**The UN’s Latest Numbers**

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The UN’s latest (about August 2022) prediction/estimation/projection (use whatever word you desire) is that the human population will increase to 8 billion in November 2022, will reach 10.4 billion by the year 2080 and will remain at that level until at least 2100. While no one can guarantee the future, humanity must use the UN’s latest numbers in planning its future, as the UN’s demographers are some of the best on the planet. While UN’s numbers may be correct or incorrect, to be on the intelligent (conservative) side humanity must assume that the UN’s numbers will be correct or lower than the actual population in the years 2080 and 2100.

The numbers set forth in the above paragraph represent a gain of 2.4 billion (10.4 minus 8 =2.4) or a gain 30% in just 58 years (2080 minus 2022=58 and 2.4 divide by 8.0=-30%)

Between now and the year 2100 humanity will use trillions (not merely billions) of tons of nonrenewable resources. In addition, humanity will use very large amounts of theoretically renewable resources during the same period, converting some (if not most) of those theoretically renewable resources into nonrenewable resources. Also during the same period the average worldwide per capita usage of resources will dramatically increase due to the demands of billions residing in the undeveloped and underdeveloped nations of the world. The demands of those of us residing in the industrialized nations of the world will also increase the average worldwide per capita usage of resources.

At least, since the start of the Industrial Revolution humanity has always used the resources that were the easiest to obtain, the easiest process, and the closest point to usage. Subject to the ability of new technologies to use resources more efficiently, the return on energy invested to obtain resources has been declining. The best examples of that fact are that now humanity obtains its oil from thousands of feet below the floors of the oceans and that the ratio of usable ore to slag in minerals is continuously decreasing. And new technologies cannot forever into the future offset the fact that every day it is becoming more difficult to obtain resources, more difficult to process and further away from the point of a usage. The best example of the previous sentence is the cost to obtain oil from beneath the ocean floor and to process copper ore due to decline the amount of ore in relation to the amount of slag.

What do the latest numbers issued by the UN mean? They mean that voluntary population control cannot start to reduce human population until after 2100 and the reduction in population must start at least at 10.4 billion as opposed to today’s population of 8.0 billion. No one, to the best of my knowledge, has produced (and no can produce) a paper proving, with at least 50% certainty, that the reduction in population together with the reduction in resource usage necessary to prevent the collapse of civilization can be achieved by voluntary population control in time to prevent the collapse of civilization and the deaths of billions. In plain and simple terms, no one has shown and no one can show that starting the reduction of population by voluntary population control necessary to prevent the collapse of civilization will be achieved, if the numbers recently issued by the UN are close to correct.

If those in favor of gambling the survival of humanity on voluntary population control cannot show there is at least a 50% chance that voluntary population control will save humanity, the failure to compare, in every way possible, coercive population control with voluntary population control is an act so evil that words cannot describe it. At this point in time, it can’t be any disputed that 99.999% of humanity is violently opposed to coercive population control. However, humanity must understand there is only one choice--- gambling collapse of civilization and the deaths of billions on voluntary population control when there is less than a 50% chance that voluntary population control will save humanity as opposed to coercive population control.

If population growth in the future were to happen in accordance with the UN’s prediction, every major problem faced today by humanity will become more difficult to solve. I challenge everyone in favor of voluntary population control to write a paper showing the previous sentence is incorrect. In fact, a very strong case can be made that most, if not all, of the major problems today faced by humanity will become impossible to solve, if human population were to continue to grow in accordance with UN’s numbers. In my view, those in favor of gambling the collapse of civilization on voluntary population control have a duty to write papers analyzing every major problem faced today by humanity discussing the solutions to those problems and showing those solutions will solve those problems in time prevent the collapse of civilization.

Humanity is an entirely different species from humanity that existed prior to 1945. Today humanity has the power to cause the extinction of our species in under one hour. The nuclear weapons that were exploded over Japan in 1945 had the equivalent of between 12,000 and 20,000 tons of TNT. Today our weapons have the equivalent of in excess of 50 million tons of TNT. And the number nations that have nuclear weapons in their arsenals will continue to grow in the future--- that growth cannot and will not be stopped.

Humanity is the most unique species that ever-inhabited planet and that uniqueness is not related to our egotistical claim to intelligence. Our uniqueness is caused by the fact that we are the only species has ever used nonrenewable resources--- our present civilization depends on our use of nonrenewable resources. Our uniqueness is also caused by the fact we are the only species that has ever created garbage and we create millions, if not trillions, of tons of garbage each year. Garbage for this essay is defined as resources that are only used once, or only used a very few times.

Almost every action taken by every human being every day creates garbage. You buy a shirt and it is almost certain that the shirt will not be recycled. Therefore, the resources that went into the production of that shirt will not be used again. You buy a house in Las Vegas and that house is built with lumber created from trees that were grown in Canada. Upon destruction of that house 100 years later the lumber will not be returned to the forests in Canada to replenish the soil resources in Canada. You eat corn and then flush your feces down the toilet. The soil resources that were used to grow the corn are diminished. Yes, fertilizer is placed on the soil to replenish the resources that were used in the production of the corn you ate. However, there is not infinite amount fertilizer and sometime in the future the soil no longer be able to grow food. You buy a car and after a useful life of 20 or 30 years some of the parts of the car are recycled and some cannot be recycled. The resources that went into the car that cannot be recycled are lost to humanity and will not be used in the future. Recycling cannot, will not, be 100% efficient. Therefore, every time something/ everything/anything is recycled there is less of it after was recycled. The production of garbage by humanity will cause humanity to revert to the Stone Age sometime in the future.

The reversion to the Stone Age will occur in the very near future, probably in less than 5,000 years and 5,000 years is about the same length of time from when the pyramids were built in Egypt until today. While no one knows the population level of humanity that can be supported when humanity returns to the Stone Age, a strong argument can be made that it will be under 20 million.

While consideration of the coming Stone Age is very important, much more important for humanity is what happens to humanity between now and the year 2100. Chris Clugston is probably the most knowledgeable person on the planet regarding the relationship between the availability of resources and the short-term future of humanity. He has written two books on that subject—" Scarcity” written about five or six years ago and “Blip” written less than two years ago. Both books can be obtained from Amazon at nominal cost and you are urged to read the latest one “Blip”. In that book he makes a very, very strong case that the collapse of civilization will commence prior to the year 2050 due to the inability of the earth to provide the resources necessary for our industrialized civilization to continue. Professor Jared Diamond who has written three books on the subject of the collapse of civilizations and who has won the Pulitzer Prize (and other important awards) generally agrees with Clugston. Professor Diamond stated that there is a 49% chance that the collapse of civilization will start prior to the year 2050. The views and evidence provided by these two individuals must not be ignored by those concerned about the future of humanity.

If Clugston and Diamond are correct that the collapse of civilization will commence before 2050 (and my 20 years of research forces me to agree with them) humanity must immediately impose and enforce coercive population control on a worldwide basis. The readers of this essay who are afraid to immediately impose coercive population control must, at the very least, immediately undertake a detailed comparison and evaluation of coercive population control with voluntary population control to determine what is best for humanity.

Two facts that cannot be disputed---!) The earth is finite in size and, therefore, the resources that it can provide to humanity are finite and limited and 2) Compound growth is the most powerful force in the universe and the human population and the economy of the planet grow in a compound manner. Since the earth is finite in size and since the resources it can provide to humanity are finite and limited, both economic and population growth must cease sometime in the future. The only question is when will growth cease? Any and all actions that can be taken by humanity cannot change that fact. An example of the power of compound growth---if the economy of the planet were to grow at the annual rate of 2% per year it would double about every 35 years and in just 140 years there would be four doubling (4 times 35=140) resulting in a growth factor of 16 (2, 4, 8, 16), in simple terms 140 years from now the economy of the planet would be 16 times as large as the current economy, if the economy were to grow at the annual rate of 2% starting today. To be very direct, the economy of the planet cannot be and will never be 16 times as large as the current economy, no matter what action is taken by humanity and no matter what new technologies are developed.

Every human being on the planet (with at the very most ten exceptions out of a population of close to 8 billion) fails to understand the most important fact about humanity----the fact is very simple and it is that humanity does not determine its future, its future is determined by math and time. First, let me set a time frame. Dinosaurs ruled the world for about 160 million years. The time frame that I will use is 160,000 years and that represents 1/1,000 of the time that dinosaurs ruled the world-- in simple terms 160 million is 1,000 times larger than 160 thousand and 160 thousand years is almost an infinitely short period of time compared to the 2 or 3 billion years the earth will exist as a planet before our star, the sun, becomes a red giant and destroys the earth. Two assumptions--- by some miracle the population of the earth is reduced by about 50% to 4 billion and that each of those 4 billion used just one shirt, one pair of pants, one piece of underwear, one pair of shoes every year, etc. In 160,000 years, the total number of shirts used by humanity would be 160 thousand x 4 billion and that would equal a total of 640,000,000,000,000 shirts That usage cannot and will not happen. To repeat what I have written above—humanity does not control its future, time and math controls its future and no actions by humanity can change that fact. Conclusion-- in order for humanity remain on this planet for the longest period of time possible, time and math demand that the number of human beings on the planet must be immediately and substantially reduced and that the average per capita usage of resources must also be immediately and substantially reduced. I challenge anyone to write a paper showing that the previous conclusion is incorrect in any manner.

To the best of my knowledge no one has written (and it is my belief that no one can write) a paper showing with reasonable certainty that the prediction/estimate/projection made by the UN that the human population will increase to 10.4 billion by the year 2080 is so incorrect that it can be ignored in the consideration of the future of humanity. Based on what is written above, a very strong case can be made that the collapse of civilization will commence prior to the year 2100. To the best of my knowledge no one has written (and it is my belief that no one can write) a paper showing with reasonable certainty that voluntary action taken by humanity in relation to population growth, resource usage, new technologies and anything else that anyone can imagine will prevent the collapse of civilization commencing by the year 2100 or shortly thereafter. Without such a paper being written it is my belief that everyone who shouts at the top of their lungs “voluntary population control will save humanity” is more than a fool. To the best of my knowledge, no one who shouts and lungs “voluntary population control save humanity” has written a paper showing that the prediction/estimate/projection made by the UN mentioned above is incorrect. I don’t give a damn about what “could be”, I am interested in “will be” as best it can be determined. As best as it can be determined, human population will grow by about 2.4 billion or 30% between now and the year 2080. That fact plus the facts that every major problem faced by humanity will become more difficult to solve between now and the year 2080 and that some of those problems will become unsolvable. No one can dispute the fact that every second of every day more of the nonrenewable resources provided by the planet to humanity are being used and that those resources are being more difficult to obtain from the earth and to process. No one can dispute the fact that theoretically renewable resources are being used at a rate such that most of them are being converted into nonrenewable resources.

There cannot be any dispute that humanity is in “overshoot” and that any/all species that remain in overshoot must suffer an uncontrolled, violent, horrible and substantial reduction population. The only ways humanity can get out of overshoot are to reduce its population and/or its resource usage. To the best of my knowledge no one has written (and I believe no one can write) a paper that proves with at least 50% certainty that voluntary population control will get humanity out of overshoot prior to the uncontrolled, violent, horrible and substantial reduction in population mentioned above. Without such a paper being written, anyone who is prepared to gamble the collapse of civilization on voluntary population control is more than a fool.