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25 YEARS



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ALL



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IMPORTANT:

You have been chosen to participate in a critical National Referendum designed to focus leadership attention on one of the most urgent problems now facing America.

Please read this letter ... complete the enclosed ballot ... then return it within 10 days.

Dear Friend:

Before you answer the enclosed ballot, take a quick trip with me -- through time -- and imagine your life a few short years from now:

You're living in a world where fuel, food, jobs, housing and health care are at a premium . . . where natural resources are severely depleted and cities horribly polluted, uncomfortably crowded, and plagued by crime.

Right now, we're heading on a collision course towards a population crisis that could deepen this nightmare -- not only in distant developing countries of Africa and Latin America, but right here in the United States.

If population growth continues at its present rate, we will have squeezed -- through births, legal and illegal immigration -- another 40 million people inside U.S. boundaries by the year 2010!

Already, our country is adding the population equivalent of four Washington, DCs every year, another New Jersey every three years, another California every twelve.

Those are staggering figures -- with far-reaching implications for you and every concerned American.

That's why your name has been carefully selected to take part in this critical national referendum on population issues.

Your participation is voluntary, of course, but you have been singled out as someone who will understand the gravity of the situation.

- I suspect you're already swamped by causes clamoring for your attention. But think hard for a moment. No matter how distracted we may be by the number of problems now facing us, one issue remains so fundamental most can agree on its urgency: Overpopulation . . . the crowding of our cities, of our nations that underlies all other problems.

- You see, unless steps are taken now to address population growth in this country and abroad, census statistics will continue to swell . . . with mind-boggling consequences affecting every aspect of life as we know it.

- Already, around the world, you can see with frightening clarity the damage caused by overpopulation:

- Globally, over 1 billion people suffer from malnutrition -- with 14 million children under the age of five dying each year!
- Hunger and overpopulation are inextricably linked in places like Africa, where devastating drought -- combined with the fastest population growth in all of human history -- has led to widespread famine.
- In Mexico City, now the world's most populous city, 40% of its 22 million inhabitants are forced to live in slums.
- And both Mexico and Central America, already facing unemployment rates as high as 50%, can expect a tripling of their labor force in less than 50 years!

Even though Americans make up only 5% of world population, we consume 11 times the world's average in energy, 6 times the steel, and 4 times the grain. Because of such heavy consumption of resources, even small population increases here can adversely affect countries around the world.

(next page, please)

• But the surprising reality -- the one most Americans don't know about or choose to ignore -- is that other, equally ominous danger signals of overpopulation exist right here in our own backyard:

... In Los Angeles and Phoenix, where air pollution abounds and water supplies are dangerously scarce;

... In the Florida Everglades, where human competition for water and habitat has evicted or destroyed a disturbing number of native wildlife species, including the endangered Florida panther and peregrine falcon;

... And on the Chesapeake Bay, where overdevelopment contaminates water and degrades shoreline ecology.

• Wherever you live, you may already be victim to some of the early warning signs: Drinking water poisoned by excessive and poorly processed toxic wastes. Vital topsoil and farmland lost to development of shopping centers, highways, subdivisions -- at the alarming pace of 1 million acres each year!

• And the rapid dwindling of American wildlife -- including the grizzly bear, California condor, sea otter. (In fact, if population demands necessitate continued cutting of the planet's tropical forests, at least 1/4 of all wildlife species could disappear within the next 50 years!)

With over a 1% annual growth rate, the United States is already adding well over 2 million people yearly -- making us the world's fourth most populous nation.

ANY large population increase here can put a serious strain on our nation's health facilities and schools . . . and multiply already troubling unemployment figures.

• Recently, someone told me a story about a Dallas museum -- one of those "touch and feel" exhibits. This museum had been forced to glass in, or enclose, many of its displays . . . because of the sheer number of visitors, the repetitive wearing-away of their touch.

(over, please)

First, you can help by completing the enclosed National Referendum and returning it to me within the next 10 days.

Mailed to a select group of citizens, this referendum can help us approach national news media and government officials with convincing evidence of public views on the need for increased action on population issues.

Second, you can help Zero Population Growth do something about those issues by sending your membership fees to support our unique work.

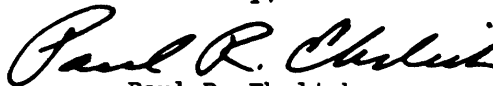
I hope you will take part in this critical referendum whether or not you decide to join ZPG. Please -- give us your answers to the referendum questions now.

Then, think about life as you know it today.

Imagine yourself crowded out of it.

If you'd like to prevent this nightmare, join Zero Population Growth by checking the appropriate box on the enclosed survey. Any membership contribution you make is fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Ehrlich
Honorary President

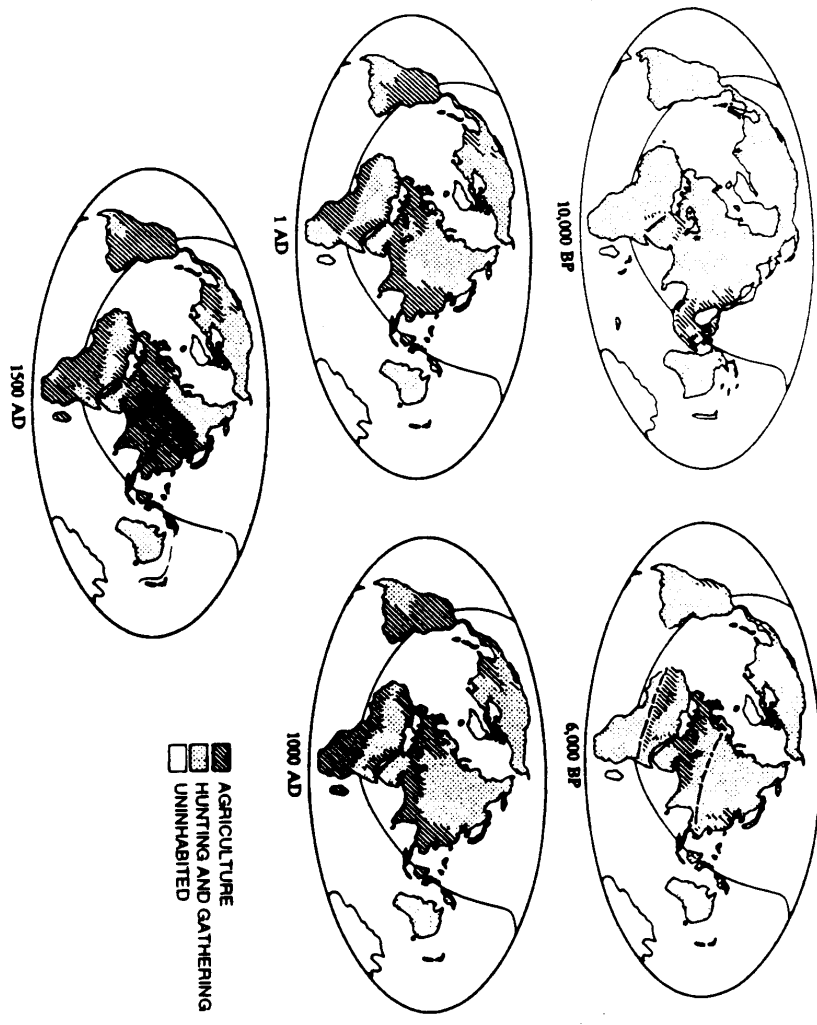


FIGURE 1 Spread of human modification of the earth. (See Table 1 for prevailing climatic conditions.) SOURCE: Maps from Simmons (1987).

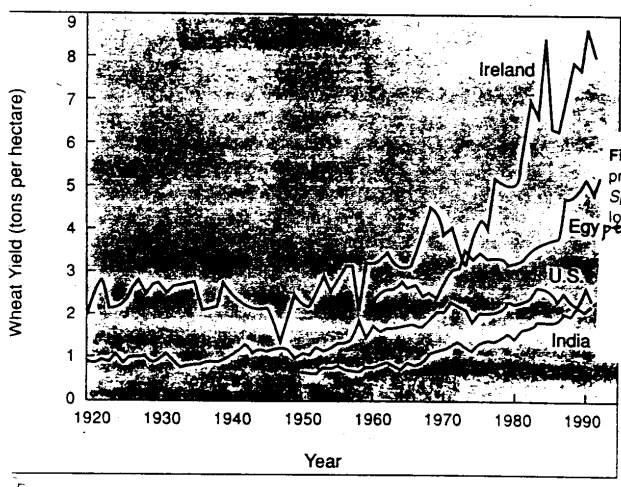
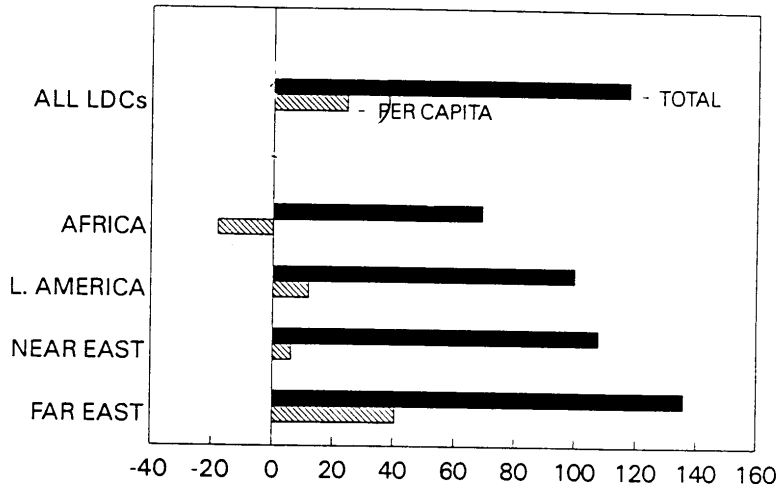
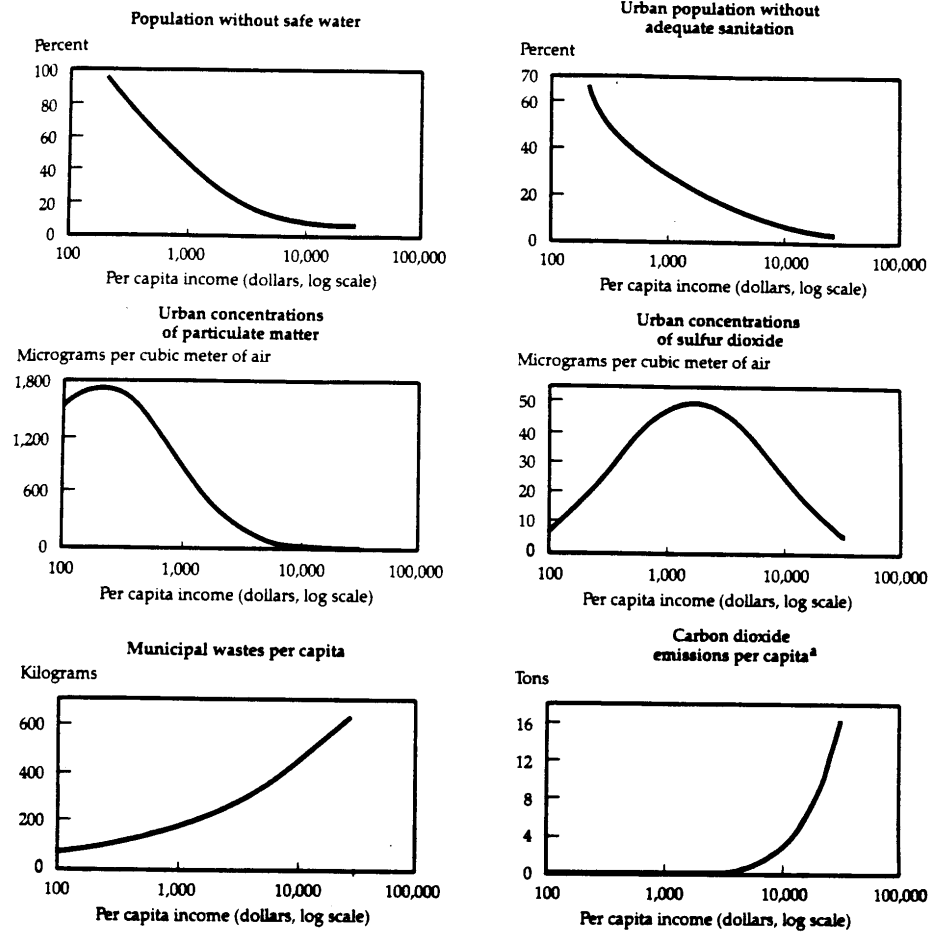


Figure 2 The rising yields of wheat on four continents, 1920-1991, in tons of wheat produced per hectare. From Paul Waggoner, *How Much Land Can Ten Billion People Spare for Nature?*, Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), Ames Iowa, 1994.

Figure 4 Environmental indicators at different country income levels

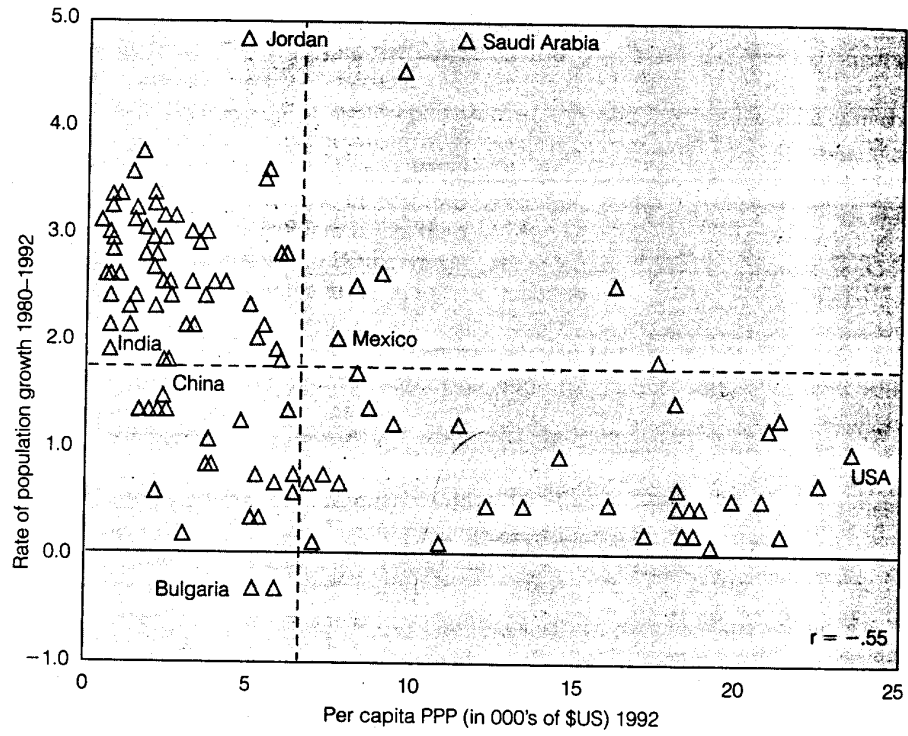


Note: Estimates are based on cross-country regression analysis of data from the 1980s.

a. Emissions are from fossil fuels.

Sources: Shaik and Bandyopadhyay, background paper; World Bank data.

Figure 12.3 Countries with High Per Capita Income Tend to Have Low Rates of Population Growth



Suggested Mechanisms Through Which Population
Size and Growth May Affect Per Capita Income

<u>Negative effects of larger size/faster growth/higher fertility</u>	<u>Positive effects</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Diminishing returns to "fixed factors" of production (Malthus)	Increasing returns to scale	U.S. studies show increasing returns somewhat important; minerals will disappear anyway; land resources important in agrarian areas
Higher burden of dependency reduces capacity to save and invest (Coale/Hoover)	Increases incentive to save and invest	Net effects not clear; international flow of capital reduces importance
	Larger market encourages innovation	International trade reduces importance of national market size
	Increasing returns to # of "geniuses"	Culture more important for expression of genius
	Increased poverty from diminishing returns forces survival innovation (Boserup)	Poverty a cruel tool Other incentives already exist in a market economy
	Produces a younger, more adaptable labor force	Earnings (and productivity?) rise with age
	Stimulates aggregate demand	Monetary and fiscal policy can control aggregate demand
Reduces levels of education and human capital		This is the most powerful argument

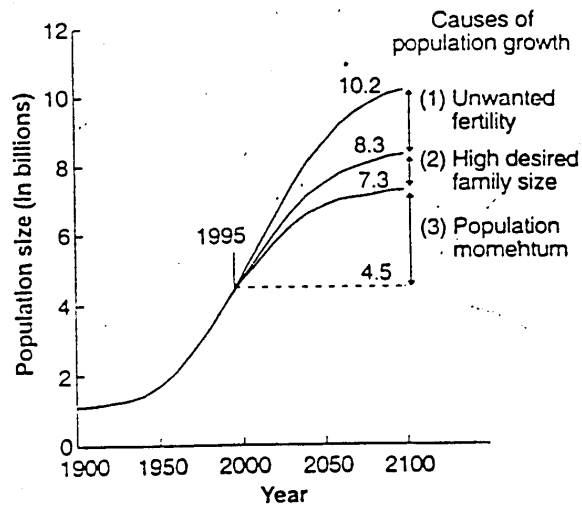
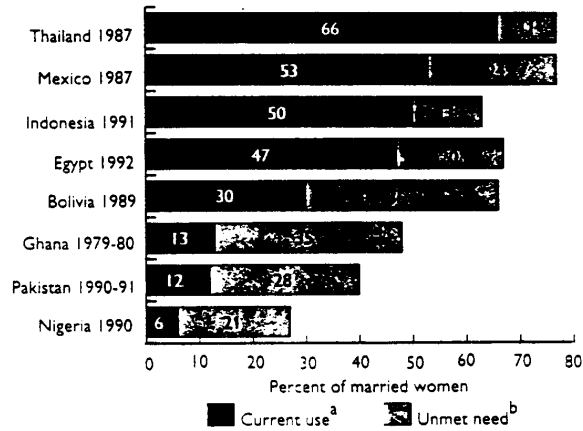


Fig. 4. Alternative projections of the population size for the developing world, 1995 to 2100, and three causes of population growth.

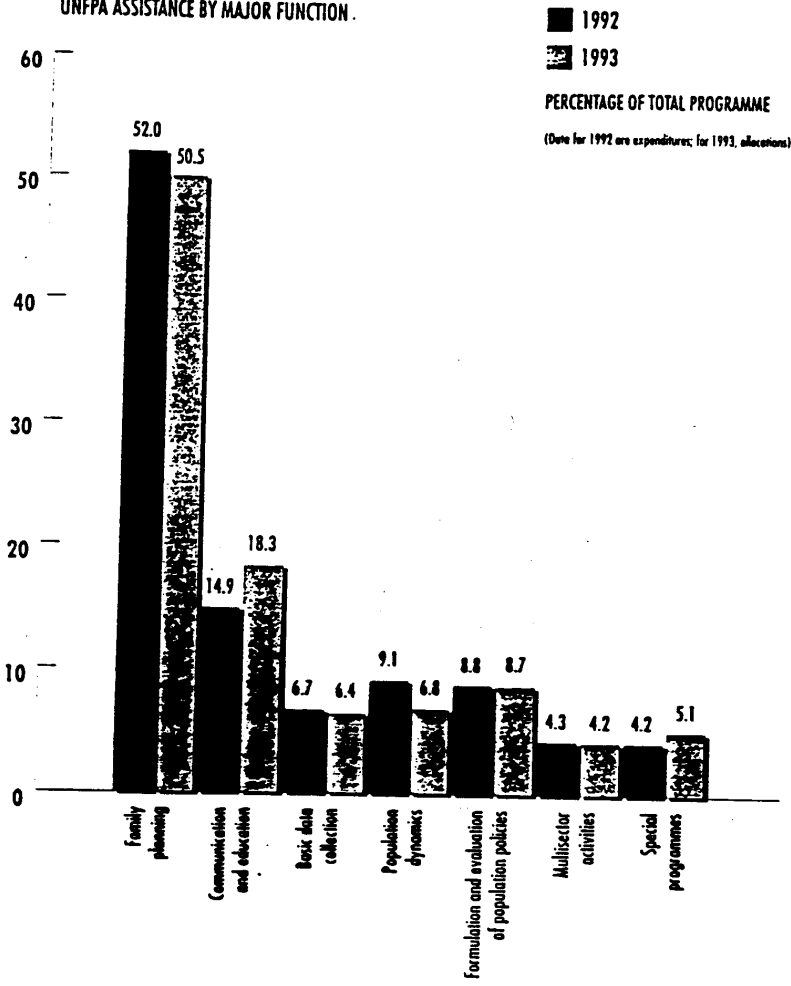
Figure 9

Demand for Family Planning Services in Selected Countries, 1980s and 1990s



^a Married women ages 15 to 49 currently using contraception.
^b Married women ages 15 to 49 wanting to space or limit births but not currently using contraception.
 Source: Demographic and Health Surveys, and Charles F. Westoff and Luis H. Ochoa, *DHS Comparative Studies* no. 5, Columbia, MD: Institute for Resource Development, 1991, table 42.

UNFPA ASSISTANCE BY MAJOR FUNCTION.



Effects of Various Kinds of Population
Policies on Different Groups

<u>Type of Policy</u>	Effect on <u>Parents</u>	Effect on <u>Children*</u>	Effect on other families	
			<u>Common Property Resources Important</u>	<u>Common Property Resources Unimportant</u>
Family Planning Programs	+	+	+	Neutral
Change in Childbearing Incentives	?	+	+	Neutral
Coercion	-	+	+	Neutral

+ indicates beneficial effect
 - indicates harmful effect
 ? indicates uncertain effect, probably small

* This reflects the effect on children who are actually born to the family