

Overpopulation

Every year, the pressure from human numbers is increasing. There are now over 6 billion people on this finite planet and the number continues to swell. Every second, there is a net gain of an extra 2.7 people added to the human population. Such statistics sound silly - what is .7 of a person? Yet they mean that every 10 seconds, there are an extra 27 people to feed, water, clothe, house, educate, employ, entertain, transport... The figures soon add up. Every 24 hours, there is a net addition of some 235,000 new faces added to the human race. Every 48 hours, the net increase in human numbers will be nearly enough to fill a city the size of San Francisco. Each year there is the equivalent of another Mexico of mouths to feed... and, in nine year's time, the population equivalent of another India.

Now the world population is roughly ten times what it was in 1700. Nothing has stopped this juggernaut so far. According to the Population Reference Bureau, in 1900, humans numbered 1,600 million but 50 years later it had shot up to 2,550 million, despite two world wars, various civil wars, Holocaust, Stalin's massacres, and the Spanish flu pandemic. The global population is likely to reach 9.3 billion by mid-century from 6.3 billion in 2004. One billion teenagers are just entering their reproductive years — the largest "youthquake" ever. Over 500 million of India's already enormous and unsustainable population are under 24. Most of the Chinese population is under 34 (as of 2007).

Some of the fastest growth is occurring in the richest countries, contrary to popular perceptions. There will be an extra 120 million more Americans. The USA is expected to have reached a population of 420 million by 2050, an increase of 43%. Britain is expected to grow faster than any other major European country. Within 20 years, it is likely to have four million more people, eventually reaching 65 million. By then, it will have overtaken France as Europe's second or third largest country, depending whether Russia is classed to be in Europe or partly in Asia. One in six people in western Europe will be over the age of 65 by 2050.

Population in developing countries could surge by 55% to more than 8 billion. By 2050, sub-Saharan African countries more than one billion people. Nigeria is expected to have more than doubled its numbers to more than 300 million people. Western Asian nations are expected to gain about 186 million people by 2050. and By 2050, India will be the largest country in the world. Bangladesh, one of the poorest, most crowded and disaster-prone countries, may have doubled numbers to more than 280 million.

In 2004, a dozen countries were forecast to more than double in numbers. They are all politically, socially or environmentally volatile: Yemen (255%) Palestine (211%) Afghanistan (187%) and Kuwait (182%) have all been involved in armed conflicts. Bhutan (113%) and Nepal (105%) are undergoing great changes. Kiribati (133%), the Solomon islands (112%) Tuvalu (122%) and Vanuatu (124%) are all expected to be devastated by climate change and rising sea levels.

General overviews

Bartlett, A. (1998). Reflections on Sustainability, Population Growth and the Environment. Posted @ <http://www.energycrisis.co.uk/bartlett/reflections.htm>

Catton, W. (1980). **Overshoot: The Ecological Basis of Revolutionary Change**. Univ. of Illinois Pr.

Costanza, R.. (1990). 'Balancing Humans in the Biosphere: Escaping the Overpopulation Trap.' **NPG Forum Series** Posted @ http://www.npg.org/forum_series/balancing_biosphere.htm

Duguid, J. (2002). **Population, Resources & the Quality of Life**. Population Policy Pr.

Ehrlich, P. & A. Ehrlich (1980). **The Population Explosion**. Hutchinson. Demonstrates with overwhelming evidence and argument that human overpopulation is the critical pressure on environmental, economic and social systems, the one which automatically intensifies the effects from other pressures, and the one that similarly makes solutions harder to achieve. Brilliant. See also Ehrlich, P, A. Ehrlich & G. Daily (1995). **The Stork & the Plow**. Putnam for further evidence on the population crunch as well as Ehrlich P. & A. Ehrlich (1998). 'The Population Explosion: Why we should care and what we should do about it'. **Environmental Law**, 27(4); 1187-1208.

Grant, L. (1996). **Juggernaut: Growth on a Finite Planet**. Seven Locks Pr..

Hern, W. (1990). 'Why Are There So Many of Us? Description & Diagnosis of a Planetary Ecopathological Process'. **Population & Environment**, 12, Fall,,: 9-39.

MacDougall, A. K. (1996). 'Humans as Cancer'. **Wild Earth**, Fall, 1996: 61-88.

McKibben, B. (1998). 'A Special Moment in History'. **Atlantic Monthly** 281(55), May, 1998: 55-78.

Myers, N. (1997). 'The population/environment predicament: Even more urgent than supposed'. **Politics and Life Sciences**, 16: 211-213.

Smail, K. J. (1997). 'Beyond population Stabilisation: The Case for Dramatically Reducing Global Human Numbers'. **Politics and Life Sciences**, 16: 183-192.

Tobias, M. et al, eds. (2005). **No Vacancy: Global Responses to the Human Population Explosion**. New Society.

See also:

<http://www.balance.org/index.html>

<http://www.carryingcapacity.org/>

<http://dieoff.org/>

<http://desip.igc.org/populationindex.html>

<http://www.npg.org/>

<http://www.numbersusa.com/index>

<http://www.optimumpopulation.org/>

<http://www.overpopulation.org/>

<http://www.populationconnection.org/>

<http://www.susps.org/overview/numbers.html>

Estimates of 'overshoot'

Anon (2004). "1,000 Times Too Many Humans?" Report from the Royal Society (2004). Downloadable from:

http://dsc.discovery.com/news/briefs/20031124/humans_print.html

Barrett, G.W. & Odum, E.P. (2000). The twenty-first century: The world at carrying capacity. *Bioscience*, 50, 363 (6 p.).

Daily, G.C., & Ehrlich, P.R. (1992). 'Population, sustainability, and Earth's carrying capacity'. *BioScience* 42: 761-771.

Daily, G., A. Ehrlich & P. Ehrlich (1994). 'Optimum Human Population Size'. Posted @ <http://dieoff.org/page99.htm>

Pimentel, D. & M. Pimentel (2006). 'Population Limits & Environmental Resources'. *Optimum Population Trust Jnl.*, 6(1): 25-26.

Willey, D. (2000). 'An Optimum World Population'. *Medicine, Conflict and Survival*, 16, 2000: 72-94.

See also:

Optimum Population Trust. **Briefing on Population Growth: Earth**. Posted @ <http://www.optimumpopulation.org/opt.earth.html> and

<http://www.optimumpopulation.org/opt.sustainable.numbers.html>

Population projections

Whitaker, B (2004). 'Population boom set to stabilise at 9bn by 2300'. *The Guardian*, 06/Nov./04. Report by UN Population Division in late Autumn 2004. No comment was made on the distance from 2004 to 2300 and the fatal damage that current (and still growing) human numbers will do in the meantime. Typical of mainstream attitudes was the fact that the paper chose to put the report on page 18, which it shared with a feature on an opera that ended up with a member of the audience in the star role.

See also:

<http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/ipc/pcwe>

Human Numbers — General ecological impacts

Ehrlich, P. & A. Ehrlich (1992). 'Ecosystem Risks Associated with the Population Explosion'. *In Adv. in Modern Environ. Toxicology: Predicting Ecosystem Risk*. Princeton Scientific.

Ehrlich P. & S. Alexander (2000). 'Population and the environment'. *In* Ernst. W. G., ed. **Earth Systems: Processes and Issues**, CUP.

Engelman, R. (1994). **Stabilising the Atmosphere: Population, Consumption and Greenhouse Gases** Population Action International (USA).

Hall, C.A.S. et al (1995). 'The Environmental Consequences of Having a Baby in the US'. *Wild Earth*, 5(2), Summer: 78-87.

Hinrichson, D. (1994). 'Putting the Bite on Planet Earth: Rapid Population Growth is Devouring Natural resources' Posted @ <http://dieoff.org/page120.htm>

Luten, D. (1991). 'Population & Resources'. *Population and Environment*, 12(3): 311-329.

Wisniewski, R. L. (1980). 'Carrying Capacity: Understanding Our Biological Limitations'. *Humboldt Jnl Soc. Relations*, 7(2): 55-70.

Population & food supply

The very viability of any human society, let alone quality of life, depends on many more factors than food supply. Indeed, increased food production usually comes at the cost of other variables, not least forest cover, biodiversity and favourable climatic conditions. In many areas, food production also eats into an even more critical resource, water, both in terms of excessive abstraction from rivers and groundwater aquifers and of agricultural pollution of drinking water. However debate often does focus on that one dimension of food and hunger. The so-called *Food First* group thus tried to argue that there was enough food for everyone and no population problem by one-sidedly looking at abstract totals about available food, ignoring issues as the sustainability of high output farming techniques and their ecological side-effects, let alone real world problems about distribution and storage. At the risk of repeating this analytical error, we cite some references on the topic.

Duguid, J. (2007). 'Food Shortage and Population: Past, present and Future'. *Optimum Population Trust Jnl.*, 7(1): 9-12.

Durham D. & J. Fandrem (n.d.) 'The Food "Surplus": A Staple Illusion of economics; a Cruel Illusion for Populations'. Posted @ <http://dieoff.org/page115.htm>

Ehrlich, A. (1991). 'Population and Food.' *Population & Environment*, 12(3), 1993: 221-229.

Hall, C. & D. Pimentel (1989). **Food and Natural Resources**. Academic Pr.

Kindall, H. & D. Pimentel (1994). 'Constraints on the expansion of global food supply'. *Ambio*, 23(3), 1994. Posted @ <http://dieoff.org/page36.htm>

Pimentel, D. & M., eds. (1996). **Food, Energy and Society** Univ. Colorado Pr.

Human Numbers vs. Numbers of Non-Human Species

Daily, G. C. & P. Ehrlich (1997/98). 'Population, Extinction and the Biodiversity Crisis'. *Wild Earth*, Winter: 35-43.

Gatewood, S. (1997/98). 'Trouble & Opportunity in Paradise: Population Growth & Conservation in Florida'. *Wild Earth*, Winter: 46-51.

Jensen, D. B. et al. (1994). **In Our Hand: A Strategy for Conserving California's Biological Diversity**. Univ. Calif. Pr. Includes strong account of how population growth in California has damaged, amongst many other things, local biodiversity.

Increased longevity and the 'Birth Dearth'

Life expectancy is increasing over many countries, fuelling total human overpopulation. For example, the projected total population of the UK at 2031 is about 1.2 million (1.9 per cent) higher than in the previous 2001-based projections. 50% of the Japanese population were born before 1963. This is

mainly a result of a higher assumption of future life expectancy which leads to around 850,000 (4.7 per cent) fewer deaths in the period to 2031 than in the previous projections, according to the Government's Actuary Department. According to the WHO, the world's average life expectancy is expected to increase, from 48 years for those born in 1955, to 73 years for those born in 2025.

In today's consumer-driven society, the impact is likely to lead to increased demand for new housing developments, extra hospital wards, more cars and buses and so forth, all of which will put even greater pressure on ecological systems. It also puts more pressure on the taxation and welfare systems. As a result there are all kinds of alarms about an ageing population. In turn this leads to people like Jamie Doward, social affairs editor of *The Guardian* to write article entitled "Wanted: a Baby Boom" (14/12/03). There are also widespread demands on similar grounds for demand that immigration controls being eased to admit more (young) people into already overcrowded countries like Britain.

Of course, all such predictions rest on the unwise assumption that people will continue to live longer and that ecological systems can continue to sustain current and projected human numbers, let alone underwrite the resource-intensive lifestyles many demand as an inalienable right. It might be noted that the growing health crisis related to sheer overconsumption and inactive lifestyles could well lead to decreased longevity as might increased pollution and the spread of 'foreign' diseases due to global warming.

In any case, it is not (youthful) human numbers that provide the resources that allow society to cope with a growing percentage of elderly citizens. Humans only take from Nature's bounty. Once again, most discussion on the ageing population issue confuse money (i.e. the ability to make a claim on resources) with biophysical wealth itself. Increases in the birth rate and/or increased immigration would only diminish Nature's resources and therefore worsen the problems such strategies purport to 'solve'.

Blackburn, R. (2007). **Age Shock: How Finance is Failing Us**. Verso. Critique of 'grey capitalism' and the failing of the so-called 'savings industry' to cope with an ageing population.

Mullan, P. (2000). **The Imaginary Time Bomb**. Tauris. Critique of fears of a pensions' crisis due to the higher percentage of elderly citizens in countries like the UK.

Teitelbaum, M. & J. Winter (1985) **The Fear of Population Decline**. Academic Pr.

See also:

Optimum Population Trust. **Briefing on Population Growth: Earth**. Posted @ <http://www.optimumpopulation.org/opt.more.ageing.html>

Procreation, Freedoms & Personal Responsibility

Hardin, G., (1974). **Mandatory Motherhood: The True Meaning of Right To Life**. Beacon Press.

McCormick, B. (1991). 'Is Population Control Genocide?' Part 1 in *Wild Earth*, Spring: 25-27 & Part 2 in Summer: 70-72. Refutation of a well-worn argument, now popular in politically correct circles.

McKibben, W. (1998). **Maybe One: A Personal and Environmental Argument for Single-child Families**. Simon and Shuster.

Parsons, J. (1971). **Population Versus Liberty**. Pemberton Books. Parsons brilliantly demonstrates that there is an inverse relationship between the two.

Willey, D. (1997). 'Population control: A necessity for the preservation of individual liberty'. *Politics and Life Sciences*, 16: 228-230.

Overpopulation, Society & Anti-Social Behaviour

"Democracy cannot survive overpopulation. Human dignity cannot survive overpopulation. Convenience and decency cannot survive overpopulation. As you put more and more people into the world the Value of life not only declines, it disappears. It doesn't matter if someone dies. The more people there are, the less one person matters." Isaac Asimov.

Catton, W. (1993). 'Can Irrupting Man Remain Human?' *Focus*, 3(2): 19-25. Argues that population density and sudden surges in population growth produce decline in behavioural standards.

Galle, O. R., et al (1972). Population Density and Pathology; What are the Relations for Man?' *Science*, 176: 23-30. Links between overcrowding and anti-social behaviour.

Kyllonen, R. L. (1967). 'Crime Rates versus Population Density in United States Cities: A Model'. *General Systems*, 12: 137-145. Connects crime and overcrowding.

Overpopulation & 'Denialism': general

Across the whole political spectrum, there is a horde of people who aggressively deny that there is any problem with human numbers. Typically they exhume the body of poor old Reverend Malthus, put him on trial and then condemn not only him but those they deem to be 'neo-Malthusians'. But any argument will do if it serves to attack those who spotlight the unsustainable impact of population growth and the need to address it directly.

Bartlett, A.A.(1997). 'Is there a Population Problem?' *Wild Earth*, 7(3), Fall: 88-90

Barlett, A.A.(1998). 'Malthus Marginalised ?' *Social Contract*, Spring: 239-251. revised version posted @ <http://www.hubbartpeak.com/bartlett/malthusian.htm>

Catton, W. (1996). 'The Problem of Denial'. *Human Ecology Review*, 3, Winter: 53-62.

Hardin, G. (1972). 'Population Skeletons in the Environmental Closet'. *Bulletin Atomic Scientists*, 28(6)2: 37-41. An early look at the common tendency amongst many political currents to evade or deny the population dimension to environmental problems. See also Hardin, G., (1993). **Living Within Limits: Ecology, Economics and Population Taboos**. OUP.

Irvine, S. (1997/98). 'The Great Denial: Puncturing Pro-Natalist Myths'. **Wild Earth**, Winter: 8-17.

McGraw, E. (1984). **Population Misconceptions**. Population Concern. Short pamphlet that demolishes many of the complacent myths on this issue.

Rees, W. (1999). 'Carrying Capacity And Sustainability: Waking Malthus' Ghost' *in* *Encyclopaedia of Life Support Systems*, edited by Bell, D. & Cheung, A., EOLSS Publishers

Westoff, C. F. (1997). 'Population growth: Large problem, low visibility'. **Politics and Life Sciences**, 16: 226-227.

Some samples of population myopia:

Monbiot, G. (2007). 'We build 3 million homes - or leave these families in Dickensian misery.' **Guardian**, Nov. 27, 2007. Monbiot manages to discuss housing shortages without mentioning human numbers and the resulting on accommodation, not least the large number of children in the case studies he highlights. Posted @

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Columnists/Column/0,,2217573,00.html>

Sriskandarajah, D. (2007). 'The Phantom Hordes.' **Guardian**, Nov. 29, 2007.

Posted @ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,2218600,00.html>

Overpopulation: Overpopulation & 'Radical Denialism'

Perhaps surprisingly, many environmental/green organisations have either ignored or even denied the overpopulation issue. The various global conferences on environmental threats also sweep the issue under the carpet.

Beck, R & L. Kolankiewicz (2000). 'The Environmental Movement's Retreat from Advocating U.S. Population Stabilization (1970-1998): A First Draft of History'.

Journal of Policy History, 12(1); 123-156.

Luten, D. (1963). 'How Dense Can People Be'. **Sierra Club Bulletin** 48(9): 80-93. This article is relevant not just because of its sanity but also because of the bizarre hostile reaction from some people who call themselves friends of the Earth.

Ryerson, W. (1998/99). 'Political Correctness & the Population Problem'. **Wild Earth**, Winter: 100-103.

Overpopulation & the 'Demographic Transition fallacy

The classic myth, argued by social scientists and many others, is that the population problem will solve itself due to economic and social changes collectively known as the "demographic transition". This theory suggests that, as people become healthier and wealthier, they will parent fewer children. This, it is argued, explains the decrease in family size in Europe over the last two hundred years. Poverty produces large families, not the other way round, it is further suggested. Affluence, it is deduced, is the best contraceptive. No matter how popular the theory, it is still a simplistic, one-sided view of reality and a bad one

on which to build hopes of a demographic 'happy ending'. For a start, the global environment could not supply the volume of resources nor assimilate the attendant pollution required to generalise across all countries the kind of affluence characteristic of materially richer countries.

On closer scrutiny, the Demographic Transition Theory fails to match the real world. For example, the post-war baby boom took place at a time of an unprecedented increase in per capita consumption, in other words when parents could afford more children. A switch to smaller families took place later when opportunities for easily accessible education, careers, roomy housing and general wealth began to decrease. In Britain, the decision to parent fewer children has been more pronounced amongst working class rather than more affluent middle class couples in recent decades. Furthermore, family planning is beginning to succeed in poor countries like Bangladesh, even though there has been no general rise in affluence.

Often it is perceptions of declining opportunities that encourage falls in birth rates. A decline in affluence (in the form of wages and child benefits) has encouraged Russians to parent fewer children, partly by starting families later. In Japan, similar factors seem to be at work. *The Guardian* (31.5.00, p3) quoted a mother of a single child thus. "The main reason we don't want another child is because they cost too much." Contrary to the demographic transition theory, extremely affluent adults often parent more children than those lower down the economic ladder. Britain's Queen is apparently the richest woman in the world but she and her partner, Prince Philip, ignored the demographic theory and parented 4 children. The much reported business 'superwoman' Nicola Horlick (annual salary of £1 million) is a mother of 5 while rich superstars like film actor Mel Gibson and pop singer Sting has been super-procreators. The same is true of poorer countries where rich people, whose wealth is in marked contrast to their more numerous poverty-stricken fellow citizens, often parent large families. In Indonesia, for example, brutal dictator President Suharto managed to take time out from oppressing and robbing his country to father 7 children. It set a fine example to a country whose population has hit the 200 million mark.

At a national level, it should be easy to see that there are no automatic links between affluence and family size. In Sri Lanka, average per capita income is about \$400 and average family size is 2.5 children. In Libya, average per capita income is much higher, over \$3,000 per annum yet most women have more than 5 children. Insofar as there are any direct connections between prosperity and parenthood, it is that, in the short term at least, the availability of greater resources tends to be converted into more offspring who, in turn, grow up to be the producers of a further surge in human numbers. That increase may then level off, though, in countries where pro-natalist religions hold sway, on-going growth equally could continue. In any case, the original growth is likely to have quadrupled the size of the population in a 'less developed' country and therefore quadrupled every problem it faces.

Available evidence confirms this model, not that of the demographic transition theory. In the 1950s, for example, land redistribution in Turkey (in itself a good thing) encouraged formerly landless peasants to increase significantly the size of

their families. Among African Sahel pastoralists, deep-water wells drilled by donor countries in the 1950s and 1960s prompted larger herds of cattle and goats, earlier marriage (because bride-prices were paid in animals and the required number became easier to accumulate), and, thereby, higher fertility. But soon disaster followed because the basic ecological constraints of the region had not changed.¹

There is a variant to the assumed demographic curve, namely that as population increases, so too will the densities at which people live, leading previous growth rates to level off. This certainly seems to happen with some species. Yet human beings seem to be able to survive at varying levels of density. In other words, it would be naive to trust that some comparatively benign negative feedback loop (as opposed to dreadful ones like famine) will kick in automatically, thereby avoiding the need for direct population policies

Abernethy, V. (1994). 'Optimism and Overpopulation. *Atlantic Monthly* 274(6), 1994: 84-91

Bengtsson, T. (1992). 'Lessons from the Past: The Demographic Transition Revised'. *Ambio*, 21(1): 24

Bongaarts, J. (2008). **Fertility transitions in developing countries: Progress or stagnation ?** Population Council New York. Posted at <http://www.popcouncil.org/publications/wp/pgy/007.html>

Over the past quarter century fertility has declined rapidly in many developing countries. Projections typically assume that this trend will continue until the replacement level is reached. However, recent evidence suggests that ongoing fertility declines may have slowed or stalled in a number of countries in transition. This study examines the pace of fertility change in developing countries that have multiple DHS surveys to determine whether ongoing transitions are decelerating or stalling. The main findings are that in sub-Saharan African countries, the average pace of decline in fertility is lower around 2000 than in the mid-1990s, and more than half the countries in transition in this region have stalled.

Hardin, G. (1990). 'Mythic Aspects of the Demographic Transition' *Population & Environment*, 12(1), 1990: 41-42

Nag, M. (1980). 'How Modernisation Can Also Increase Fertility'. *Current Anthropology*, 21: 571-587.

See also:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/newsnight/7119832.stm> Case study of Siberian oil boom where rising per capita consumption led to rapid rise in birth rate i.e. more affluence, more babies.

Overpopulation & the 'No-Problem-Here' fallacy

This is sometimes called the "Netherlands Fallacy".

Ehrlich P. & A. Ehrlich (n.d.) **The Population Explosion**. Extract from their writings that concentrates on the Netherlands Fallacy. Posted @ <http://dieoff.org/page27.html>

Harris, C. (1991). 'Canada's Phantom Population'. *Wild Earth*, Winter, 1991: 25-26. Debunks the nonsensical "we've-got-lots-of-space" argument, with respect to Canada.

Demographic 'Races'

Anon (2007). <http://happyarabnews.blogspot.com/2007/09/unintended-consequences.html> Israeli government subsidies for large families in competition with rising Palestinian population levels.

Browne, A. (2000). 'Last Days of a White World' *Observer*, Sept. 3, 2000. Posted @ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/race/story/0,,657356,00.html>

Connelly, M. & P. Kennedy (1994). 'Must It Be the Rest Against the West'. *Atlantic Monthly* 274(6), 1994: 61-84

Hooper, J. (2000). 'Call for German baby boom to keep out migrants'. *Guardian*, Aug. 10, 2000. Posted @ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,352556,00.html>

O'Loughlin, T. (2008). 'Census finds Palestinian population up by 30%'. *Guardian*, Feb. 11, 2008. Posted @ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/feb/11/israelandthepalestinians.population>

Tait, R. (2004) 'Iranian leader calls for a baby boom to help defeat the west'. *Guardian*, Oct. 24, 2006. Posted @ http://browse.guardian.co.uk/search?search_target=%2Fsearch&fr=cb-guardian&search=%22iranian+leader+calls+for+a+baby+boom%22&N=

Snapshots of Overpopulation: various

Tobias, M. **World War III: Population and the Biosphere at the End of the Millennium**. Bear & Co. Publishing, 1994. Built around a series of case studies of population 'hot spots' like China. It includes useful discussion of assorted myths and taboos on the issue of overpopulation, including a look at Kerala, often hailed as a model of the 'demographic transition at work.

Watts, J. (2004). 'Population peak of 1.46 billion will put strain on China'. *Guardian*, Oct. 24, 2004. Demonstration of the juggernaut effect of past population growth and a youth ol population.

Buist, I. (2004). 'British colonial policy is not to blame for Kenya's troubles' *Guardian*, Feb. 14, 2008. Show how the violence that tore through Kenya in early 2008 had its roots in rapid population growth and the increased competition for land and other finite resources that resulted. Posted @ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/feb/14/kenya>

Overpopulation: Pro-natalist government policies

Anon (2004) 'Legislate to procreate'. *The Scotsman* Oct 13, 2004. Posted @ <http://news.scotsman.com/politics.cfm?id=1191412004>

Anon (2007). <http://happyarabnews.blogspot.com/2007/09/unintended-consequences.html> Israeli government subsidies for large families\

Burden. H. (2004). 'Lie Back and Think of the Bank Balance'. *Guardian*, May 24, 2004. Australian government's attempts to encourage population growth. Posted @ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/australia/story/0,,1223284,00.html>

Hooper, J. (2000). 'Call for German baby boom to keep out migrants'. *Guardian*, Aug. 5, 2000. Posted @

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,352556,00.html>

Poirier, A (2007). 'Why are French women so fertile'. *The Guardian*, Jan. 18, 2007. Posted @ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/france/story/0,,1992915,00.html>

Tait, R. (2004) 'Iranian leader calls for a baby boom to help defeat the west'.

Guardian, Oct. 24, 2006. Posted @

http://browse.guardian.co.uk/search?search_target=%2Fsearch&fr=cb-guardian&search=%22iranian+leader+calls+for+a+baby+boom%22&N=

See also:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4856992.stm> French case study

<http://www.ippr.org/pressreleases/archive.asp?id=1947&fID=173> snapshot of various governments trying to encourage more births.

<http://countrystudies.us/romania/37.htm> Romanian case study

<http://www.panos.org.uk/newsfeatures/featureprintable.asp?id=1057> Spanish case study

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4845164.stm> Russian case study. See

also: <http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2006/sep/06092701.html> and

<http://slate.com/id/2173901/>

http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/Milligan_Backgrounder.pdf Quebec's baby bonuses

http://www.nytimes.com/2005/08/21/international/asia/21birthrate.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

South Korean case study

Snapshots of Overpopulation: USA

Bouvier, L. & L. Grant (1994). **How Many Americans? Population, Immigration and the Environment**. Sierra Books.

Grant, L., ed. (1992) **Elephants in the Volkswagen**. Freeman. This collection addresses overpopulation in a rich country: the USA

Hall, C.A.S., et al (1994). 'The environmental consequences of having a baby in the United States'. *Population and Environment*, 15 (6), 1994: 505-524.

Immerwahr, G. (1995). **World Population Growth: What You Should Know About It. What We Can Do About It**. Peanut Butter Publishing. Central focus is on the USA.

Miller, M. (1992). 'Has the United States Exceeded Its Carrying Capacity'. *Wild Earth*, Fall: 81.

See also:

<http://www.numbersusa.com/index>

<http://www.carryingcapacity.org/>

<http://www.capsweb.org/facts/immigration.html>

Snapshots of Overpopulation: Europe

Irvine, S. (1990). 'An Overcrowded Continent'. In Parkin, S, ed.. **Green Light on Europe**. Heretic.

Snapshots of Overpopulation: UK

Carvel, J. (2007). 'Higher fertility, immigration and longer lives fuelling Britain's population rise'. *Guardian*, Oct. 24, 2007. Posted @

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/immigration/story/0,,2197888,00.html> See also:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7055285.stm> and

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7057765.stm>

Curtis, P & T. Branigan (2007). "'Hints of a baby boom as fertility rate hits highest level for 26 years' *Guardian*, June 8, 2007. Posted @

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/gender/story/0,,2098111,00.html>

Mote, A. (2003). **Overcrowded Britain: Our Immigration Crisis Exposed.**

Tanner.

Schwarz, W. (2004). 'Crowd control.' *Guardian*, Set. 1st, 04. Unusual article, taking seriously the warnings of bodies like of the Optimum Population Trust. Equally unusual is its willingness to address the immigration issues.

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<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2007/dec/12/immigrationandpublicservices>

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Internal population movements can be equally unsustainable. The cry 'Go West' seems to have been followed in many places. Most famously people flocked to California and once that grew congested many then moved to comparatively uncongested and unpolluted areas like Oregon. In England, the SW region gained a net 303,000 extra people between 1996 & 2006. Did that influx decrease human congestion or make available more space for wildlife there? Perhaps the most disastrous movement is migration to water-short areas such as the attractively entitled sunshine belt of American states like Arizona.

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ⁱ See Nag, M. (1980) for a discussion how modernisation can boost population levels.