Div. 1 Women

V R persuaded me looking into Bagehot. Picked up essay on Malthus. Speaking here and trying to work out the failure of women to carry out the ideal and the confidence with which they came out of the Great War. All full of declarations of both men and women that women should go to work now and put an end to war. I was fool enough to talk it. However to do it? There were not a few of them that believed they could do it through the League of Nations. There were more of them that believed in international societies against war, declarations, principles, petitions, conventions, could so stir the world that it would have no more. There was a large class educated against war. Men will say that these schemes were not only futile but they were incentive to war. There were the realists like Mussolini and Hitler. Let them talk was the effect and about the only effect among members of hard-headed men and women in this country where there were more of this kind than anywhere else.

The only practical suggestion came from women in this period and took hold at all was Margaret Sanger's birth control, and this birth control is a thousand miles from idealism. Those who agreed with in the perfectibility of the race and were concerned about the multiplication of the weak and the poor held to the theory

Digital Image 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library

that self-restraint was the only dignified and moral way of ppeventing the multiplication of men and women. The Catholic Church has practiced this more consistently than any other group of men and women. ~~Therefore~~ The result in that church is that their women bear more children than perhaps in any other demomination.

Margaret Sanger's method of meeting the demands of Italy and ~~Germany~~ Japan for more land is to curb the population. So far as I know she never suggested self-restraint. ~~Any~~ What we got was a mechanized system of controlling fertility. Now this fits admirably into the program of the career of woman. She was willing to give up her cake, that is the true marriage and children if she could have her career. In some way she persuaded herself that her career was more important than the family. I speak with more or less authority, having been one of them. Here comes along Mrs. Sanger and tells us we can have our cake and eat it too, having devised a machine for controlling which seems a more reasonable point than that we could devise a machine for controlling war.

Ida B. Mayo
Markus

Digital Image 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library