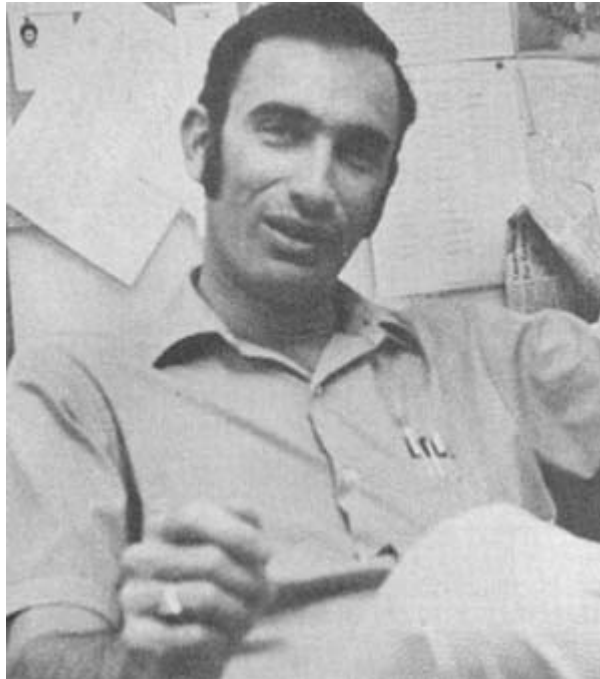


How to Control the AMERICAN Population by Paul Ehrlich

The Population Bomb Part 1

Brent Jessop - [Knowledge Driven Revolution.com](http://KnowledgeDrivenRevolution.com)

December 10, 2007



Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich

In 1968, Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich wrote a well publicized book entitled *The Population Bomb**. Ehrlich predicted widespread famine and disaster unless population growth was reduced to zero in America and throughout the world by compulsory methods if necessary.

Ehrlich is a Professor of Biology at Stanford University specializing in population biology. He has written many books and scientific papers related to overpopulation and has been well rewarded for his efforts.

"Professor Ehrlich is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Professor Ehrlich has received several honorary degrees, the John Muir Award of the Sierra Club, the Gold Medal Award of the World Wildlife Fund International, a MacArthur Prize Fellowship, the Crafoord Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (given in lieu of a Nobel Prize in areas where the Nobel is not given), in 1993 the Volvo Environmental Prize, in 1994 the United Nations' Sasakawa Environment Prize, in 1995 the Heinz Award for the

Environment, in 1998 the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement and the Dr. A. H. Heineken Prize for Environmental Sciences, in 1999 the Blue Planet Prize, in 2001 the Eminent Ecologist Award of the Ecological Society of America and the Distinguished Scientist Award of the American Institute of Biological Sciences." - [Stanford University Bio](#)

What is Population Control?

Ehrlich's definition of population control is very telling toward the broader belief system that he holds. As will become clear throughout this article, he believes that the dictates of an all powerful government, supposedly for the benefit of the whole society should trump any and all rights of the individual or family.

From *The Population Bomb*:

"Population control is the conscious regulation of the number of human beings to meet the needs not just of individual families, but of **society as a whole**." [emphasis mine] - XI

"...family planning...By stressing the right of parents to have a number of children they want, it evades the basic question of population policy, which is how **to give societies the number of children they need**... people would still be multiplying like rabbits." [emphasis mine] - 79

How to Fix the Population Explosion?

"We must have population control at home, hopefully through changes in our value system, but by compulsion if voluntary methods fail." - XI

According to Ehrlich the first step to worldwide population control is the control of the American population because:

"We want our propaganda based on "do as we do" - not "do as we say." " - 130

A truly commendable ethical stand indeed.

"So the first task is population control at home. How do we go about it? Many of my colleagues feel that some sort of compulsory birth regulation would be necessary to achieve such control. One plan often mentioned involved the addition of temporary sterilants to water supplies or staple food. Doses of the antidote would be carefully rationed by the government to produce the desired population size." 130

For completeness I will include, below, Ehrlich's description as to why such a population control method would not work. Please note that his reasoning is purely technical, with no ethical or moral objection to this method. Continuing:

"Those of you appalled at such a suggestion can rest easy. The option isn't even open to us, since no such substance exists. If the choice now is either such additive or catastrophe, we shall have catastrophe. It might be possible to develop such population control tools, although the task would not be simple. Either the additive would have to operate equally well and with minimum side effects against both sexes, or some way would have to be found to direct it only to one sex and shield the other. Feeding potent male hormones to the whole population might sterilize and defeminize the women, while the upset in the male population and society as a whole can be well imagined. In addition, care would have to be taken to see to it that the sterilizing substance did not reach livestock, either through water or garbage.

Technical problems aside, I suspect you'll agree with me that society would probably dissolve before sterilants were added to the water supply by the government. Just consider the fluoridation controversy! Some other way will have to be found." - 130

Some More Subtle Methods

Financial coercion is also an effective method to reduce the population. Ehrlich recommends changes to the income tax laws to encourage small families. But his creativity goes beyond just simple income tax.

"On top of the income tax change, luxury taxes could be placed on layettes, cribs, diapers, diaper services, expensive toys, always with the proviso that the essentials be available without penalty to the poor. There would, of course, have to be considerable experimenting on the level of financial pressure necessary to achieve the population goals. To the penalties could be added some incentives. A governmental "first marriage grant" could be awarded each couple in which the age of both partners was 25 or more. "Responsibility prizes" could be given to each couple for each five years of childless marriage, or to each man who accepted irreversible sterilization (vasectomy) before having more than two children. Or special lotteries might be held - tickets going only to the childless. Adoption could be subsidized and made a simple procedure. Considering the savings in school buildings, pollution control, unemployment compensation, and the like, these grants would be a money-making proposition. But even if they weren't, the price would be a small one to pay for saving our nation." - 132

"In short, the plush life would be difficult to attain for those with large families - which is as it should be, since they are getting their pleasure from their children, who are being supported in part by more responsible members of society." - 131

Abortion

Ehrlich makes his views on the use of abortion to help control the population crystal clear.

"[Japan's] dramatic halving of the birth rate was achieved originally through the sanctioning of abortion. Abortion is highly effective weapon in the armory of population control. It is condemned by many family planning groups, which are notorious for

pussyfooting about methodology, despite beginning 60 years ago as revolutionary social pioneers." - 84

"One of the more encouraging signs of progress has been the change in abortion laws [in the US]." - 89

"Biologists must promote understanding of the facts of reproductive biology which relate to matters of abortion and contraception. They must do more than simply reiterate the facts of population dynamics. They must point out the biological absurdity of equating a zygote (the cell created by joining of sperm and egg) or fetus (unborn child) with a human being. As Professor Garrett Hardin of the University of California pointed out, that is like confusing a set of blueprints with a building. People are people because of the interaction of genetic information (stored in a chemical language) with an environment. Clearly, the most "humanizing" element of that environment is the cultural element to which the child is not exposed until after birth. When conception is prevented or a fetus destroyed, the **potential** for another human being is lost, but that is all. That potential is lost **regardless** of the reason that conception does not occur - there is no biological difference if the egg is not fertilized because of timing or because of mechanical or other interference.

Biologists must point out that contraception is for many reasons more desirable than abortion. But they must also point out that in many cases abortion is more desirable than childbirth. Above all, biologists must take the side of the hungry billions of **living** human beings today and tomorrow, not the side of **potential** human beings. Remember, unless, their numbers are limited, if those potential human beings are born, they will at best lead miserable lives and die young. We can not permit the destruction of humanity to be abetted by a doctrine conceived in total ignorance of the biological facts of life. [emphasis in original] - 138

Conclusion

The [next article](#) in this series will examine Ehrlich's desires for the rest of the planet, especially the third world. It will also look at the issue of "optimum" world population size and who should get to decide what that optimum level will be. The third part in this series will discuss the need for [altering religion, sex education and the role of women in society](#). Part four will examine in some detail the different [organizations, foundations and individuals](#) involved in population control. Finally, I will compare the arguments for ["population explosion" with that of "global warming"](#) by directly comparing *The Population Bomb* (1968) to Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006).

*Quotes from: Paul R. Ehrlich. *The Population Bomb: Revised & Expanded Edition* (1968, 1971). SBN 345-24489-3-150.

How to Control the WORLD Population

by Paul Ehrlich

The Population Bomb Part 2

Brent Jessop - [Knowledge Driven Revolution.com](http://KnowledgeDrivenRevolution.com)
December 17, 2007



Once the American population size is comfortably under control, be it by voluntary or compulsory methods, the rest of the world needs to be "helped." Paul Ehrlich's 1968 *The Population Bomb** described a variety of methods for controlling third world population growth and who should be involved in deciding the optimum population levels for the world.

Please read [this article](#) for a discussion on Ehrlich's desire for the American population including "addition of temporary sterilants to water supplies or staple food" with an

antidote "carefully rationed by the government."

Plan for the Third World

Once the American population is comfortably under control, be it voluntary or compulsory methods, the "do as we do" propaganda can begin on the rest of the world. From *The Population Bomb*:

"What about vasectomies? A few years ago, there was talk in India of compulsory sterilization for all males who were fathers of three or more children. Ignore for a moment the socio-political problems that would be raised by such a program. Consider just the logistic problems, as A. S. Parkes did. Even if those eligible could be rounded up, it would take 1,000 surgeons or para-surgeons operating eight hours a day, five days a week, a full eight years to sterilize the candidates who exist today. And the stock of candidates is growing very rapidly. Can you picture the probable results of a government attempt to sterilize 40 million American males? What a problem it would be in our country, with its relatively informed populace and efficient transport and communication system! Imagine such an attempt in India, where the difference between castration and sterilization (still not clear to many Westerners) would be almost impossible to explain. As one might expect, the principal Indian official thinking in such tough-minded terms, Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, ended up in a less influential position in a government shuffle." - 82

"When we suggested sterilizing all Indian males with three or more children, he should have encouraged the Indian government to go ahead with the plan. We should have volunteered logistical support in the form of helicopters, vehicles, and surgical instruments. We should have sent doctors to aid in the program by setting up centers for training para-medical personnel to do vasectomies. Coercion? Perhaps, but coercion in a good cause." - 151

"United States, Russia, Great Britain, Canada, Japan, Australia, Europe, and other ODCs [overdeveloped countries] immediately set up, through the United Nations, a machinery for "area rehabilitation." This plan involved simultaneous population control, agricultural development, and, where resources warrant it, industrialization of selected countries or sections of countries. The bedrock requirement of the program would have to be population control, necessarily including migration control to prevent swamping of aided areas by the less fortunate." - 148

"If we could, somehow, get a program underway in which the ODCs made a genuine attempt to aid the UDCs [underdeveloped countries], what form might that program take? The specific requirements of the program would vary from area to area. Possibly the first step in all areas would be to set up relay stations and distribute small transistorized TV sets to villages for communal viewing of satellite-transmitted programs... TV programs would explain the rehabilitation plan for each area. These programs would have to be produced with the combined skills of people with great expertise in the subject to be presented and intimate knowledge of the target population. The programs could be presented both "straight" and as "entertainment." ... The programs would use the prospect of increased

affluence as a major incentive for gaining cooperation. It seems unlikely that the threat of future starvation would have much impact. If necessary, however, the TV channel could be used to make it clear that the continuance of food supplies depends on the cooperation of the people in the area..." - 149

How Many People Get to Live?

"In all areas studies should be initiated to determine how much agricultural and industrial development is feasible. It must be determined how many people, at each stage of development can live reasonably comfortable, secure lives in each area. That is, demographic goals must be set that are reasonable in the light of each country's and the world's resources." - 150

"But with a human population of, say, one-half billion people, some minor changes in technology and some major changes in the rate of use and equity of distribution of the world's resources, there would clearly be no environmental crisis." - 44

"But at a minimum it seems safe to say that a population of one billion people could be sustained in reasonable comfort for perhaps 1000 years if resources were husbanded carefully." - 157

Who Decides How Many People Get to Live?

It should come as little surprise that the individual has little or no say in this. Ehrlich's ideas for America:

"Obviously, such measures should be coordinated by a powerful governmental agency. A federal Bureau of Population and Environment [BPE] should be set up to determine the optimum population size for the US and devise measures to establish it. Of course this should be done within the context of resource and environmental limitations. The BPE should coordinate population policies with those dealing with environmental protection and resource husbandry. This Bureau should give ample funds to support research in the areas of population control and environmental quality. In the first area it would promote intensive investigation and development of new techniques of birth control. This research will not only give us better methods to use at home, which will be essential for helping the UDCs [underdeveloped countries] to control their populations: the BPE also would encourage more research on human sex determination, for if a simple method could be found to guarantee that firstborn children were males, then population control problems in many areas would be somewhat eased. In our country and elsewhere, couples with only female children "keep trying" in hope of a son.

Two other functions of the BPE would be to aid Congress in developing legislation relating to population and environment, and to inform the public of the need for such legislation. Some of these needs are already apparent. The right of **any** woman to have an abortion if it is approved by a physician should be guaranteed. We need federal legislation affirming the right to voluntary sterilization for adults... We need a federal law requiring sex education in

schools - sex education that includes discussion of the need for regulating the birth rate and of the techniques of birth control. Such education should begin at the earliest age recommended by those with professional competence in this area - certainly before junior high school. [emphasis in original] - 132

Ehrlich envisions that these and other world population policies be coordinated from the international level through the United Nations or some other world body.

"A general answer to the question, "What needs to be done?" can be given easily. We must rapidly bring the world population under control, reducing the growth rate to zero and eventually making it go negative. Conscious regulation of human numbers must be [sic] achieved. Simultaneously we must greatly increase our food production. This agricultural program should be carefully monitored to minimize deleterious effects on the environment and should include an effective program of ecosystem restoration. The world's supply of nonrenewable resources must be assessed and plans made for the most economical and beneficial management and use of what remains of them. As these projects are carried out, an international policy research program must be initiated **to set optimum population-environment goals for the world** and to devise methods for reaching these goals." [emphasis mine] - 127

Conclusion

The next article in this series will examine the [role of religion, women and sex education in population control](#) and the changes that Ehrlich believes necessary. Part four of this series will discuss the major [organizations, foundations and individuals](#) involved. Finally, the last article will examine the similarities between the arguments for [global warming and the population explosion](#), including a direct comparison between *The Population Bomb* and Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*.

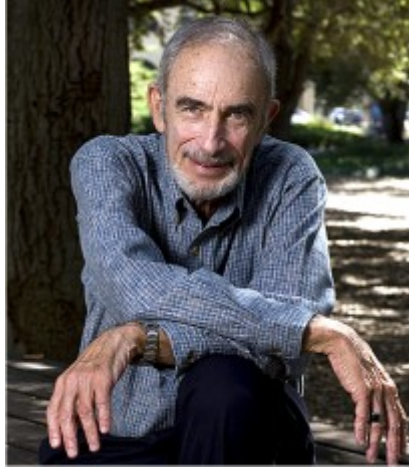
*Quotes from: Paul R. Ehrlich. *The Population Bomb: Revised & Expanded Edition* (1968, 1971). SBN 345-24489-3-150.

Population, Religion and Sex Education

The Population Bomb Part 3

Brent Jessop - [Knowledge Driven Revolution.com](http://KnowledgeDrivenRevolution.com)
December 24, 2007

"We must have population control at home, hopefully through changes in our value system, but by compulsion if voluntary methods fail." - Paul Ehrlich, 1968 (pXI)



Dr Paul Ehrlich

The previous two articles in this series described some of the compulsory techniques for controlling population growth in [America](#) and the [third world](#) proposed by Paul Ehrlich in his 1968 book, *The Population Bomb**. What about changing our value system into something more compatible with Ehrlich's mindset? How do you change a societies value system?

Sex Education and the Role of Women

When trying to institute a change in society, especially a long-term change, the most important and easily manipulated group are children. And there is no better tool than the education system for indoctrination of children.

From *The Population Bomb*:

"One of the most important roles of sex education must be to impress on everyone that death control in the absence of birth control is self-defeating, to say the least." - 87

"We need a federal law requiring sex education in schools - sex education that includes discussion of the need for regulating the birth rate and of the techniques of birth control. Such education should begin at the earliest age recommended by those with professional competence in this area - certainly before junior high school.

By "sex education" I do not mean course focusing on hygiene or presenting a simple-minded "birds and bees" approach to human sexuality. The reproductive function of sex must be shown as just one of its functions, and one that must be carefully regulated in relation to the needs of the individual and society. Much emphasis must be placed on sex as an interpersonal relationship, as an important and extremely pleasurable aspect of being human, as mankind's major and most enduring recreation, as a fountainhead of humor, as a phenomenon that affects every aspect of human life... In short, sex as we know it, is a peculiarly human activity. It has many complex functions other than the production of

offspring. It is now imperative that we restrict the reproductive function of sex while producing a minimum of disruption in the others." - 133

Another obvious group of society that needs to have their values changed, if the population is to be reduced, are women.

"With a rational atmosphere mankind should be able to work out the problems of deemphasizing the reproductive role of sex. These problems include finding substitutes for the satisfaction and rewards that women derive from childbearing and for the ego satisfaction that often accompanies excessive fatherhood. Implicit attitudes and social pressures within our society toward parenthood, especially motherhood, add up to an even more powerful prenatal policy than our legal system represents. Equal opportunities and salaries for women in business and the professions, which are now being sought by the women's liberation movement, would strongly encourage them to seek other outlets for their energy and talents besides motherhood. Society would greatly benefit both from the resulting lowered fertility and the productive contributions of women.

All too often today marriage either provides a "license" for sexual activity or a way of legitimizing the unplanned results of premarital sexual activity. But greater equality between the sexes, reliable contraceptives, and changing attitudes among today's young people are solving the former problem; the greater availability of contraceptives and abortion could solve the latter." - 134

Religion

What about American religious values? Are they in need of change too?

"Somehow we've got to change from a growth-oriented, exploitative system to one focused on stability and conservation. Our entire system of orienting to nature must undergo a revolution. And that revolution is going to be extremely difficult to pull off, since the attitudes of Western culture toward nature are deeply rooted in Judeo-Christian tradition. Unlike people in many other cultures, we see man's basic role as that of dominating nature, rather than as living in harmony with it. This entire problem has been elegantly discussed by Professor Lynn White, Jr., in Science magazine. He points out, for instance, that before the Christian era trees, springs, hills, streams, and other objects of nature had guardian spirits. These spirits had to be approached and placated before one could safely invade their territory. As White says, "By destroying pagan animism, Christianity made it possible to exploit nature in a mood of indifference to the feelings of natural objects... Both our present science and our present technology are so tinctured with orthodox Christian arrogance toward nature that no solution for our ecological crisis can be expected from them alone. **Since the roots of our trouble are so largely religious, the remedy must also be essentially religious, whether we call it that or not.**" " [emphasis mine] - 155

Spreading the Message of the New Religion: Population Missionaries

Ehrlich finishes his book with a very descriptive answer to the question: How can people spread the new faith?

"The question I am most frequently asked after giving talks about the population explosion is, "What can I do to help?" The obvious first answer is, "Set an example - don't have more than two children." " -159

"First of all, get together with people who share your concerns. It's easier, pleasanter and generally more effective to **crusade** in a group." [emphasis mine] - 160

The major thrust of this section is to write letters to politician and others.

"Above all, if you really want to survive, start writing!" - 164

"Editors of magazines and newspapers are excellent targets for letters. Complain bitterly about any positive treatment of large families. Attack the publicizing of "mothers of the year" unless they have no more than two children or have adopted the extra ones. Request that the publications you address stop carrying any advertising **implying by statement or inference that it is socially acceptable to have more than two children**. Point out that any promotion of the idea that a growing population means prosperity is making a contribution to the destruction of America. Television and radio stations should be subjected to similar constant pressure. Series featuring large families should be assailed. More programming about the population crisis should be demanded. Ask for prime time programs on sex education and the use of contraceptives. Raise a fuss whenever **programming or commercials promote reproductive irresponsibility**." [emphasis mine] - 163

"Another target for your letters is the business community... "Dear Sir: Your company's advertisement was shown in the middle of *The Saturday Family*, implying your sponsorship of that program. The day is upon us when **we can no longer tolerate television programs that feature large families as if they still represented acceptable behaviour on the part of parents**." [emphasis mine] - 164

A fair bit of attention was devoted to children, as should be expected with Ehrlich's focus on sex education.

"Give your child an IUD [intrauterine device] to take to "show and tell." " - 166

He also encourages people to "proselytize friends and associates" by giving specific arguments tailor made for different types of people. Under the heading "Target is a Schoolteacher," he suggests that it is:

"easy for you to convince most schoolteachers that the population problem is very real. They have been struggling with overcrowded classrooms and ghetto children for a long time." - 176

Because of the limits placed on individual teachers by school boards:

"Subtle propaganda to the kiddies and letter writing may be all you can ask for [from a teacher]." - 177

Conclusion

The next part in this series will examine the [major organizations, foundations and individuals](#) working toward population control. The final article will compare the current arguments for [global warming with the arguments for population control](#), including a direct comparison between *The Population Bomb* (1968) and Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006).

*Quotes from: Paul R. Ehrlich. *The Population Bomb: Revised & Expanded Edition* (1968, 1971). SBN 345-24489-3-150.

Those Involved in Population Control

The Population Bomb Part 4

Brent Jessop - [Knowledge Driven Revolution.com](http://KnowledgeDrivenRevolution.com)
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"In the eight years that I have been a part-time propagandist, I have found that many people in influential positions share my concern. I have had encouraging letters from all over the world. People in radio and television have been extremely helpful in providing exposure for the issues." - Paul Ehrlich, 1968 (p159)

Paul Ehrlich's book *The Population Bomb** describes a variety of different ways to reduce the population of the world. This includes, among other things; [financial incentives](#), [manipulative sex education](#), [forced vasectomies](#) for every man with more than three children, and [adding sterilants](#) to the water supply or food staples.

But Ehrlich is only one man, albeit a well connected Stanford University professor, but still just an individual. Who else is involved in these types of population control schemes?

United States Government

"In late 1970. Congress finally placed the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act to provide free contraception to the poor through non-profit agencies. It also established an Office of Population Affairs in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to sponsor further research on birth control." - 85



"Beginning with Senators Ernest Gruening and Joseph Clark in the middle 1960s, there has been a small group of dedicated people in Congress who have been trying to get the government to move on these matters. More recently, the ball has been carried by Senators Joseph Tydings and Robert Packwood, and Representatives Paul McCloskey, **George Bush**, and James Scheuer." [emphasis mine] - 86

"Despite repeated statements of concern since 1965 by President's Johnson and Nixon..." - 85

United Nations and Co.

"The United Nations has greatly increased its family planning activities, operation through several agencies including WHO [World Health Organization], UNICEF, and UNESCO [United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization]. Secretary General U Thant has been urged by a study group to establish a special "world population institute" promptly to take practical action against population growth. Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank, has put population projects high on the Bank's list of priorities. The

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is also getting into the field." - 84

Foundations

"In March 1970, a two-year Commission on Population Growth and the American Future was established under the chairmanship of John D. Rockefeller, III."

"Aside from government contributions, private foundations such as Ford and Rockefeller are becoming more involved in programs, both for research and overseas family planning projects." - 86

Zero Population Growth

"But a new organization exists - Zero Population Growth - whose mission is to educate the public and politicians to the necessity for stopping population growth as soon as possible, to lobby for legislation, and to work for politicians who support the same goals. ZPG now has more than 30,000 members and is growing fast. Hopefully it will have developed some real political clout by 1972." - 88

Ehrlich forgets to mention in his book that he [founded](#) Zero Population Growth with Richard Bowers and Charles Remington. This organization is still going strong under a new name: [Population Connection](#).

Scientists

Ehrlich, a self proclaimed propagandist, also believes that his fellow scientists, namely biologists, should be much more involved in the "education" of the masses.

"Biologists must promote understanding of the facts of reproductive biology which relate to matters of abortion and contraception. They must do more than simply reiterate the facts of population dynamics. They must point out the biological absurdity of equating a zygote (the cell created by joining of sperm and egg) or fetus (unborn child) with a human being... People are people because of the interaction of genetic information (stored in a chemical language) with an environment. Clearly, the most "humanizing" element of that environment is the cultural element to which the child is not exposed until after birth... in many cases abortion is more desirable than childbirth." - 138

Environmental Groups

The interconnectedness of the environmental movement and the population control fanatics is undeniable and I will examine some of the similarities between *The Population Bomb* and Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* in the [next article](#) of this series. But for now, some of the more obvious environmental connections.

The forward to the *The Population Bomb* was written by [David Brower](#), the founder of

Sierra Club Foundation, the John Muir Institute for Environmental Studies, Friends of the Earth, the League of Conservation Voters, Earth Island Institute (1982), North Cascades Conservation Council, and Fate of the Earth Conferences.

Also *The Population Bomb* was published by [Sierra Club Books](#).

Ehrlich has also been well rewarded by both the scientific and the environmental community. From his [University of Stanford profile](#):

Professor Ehrlich is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Professor Ehrlich has received several honorary degrees, the John Muir Award of the Sierra Club, the Gold Medal Award of the World Wildlife Fund International, a MacArthur Prize Fellowship, the Crafoord Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (given in lieu of a Nobel Prize in areas where the Nobel is not given), in 1993 the Volvo Environmental Prize, in 1994 the United Nations' Sasakawa Environment Prize, in 1995 the Heinz Award for the Environment, in 1998 the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement and the Dr. A. H. Heineken Prize for Environmental Sciences, in 1999 the Blue Planet Prize, in 2001 the Eminent Ecologist Award of the Ecological Society of America and the Distinguished Scientist Award of the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

*Quotes from: Paul R. Ehrlich. *The Population Bomb: Revised & Expanded Edition* (1968, 1971). SBN 345-24489-3-150.

The Apocalypse, From Paul Ehrlich to Al Gore

The Population Bomb Part 5

Brent Jessop - [Knowledge Driven Revolution.com](#)

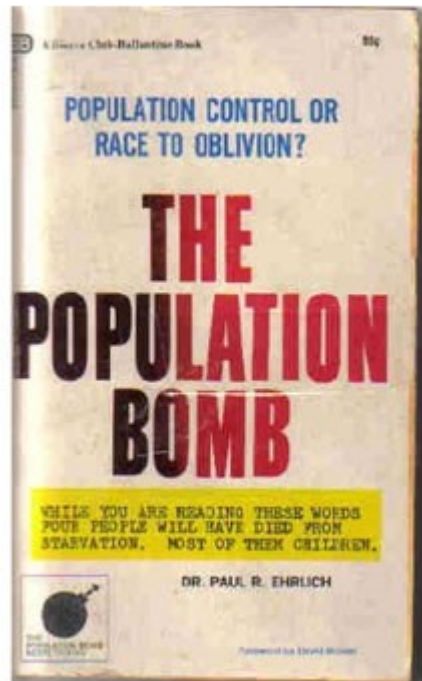
January 7, 2008

"...it would not surprise me if the sea were virtually emptied of its harvestable fishes and shellfish in a few decades or less." - Paul Ehrlich, 1968 (p96)

While reading Paul Ehrlich's *The Population Bomb** it is hard not to notice the similarities between his arguments and those used to popularize global warming. From the threat of apocalypse to the promise of utopia, from the scourge of big business to the dream of a sustainable society, and the cancer of the earth, man himself.

Previous articles in this series discussed the methods to control the size of the [American](#)

and [world](#) populations; the use of [religion, women, and sex education](#); and the [major organizations, environmental groups, foundations and individuals](#) involved.



For convenience sake, pardon the pun, I will compare Paul Ehrlich's book *The Population Bomb* (1968) with Al Gore's book *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006)**, but any global warming book would do. As a sad sign of the times, a lot of Gore's arguments are described in picture form for our dumbed down society. As a result, some of the "quotes" are more descriptive than reproductive.

Famine

[Ehrlich] "We are today involved in the events leading to famine and ecocatastrophe; tomorrow we may be destroyed by them." - XI

[Ehrlich] "If the pessimists are correct, massive famines will occur soon, possibly in the 1970s, certainly by the early 1980s. So far most of the evidence seems to be on the side of the pessimists." - 25

[Gore] "The map to the left shows what is projected to happen to soil moisture in the United States with the doubling of CO₂, which would happen in less than 50 years if we continue business as usual. According to scientists, it will lead, among other things, to a loss in soil moisture of up to 35% in vast growing areas of our country. And of course, drier soils mean drier vegetables, less productive agriculture, and more fires. Moreover, scientists are now telling us that if we do not act quickly to contain global warming pollution, we will soon barrel right through a doubling of CO₂ and move toward a

quadrupling, in which case, scientists tell us, most of the United States would lose up to 60% of its soil moisture. [Beside this paragraph is a full page image of a Texas farmer standing in a sea of dried and dying crops.]" - 121

Disease

[Ehrlich] "With people living cheek by jowl, some of mankind's old enemies, like bubonic plague and cholera, may once again be on the move. As hunger and poverty increase, the resources that nations put into the control of vectors (disease-spreading organisms) may be reduced. Malaria, yellow fever, typhus, and their friends are still around - indeed, malaria is still a major killer and disabler of man. These ancient enemies of *Homo sapiens* are just waiting for the resurgence of mosquitoes, lice, and other vectors, to ride high again... It is not inconceivable that we will, one of these days, have a visitation from a "super flu," perhaps much more virulent than the famous killer of 1918-1920." - 46

[Gore] "Algae is just one of the disease vectors that have been increasing in range because of global warming. And when these vectors - whether algae, mosquitoes, ticks, or other germ-carrying life forms - start to show up in new areas and cover a wider range, they are more likely to interact with people, and the diseases they carry become more serious threats... To cite one important example of this phenomenon, mosquitoes are profoundly affected by global warming. There are cities that were originally located just above the mosquito line, which used to mark the altitude above which mosquitoes would not venture. Nairobi, Kenya, and Harare, Zimbabwe, are two such cities. Now, with global warming, the mosquitoes are climbing to higher altitudes." - 172

[Gore] "Some 30 so-called new diseases have emerged over the last 25 to 30 years. And some old diseases that had been under control are now surging again. [included are scary black-and-white pictures (under a microscope) of Hantavirus, Machupo Virus, Arenaviridae, Coronavirus, Dengue Fever, Borrelia Burgdorferi (Lyme Disease), E. Coli, Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever, Legionnaires Disease, Influenza Virus, Nipahvirus, and Tuberculosis.]... West Nile virus" - 174

Apocalypse

[Ehrlich] "Ways must be found to bring home to all the American people the reality of the threat to their way of life - indeed, to their very lives." - 130

[Gore] "At stake is the survival of our civilization and the habitability of the Earth." - 11

Utopia

[Ehrlich] "We will have to do without two gas-gulping monster cars per family. We will have to learn to get along with some insect damage in our produce... Such may be the cost of survival. Of course, we may also have to get along with less emphysema, less cancer, less heart disease, less noise, less filth, less crowding, less need to work long hours or "moonlight," less robbery, less assault, less murder, and less threat of war. The pace of life

may slow down. We may have more fishing, more relaxing, more time to watch TV, more time to drink beer (served in bottles that **must** be returned)." [emphasis in original] - 142

[Gore] "But along with the danger we face from global warming, this crisis also brings unprecedented opportunities. What are the opportunities such a crisis also offers? They include not just new jobs and new profits, though there will be plenty of both, we can build clean engines, we can harness the Sun and the wind; we can stop wasting energy; we can use our planet's plentiful coal resources without heating the planet." - 11

[Gore] "We can do something about this! [followed by happy pictures of compact fluorescent bulbs, fuel-cell hybrid busses, solar panels, green roof, electric car powered by hydrogen fuel cell, hybrid car, geothermal power station] " - 277

[Ehrlich] "If I'm right, we will save the world. If I'm wrong, people will still be better fed, better housed, and happier, thanks to our efforts." - 179

Global Warming Overlap

Ehrlich, never one to avoid a good doomsday story, did briefly mention climate change as a potential result of over population.

From *The Population Bomb*:

"Too many cars, too many factories, too much detergent, too much pesticides, multiplying contrails, inadequate sewage treatment plants, too little water, **too much carbon dioxide** - all can be traced easily to **too many people**." [emphasis mine] - 44

"But even more important is the potential for changing the climate of the Earth. All of the junk we dump into the atmosphere, all of the dust, all of the carbon dioxide, have effects on the temperature balance of the Earth... The greenhouse effect is being enhanced now by the greatly increase level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. In the last one hundred years our burning of fossil fuels raised the level some 15%. The greenhouse effect today is being countered by low-level clouds generated by contrails, dust, and other contaminants that tend to keep the energy of the sun from warming the surface as much.

At the moment we cannot predict what the overall climatic results will be of our using the atmosphere as a garbage dump. We do know that very small changes in either direction in the average temperature of the Earth could be very serious. With a few degrees of cooling, a new ice age might be upon us, with rapid and drastic effects on the agricultural productivity of the temperate regions. With a few degrees of heating, the Greenland and Antarctic ice caps would melt, perhaps raising ocean levels 250 feet." - 38

However, he did not limit himself to climate change as the only way that burning fossil fuels would destroy the environment.

"We are also depleting the world's supply of oxygen by burning (oxidizing) vast quantities of fossil fuels and by clearing iron-rich tropical soils in which the iron is then oxidized." - 36

The Real Enemy Then is Humanity Itself

Once people accept either the population control or global warming hysteria they will be lead, quite intentionally, to an unmistakable conclusion: the real problem facing humanity is humanity. Both Ehrlich and Gore are eager to point this out to their readers, below are two examples from each.

[Ehrlich] "I wish I could offer you some sugarcoated solutions, but I'm afraid the time for them is long gone. A cancer is an uncontrolled multiplication of cells; the population explosion is an uncontrolled multiplication of people. Treating only the symptoms of cancer may make the victim more comfortable at first, but eventually he dies - often horribly. A similar fate awaits a world with a population explosion if only the symptoms are treated. We must shift our efforts from treatment of the symptoms to the cutting out of the cancer. The operation will demand many apparently brutal and heartless decisions. The pain may be intense. But the disease is so far advanced that only with radical surgery does the patient have a chance of survival." - 152

[Gore] "Global warming, along with the cutting and burning of forests and other critical habitats, is causing the loss of living species at a level comparable to the extinction event that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. That event was believed to have been caused by a giant asteroid. This time it is not an asteroid colliding with the Earth and wreaking havoc: it is us." 10

[Ehrlich] "... must take a stand to protect mankind from himself." - 182

[Gore] "Each one of us is a cause of global warming..." - 278

Conclusion

The purpose behind blaming humanity itself for a perpetually emerging apocalypse is way beyond the scope of this article, but it is very intertwined with both sustainable development and world government. Some closing words to ponder.

"In searching for a new enemy to unite us [all of humanity], we came up with the idea that pollution, the threat of global warming, water shortages, famine and the like would fit the bill. In their totality and in their interactions, these phenomena constitute a common threat which as the enemy, we fall into the trap about which we have already warned, namely mistaking symptoms for causes. All these dangers are caused by human intervention and it is only through changed attitudes and behaviour that they can be overcome. The real enemy then is humanity itself." - Alexander King and Bertrand Schneider, *The First Global Revolution: A Report by the Council of The Club of Rome* (1991).

*Quotes from: Paul R. Ehrlich. *The Population Bomb: Revised & Expanded Edition* (1968, 1971). SBN 345-24489-3-150.

** Quotes from: Al Gore. *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006). ISBN-13:978-1-59486-567-1.



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