
This Post-War Generation and Our Time: Will It Be Able to Find a Way Out?

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When I watch the young people of today in the dance halls, at the football games, on the street, going to school, etc., I often stop to think: What may we expect from this post-war generation? Will the youth learn anything from the experience of these hard times? Then I look back into the days when another young generation “danced” to the tune of buzzing bullets, shrapnel, and other death-carrying war instruments. Another question arises in my thought: What has that generation learned from the sad experience? The present crisis the world over answers: NOTHING!

Our so-called civilized world is all set up for “the next war” as soon as the time is ripe for one, and the time is ripening rapidly. War causes are developing fast. Some see a remedy in that: plenty of work, no unemployment. No, especially not for young people, for they will be needed in the trenches and elsewhere where the monster, war, may call them. The inventors of war “horrors” have been very thoughtful, we are told, and as a result the **cultured** people too may be killed in that “next war” — in the real war and at home.

This would, of course, reduce the population greatly, and those who may survive will not have unemployment for awhile. But you and I wish to live, and the best way to assure our living is to

try and prevent war, by abolishing the causes of war. Young people of today, however, seem very indifferent to such things, yet their future depends on just such things!

The post-war generation is receiving more



education than any generation ever did, but not the kind of education it really needs. The schools of today are under control of the system which can produce an enormous surplus of everything without a thought to who is going to consume. Because they are controlled by such a system, we have any number of so-called educated young folks who are not only doing very common jobs for exceedingly low wages, but are in

great many instances unable to secure employment. With all the education, they are forced to depend on their parents for support, instead of being able to make a living for themselves and help their parents, who sacrificed so much in order to insure their children a better future. All this because there is an overproduction of boys and girls

who were educated with hopes that they might acquire “white collar jobs.”

Unfortunately, this post-war generation, brought up on the illusions of individual chances of success, finds now that everyone cannot succeed under the system that requires hundreds, sometimes thousands, of failures to make one individual really successful. Among those marked “unsuccessful” are found plain, common laborers, skilled workers, brilliant students, in short, clever and dumb people, educated and uneducated. And the successful individual does not need to be actually gifted, for it does not take much intelligence nor knowledge to get the herd into the old stall. But try to get it into a new one; it will resist until it finds that the new stall is really better and more comfortable.

In the eyes of capitalists, we are not considered much more than a “common herd,” and the younger the herd, the more they try to keep on the old tracks that lead into their profit yielding old stalls of modern slavery. This post-war generation is being led blindly towards inevitable distress, which may prove even worse than predicted by the farsighted or radical economists.

How long, then, can this young generation remain indifferent as to its own future? If it chooses to, until it dies from starvation amid the great surplus of food and abundance of wealth which was gathered together by the workmen of the world, but which is owned by a handful of “successful” capitalists because the workers, the majority of them, are still saturated with the humble sense of their forefathers who slaved under the feudal system and kissed the hand that twirled the horse-whip over their backs.

It is expected, however, that the young generation, having so many opportunities to better their lives, will in due time respond to the call of those who are eager to help the youth construct a

new system that will mean a real prosperity of all people. We are hoping that the youth, seeing the future holds nothing but misery in store for them, or perhaps a chance to die a heroic death for the international speculators and exploiters, shall demand the right to live as comfortably as the modern technical improvements permit. If vigorously demanded, the national wealth will, as it always should, belong to the masses who are creating it — to the workers of the world!

This post-war generation can bring about the realization of many hopes that the laboring class is harboring, but is not yet able to come afront and demand justice. This generation can bring about peace by denouncing war and its propagators. By refusing to serve any army, by demanding complete disarmament of all countries.

Finally, this post-war generation can live in comfort and luxury not known to any previous generation, because the modern knowledge is steadily finding new ways to increase our wealth. But if the civilized nations continue to improve only technically, then all this wealth will be of little use to anyone save the rich class. Unless people soon realize the need of strong labor organizations which shall protect their rights as human beings, new wars will burst forth and destroy the wealth that might have been enjoyed by millions of people in peace and contentment.

Perhaps the young folks may think that we are expecting too much from them by asking them to join the groups of those who believe in equality for all. Yet if they consider that they still have the best of their lives to live, they will not think it boresome to combine their youthful pleasures with some serious thinking about their future. You will have everything, if you will work for it, but you are greatly mistaken if you think that it shall be brought to you on a golden plate.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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