

MASS STARVATION – POPULATION ARMAGEDDEN

“The battle to feed all of humanity is over. In the 1970s the world will undergo famine – hundreds of millions of people are going to starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now.”

Dr. Paul Ehrlich, “A qualified scientist”, *The Population Bomb*, Ballantine Books, New York, 1968, Prologue.

The “Population Bomb” was first published in 1968 by Dr Paul Ehrlich, and gave the Green movement additional impetus in their campaign against Man and his Industrialisation. This Malthusian scare campaign ran in parallel, and complemented the Greens’ Silent Spring campaign which started six years earlier (See Handout 2-2). This Green campaign, apart from having many similarities to all Green campaigns, is different from most others in the following notable ways:

1. The doomsday date appeared to be nominated as “Too Late”, which had the discouraging and guilt-ridden message that even if you do what we say, you will only ameliorate a terrible situation and you will have humans ‘dying like flies’ as you work. However, in the sub-text of this campaign we see a 15-year prediction date, accompanied by a 7-year prediction date.
2. For the first time, it clearly showed the difference between the Greens and the environmentalists. Anyone who has difficulty with the definition of a Green given in Handout 1-1, should read “The Population Bomb”¹
3. The explicit aims of the campaign were more focused on social engineering than pretending to solve environmental problems⁵.
4. Attempting to differentiate between ‘good’ scientists (who just happen to support the Greens) and ‘bad’ scientists who should be silenced or at least ignored.

So what was Population Armageddon going to look like? If we undertook the following few simple initiatives:

- “The United States would no longer send food to India, Egypt and other countries which it considered beyond hope”²
- “Moderate food rationing program instituted in the United States”.²
- “Pope Pius XIII, yielding to pressure from **enlightened** (author’s emphasis) Catholics to have Catholics restrict their reproductive activities”²
- Seeing riots cause central governments of China, India and other areas of Asia weaken and then disappear, resulting in Japan and Australia becoming the dominant Asian powers².

- After the “major die-back”, Western countries would ‘ride to the rescue’, and set up “machinery for ‘area rehabilitation’ which would involve simultaneous population control to be carried out in selected sections of Asia, Africa and South America”³

we would be lucky to see only one fifth of the world’s population die of starvation.⁴ If we did not take the suggested actions, hundreds of millions more would die.

Having taken the ‘correct’ actions, this would lead to a world population of two billion in 2025, which would then stabilise at 1.5 billion in 2100.³ Unfortunately this situation was likely to be much worse, as the correct actions were unlikely to be undertaken as “it involves a maturity of outlook and behaviour in the United States that seems unlikely to develop in the near future”.⁴ Green examples of what could happen included India losing 25% of its population within seven years (i.e.1975), and a loss of a further 25% in fifteen years (i.e. 1983).

Hundreds of scientists agreed with Ehrlich’s predictions, and actively supported the Greens’ agenda. In modern day parlance, we might call this a ‘consensus of scientific opinion’.

So what did eventually happen? Once again, we were conned by the Greens. The Population Armageddon did not occur.

There was no mass starvation, nor, indeed, an increase in the rate of starvation. Exactly the opposite occurred, there was less starvation. For instance, India’s population continued to grow. The number of people dying of starvation significantly reduced, and all Indians were 25% better fed. How did this happen?

Since the 1970s, the world’s food supplies have tripled, staying well ahead of the world’s population growth. Ironically, the answer came from two areas of modern life that the Greens were aggressively attacking: Industrialisation and Biotechnology. Adding to the irony, the solution was called the “Green Revolution”. The Green Revolution refers to a series of **research, development, and technology** transfer initiatives, occurring between 1943 and the late 1970s which increased **industrialized agriculture** production in many developing nations (author’s highlighting). The following are some examples of the results of the revolution.

In 1968, Indian agronomist S.K. De Datta published his findings that IR8 rice yielded about 5 tons per hectare with no fertilizer, and almost 10 tons per hectare under optimal conditions. This was 10 times the yield of traditional rice.⁶ IR8 was a success throughout Asia, and was dubbed the "Miracle Rice".

In the 1960s, rice yields in India were about two tons per hectare; by the mid-1990s, they had risen to six tons per hectare. In the 1970s, rice cost about \$550 a ton; in 2001, it cost under \$200 a ton. India became one of the world's most successful rice producers, and is now a major rice exporter, shipping nearly 4.5 million tons in 2006.

The Greens, and especially Ehrlich, would have known about these developments, but preferred to enforce their own draconian solutions on all the world's citizens. What is frustrating, even when talking to the Greens today, is they give the impression that they would have preferred to have seen millions die rather than have a "win" for Industrialisation and Technology. However, these social engineering ambitions of the Greens are considered in other Handouts.

This Handout is attempting to establish whether the Greens made a correct prediction in claiming that Population Armageddon was upon us. Well, was the "End is Nigh"⁷ brigade 80% right? No. Well, were they 50% right? No. Well, were they 20% right? No. Their predictions even failed to predict the correct direction in which starvation was heading.

Dr Paul Ehrlich is still considered a luminary in the Green movement and he continues to influence those attending International conferences discussing 'environmental' issues. For those who still believe that Ehrlich's Armageddon will arrive eventually, they should read Handout 2-3-1.

Notes:

1. Throughout the book, there is an imbued theme of a powerful Green government forcing the world's population to do exactly what the Greens want. Opponents are looked upon as their enemy, and combative terms such as "neutralise, silence, disarm, crush, overwhelm" are used. Ideas such as; "powerful government departments" requiring all foods to be laced with contraceptive chemicals to control the population; cutting back agriculture production while introducing "moderate food rationing" in the US and taking the "tough decisions" on not sending food aid to the citizens of countries considered to be "beyond hope". Killing all pets in developed countries and sending the "pet food protein to the starving masses in Asia".
2. Ehrlich, Paul, *"The Population Bomb"*, Ballantine Books, New York, 1968, p.78.
3. Ehrlich, Paul, *"The Population Bomb"*, Ballantine Books, New York, 1968, p.79.
4. Ehrlich, Paul, *"The Population Bomb"*, Ballantine Books, New York, 1968, p.80.
5. Ehrlich, Paul, *"The Population Bomb"*, Ballantine Books, New York, 1968, p.135.
6. De Datta SK, Tauro AC, Balaoing SN. "Effect of plant type and nitrogen level on growth characteristics and grain yield of indica rice in the tropics". *Agron. J.* 60 (6): 643–7 (1 November 1968). <http://agron.scijournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/60/6/643>.
7. Handout 7-1 discusses the "End is Nigh" brigade.