

## CHAPTER 33

### THE WEST IS DYING

#### *Overpopulation is largely a hoax*

*To determine whether a nation is growing or dying,  
we must examine three factors:  
birth rate . . . death rate . . . immigration.*

***Birth Rate:*** This is the ultimate determinant. In a developed nation, the average woman must bear 2.1 children (Mean Fertility Rate) in order to maintain a level population.

In an undeveloped nation the rate must be 2.3 or more because of higher infant and child mortality.

***Death Rate:*** In recent years, fewer people have died than have been born in most countries because the average age of life expectancy has been extended. Everyone will die, of course, but for now this has resulted in increases in population.

Nicholas Eberstadt, the Harvard expert, has summed this up. "World population is increasing, not because

people are breeding like rabbits, but because they have stopped dying like flies.”

***Immigration and emigration:*** Many want to come into the U.S., Canada and most developed nations. Few want to move to Cuba, Libya, or Russia.

These dynamics explain why the total populations of the U.S., Canada and Australia (to pick three) are still growing, even though their birth rates, except the U.S., are below replacement level. The 2000 census reports the U.S. rate at 2.13

With a much higher percentage of their people aging, but still alive, most Western nations have rapidly aging populations. In the U.S., people born in 1970 had a life expectancy of 70 years. In 1993 it was 76 years. By 2050 it will be 82 years.

*U.S. News & World Report*, Aug. 14, 1995, P. 9.

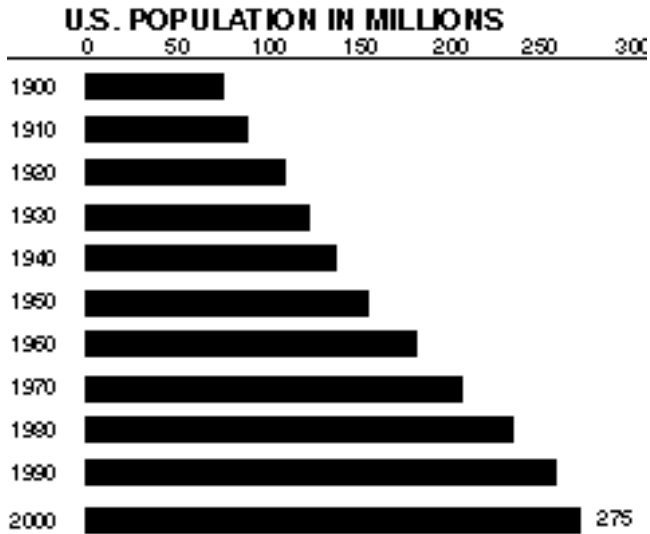
With heavy immigration to fill the younger age slots, we see a progressive change in ethnicity, e.g., the U.S. is becoming more Hispanic — Germany, France, Italy, Greece, and Israel more Muslim.

In Italy, the birth rate is 1.2, the lowest in the world in countries keeping accurate records. In '93, there were 5,265 more Italians buried than were born. If this continues unchanged, within 100 years its population will shrink from 57 to 15 million, with half of those over 65 years old.

Italy Birth Rate . . . , *Boston Globe*, July 31, '94, p. 13  
W. Montabono, "Italian Baby Boom Goes Bust," *Los Angeles Times*,  
June 24, '94, A1 & A6

Russia may have the lowest birth rate, routinely killing two in abortion for every one born in its non-Muslim areas. Add poor medical care, sky-high alcoholism, and poverty, life expectancy for men has dropped to 57

years. Each year Russia is burying about one million more people than are being born.



But notice the change in age groups

**POPULATION BY AGE – 1980**



There were four in the working years for each one retired. Now look ahead.

**POPULATION BY AGE – 2020**



*\* estimate of number of yet to be born*

Then there will be only 2.5 in their working years to support each one retired.

The Western world, in the past half-century, has supported its senior and disabled citizens with tax funds on a scale previously unknown. But, unless there are enough taxpaying younger workers, there will be no way that such retirement and medical benefits can continue. Large numbers of young immigrants may modify the figures below.

	RETIRED	WORKERS SUPPORTING
1980	1	3.5
2000	1	3.0
2020	1	2.5
2040	1	1.5-2.0

**Only one-and-a-half to two taxpayers to support every retired person? That's an impossible situation! What will happen?**

Euthanasia!

Yes, that will be the answer. Today's "Every Child a Wanted Child" will become tomorrow's "Every Grandparent a Wanted Grandparent."

The above figures are from the U.S.A. If we were to examine other developed nations, we would find that, in Europe and elsewhere, with some variations, all reveal a similar pattern.

**But hasn't there been a new baby boom in the U.S.?**

Call it a mini-boom. Many thirtyish women have finally been having babies before their fertile years are gone. This has upped the U.S. birth rate from 1.8 to 2.13 where it leveled.

The continuing increase in U.S. population has been due to (1) older people not dying yet, (2) a substantial

increase in immigration, and (3) a small increase in births to 4,058,814 in 2000.

CDC, Feb., 2002

In the face of this, the teen birth rate per year in the U.S. has dropped 26% since '91 to 45 per 1,000 girls.

HHS, CDC, 6-6-2002

### **Specifically, what of other developed countries?**

With almost no exception, every one will face its major demographic problem of aging in years ahead, e.g., Germany, Austria, and Italy have had mean fertility rates at around 1.3. Japan seems to already be in trouble, burying more than are being born.

### **And underdeveloped nations?**

These all started with very high birth rates. They are dropping rapidly, e.g., in the 1980s the following drop occurred in mean fertility rates.

Tunisia 5.0 4.1, India 5.3 3.9, South Korea 3.2 1.6, Mexico 4.8 3.8, Indonesia 4.1 3.0, Brazil 4.4 3.3.

In the '90s this drop continued and some, like Indonesia and Iran are new at ZPG (zero population growth).

### **But cities seem so overcrowded.**

Over-concentration is a problem in many places, but, overall, the world is not overpopulated.

### **But what about enough food?**

Back when Paul Ehrlich wrote *Population Bomb*, this was a real concern. Since then, world food production has grown much more rapidly than numbers of people, e.g., India now exports food.

For example, the International Rice Research Institute in October '94 announced a breakthrough in unveiling a new "super rice" capable of boosting world rice production by 25%, with a further boost in another

decade of 25% more.

*New York Times & Gannett*, 10/24/94

“Today, India cannot only feed its own growing population but also is emerging as a major food exporter . . . India will have an advantage in any product that is harvested by hand.”

*Forbes Mag.*, May 23, 1994, p. 136

“New breeds of corn, developed to withstand droughts and acidic tropical soil, are being tested. The World Bank predicts that, within 10 years, corn production will increase 40%, rivaling the green revolution in Third World wheat and rice production.”

J. Nesmith, “New Corn Strains May Feed Millions”,  
*Des Moines Register*, June 24, 1994

The U.N. Predicts:

“A world population of 8 billion by 2030 will be better fed with more people having access to food . . . Growth in agriculture will continue to outstrip world population growth.”

UN. Food and Agriculture Org. Report,  
“Agriculture Toward 2015/2030,” July 27, 2000

World population rose from 3 billion in 1960 to 6.0 billion in 1999, but food production grew even faster, outstripping population growth by 20%. The result was a 60% drop in real prices for food commodities. This is the continuation of a trend in prices that started over 100 years ago. Along with this, the incident of outright famine has dropped ten-fold since the early 1960s, and caloric intake per person has risen 25% worldwide in the same period.

*Far Eastern Economic Review*, Nov. 16, 1995

China’s food output per person has increased by more than 40% since 1979-81. The daily food supply now amounts to more than 2,700 calories per capita.

The food problems, and even starvation, which occurred in the past were the result of government policies which taxed farmers in order to subsidize industry, controlled and requisitioned output, drafted farmers to work on poorly planned government projects, restricted agricultural trade and shipping, and prevented farmers from acquiring the land and other resources needed to produce food. The government is gradually reforming these policies and food output is increasing greatly.

J. Kasun, "China: Not Enough Food or Space,"  
*Human Concern*, Spring 1996, p. 3

### **But can this continue?**

Sadly, the world's media seems obsessed with telling only scare stories and suppressing all the good news about food.

*The* definitive answer has been a report in 1994 entitled "How Much Land Can Ten Billion People Spare for Nature." This is a thoroughly documented, 63-page analysis. It was written by a consortium of 30 major national agricultural societies in the U.S. It was published with the cooperation of the Rockefeller Foundation.

In essence, it details how, even with the growth of the earth's population to 10 billion people, better use of currently farmed land can still feed everyone, while — get this — at the same time returning as much as 10% of current crop land to nature rather than plowing under new virgin areas.

Council for Agriculture Science & Technology,  
"How Much Land Can Ten Billion People Spare for Nature,"  
\$15.00, 4420 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50014.

### **But doesn't the U.S. use up a high percentage of the world's natural resources?**

It is a fact that there are more such resources available today than there were a decade or two ago. In America one farmer feeds 99 other people. In some

countries, one farmer cannot even feed his own family. What is our solution? Should we encourage American farmers and industrial workers to kill their own pre-born children or should we stay strong, have children, and help to teach those other farmers and workers to be more productive?

The U.S. now uses less than half the land for farming that it did in the 1920s, even though there are now nearly 200 million more mouths to feed.

*Washington Times*, editorial, 7-1-2001

### **The U.S. pollutes also?**

Actually, the more developed a free nation becomes, the less it pollutes. A good contrast is the U.S. compared to the USSR's profligate destruction of, and pollution of, its natural resources.

Note that there is less carbon dioxide in the air going into the Atlantic than there is in the air coming in from the Pacific Ocean. "North America is a high carbon sink."

P. Huba, "Saving the Environment from the Environmentalists,"  
*Forbes*, Mar. 20, 2000, p. 112

### **How can a Third World country reduce its birth rate?**

Coercive abortion and sterilization are short-term measures that cause untold human misery and really don't work well. Further, people resist these measures.

The only humane measures that have worked have been to raise that group's standard of living, to reduce infant and childhood mortality, and to raise expectation of (and provide opportunity for) education. If these changes are accomplished, people will then *voluntarily* limit the number of their children for two reasons: (a) they want more for each child, and (b) they can reasonably expect their children to survive to adulthood and be alive to care for them in their old age.

## **So, where is world population going?**

“If current trends in declining fertility continue as they are now, the world population could peak at 7.5 billion in 2040. It will then drop by 120 million a year through 2050. After this, it will decline about 30% per generation.

U.N. Division, World Pop Estimates and Projections, 1998

- With this, the world will age progressively. Today, the world’s median age is 27 years. In 2025, it will be 35. By 2050 it will be 43.5.

Ibid above

- The U.S. population will peak at about 300 million by 2030 before declining (immigration is the wild card).

- Europe and Japan are dying. Japan has a total fertility rate of 1.4. If this continues in the next century, its population will drop from 125 to 55 million. Europe is in a similar fix.

- Eighty-three countries are now below replacement fertility levels. These encompass 2.7 billion people, 44% of the world’s total.

U.S. Census Bureau

- Given this birth dearth, in order to prevent a decline in the working age population, Japan will need 600,000 and Europe 4 million immigrants a year. These will be of other national origins. Will they opt for indefinite decline or ethnic transformation?

N. Eberstadt, “Underpop. The Real Global Problem,”

## **What about HIV? Will it influence this?**

Yes, and its total impact is only beginning to be felt. This is a worldwide pandemic, but so far  $\frac{2}{3}$  of infections are in sub-Saharan Africa. In Botswana and Zim-

babwe, one in four adults is infected. Zambia has over 400,000 AIDS orphans. Life expectancy in Malawi has cut from 51 to 37 years. AIDS is killing 2½ million each year and it's getting worse.

Worldwide, over 40 million are infected and 11 million have died. There are now 23 countries with over 5% of their "low risk" population (i.e., not drug users, etc.) are infected.

Current rapid increase in infection in Eastern Europe, India, Thailand, and elsewhere tell us that this scourge has only begun.

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