**1.Thomas Malthus in 1798 argued that living conditions for the masses could not be improved, because nature would never be able to produce enough food to keep pace with the rapidly expanding population. Was he right? Bring examples and reasons to support your point of view.**

Thomas Malthus was an English political economist who lived between the 18th and 19th century.

In one of the author's most famous works, “An Essay on the Principle of Population”, which was

published in 1798, his main theory can be clearly comprehended: according to the “Malthusian Theory

of Population”, the World's population would increase so drastically that food would not be enough

to feed the whole planet, leading to famine and starvation. In other words, the Malthusian theory

links food supply growth to population, stating that if the latter increased faster than the former,

vice and misery would be the obvious consequences of an out-of-control progress. But all in all,

was Malthus right?

On one hand the answer is clearly negative: firstly, the development of technology and sciences

led to welfare and prosperity, restricting subsistence to a limited number of countries. Furthermore,

alternative sources of energy were developed in order to deal with the lack of resources; many

communities around the world are improving their capacity of adaptation by, for example, eating

non-conventional foods or using new and more sophisticated machinery. However, long-term forecasts

are very difficult to make, since it is hard to imagine all the progress that can be done in a short period

of time: Malthus, indeed, could not picture something remotely similar to a combustion engine or

to all the technologies that, over the decades, allowed global population to keep growing, life

expectancies to keep increasing and quality of life to keep improving.

But on the other, Malthus' doctrine contains much truth: there are millions of people who go hungry

every day, despite the amazing economic prosperity we have achieved over the past half-century.

In fact, the explosion of population growth has also caused disparities, leading a bigger

part of the population to a progressive state of misery. However, “speed” is not always associated

with a positive growth: a country that grows rapidly also needs to grow consistently, and that means

all industries and the class system should progress at the same rate.

If we look at the statistics, countries such as Ethiopia, India, China, Cambodia, Laos have an

economic growth rate above 6% but these statistics don't provide information about the living

conditions of the same countries. What needs to be taken into account is that the demand of food has

continually increased, not just due to population growth, but also to expanding wealth. At length, the

World population will continue to expand, but land and water will not.

To conclude, Malthus was right when he said that “Earth will not feed humans in a near future”, but

he also did not consider that people would have had at their disposal a lot of ways to survive outside the

Earth: in another planet, for instance, or in a sort of floating platform where it could possible to recreate

the perfect climate and temperature to farm. Malthus undervalued human beings' capability to

adapt in unfavorable conditions and overcome the possible issues that are faced during life.