

A modest proposal

Literature



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A Modest Proposal Jonathan Swift's satire, "A Modest Proposal," mockingly proposes solutions to the abject poverty in Ireland by trading in poor children as food from well to do families. Swift continues to explain how this will be a solution to almost all of Ireland's problems. Swift's projector expounds on his proposal in depth. Many a times he treats the children like some kind of new livestock. At the end of the book, the author enumerates various reforms that could be helpful to the country. This completely changes the tone. However, the suggested reforms differ or contradict with Swift's "modest proposal" as other than sacrificing the children of the poor, it will call for the wealthy sacrificing part of their luxuries.

The most applicable suggestions by Swift "Of using neither cloaths, nor household furniture, except what is of our own growth and manufacture" (Swift 29). The suggestion illustrated indicates that the Irish were to be self reliant by promoting their own industries and products. This advocates for internal spending and promotion of local products and industries. Buying products that are locally produced and locally processed and or manufactured will help to boost the firms hence the economy. Swift's suggestion is trying to encourage the Irish to promote the local produce, products and industries.

I fully support this suggestion. This is because as people massively purchase locally produced items; the firms will grow or expand thus creating job opportunities both directly and indirectly to many Irish. People will therefore have somewhere to draw their daily bread from. This will reduce the number of beggars and those relying on handouts. The taxable population will have increased therefore the tax percentage will reduce considerably. Too with the increased working population the government will collect more tax

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revenues thus helping to improve the economy. The tenants will have money to pay for their rents thus reduce problems with their landlords. The provision of work to the poor individuals will reduce domestic problems as man and wife will have least time together thus the chances of problems popping up will have reduced. Too birth rate will reduce considerably as people will concentrate more on working than on giving birth. The local industries will bring along community social facilities such as hospitals and schools. These facilities will help control the population as they will offer advice on family planning ways and also give formal education on the benefit of a controlled population. Swift's suggestions cut across public population and economy.

Work Cited

Swift, Jonathan. *A Modest Proposal*. Boston: CreateSpace, 2011. Print.