

Aug 1992: GOES-7 satellite; notice hurricane Andrew

Environmental Studies ENVR 30: Intro to Science of the Environment







Introduction

• The current world population of more than 6.6 billion people is a cause for concern among many.



- Although the exponential world population growth rate has declined recently, world population continues to grow rapidly.
- Will the world be able to feed and support the 8 to 10 billion people that will be on Earth by the middle of the twenty-first century?
- · At what cost to the environment and standards of living?
- · How many people can the Earth comfortably support?



• The total human increased slowly million humans million by 10,00	Population History population on the planet was small and through most of human history. Maybe 1 125,000 years ago, growing only to 5-10 00 years ago
• The population s	started to grow more rapidly due to human
inventions: first	agriculture, then industrial technology, and
finally fertilizers	and mechanized agriculture
- 1000 BCE	50 million (0.05 billion)
- 0 CE	0.15 billion
- 1000 CE	0.25 billion
- 1500 CE	0.5 billion
- 1800 CE	1 billion
- 1930 CE	2 billion
- 1960 CE	3 billion
– 1974 CE	4 billion
– 1987 CE	5 billion
– 1999 CE	6 billion
- 2009 CE	6.79 billion







Carrying Capacity

- While we are degrading our resources, we are globally producing enough food to feed our current population (although 15% of it is undernourished).
- Some observers speculate that we have already overshot our carrying capacity.
- What is carrying capacity?, i.e. how many humans on Earth is the right number? Long term, certainly not above the carrying capacity.















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TABLI	2-3Top 10 Contributors to World in Thousands)	l Population Growth	ı, Mid 2005 (N	et Annual Additions
No.	Country and 2001 Population	Net Addition	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1.	India, 1.008 billion	15,929	20.7	20.7
2.	China, 1.275 billion	9,246	12.0	32.7
3.	Pakistan, 141 million	3,818	5.0	37.7
4.	Nigeria, 113 million	3,172	4.1	41.8
5.	Bangladesh, 137 million	3,023	4.0	45.8
6.	Indonesia, 212 million	2,679	3.4	49.2
7.	United States of America, 283 million	2,567	3.3	52.5
8.	Brazil, 170 million	2,136	2.8	55.3
9.	Democratic Republic of the Congo, 50 million	1,852	2.4	57.7
10.	Ethiopia, 62 million	1,611	2.1	59.8
	Subtotal	46,033	59.8	59.8
	World total	76,857	100	100







Consequences of Overpopulation

- Persons in rich, industrialized nations create a much bigger per capita impact on the environment than persons in poor, nonindustrialized countries.
- The U.S. has less than 5% of the world's population but consumes about 25% of the world's natural resources and produces about 25% of the world's pollution.
- Even if U.S./European populations do not grow, impact can grow if consume more







Problems with the Demographic Transition Model

- Most developed nations achieved development by degrading their environments and exploiting resources from other parts of the world.
- The Earth does not have sufficient resources to permit the developing nations to reach the developed nations' level of affluence.



Factors that Reduce Fertility Rates

- · Education, especially for young girls and women
- Family Planning availability and affordability
- Employment opportunities, economic security
- Access to the "means of production" (e.g. land, financial capital)
- Health and nutrition, better pre- and post-natal care and reduced infant mortality
- Urbanization, modernization
- Improved "status" of women in society, changes in societal definitions of what a "successful" woman is.

Education of Women

- Perhaps best ways to decrease the growth rate of a particular population is to increase the average educational and societal status of women.
- Improved education results in better healthcare and nutrition, effective contraceptive use, and increased status and prestige.



Figure 2-13b: Women attending class in Afghanistan.









Family Planning Availability is Not Enough

A study done in the 1990s compared fertility rates in a number of African and Caribbean countries with similar access to contraceptives (Handwerker, W.P. 1991. Women's power and fertility transition: the cases of Africa and the West Indies. Population and Environment 13(1):55-78).

Caribbean

Africa

- Dominican Republic TFR = 2.8
- Benin TFR = 6.1
 Chad TFR = 6.7
- Jamaica TFR = 2.5
- Trinidad and Tobago = 1.7
- Mali TFR = 7.0

Economic Incentives and Government Regulation of Childbearing

- Some governments have used economic incentives and disincentives to promote population control.
- Another approach is increasing accessibility to modern birth control methods and family planning information without mandating the number of children a family may have.
- Strict government policies have been mandated at times; for example, in 1979 China implemented a one child per couple policy.



Employment Opportunities and Economic Security













TABLE 4.1 World Population Growth and Doubling Times					
5000 в.с.	50 million	?			
800 в.с.	100 million	4,200 years			
200 в.с.	200 million	600 years			
a.d. 1200	400 million	1,400 years			
a.d. 1700	800 million	500 years			
a.d. 1900	1,600 million	200 years			
a.d. 1965	3,200 million	65 years			
a.d. 2000	6,100 million	51 years			
A D 2050 (estimate)	8,920 million	215 years			

















