

IS IT POSSIBLE TO INCREASE WELFARE INDEFINITELY?

The 19th century ideal of indefinite economic, political and cultural progress was itself progressive but somewhat unrealistic, for it did not count on the exhaustion of non-renewable resources, such as minerals, or on the degradation of the environment (erosion, deforestation, pollution). Nor did it count on the possibility of political and cultural regressions, particularly on world wars, genocide, or massive ideological persecution.

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