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The Redistribution of America



“The power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man” - Thomas Robert Malthus.

Malthus' book fueled a debate that rages to this date. Is the world running out of food and other resources because of population growth?

The three featured works that are foundational to the environmental movement are An Essay on the Principle of Population, The Limits to Growth – A Report for the Club of Rome’s Project on the Predicament of Mankind, and Silent Spring.

These first two documents address the relationships and consequences of independent (natural) systems and dependent (human) systems.

An Essay on the Principle of Population, published in 1798, established the framework of dependency between population and resources.

Malthus performed a perfectly logical evaluation of future resource availability based on current known reserves, consumption, circumstances, and population growth. Essentially, Malthus wanted to know how long the earth's resources would last given the rate of consumption per human being and the availability of resources (capital). While his focus was on food supplies, the process applies to all resources today, both renewable and nonrenewable. The Limits to Growth expanded the logic.

For Malthus, the relationship between population growth and resource limits drove the investigation and essay. Population is the independent multiplier, and all resources are dependent. The following example illustrates both method and logic:

If each person consumes an average of two pounds of food per day, one hundred people would consume two hundred pounds. Given the same rate per person, feeding one billion people would require two billion pounds of food. This calculation is linear but in reality food consumption is not. Those in the developed countries overindulge as more than half the world searches for food in their struggle to survive another day. It is Malthus' contention, and one adopted by subsequent studies, that population growth is exponential, that is "2,4,8,16," while the rate of increased resource availability, or production, is linear, or "1,2,3,4." The consequences are obvious. That is, consumption will eventually exceed finite production and resources will run out.

Capital plays a role. Those with wealth or access to capital will hoard the resources, taking a proportionately greater share to distribute among a more affluent, elite population while dividing the smaller portion among the larger, less wealthy population. This effect is obvious in America today as investors gain from an expanding stock market while the middle and less affluent classes lose income and purchasing power.

As the growth rate of the undeveloped countries increases, the consumption of food per individual may stay the same but the total consumption of food increases in direct relationship to the population. As undeveloped countries increase their standard of living and approach the consumption level of the industrialized world, food requirements will multiply due to the increased demand. Eventually, demand may outstrip supply.

The availability of resource is also a function of scarcity and price. Those in the developed world, with greater access to capital, will maintain consumption levels at the expense of those financially troubled countries. In this way, capital helps to restore equilibrium and balance between supply and demand. It does not restore parity of access to resources. The resource supply will control the population as it does in many other animal species. If supplies like food fail to be maintained in sufficient quantities, people will, and do, die of starvation and populations will be reduced to sustainable levels.

While criticized in some quarters, the methods used by Malthus in his search for answers were valid. The flaw was the same one encountered by many models, past and present. It is the unavailability of irrefutable, accurate, highly detailed resource information, and quantification of technological potential. Unlike Malthus, we have computers that can recalculate in seconds every variable Malthus identified. However, without proper data on each variable, conclusions calculated in nano-seconds still generate contentious conclusions. The model Malthus employed passed the logic of reasonableness.

The purpose behind Malthus' study is questionable, given that he was an elitist living in England when the slave trade was at its peak, and black and poor people had lower value in that society. It was the beginning of the industrial age. Eli Whitney had developed the cotton gin only five years prior and the steamboat was a future event. Malthus wanted to determine if there would be enough resources to perpetuate the high standard of living enjoyed by the elite of the day. Much of his concern was the rapid

growth rate of the working class and other low-income groups with an accompanying increase in resource competition. He advocated the use of war, pestilence and other population control devices.

The Limits to Growth, the second, and for our purposes, more significant of the two studies on population and resources was written in 1972 by MIT Project Team authors Donella H. Meadows, Dennis L. Meadows, Jorgen Randers, and William W. Behrens III, and sponsored by The Club of Rome.

While there were numerous studies by a wide range of authors discussing the relationships between population and resources, any serious study on the topic referenced or led to The Limits to Growth as the source document. It established a paradigm of intellectual thought and was foundational to the environmental movement. Its concepts are pervasive in the world's culture but often operating in the background or as a part of other social philosophies. For all of these reasons, it is the source document driving the fundamental changes in America.

The Limits to Growth fueled the fire of population vs. resource debate. Published in March of 1972, it struck the chords of a world sick of the Vietnam War and still reeling from the freedom movement in the sixties. America was primed for a world cause. China had yet to start its journey into the industrialized world.

As a foundational work, The Limits to Growth underpins Peak Oil and other analyses of resource dependence. The review material on the Internet can easily lead the reader to false interpretation. The work was the result of careful and excellent systems analysis techniques. The team accurately identified dependencies, and the resulting calculations defined these dependencies in painful and boring detail. The authors meticulously documented the problems with the data.

The Limits to Growth study contained research into five specific areas, per the Table of Contents:

- ✚ The Nature of Exponential Growth
- ✚ The Limits of Exponential Growth
- ✚ Growth in the World System
- ✚ Technology and the Limits of Growth
- ✚ The State of Global Equilibrium

There is not a specific chapter devoted to the topic of the environment, but the environment forms a pervasive thread throughout the work.

The book takes the concepts introduced by Malthus and expands them in relationship to population, finite resources and sophistication of analytics. The participants created and used one of the early computer models, a fact criticized by a world unfamiliar with the power of either modeling or computers. The systems approach was classic and the scientific method impeccably observed. A valid model was carefully constructed, and inputs, outputs, dependencies, and assumptions clearly documented.

There are many focal points but the most significant deals with overreach, which is the consumption of resources at a rate greater than they can be renewed, sustained or replaced by substitutes. The projected consequence is running out of limited resources. Correlating the weight of each dependent component and its remaining value significantly changes the resulting calculation.

The study itself is impeccable and sobering. It leaves little doubt that if population grows without restriction, whether resource usage is linear or exponential, the world will eventually run out of some resources.

Expanding populations in the developing countries translates into more people attempting to climb the ladder of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Economic expansion accelerated as China and other emerging markets became more industrialized. According to scientists, the exponential consumption of resources is a reality.

The Limits to Growth addresses pollution of the biosphere in very strong terms yet the authors are unable to quantify any of the specifics. They state, "We have almost no knowledge about where the upper limits to these pollution curves might be." To project the effects of pollution, the authors assigned values to the factors of pollution. This enabled the specific calculations of the projected effects relative to resource use and population. The authors acknowledged they lacked any specific knowledge about the effect of resources on the climate, meaning the calculated results were relative, not absolute.

The work was highly controversial. The data indicated the world was going to run out of resources within one hundred years, primarily due to increased consumption based on population growth. While the authors acknowledged shortfalls in data detail, many readers ignored the caveat of "the best available" and used the report and formulas to support conclusions of their own. Some environmental groups highjacked the report to support causes not based on true science.

One of the key points was that countries should shift from industrial activity to service and health care sectors avoiding pollution and unnecessary production. This had profound and far-reaching effects. Many entities in the United States, including business and government, were excited about this new direction, ignoring the recommendation that America downsize (my word, not theirs) until it reached economic parity with the rest of the world. Business, on the lookout for cheaper production sources, began dismantling vertical factories, which performed all the work from foundry through assembly, for core competency, where they farmed out selected operations to companies that could perform them at a lower cost. The creation of this horizontal factory system made it easier to offshore selected operations.

A clean environment became one of society's primary objectives, rightly so given disasters like Love Canal. The passage of harsh environmental regulations provided another incentive for relocating manufacturing to Mexico where manufacturers could pollute with impunity, then to China and other developing nations. Manufacturing jobs in America dropped from twenty-five percent of the work force to twelve. The projected solution, the emergence of a giant intellectually driven service state, failed to materialize. All global boundaries disappeared with the internet, allowing instant transmission of intellectual data to and from anywhere on earth. Technology, the most understated component of the equation, destroyed the dream of a vibrant super-service economy before it even left the incubator.

The Limits to Growth provides important insights and relationships into key environmental and social issues. On page 93 the authors disavow any intent at prediction:

"These graphs are not exact predictions of the value of the variables at any particular year in the future. They are indications of the system's behavioral tendencies only."

While the stated intent was not to make predictions, the methodology itself forces prediction and multiple interpretations. The variable that prevented prediction was a shortage of accurate information on worldwide resource inventories, populations and rate of technological advancement. All forecasts

and predictions are wrong to some degree. Decisions based on data of this type are only as precise as the data, selection of formulas and the methodology.

Nearly in the same breath, the authors make a series of recommendations aimed at eco-equilibrium. They recommend steps to maintain population, resources and production (capital) in equilibrium thereby sustaining environmental integrity and conserving resources. By doing so they attempted to delay the limits to growth as long as possible.

These recommendations contain a series of rules that would govern all of human activity. While the book does not specifically recommend a world government, it would be impossible to achieve any of its objectives without a utopian perspective and a benign authoritarian global government.

Preceding this recommendation, the authors questioned the ability of government dealing with the complexities and variables indicated by the model. However, it has been our experience that government poorly manages resources. Two quick examples are the U.S. Postal Service and the Veterans Health Care system.

The study proposes the following found on page 171 in The Limits to Growth:

"The capital plant and the population are constant in size." The birth rate equals the death rate and the capital investment rate equals the depreciation rate.

This recommendation is little different from the one proposed by Malthus. The world's population must be controlled by either reducing birthrates to correspond to death rates or increase death rates to match birth rates. The objective is to freeze population levels below capital growth and resource usage to obtain equilibrium.

One of the tenets is abortion and birth control. While not specifically mentioned, euthanasia is another tool for population control. Part of the phrasing "elimination of unwanted children" provides an answer. If birth control, abstinence, and a higher death rate achieve zero population growth, fewer abortions are required. The reality is that zero growth is difficult to achieve without abortions, a lot of them and euthanasia, a lot of it. The problem is that abortion and euthanasia are murder, and a highly divisive social issue.

The best tool for controlling population is through the health care system and the first agenda item for the Obama administration was the Affordable Health Care Act. Coupling the ACA to the Department of Revenue establishes a National Database of You and Me, (see the September Focused Fire Newsletter). In time the government will have the capacity, if not the moral authority or support of the people, to ration healthcare as a tool to control population. Obviously, this means the American populace, not the world in general, will pay the price for population control, making more room for immigrants into the United States.

Equally important is a zero growth economy, which allows central control and prevents the over-reach of resource utilization thereby insuring we do not run out of resources. The authors identify the United States as one country whose standard of living requires reduction if global equilibrium is to be achieved and maintained.

"We unequivocally support the contention that a brake imposed on demographic and economic spirals must not lead to a freezing of the status quo of economic development of the world's

nations. (Pg 198). If such a proposal were advanced by the rich nations, it would be taken as a final act of neocolonialism. The achievement of a harmonious state of global economic, social, and ecological equilibrium must be a joint venture based on joint conviction, with benefits for all. The greatest leadership will be demanded from the economically developed countries, for the first step towards such a goal would be for them to encourage deceleration in the growth of their own material output while, at the same time, assisting the developing nations in their efforts to advance their economies more rapidly". -The Limits to Growth

Over-reach is not preventable unless every country in the world buys off and complies with the agreement. Taking actions unilaterally, as Obama has in America, is by decree, not by the voice of the people. Who in America specifically voted to downsize our economy and give away our future? By definition, preventing over-reach has a profound effect on economies, commodities, consumerism, travel, and recreation, with freedoms replaced by dystopia.

"All input and output rates – births, deaths, investment, and depreciation-are kept to a minimum."

This requires strict governmental control preferably at a global level. On one hand it supports the rights of choice but on the other takes them away. China provides a hard example, when the government encouraged rapid population growth, then attempted to limit the consequences by imposing a "one child per family" rule.

"The levels of capital and population and the ratio of the two are set in accordance with the values of society."

Managing capital and population in accordance with the values of society allows the government tight control over the means of production, pollution, land use, energy usage, and any activity that would upset the environmental equilibrium.

Compliance with the recommendations would allow degeneration into tyranny and chaos. This would resolve one problem but create a worse one. Is dystopian life worth living? Does it destroy our humanity while saving our species?

Theories for reducing population emerged as environmentalists adopted the concepts of the report. The mantra became "zero population growth." Abortion, birth control, and education were the primary weapons. The industrialized countries cut the birthrates while the emerging countries did not, opening the way for large migrations of legal and illegal immigrants from the poor countries into the industrialized ones. This reaction to The Limits of Growth is still in effect.

There were two sequels to The Limits to Growth. The latest is Limits to Growth, The 40 Year Update.

This work commissioned by the Club of Rome and using more sophisticated data did not substantially expand the range of the model. This allowed systems analysts to measure the original projections against actual occurrences. The book proved to be accurate in many ways based on given scientific data. The most noteworthy issues were global warming and over-reach. There is every reason to believe that over-reach has been significant and will probably increase in the future until other factors slow it down. The conclusion was that current levels of consumption and production are not sustainable, and that the world will experience resource shortages. The report is upbeat and cautious but warns we are quickly running out of options.

The problem is that discredited and inaccurate data on global warming and population raises questions about the entire contents of the work. Surprisingly, much of the rhetoric about the environment is immaterial. Instead of talking about it, we need to take real actions to be environmental stewards.

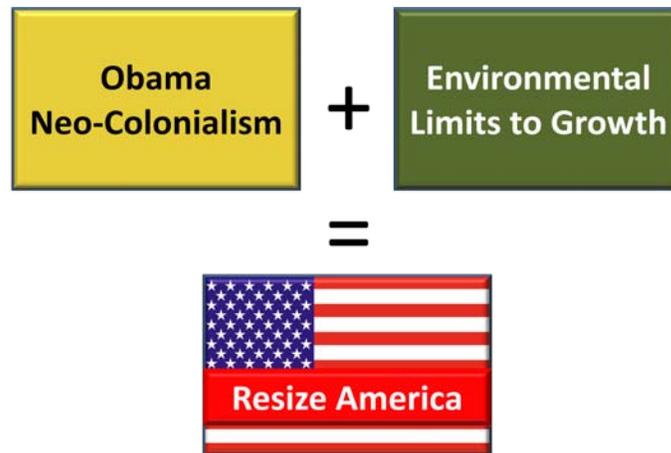
The word "finite" means "limited" but it does not imply knowledge of what those limitations are. The limits are very complicated to quantify in highly complex systems given the high numbers of variables. Given incomplete data, calculating precise conclusions is difficult. To the authors' credit, they make this point very clear and their generalized conclusions are proving correct. We know, for example, that eventually consumption will reach and exceed capacity. Resources will run out unevenly and one or more essential resources will influence the rates of production or use of other resources. We do not know if technology will have the capability to develop alternate materials.

It is difficult to calculate the rate of discoveries in innovation and technology, given numerous unquantifiable variables. In 1965 Intel co-founder Gordon Moore stated, "The number of transistors incorporated in a chip will approximately double every 24 months." This was later labeled, "Moore's Law." The computer chip changed everything, moving computer technology, and perhaps other applied sciences, from linear to exponential growth.

Convergence

President Barack Obama was born on August 4, 1961, and was a student in high school and college when the great American outsourcing of jobs began. By then, the universities fully embraced the environmental movement. We know little of his background relative to environmentalism, but as a Senator and President he aligned with the extreme elements of the movement.

In Obama's book, The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream, the author makes his opinion clear. America is guilty of neo-colonialism, and much of our wealth was ill earned on the backs of slaves and the developing nations. His presidency has been a work-in-progress to rectify all of these injustices. Given the Law of Unintended Consequences, he created additional layers of injustice against the American people in the process.



Throughout history, disparate ideals converge, retaining their respective paradigms, but creating intense energy for change. Environmentalism and Obama are uneasy partners in a net sum game where the total resource consumption and capital must remain in equilibrium to achieve sustainability. While environmentalism is concerned about the overall concept of resource conservancy, Obama is committed to an ideology obsessed with how wealth and resources are distributed and who gets what.

Redistribution means to divide something among a group in a different way. (Merriam-Webster.) The word gained attention in 2008 when Barack Obama, as a candidate for President of the United States, inadvertently used the term during a discussion with Joe the Plumber.

There was an immediate uproar. The candidate was proposing a socialist concept, the Robin Hood syndrome, where one robs the rich and gives to the poor. It was hyperbole, distracting from an intelligent search for the meaning of the word, and preventing discovery of the consequences behind the word. Had voters spent less time reacting and more time analyzing, they might have discovered what Obama meant when he promised to "fundamentally change America," and realized that it meant the redistribution and downsizing of America.

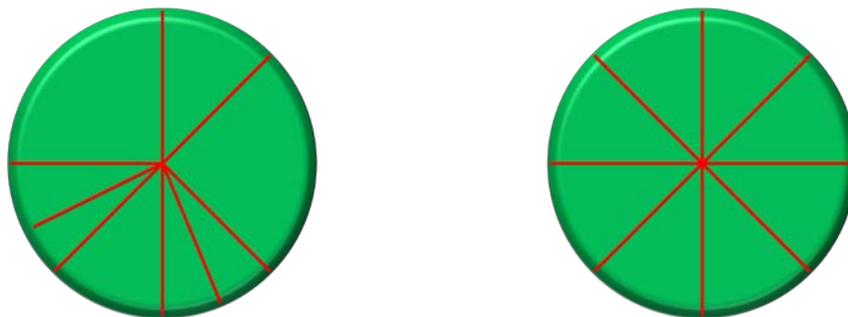
Examples of redistribution occur everywhere. Parents paying for college, and contributions to church and other charitable donations are redistribution of wealth. Everyone agrees this is proper because it is entirely a matter of personal choice.

Government is involved in redistributing revenues gained through taxation and fees and paying for collective services demanded by law or the population. The problem occurs when government redistributes without authorization from the constituency or for purposes of which we do not approve.

Redistribution as practiced by President Obama is a net sum game where total available resources never change, only which people have access to those resources and therefore gain wealth and power.

If the entire world is involved in a net sum game, global resource utilization remains the same, but both consumption and production move from one location to another. Wealth and power move in relationship, often gradually.

The American concept of redistribution is equality, which requires taking more from the rich to make sure other people have shelter, food, clothing, health care, and educational opportunities. This concept extends to other humanitarian activities when we want to use some of our resources to help others in the global community. This raises a difficult question. How much is a "fair share" and how high is the price society must pay to help others throughout the world? What costs will be incurred at the expense of our current economy? How will this attempt at parity affect those citizens trapped by a changing workplace? What happens to the future prospects of our younger generations?



Obama's concept of redistribution extends far beyond the rich sharing more with the poor. His vision is vastly different, redistributing wealth to the third world while downsizing America in the world economy and as a super-power.



While one could say that he has never stated this purpose the results of his actions make the objective very clear indeed. Much of what he wanted to accomplish is completed. We are a weaker country and our economy has deteriorated. The question is whether he understood the consequences of these objectives on America and the world? Even more troubling, do the citizens of America comprehend the multitude of ways the completion of Obama's dream changed the way we live and the world our children and grandchildren will inherit? Given a license to continue with his agenda for another two years, are the consequences irrevocable?

Consequences

Money moves globally, and capital will grow somewhere regardless of how much is redistributed. Our national debt is nearly \$18 trillion dollars, while our annual GDP is \$16 trillion (<http://www.multpl.com/us-gdp-inflation-adjusted/table>). Eventually, this debt must be repaid, and our economy will be redistributed and diluted.

The two most significant policies leading to equilibrium are population and controlling the means of production and distribution. The solution itself calls for a radical reduction in manufacturing, which drives wealth creation. Cutting production, in turn, reduces economic strength and the ability to deal with environmental issues.

In extreme environmentalism, both production and consumption shrink to fit the capability of the planet to provide resources (equilibrium) while retaining sustainability. In this case, the net sum game is not applicable because environmentalism demands a significant reduction in the size of the pie, or the total resources used. Given this scenario, there will be winners and a greater number of losers. The United States has and will continue to suffer substantial wealth degeneration, and an inability to create jobs. We have high debt with inadequate investment and incentive to sustain the nation's wealth.

As our economy falters or is permanently weakened, the environmental standards will collapse. Rich nations can afford environmental laws, but the environment suffers when wealth formation is restricted. In a controlled, dystopian society, resources and wealth migrate to the elite and everyone else gets the leftovers. If nothing is left, nature serves to constrain population. Given the massive redistribution currently in progress in the United States, we will unilaterally reduce our standards to those of more restrictive nations. By allowing ourselves to enter a state of economic freefall, we risk becoming a third world country.



<http://competitiveamerica.us/welcome.htm>, we

make the following observation.

This Cairo resident dumps garbage next to an empty container, and boats are shrouded by smog in China. When economies collapse, the new sum game is operational, and necessity trumps basic environmental preservation. Americans foolishly believe it could never happen here.

Look around at the empty factories. Drive through the inner cities (like that of Detroit). Serve at a food kitchen and see how people live without jobs. Afterward, listen to the rhetoric about how things are getting better. Think about political correctness. Consider the constant reshaping and programming that result from a corrupted political, press and education systems.

Ask why our factory jobs have fled the country. Ask why the greatest country ever on this planet is unable to generate jobs, educate its people, preserve its environment, and lead the way to a higher human state.

Solutions

America needs a free enterprise system that distributes wealth and opportunity by investment and capability. Consumer demand determines winners and losers, rewarding cost-effective products manufactured in environmentally friendly facilities. Customers (we the people) establish the true value by our interaction with the marketplace. The problem is that customers, even many environmentalists, buy the lowest-cost imports without considering if it is produced in sweatshops using child labor, with waste dumped into the air and water. The hypocrisy is the passage of laws that drive jobs overseas,

preaching a clean environment, and buying a product from offshore facilities. Perhaps environmentalism translates to "not in my backyard." The kinds of pollution creating the greatest environmental damage are global, and "out of sight, out of mind" is delusional.

There are Americans who have lost faith that God has blessed our country. Just as the world reached the theoretical peak of oil production, and we were about to suffer enormous increases in energy prices, a technological miracle occurred in the discovery of greater than one hundred year's supply of natural gas. This discovery, and the wealth and influence it generates, will be the foundation for our economic recovery after Obama leaves office. Free enterprise, science and education must use technology as a bridge opportunity for the development of environmentally friendly energy sources. The world may not get another change and independence from hydrocarbons must remain an international objective. God gave us time and another opportunity; let's not waste it.

Solutions must prevent environmental degradation

Free enterprise cannot allow money and greed to govern who we are as a people. Manufacturing must build environmentally clean facilities and products. The populace must learn that if you want a clean environment you must buy from clean factories, even if you must pay more. Buying from American sources takes thousands of cargo ships off the world's waterways.

Given the large supplies of natural gas, significant transportation sectors could switch energy sources, reducing green house gases and setting America free from the Middle East. This has the effect of taking thousands of oil tankers off the earth's waterways, and reduces our risks of continually meddling in the Middle East, where they love our money but hate the freedoms we stand for.

Voting against the Obama agenda does not mean setting back the environmental clock; it actually means moving it forward. When America is strong and independent and its entrepreneurial spirit free to develop and innovate, we will once again pursue the rewards of the great American experiment. We can and must preserve those wilderness areas where our spirits can reach up and touch God's fingertips, and leave a legacy of clean air and water to the future generations of the world. Thank you, God.

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