

THE URGENT NEED FOR THE WORLD TO
RESTRICT ITS
POPULATION GROWTH TODAY.

Kathy,
well researched
and well
written.
I found it
extremely
interesting!

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World History
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Per. 7-8

A+

INTRODUCTION

In the world today, most people realize that we have a very serious overpopulation problem, but they don't realize just how serious it is. We do not, of course, experience severe overpopulation here in Elma, but we still face problems as to whether or not to put in sewer systems, or the re-zoning of the land to build new and better housing for all the people here. In the last ten years, Buffalo's population has DECREASED by about 70 thousand people, yet the population of Elma has increased by more than 2,500 people.¹ Does this mean that people are generally moving out of the cities into smaller suburbs? Not necessarily. It is shown that nineteen percent of the world's population now lives in cities containing 100,000 or more persons. Something has to be done this instant to stop the rapid growth. In the time period between mid 1966 to mid 1967 the world's average population increased at about 180,000 persons DAILY!!!²

*Excellent
individual report*

1. "Population WNY Counties and Towns", Buffalo Evening News Almanac and Fact Book, 1971, p. 35.

2. "Earth: Facts / Figures," The New York Times Encyclopedic Almanac, 1970, p. 362.

The real problem is the lack of knowledge available to the people. Canon Michael Hamilton, speaking from the pulpit of Washington D.C. Cathedral reminded those that he was speaking to that "Couples now have a moral duty to limit their families to two children or less. Population pressures and the earth's resources have reached the point where none of us is morally free to have as many children as we wish."³ The rate of birth in America has dropped since the 1950's. Many solutions are being offered; Voluntary limitation of the family size, more freely available birth control (contraceptives), easier abortion, voluntary sterilization, government limitation to only one child. (Dr. Larry Barnett, assistant professor of sociology at California State College and president of Zero Population Growth.)

The most important step should be the reduction of "unwanted" babies. A study showed that one out of every five babies born is unwanted by at least one spouse. One couple, Nancy and Thomas Wardell interviewed, had one son of their own and adopted another. This seems to be a general thought among many young couples now.⁴

Sportsmen, hunters, fishermen, and other outdoor enthusiasts alike feel that their hunting grounds and our living streams are most vulnerable to the demands of construction. We might be able to stop the building of one highway or apartment complex, but too many people feel that progress cannot be stopped.⁵

3. Jean Libman Block, "The Population Bomb and How to Defuse It," Good Housekeeping, March, 1971.

4. Ibid, pp. 80-83, 150-156.

5. Dr. Wayne H. Davis, "We Must STOP Population Growth," Field and Stream, June, 1971, vol. 76, p. 20.

More people feel that because of our large population we are being ruined, yet will not cooperate in any way. "Pollution is what we inescapably reap when we combine population pressure with prosperity."⁶ In other words this whole earth has many interrelationships and the population and pollution are just small parts of this.

Arthur Godfrey showed many examples of what an imbalance in nature can do. Many birds and other animals have become extinct or just the opposite, overpopulated. What if the population ratio gets any worse than it is now?⁷

When Thomas Malthus wrote his "ESSAY ON POPULATION" in 1798, he predicted (a little steeply) what the increase would be. He pointed out that the population was increasing geometrically, while the ability to produce food increased only arithmetically. He warned that the human population could double each twenty-five years, and that because of this the future ~~was~~ black with famines.⁸

The growth of the total world population is extraordinarily uneven. In developed countries, such as in Europe, North America, USSR, Japan, the increase is relatively slow, however the rest of the world; Asia, Africa, and Latin America the increase is about five times as much.⁹

6. Block, op. cit., p80.

7. Arthur Godfrey: The Arthur Godfrey Environmental Reader, New York: Ballantine Books, 1970.

8. D. S. Halacy, Jr. : Habitat, Philadelphia: Macrae Smith Company, 1970, pp. 130-131.

9. "Earth: Facts / Figures," The New York Times Encyclopedic Almanac, 1970, p. 363.

There are several positions taken on how to control the increase in population. One of which believes that even if the population does double every 35 years, there is no cause for alarm, for it would be a good challenge to man to feed these people and there is plenty enough room on the earth to handle all these people. Another group (mostly held by communistic nations) feels that population does not need to be restrained because its disadvantages can be eliminated by proper distribution of the goods. Another group yet is termed as the defeatists because they believe that it is too late to do anything about the situation, and we shouldn't bother to attempt. The fourth group is that that feels control of the population is necessary and can be obtained through family planning. This last group is active in countries such as: S. Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaysia.¹⁰

Dr. Paul Ehrlich pointed out in his writings the big difference between not getting enough to eat and not getting the right things to eat, as in Asia where they don't get enough proteins, minerals, and vitamins, only enough carbohydrates. Their energy is drained from them, and they are malnourished. Imagine though if there were ten million people on the earth, who your friends would be and the number of great "artists", as a British physicist, J. H. Fremlin showed.¹¹

Many people think that as we multiply, we can move to other planets, but think of the remote possibilities of livable conditions

10. Ibid, pp. 362-364.

11. Dr. Paul Ehrlich: The Population Bomb, New York: Ballantine Books, 1968, pp. 19-20.

and of the journeying there. It's just long enough to get there and only long enough to populate that in only a few thousand years everything including the stars and other universes would be full of people, people, and people!!! (It may seem a long way off but it really isn't.)¹²

The largest problem of the increasing population is actually that not only has the birth rate risen but the death rate has lowered. It is of course, very socially acceptable to reduce the death rate, for through the evolutionary process, survival of the fittest, man has been struggling to make the birth rate higher than the death rate. How ironic to switch after millions of years of struggle.

So it has to be shown to the world that we must reform to our earlier balance of nature or we shall be struggling for existence in an entirely different sense. "Nothing less than the survival of civilization is at stake."¹³

12. Ibid, pp. 20-21.

13. Emerson Foote, "Population Control: Your Child's Future Depends On It," McCalls, May, 1970.

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