

- Thomas Robert Malthus (1766-1834): His *Essay on the Principle of Population* (1798; 2nd edition, much enlarged and revised 1803) gave rise to pessimistic 'Malthusianism': the belief that the fruits of major (inherently temporary) economic and technological advances would always be quite literally 'eaten up' and cancelled out by increased population growth ('Malthusian' demographic pressures)
 - Malthus was internationally famous due to this publication
 - Central concept was the suggestion that economy activity grows arithmetically whilst population grows geometrically
 - i.e. that population tends to outstrip economic growth
 - a gloomy and pessimistic outlook – took pleasure in his gloominess – saw it a way to counter the positivity of enlightenment figures
 - desire to refused William Godwins positivism – in part due to his own belief in the fallen nature of mankind – the concept of original sin (Malthus was an Anglican priest)
- Malthus together with his friend David Ricardo (1772-1823) contributed to the striking shift from....
- David Ricardo: *Principles of Political Economy and Taxation* (1817) pioneered more sophisticated conceptions of 'gains-from-trade' based up the doctrine or theory of 'comparative cost advantage' (in place of Adam Smith' more limited conception of trade as a 'vent for surpluses'); and more sophisticated conceptions of 'and rents', 'resource rents' and 'economic rents' and of natural limits to growth' based on assumptions that many resources are scarce, or finite, or depletable, and are therefore in fixed ('inelastic') or exhaustible supply. This further reinforced the 'iron law of wages' and helped to turn political economy in an even more hard-nosed and pessimistic 'science of scarcity' and a precursor of more recent ecological, environmental and natural-resource-based emphases on natural 'limits to growth' and potential ecological catastrophe if these limits are continually transgressed
 - Mineral resources are finite
 - Land is finite
 - Resources which are finite will always command a high price
 - Landowners becoming wealthier from real-estate – the land was worth far more as land to build on than as farm land
 - Not just from sale of the land but from rent
 - Rents are attainable not just from natural resources but from any resource which is in short supply – e.g. specialised services such as Doctors, Lawyers, Accountants
 - Believed that earnings from finite things should be subject to high taxation
 - Believed you could and should distinguish between earned and unearned income (productive/non-productive activities)
 - Trade between Portugal and Britain
 - Believed it was sensible for Portugal to concentrate on production of Wine and Port even though it could also produce textiles (which Britain was also producing) because of the comparative cost advantage
 - If you take Ricardo's thinking towards its logical conclusion then you arrive at Marxist theory (in general the classical-liberal economists of the past have far more in common in Marx)