

JASON G. BRENT

AUTHOR

**HUMANS:
AN ENDANGERED
SPECIES**

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INTERVIEW

Welcome, Jason Brent. You've written a highly controversial book, ***Humans: An Endangered Species***, the subject of which we'll be discussing at length. But let's begin with your credentials. I'd like to read your biography to our audience:

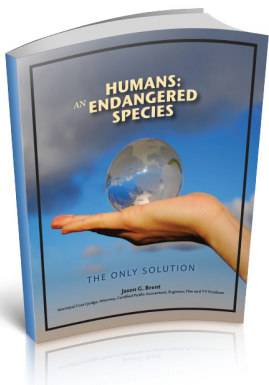
At the age of 20, Jason G. Brent received a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, with honors, from Lehigh University. At 21, he received a Master's in Business with a major in Accounting from the Columbia Graduate School of Business. He obtained a Law Degree (JD) from the Columbia Law School, where he was designated a Columbia Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, at the age of 24.

Mr. Brent's work experience includes designing guided missiles; management consulting for one of the big four accounting firms; accounting, budgeting, and costing for one of the major motion picture studios; representing major motion picture stars as both an Attorney and CPA; becoming a Partner in one of the largest law firms in the country; and serving as a Municipal Court Judge in California. He also found time to act as a motion picture and television producer.

Jason Brent has studied the relationship between the ever-growing human population and the Earth's finite resources for over 50 years. He is one of the most knowledgeable people on the planet about the future of humanity and what can be done to save it. He was forced to resign from the American Mensa Society, the genius society, because he told the truth about the coming destruction of humanity. His writings have so irritated the Catholic Church that a Cardinal devoted an entire homily given at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York to attacking him and his ideas. A fact of which he is duly proud.

Jason Brent, you now give yourself the title "futurist". What does that mean?

I am an expert in the mathematics of compound growth and its relationship to population growth. I am an expert in the resources used by humanity to maintain the current and future population levels, and how those resources are used to maintain civilization. I have extensively studied the writings of others concerned with the problem of exhaustion of resources, recycling of resources, the availability of obtaining new resources, and items of a similar



nature. My findings are what bring me here to speak with you today. I'm here to talk about the survival of our species, the future of humanity.

You have written a chilling and highly controversial book. Why?

I wrote this book because I am compelled to speak out. Compound growth, of either the economy or of the population, simply cannot be sustained indefinitely. It will have to end, and when it ends, it will be devastating. Billions, literally BILLIONS, of people will die. And it will be soon. This is a topic few are willing to discuss. Albert Einstein said, "Those who have the privilege to know, have the duty to act." I feel I have the duty to act, I am obligated to bring my findings to the world. My message MUST be heard, for the survival of humankind. This is our reality, not in the future, but NOW.

Would you please summarize your findings?

The planet Earth is finite in size and in the resources it can provide to humanity. The number of humans presently inhabiting Earth, according to 2011 statistics, is 7.0 billion and growing FAST.

No debate, discussion, or sophistry can change the fact that, by definition, infinite population growth and/or infinite economic growth (both of which consume finite resources) cannot and will not happen on a finite earth. Therefore, at some point both population growth and economic growth will cease. No power on earth or in the heavens will permit infinite growth, either population growth or economic growth, on the finite earth.

Growth, and the associated consumption of resources, will cause the collapse of civilization.

Give us some statistics about growth.

First we need to talk about compound growth, which applies to both population growth and economic growth. Here's a really simplified example. You have 4 children. Your children all have 4 children, so you have 16 grandchildren. Each of your grandkids has 4 children, so you've got 64 great-grandkids. It's exponential. Basically stated, the growth grows. That's compound growth. Plus you also have to consider the rate of growth. If you have your children at age 25, and they have their children at age 25, etc, in just 100 years you've gone from 2 people, you and your spouse, to 256 people. If you all have your kids at age 20, in that same 100 years the number is 1024!

Here's a small example of the power of compound growth using an economic example. Assume your distant relative put just one cent, repeat just one cent, into a savings account the day Jesus was born about two thousand years ago. Assume further that the bank paid 4% interest, compounded annually. How much would that penny be worth in 1950? It would be worth \$1,600,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. Yes, that's 33 zeroes! You would not only be very rich, you would be so rich that you would own every piece of land on the planet, own every car, plane, and ship on the planet, you would own every house on the planet, and in short you would own everything on the planet—everyone on the planet would either work for you or

be your slave. Compound or geometric or exponential growth is the most powerful force in the universe—it overwhelms everything.

If the economy of the United States were to grow at the compound rate of 3% per year it would take just 72 years for the economy to grow by a factor of eight—in other words, 72 years from the start of growth, the economy would be eight times as large as when it started. If the population of the world grew by just one percent per year, in 280 years it would be 16 times as large as when it started.

Let's look at present day numbers. If the growth of the human population started in the year 2011 when the world population reached 7 billion, and if that growth continued at the compound growth rate of one percent per year, in just 280 years the population would reach 112 billion ($16 \times 7 = 112$). To put 280 years in perspective, the Declaration of Independence was written in 1776, 235 years ago.

What is the current rate of growth of the world's population?

Good question. It changes, of course, as things on our earth fluctuate. According to the US Census Bureau, in 1950 the growth rate for the entire planet was 1.461%. In 1975 it was 1.742%, and in 2000 it was 1.267%. Over the last 30 years the growth rate has been decreasing gradually, but it is still growing at a rate of over 1% per year. Remember the power of compound growth—even a rate of 1% is alarming. In round numbers to make it easier to grasp, at 1% growth, our current world population of 7 billion will grow by 70 million living, breathing people in just one year; and those 70 million will need food, water, oil, and other resources just to live. In ten years, our population will have grown by about 800 million people due to compound growth.

Professor Isaac Asimov did a math calculation that every intelligent human being should be aware of and consider. If population grew at the compound rate of 2% per year, the weight of humanity would exceed the weight of the earth in a little over 1,800 years and would exceed the weight of the entire universe, repeat the entire universe, in a little over 5,500 years. How long would it take for the weight of humanity to exceed the weight of the earth if population continued to grow at the rate of two-tenths of one per cent (0.0020) per year, a 90% decrease from the 2% used by Professor Asimov in his calculation? The answer—in less than 19,000 years, the weight of humanity would exceed the weight of the earth. And 19,000 years is a very short period of time when compared to how long the dinosaurs ruled the earth.

That's sobering. With that kind of population growth, we obviously aren't just worried about over-crowding. Do we have the resources to feed everybody?

We absolutely do not. And the issue isn't just food. It's every single consumable resource on our planet. We're talking not enough food, not enough water, not enough of the substances that power industry to generate everything we currently depend on. Everything.

Every major problem facing humanity, without a single exception, will not and cannot be solved or even ameliorated without, AT MINIMUM, reducing the population growth of humans to zero.

Aren't some countries already doing that, like China?

China IS attempting to control their population, and it HAS helped. Let's take a look at some history. In 1949 when the Communist Party (CCP) took control, China had the largest population in the world, 3 times greater than the US. The CCP encouraged population growth as a means of economic stability. It backfired. In the mid 1950s, with a faltering economy, they began to struggle with food shortages. By the end of the 50s, their strapped economy couldn't withstand a series of floods and droughts, and an estimated 25 million people starved to death. So obviously, a bigger population wasn't better after all.

Was China's famed One Child Policy a result of the famine?

Yes, but not immediately. The catastrophe illustrated that the "bigger is better" thinking had to change, and it did. China began to advocate smaller families, and created a voluntary program that reduced the birth rate by about half. In the 1970s, with population at 800 million, the birth rate dropped from about 6 births per woman to less than 3. But it still wasn't enough, the population was still mushrooming. Enter the One Child Policy.

How did the One Child Policy work?

China advocated the policy of "Later, Longer, Fewer", an intense advertising campaign encouraging couples to get married later, wait longer to have children, and have fewer children, preferably one. The program forces married couples to sign statements obligating them to one child. Incentives reward compliance, penalties punish those who don't comply.

Was the One Child Policy successful?

It was successful from the standpoint that it dramatically reduced the birthrate, and it is still being implemented, in spite of world-wide criticism. The best estimate is that the One Child per family effort has reduced China's potential population by over 400 million. Or to put it simply, China's population is presently about 400 million less than it would have been without the One Child per family policy.

Why is it so criticized?

Critics say the One Child policy is a violation of human rights. And I suppose that is true. It is also true that it encouraged gender selection and infanticide of female babies. Both are undesirable, but irrelevant. Ultimately humanity has a choice: control population growth or die horribly by the billions. No one has the right to use his penis or her womb to kill billions of human beings. Individual human rights are irrelevant in the face of a global crisis.

China's policy doesn't go far enough. There are loopholes and inconsistencies that cause the One Child policy to be applied to only about a third of the population, and it is not enforced. In spite of the reduced birth rate, the population continues to grow.

The bottom line is that any attempt by humanity to maintain continuous growth is doomed to failure. Any law enacted or any action taken by any government in the world that intends to maintain continuous growth is not only doomed to failure, but will lead to the inevitable destruction of the entire human species in a very short period of time.

Those who believe this collapse will not commence for years into the future are just plain wrong. The collapse of civilization and the social order have already commenced in parts of the world. The only reason the collapse has not yet occurred in the United States is the US's raping the rest of the planet by stealing the resources it requires to satisfy the needs and demands of its citizens.

Raping the rest of the planet? You'd better defend that.

The USA has less than 5% of the world's population, but uses about one-third of the resources of the planet. (Some experts take the position that the Americans only use between 25% and 30% of the earth's resources. Regardless, whether we're using a third or a quarter, the principle remains the same.) Motorized transportation, electricity, appliances, all the trappings of the American lifestyle require resources, and those resources are not entirely available within the boundaries of the United States. The US sucks up the rest of the world's resources to sustain our high-on-the-hog living. The world's resources are being depleted at an alarming rate. If everyone used resources in the same manner as the population of the USA, our planet's resources would be used up in a very short period of time.

You keep mentioning economic growth as though it's also part of the problem. How can that be?

When we think about economic growth, on a personal level we think about growing our businesses, or growing our bank accounts. We're thinking about enlarging our financial worth, and in turn we're thinking about the enhanced lifestyle we can buy ourselves with those increased finances. On a national level, or global level, it's really the same, just on a larger scale. All of that growth involves resources: the goods or services we produce or sell, and raw materials that create those goods or services, the methods of distributing those goods and services. Economic growth in any form requires resources.

We've already established that infinite growth is simply not possible on a finite planet. At some point, we will run out of resources.

A very strong argument can be made that we will run out of the resources necessary for our civilization to function in the very near future. Let me give you some concrete examples.

My friend, Chris Clugston, analyzed 89 minerals that permit our modern industrial civilization to

function. He found that 63 of them (or 71%) were scarce on a global basis. He also found that 44 of them (or 49%) were very likely to remain scarce permanently. These included chromium, cobalt, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphate rock, potash, rare Earth minerals, silicon, titanium and zinc. His study showed that in 2008, the United States imported 100% of its requirements of 19 of those minerals; bauxite, graphite, fluorspar, indium, manganese, niobium, quartz crystal, rare Earth minerals, tantalum, and vanadium. He also showed that the United States imported 66% of its chromium, 81 % of its cobalt, 31% of its copper, 50% of its magnesium, 13% of its natural gas, 57% of its oil, 84% of its potash, 52% of its silicon, 80% of its tin, 54% of its titanium, 78% of its uranium and 71% of its zinc.

As Americans we must ask ourselves, how will our country function when we cannot import those minerals? If foreign countries cannot or will not provide those resources, or if oil is not available to permit huge freighters to transport those minerals to us, the United States will be impacted in ways we cannot even begin to fathom.

Most people do not know that China, and many other nations, are currently buying or leasing huge tracts of land by the hundreds or thousands of square miles in other countries, so that when famine starts they will be able to import food from those countries.

Humanity must understand, if it wants to exist on this planet for even a short period of time, that it must treat the resources the earth can provide as a person would treat a bank account. If a bank account pays 4% interest per year and the account owner withdraws 5% per year, eventually the bank account balance will be reduced to zero. If a person wants his/her money in the bank to last, he/she cannot withdraw each year more than the interest paid by the bank. If humanity wants the resources of the earth to last, humanity cannot use (withdraw) more resources than the earth can replenish. Period. No new technology or environmental act can change that fact.

Human innovation always comes through under pressure. When we run out of a resource, we'll develop a new resource.

ALL RESOURCES ARE FINITE. Developing a new resource is only a patch. It may buy us a few years, but the ultimate result will be the same. We will run out of resources.

What about wind and solar? What about other non-finite methods not yet invented?

First, it would be the height of lunacy to gamble the lives of billions upon a future invention that does not even exist on the drawing boards today. Second, any future invention does not solve the problem of compound growth of either the economy or of the human population. Without going into a long scientific discussion, wind and solar cannot and will not solve the energy problem for the 7 billion of us that inhabit the Earth today, let alone the potential 10 billion of us which may exist on the planet in the year 2100. Lastly, neither wind nor solar will solve the problem of energy for cars, trucks, planes, ships, freighters, or other modes of transportation. Without a solution to the transportation problem, modern civilization will collapse in a ball of fire.

What will happen when we run out of resources?

Famine. Disease. Incredible suffering and death. And war. Unlike animals that tend to lay down and die, when humans become desperate, they do desperate things. Humans will fight for survival. The human survival instinct will drive the world into a war for resources. This war will undoubtedly involve nuclear weapons. Society as we know it will end. Billions will die.

If resource wars are the result of an uneven distribution of resources, then why aren't we already having them? There's already a huge imbalance in the distribution of wealth and resources.

There is a vast difference between an uneven distribution of resources and having no resources. Furthermore, at present, the uneven distribution is between nations that do not have the resources to wage a modern war, and nations with atomic weapons and vast military resources.

What do you think the leaders of China would do if they knew with almost absolute certainty that 400 million of their citizens would starve to death within the *next* year? What do you think the President of the United States would do if he knew with almost absolute certainty that 150 million Americans would starve to death within the next year?

If our global economy were ever to cease to grow, as you indicate it must, wouldn't that cause massive world-wide economic collapse? Wouldn't economic collapse in turn result in the very resource wars we're trying to avoid?

A very good question. If the global economy were to cease growth today with our current population, yes, most likely resource wars would occur. That is the problem facing humanity. We must not only reduce population growth to zero, but we must reduce the number of human beings inhabiting the Earth so that when economic growth ceases, resource wars and other horrors will not occur. To put it simply, our population must be rapidly decreased so starvation, disease, and war will not occur as the result of reduced economic growth.

What government or ruling body would ever be willing to intentionally restrict economic growth and knowingly plunge itself into recession or depression?

Economic growth will cease. No action taken by any government or ruling body will be able to allow economic growth to continue forever, or more importantly for even a short period of time, due to what I've already explained. It's simple math. The choice is: when and how will economic growth cease? The sooner the leaders of humanity understand these facts, the better off all of humankind will be.

To repeat and amplify what I said previously, if the economy of the United States were to grow at the compound rate of 3% per year it would double about every 23 or 24 years. That means 24 years from the start of growth, the economy would be twice as large, in 48 years it would be four times as large, in 72 years eight times as large and in 144 years, 16 times as large as when it started. That rate of growth cannot and will not continue no matter what action is taken by

the United States government. To attempt to maintain that growth will result in the destruction of humanity, as the US will attempt to use all the resources that the planet can produce, leading to disaster.

So let's accept that we have no option but to tighten our belts and deal with economic recession. Let's go back to the discussion of population growth.

A larger population means a larger work force, a larger talent pool, a stronger base of tax paying citizens, a bigger military (or more people available to enlist if needed), a larger global presence with the attached power that brings. All assets. Not to mention that many countries and religious groups oppose birth control. How do you expect the world to change their thinking on all that?

Using the reasoning of your question, it would be best for humanity to have 100 trillion people on the planet—more people for a larger workforce, more people for a larger talent pool, more tax paying citizens, more military might. Of course that is nonsense. A larger population does not mean a larger workforce if there are insufficient resources to provide jobs. It means larger numbers of unemployed people who will revolt and cause the collapse of the social order because they are starving to death. Your larger number of tax paying citizens will not have the money with which to pay their taxes, they will be on welfare, hungry, angry, and demoralized. A larger population doesn't even mean a larger military as today the military must be educated, not to mention fed, neither of which will we have the resources to do.

But the second half of your question is very important. How do we convince all of humanity, including all religions, not to oppose birth control and not to oppose abortion—which is mandatory for controlling population growth? That question is why I wrote *Humans: An Endangered Species*. I wrote my book with the hope that the leaders of humanity would understand what we are facing and have intelligent discussions on how to solve these problems. To be truthful, I do not hold much hope that we have the collective intelligence or the collective desire to solve these problems. According to the latest polls, about 85% of the American public does not believe in evolution—about 50% deny it completely and about 35% believe in evolution but that it was guided by God. Only 15% believe in evolution in the true scientific sense. If 85% of the American public does not believe in evolution in the true scientific sense, most likely humanity will not solve the problems facing it, and billions will die horribly.

Let's accept that the world and its leaders agree—we have no option but to reduce population growth. How do you propose we do it?

We have to do more than reduce population growth. Bringing population growth down from 2% to 1% is a reduction, but 1% growth is still growth. We must establish **NEGATIVE GROWTH**. **WE MUST REDUCE THE POPULATION**. To do this, we must accept that there are two and only two times at which population growth can be controlled: 1) before birth by birth control and/or abortion or 2) after birth by war, disease, starvation, and other horrors.

Yes, by “before birth” I am talking about birth control and abortion. I am fully aware that many find abortion unacceptable, but it’s time to accept reality. According to the Rockefeller Commission, appointed by President Nixon, no nation has ever controlled its population without abortion. Now humanity has a choice—abortion or the horrible deaths of billions. Humanity will murder billions and billions of our species and nothing humankind can do will prevent those murders. Those murders will occur before birth with the elimination of potential human beings; or after birth, with the destruction of living breathing human beings. The choice is ours to make.

Are you suggesting a universal birth control program?

Absolutely yes. Not only am I suggesting a uniform birth control program, I am stating very directly that without such a program, our species is doomed. Population reduction cannot be done without birth control and abortion. It cannot be left up to individuals to act responsibly. The only other option is that it must be legislated.

You are suggesting some form of universal law? How could that work?

Before answering that question, I would like to point out something very important. There are three and only three ways by which population growth can be reduced to zero and/or the absolute number of human beings inhabiting the planet can be reduced. The first way is by starvation, privatization, disease, and war (with or without weapons of mass destruction), after humanity has exceeded the carrying capacity of the earth. No one wants that way. The second way is for all of humanity, and I mean ALL of humanity, to voluntarily limit the number of children they produce. While that is theoretically possible, I have gone into great detail in my book about why that will not happen and why humanity cannot afford to gamble on voluntary population control. The third and last way for population to be controlled is by coercion.

Coercion can take many forms. One method is financial...anyone having more than one child could be required to pay a fee. A second method is social...anyone having more than one child would not be permitted to use certain governmental services and /or could lose his or her job and/or have all children removed from their custody. A third method is a criminal penalty imposed on those who have more than one child.

Regardless of the method of coercion implemented, the first step to find a solution to humanities population and resource problem is for the leaders of humanity to call one or more conferences of the best minds to discuss those problems.

Please describe your concept of a solution.

Here are the facts: steps must be taken TODAY which will reduce population growth to a negative number. Steps must be taken TODAY to reduce the human population to below the current 7.0 billion people who now live on this planet. All of humanity must understand the choice facing our species—reduce population or cause the death of billions of living, breathing, human-beings. The survival of our species depends on action NOW.

The solution is the immediate implementation of a universal one-child law. Each person having only one child does not harm or benefit any racial, religious, national or other group, as each individual is treated exactly the same. If any person or group were permitted to have a second child, that would destroy the entire system because other persons or groups would rightfully feel they were being discriminated against. The one child rule must be imposed without any person or any group having the ability to get around the rule.

The first step would require every country to devote all the resources necessary for the next three years to educate their people to the problem, to inform them that they will be limited to one child, and to provide them with universal access to the tools necessary to achieve the one-child goal. Every country must provide all their citizens with free or extremely cheap methods of modern birth control. They must provide to all their citizens the ability to obtain sterilization and abortion services at no cost or extremely low costs. If any country is unable to do what is indicated because they cannot afford it, the wealthy nations of the world would be required to make up the shortfall.

Each person must be made to understand that by having a second child, that person becomes a mass murderer. That person must understand that he is using his penis or she is using her womb to horribly murder and destroy billions of living, breathing human beings. At the end of the three-year period, the only reason a person would have more than one child is because of that person's arrogance. That person does not believe the law applies to him or her. If an individual chooses to have a second child, a very severe penalty would be imposed on that person.

Let me be very blunt. The severe penalty I propose would be the execution of a person having a second child after the three-year period.

You propose *execution* as a means of punishment for those who produce more than one child?

No one has the right to use his penis or her womb to destroy all of humanity. There is no God-given right to reproduce, or to reproduce in a manner that results in the total and complete destruction of our species. Every human right is subject to control by society. Even the right to life is not absolute. If an individual commits certain types of heinous crimes, society can and will execute him, taking away his life.

That is simply too radical to be entertained as a solution.

That is NOT radical. A person can easily avoid execution by using modern means of birth control, abstinence, voluntary sterilization and/or abortion.

A person who has a second child after the three-year period does so willingly. He or she does not care if he or she kills billions of living, breathing, human-beings and does not care about the suffering that his/her action will cause by having a second child. He or she is a mass murderer and nothing less.

Do you think ANY government or ruling body would ever be willing to implement such a plan?

I doubt that any government would even discuss the proposals I made, let alone implement them. Religious dogmatists, zealots, and anti-abortionists will be horrified by what I've written. It is highly likely that even those in favor of reducing population growth to zero will be horrified because they will believe my solution is too radical and will bring the entire population control movement into disrepute.

I can only challenge them to cast aside their emotional reactions and respond with a reasoned refutation. I ask: Precisely what misstatement of fact or fallacy of logic can you locate in my arguments? Does any conclusion or statement I have made not logically follow from the facts I have presented? If anyone opposed to my conclusions cannot point to a factual error or failure of logic, then the conclusions I have reached are not radical, but merely disagreeable to convention and the current view of morality and justice.

Your solution is too disagreeable to be a solution.

It's time to face the facts. There is no agreeable solution. The choice is between the total annihilation of humankind or coercive population control. Yes, we must strive to make coercive population fair, just, and moral. But there cannot be a guarantee that coercive population control will be fair in every instance and in every application of the principle, and humanity must understand that fact. That must not stop us from enforcing coercive population control as the choice is simple—annihilation of our species, or doing the best we can to make coercive population control fair, just, and moral.

Humanity must understand what I have said repeatedly: the choice is very simple—reduce the number of people inhabiting the earth by our intelligent action, or that reduction will be achieved by war, disease, starvation, or other horrors. There is no other choice.