

With the MAGAZINES

"EQUATIONS IN CIVILIZATION,"
by Benoy Kumar Sarkar. (In
World Order.)

Contemporary political and social thought is indeed sickled over with the alleged distinctions between people and people on account of race, region and religion. But an objective approach to the realities of civilization, epoch by epoch and people by people, would not fail to demolish the pseudo-scientific notions regarding the much-talked-of diversities in outlook, mentality, achievements, consummations and what not, that have been prevailing in the world of science for some long time. Notwithstanding the divergencies of latitude and longitude, and notwithstanding the differences in the make-up of the blood among the difference races, anthropology as well as modern and contemporary history furnish us with what may be described as equations or identities and at any rate similarities in the ideals as well as attainments of the historic nations of the world.

It is the purpose of this paper to invite the attention of scholars to some of these equations in the field of civilization. In the place of the traditional ideas of racial and geographical differences in the types of civilization in its fundamental features, we are presented with differences or distances in time only. The features of civilization, pragmatically considered, are found to be the same. It is only proceeding step by step or rather stage by stage from epoch to epoch. The differences between the peoples are but differences in the stage or epoch. The equations that are being established here reveal but the distinctions between earlier and later, go-ahead and backward peoples. The same features are appearing today in one race or region, tomorrow in a second, and the day after tomorrow in a third.

The "curves" of life in political theory and practice as manifest in the modern East are more or less similar to those in the modern West. If one were to plot out these curves diagrammatically, one would notice that the Asian series ran most parallel to the Eur-American. The "trends" of evolution would appear to be nearly identical in the most significant particulars and incidents of thought and experience.