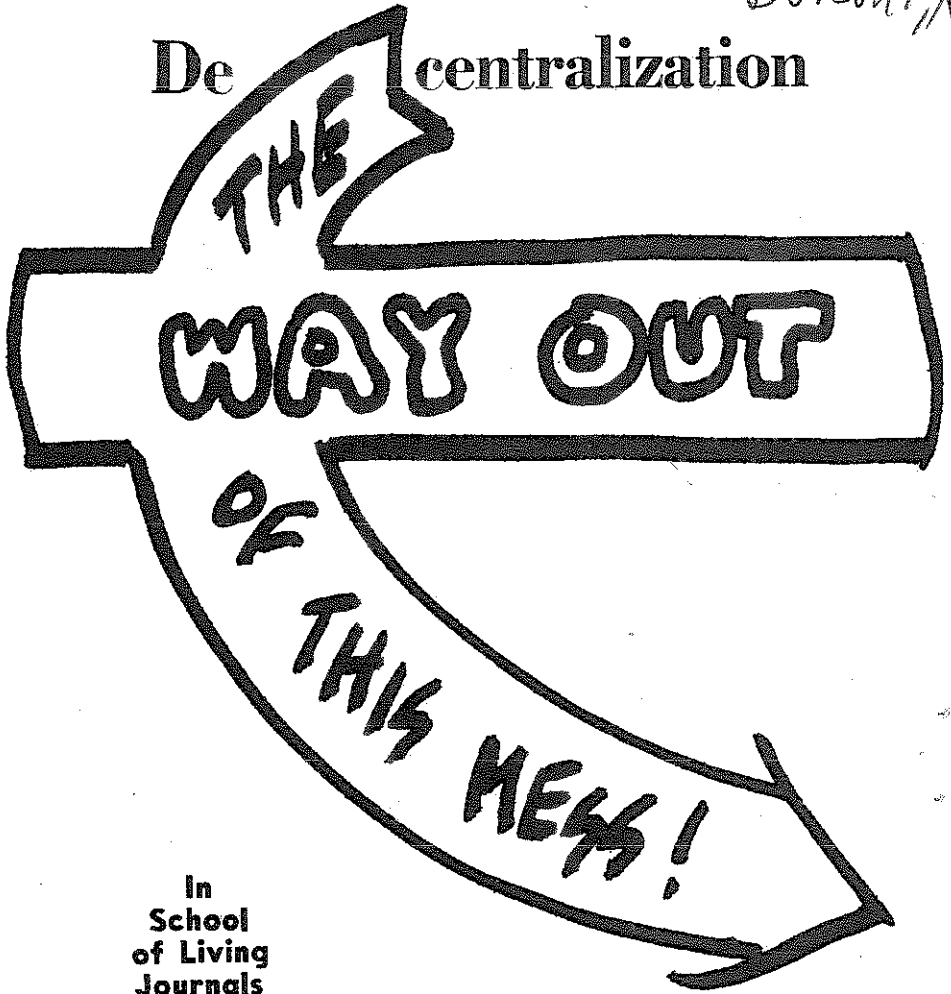


Borsodi, R.

De centralization



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Quotes on Decentralization From Ralph Borsodi's Writings

Machines

"Industrialism with its labor-saving machinery can be considered a social gain only if its effect upon the worker is ignored. . . . But machines are of two kinds—the factory machine and the domestic machine. The distinction between them (even when both are power-driven) is very important. It is not so much the machine, but the centralized, factory-use of machines which needs consideration by thoughtful people."—in *This Ugly Civilization*, 1928. [Still available in many libraries, this book is now out of print. At the time of publication, Harry Elmer Barnes rated it as "one of the most challenging and important books of recent years." It remains high on the list of modern "crisis" books.—M.J.L.]

Complexity and Top-Down Decisions

"George Soule wants planning to be a government function. He recognizes that a centralized, industrial civilization is too complex for individual or even group operation. He knows that it must be run from the top down."—in "Planning, For What?," *Free America*, December 1939.

Social and Hidden Costs

If people were taught the truth about the wastefulness and the hidden cost of centralized production—the added costs for transportation, distribution, commuting, the social costs in wasted human energy, taxes, roads, administration—industrialism and urbanism would collapse. . . . The inevitable end of the road we are traveling is war."—in "The Green Revolution," *Christian Century*, July 1943.

Decentralization Defined

"Decentralization is that method of implementing human desires which encourages individuation and discourages institutionalization. Where the latter is necessary, decentralists use those forms of organization which permit voluntary individual participation. . . . Six kinds of decentralization are needed—in production, ownership and control; in education, government and population."—in *Free America*, Winter 1945.

*Ralph Borsodi founded the School of Living in 1936, for research in how a human being should live. His latest book, *Education of the Whole Man* (\$6.00), was published in India in April, 1963.

Standardization

"When progress means expansion of centralized industry, then a whole population must be taught to want unlimited quantities of things which mass-production alone can furnish them. What economists call human wants must be standardized until everybody wants only the standardized products of industry. And if human wants are to be standardized, then education must teach them to want what industry prescribes. . . . In this broad sense centralized industry has centralized and standardized American education."—in *Education and Living*, 1948.

Integrated Education Needed

"Our culture is dying from a complication of social pathologies. Two of the most terrible of them the Modern World does not recognize as pathologies at all—industrialism and urbanism. . . . So long as education is fragmented, the whole truth about men and society will never be known. We must have an integration of all the problems of men and society—of the problems of belief, of values, and of action—before human goals will be chosen and practiced."—in *Education of the Whole Man*, 1963.

Books by Ralph Borsodi, Now Available Order from The School of Living, Brookville Ohio

Education and Living, 2 vols., 1948, \$3.50 for both volumes. (Vol. I, *The Errors of Centralization*; Vol. II, *Decentralist Goals and Methods*.) "If *Education and Living* were pondered by every teacher, the coming generation would emerge with a mind more principled and realistic." — Goodwin Watson, in *Teachers College Record*.

The Challenge of Asia, 1956, \$3.00. This book shows how Asia could modernize its culture without accepting Western centralization. "A singularly stimulating book." — John Haynes Holmes.

Education of the Whole Man, 1963, \$6.00 (just published in India, a shipment of 100 books is on its way). This is an analysis of "The Educational Problem," and is the first in a series of proposed books on *The Major Problems of Men and Society*. There is a foreword by Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the president of India.

"There is a great dissatisfied element today that is waiting, watching, hoping. Given the right combination of ideas a better future might very quickly be upon us. The focus of ideas in The School of Living may well be the catalyst that triggers the future."—B. Jacoby, Jersey City, N. J.

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The School of Living, Brookville, Ohio, is a correspondence school of adult education, founded during the early 30s by author Ralph Borsodi. Nearly half its members are actively engaged in independent homesteading. All of its members are committed to a serious search for a way out of the cul-de-sac of contemporary civilization. Among the specific problems discussed in the school's journals are:

1. Ending the international arms race
2. Reducing government control of private life
3. Exposing the far-reaching manipulations of the great industrial, landed, and financial interests
4. Conserving soil and natural resources
5. Producing healthful, natural food, uncontaminated by lethal insecticides, artificial preservatives, and coloring additives
6. Facing and coping with the growing threat of overpopulation
7. Overhauling an educational system deadened by bureaucratic administrators, pedantic teachers, and apathetic students
8. Attacking human misery in those places where it first appears and most quickly becomes a chronic "emotional limp": in the womb, in the cradle, and in the home
9. Developing a satisfying world-view to fill the void left by the decay of organized religions, national ideologies, popular fads
10. Reaching the groups and individuals who have "spiritually seceded" from the world without knowing of any rallying point from which to launch experiments of hope
11. Setting up voluntary associations and communities to replace the political and economic organizations into which most people now find themselves dragooned

If you wish more information about the School of Living, its journals, and its activities, write to its Educational Director, Mrs. Mildred Loomis, Lane's End Homestead, Brookville, Ohio.

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