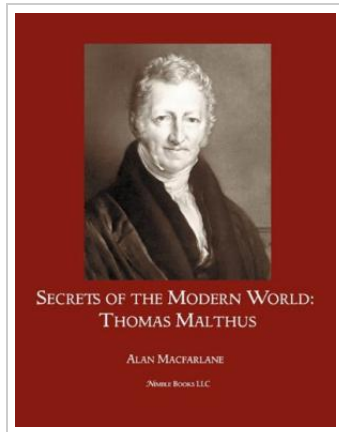




Secrets of the Modern World: Thomas Malthus

By Alan Macfarlane

Nimble Books. Paperback. Condition: New. 140 pages. Dimensions: 10.9in. x 8.4in. x 0.5in. The Reverend Thomas Robert Malthus was born in 1766 and died in 1834. He was the son of a clergyman and one of eight children. He was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge and later became Professor of History and Political Economy at the East India Company's College at Haileybury in Hertfordshire. His most famous work, the *Essay on the Principles of Population*, was published in 1798 when he was 32. It has been seen partly as a reaction to the Utopian thought of William Godwin and others, as well as that of Malthus's own father. It is as an extension and formalization of the ideas of the classical economist Adam Smith and others who had laid down some of the basic ideas concerning the tendency of population to outstrip resources. Malthus's theory in brief was that humankind is permanently trapped by the intersection of two laws. The first concerned the rate at which populations can grow. He took the passion between the sexes to be constant and investigations showed that under conditions of natural fertility (with early marriage and no contraception, abortion or infanticide), this would lead to...



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