is and always has been an essential component of "advanced" societies, which dry up when the pool of cheap/inexpensive labor dries up--which now (Aug/86) is the central internal economic threat to the "advanced" (mainly white) society of South Africa.. ..Our poet laureate, Robt. Penn Warren, says a poem either branches or digs. This thinksheet, though not a poem, is a branching of its initial, thetic, sentence. I'm especially concerned that "the West" now has about as much (ie, as little) insight into S.Africa as it had into Iran in the Shah's last days. And I'm convinced that the present direction of the West's monkeying with S.Africa is about as inept, and will prove about as disastrous, as in the former case of Iran.

1. The flowering of 5th-c. BC Athens was possible because 20% of the populace was freed of body-sustaining daily body-labor, which the 80% were still stuck in (as slaves, serfs, and low-paying-jobs urban workers--cf. Sparta's helots). (NB: The fact that not all cities blossom under the cheap/inexpensive labor system is evident in this historical instance: Athens did, Sparta did so only militarily, to Golden Age Athens' final demise.) Eg, Socrates never had to do a lick of "work" (ie, remunerated labor): his investments manager just kept the checks flowing to him.

2. A few definitions: (1) By an "advanced" society I mean one in which a significant slice of the populace is both drudgery-free and socially committed (creatively engaged in activities--cultural, political, scientific-technological--for the common good). Eg, ALL of the USA's Founding Fathers in the Constitutional Convention. The antonym is a "primitive" society, in which no such free class has emerged above the toiling-sweating mass. In some circles today it's fashionable to say God has a "preference" for the latter against the former, but common sense would argue the reverse (though common sense sometimes is nonsense). By a "degenerate primitive" society I mean one that has become demoralized by corrosive contacts with outsiders. By a "degenerate advanced" society I mean one in which the power elite are committed to their own ends rather than to the collective good (as in a true "aristocracy"). (2) By "cheap/inexpensive labor" I mean goods-and-services production (a) efficient in capital-creation sufficient to research & development as well as to such wealth accumulation as motivates the managerial class to maintain the system in good economic health, and (b) proportionate as a working populace to the society's goods-and-services porduction needs. Why do I write "cheap/inexpensive"? Because, while the economics phrase is "cheap labor" (so I use the term), I want to point only to the relative cost of the labor, and do not intend to demean this group of social contributors. Maybe "low-cost" labor would do better.

3. Those ancient Greeks used "democracy" in three ways: (1) The mutual rule of that 20% in their own interest; (2) The mutual rule of that 20% in the interest of the whole public, all classes, free and slave; and (3) The mutual rule of all. They were unitedly against type #3 for the reason that this form of government would rule out high culture (= an advanced society).

4. Were the Greeks wrong about type #3? We don't know, it's not really been tried. All socalled democracies have managed to maintain a cheap-labor supply. Even Switzerland, where Loree and I were in barracks of Italians and Turks sent home to their families one month a year so they could not claim Swiss-workers' rates and benefits. As for the USA, Miss Liberty (as the Statue is being called on this her centennial) says "Give me your poor" as cheap labor till (now) our country has an excess of cheap labor. Or has it? How much more would our food cost if Caesar Chavez were more successful? Now we're saying "Keep your

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poor and we'll send them our factories so we won't have to pay expensive wages to American workers." We and the Japanese are now paying 50¢ an hour to Mexicans just across the border to assemble electronic components and other units requiring complex, time-consuming manual labor. Note the internal contradiction in this economic strategy, in the two parts of my definition (sec.2) of "cheap/inexpensive labor": the strategy is shortterm "efficient" but longterm dis"proportionate": it contributes to the swelling mass of the NO-labor class in the USA, the unemployed-unemployable, what the British call the "redundant" ("I became redundant" meaning I'm permanently jobless vis-a-vis that particular industry or service).

5. Now notice the hypocrisy of Americans (and others in the West) who are pressing type #3 democracy on S.Africa when (1) the USA doesn't have it (since we have a complex domestic-and-foreign helot class) and (2) S.Africa cannot maintain its advanced society (including its privileged, high-culture class) if it cannot continue to factor cheap labor into its economic life--and under one-person-one-vote it could not, for (unlike us) it cannot develop a new noncitizen cheap-labor pool.

6. Well, why should S.Africa be permitted to maintain its privileged, high-culture class? I ask, "permitted" by whom? Who "permits" the USA to maintain its privileged, high-culture class? Or the USSR? No society is, or ever has been, classless; some in every society dream of classlessness, and the dream is functional though nonoperational till Kingdom come and lions eat grass.

7. All societies exhibit the double dynamic of moving both toward and away from classlessness. And all societies are more or less honest-to-class. The USA denies it has an upper class ("upper middle" being as high as we go!), and the USSR denies it has any class (though its upper class is as well-defined as ours).

8. In many countries, including the USA and S.Africa, the underclass is growing. "Underclass," n.--those able to work but unemployable because (a) unskilled for work available and/or (b) unneeded in the work force. Demographers gloomily tell us that always and everywhere the underclass is society's most fertile class: the more people are "redundant," the more people make people. In advanced societies, the lowest ¼ produce more than ½ of the babies. Among S.African blacks, more than half are less than of age (ie, 21 years old): "apartheid" does not explain all the black S.African misery, nor "racism" all the misery of black Americans.

9. Upperclass USA is full of strategies and options for maintaining itself; upperclass S.Africa is just as determined, but desperate for alternatives to violent maintenance of itself. The latecoming whites, the "English," have less appetite for violent maintenance and have begun to drift off to other English-speaking countries. The original whites, the Afrikaans, who displaced the pygmies and then began to employ as cheap labor the blacks drifting southward into former pygmy territories, have no place to go and will dig in with all they've got.

10. Disraeli, we need you! As Great Britain's PM, he strove to stabilize privilege (and so pacify the upper class) while empowering those in need (and so both relieve human misery and preserve the public tranquility against rioting and revolution). Like a Dickens with power, D. railed against upperclass insensitivity to the misery below; and like the good Tory he was, he enjoyed and supported the privileges of the Empire's ruling class. "Aristocracy" and "meritocracy" come to the same thing, even etymologically. His political support-base was a combo of the aristocracy and the burgeoning urban working class, to whom he succeeded in extending the vote, trade unions, better conditions.