

LINDER

The Dilemmas of Laissez-Faire Population
Policy in Capitalist Societies

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*When the Invisible Hand
Controls Reproduction*

MARC LINDER



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I was ever of opinion, that the honest man who married and brought up a large family, did more service than he who continued single and only talked of population.

Oliver Goldsmith, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, in
3 *The Works of Oliver Goldsmith* 7
(Peter Cunningham ed., 1908 [1766])

That the first want of man is his dinner, and the second his girl, were truths well known to every democrat and aristocrat, long before the great philosopher Malthus.... It has been equally well known that the second want is frequently so impetuous as to make men and women forget the first, and rush into rash marriages, leaving both the first and second wants, their own as well as those of their children and grandchildren, to the chapter of accidents.

John Adams, "Letters to John Taylor," in
The Works of John Adams 6:445, 516
(Charles F. Adams ed., 1851 [1814])

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