

(1) In the chapter XXIX (~~The Struggle Against Peasant Economy~~) RL takes up both the description of the killing off of the Red Indians in the U.S. and the killing of the South African Negroes by the Boer-English wars.

396 "the process of separating agriculture and industry is determined by factors such as oppressive taxation, war, or squandering and monopolisation of the nation's land, and thus belongs to the spheres of political power and criminal law no less than with economics."

Nowhere has this process been brought to such perfection as in the U.S. In the wage of the railways, financed by European and in particular British capital, the American farmer crossed the Union from East to West and in his progress over vast areas killed off the Red Indians with fire-arms and bloodhounds, liquor and venereal disease, pushing the survivors to the West in order to appropriate the land they had 'vacated', to clear it and bring it under the plough. The American farmer, the 'backwoodsman' of the good old times before the War of Secession, was very different indeed from his modern counterpart. They was hardly anything he could not do, and he led a practically self-sufficient life on his isolated farm

... there follows a description of the former "Arcadian life", and then considerable concrete, and statistical material on the modern developments, as (p. 403) the Red Indian had been forced to make room for the farmer and now the farmer in his turn was driven beyond the Mississippi to make way for capital."

On p. 409 RL takes up the situation in Canada, ^{as an} "even more monstrous scale than in the U.S...."

On p. 411 RL continues "In quite a different historical setting, in South Africa, the same process shows up even more clearly the 'peaceful methods' by which capital competes with the small commodity producer." First there is the Boers killing off the Hottentots and Kaffirs to get their pastures, assisted by the plague imported by ships of the East India Company, which frequently did away with entire Hottentot tribes." Then they spread East to war with the Bantu tribes in the Kaffir wars and "built their peasant economy like parasites on the backs of the Negroes, compelling them to do slave-labour..."

On p. 412 there are some powerful paragraphs: "The tiny peasant republics were in constant guerilla warfare against the Bantu Negroes. And it was on the backs of the Negroes that the battle between the Boers and the English government was fought... Both had precisely the same aim to subject, expel or destroy the coloured peoples, to appropriate their land and press them into service... Only their methods were different. While the Boers stood for out-dated slavery on a petty scale, on which their patriarchal peasant economy was founded, the British bourgeoisie represented modern large-scale capitalist exploitation... The Constitution of the Transvaal (South African) Republic declared with crude prejudice: 'The People shall not permit any equality of coloured persons with white inhabitants, neither in the Church nor in the State...'"

(There is further description of this process to the end of the ch.)