



Contents

Preface vii
Correlation Guide xix
Introduction xxi

UNIT 1 GLOBAL POPULATION 1

Issue 1. Are Declining Growth Rates Rather Than Rapid Population Growth Today's Major Global Population Problem? 2

YES: Michael Meyer, from "Birth Dearth," *Newsweek* (September 27, 2004) 4

NO: Danielle Nierenberg and Mia MacDonald, from "The Population Story . . . So Far," *World Watch Magazine* (September/October 2004) 10

Michael Meyer, a writer for *Newsweek International*, argues that the new global population threat is not too many people as a consequence of continuing high growth rates. On the contrary, declining birth rates will ultimately lead to depopulation in many places on Earth, a virtual population implosion, in both the developed and developing worlds. Danielle Nierenberg, a research associate at the Worldwatch Institute, and Mia MacDonald, a policy analyst and Worldwatch Institute senior fellow, argue that the consequences of a still-rising population have worsened in some ways because of the simultaneous existence of fast-rising consumption patterns, creating a new set of concerns.

Issue 2. Should the International Community Refocus on Programs to Help Developing Countries Curb Population Growth? 19

YES: Terry M. Redding, from "The Population Challenge: Key to Global Survival," *The 21st Century Papers* (The Population Institute, 2007) 21

NO: Steven W. Mosher, from "McNamara's Folly: Bankrolling Family Planning," *PRI Review* (March–April 2003) 34

Terry M. Redding, a communications consultant to The Population Institute, suggests that population *growth* is being unfortunately neglected in international development discussions, as the latter's focus has been on other aspects of population such as reproductive health and women's empowerment. Steven W. Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute, an organization devoted to debunking the idea that the world is overpopulated, argues that self-interest was the motivation for past efforts on the part of international funding agencies, including the World Bank, to curb population by pressuring developing countries to adopt fertility reduction programs.

Issue 3. Is Global Aging in the Developed World a Major Problem? 53

YES: Pete Engardio and Carol Matlack, from “Global Aging,” *Business Week* (January 31, 2005) 55

NO Rand Corporation, from “Population Implosion?” Research Brief, Rand Europe (2005) 62

This *Business Week* cover story outlines the aging of the population in both the developed world and the newly emerging economies, suggesting that the time for action is now. This Rand Corporation study suggests that because of declining fertility, European populations are either growing more slowly or have actually begun to decline. Although these trends “portend difficult times ahead,” European governments should be able to confront these challenges successfully.

Issue 4. Does Global Urbanization Lead Primarily to Undesirable Consequences? 69

YES: Divya Abhat, Shauna Dineen, Tamsyn Jones, Jim Motavilli, Rebecca Sanborn, and Kate Slomkowski, from “Today’s ‘Mega-Cities’ Are Overcrowded and Environmentally Stressed,” <http://www.emagazine.com> (September/October 2005) 71

NO: UNFPA, from *UNFPA State of the World 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth* (2007) 80

Divya Abhat, editor of *E/The Environmental Magazine*, and colleagues suggest that the world’s cities suffer from environmental ills, among them pollution, poverty, fresh water shortages, and disease. The UNFPA 2007 Report suggests that cities, in fact, facilitate a number of desirable conditions, such as gender-equitable change, more diverse employment possibilities, more economic well-being and security for women, women’s empowerment, and access to better health care, among other positive changes.

UNIT 2 GLOBAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT 95

Issue 5. Do Environmentalists Overstate Their Case? 96

YES: Ronald Bailey, from “Debunking Green Myths,” *Reason* (February 2002) 98

NO: David Pimentel, from “Skeptical of the Skeptical Environmentalist,” *Skeptic* (vol. 9, no. 2, 2002) 102

Environmental journalist Ronald Bailey in his review of the Bjørn Lomborg controversial book, *The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), argues that “An environmentalist gets it right,” suggesting that finally someone has taken the environmental doomsdayers to task for their shoddy use of science. Bioscientist David Pimentel takes to task Bjørn Lomborg’s findings, accusing him of selective use of data to support his conclusions.

Issue 6. Should the World Continue to Rely on Oil as the Major Source of Energy? 111

YES: **Nansen G. Saleri**, from "The World Has Plenty of Oil," *Wall Street Journal* (March 4, 2008) 113

NO: **Lester R. Brown**, from "Is World Oil Peaking?" Earth Policy Institute (November 15, 2007) 116

Nansen G. Saleri, president and CEO of Quantum Reservoir Input and the oil industry's preeminent authority on the issue, suggests that the world is "nowhere close to reaching a peak in global oil supplies." He argues that the future transition to oil alternatives will be the result of their superiority rather than the diminishing supply of oil. Lester R. Brown, founder and president of Earth Policy Institute, suggests that there has been a "pronounced loss of momentum" in the growth of oil production, a likely result of demand outpacing discoveries, leading to declining oil production prospects.

Issue 7. Will the World Be Able to Feed Itself in the Foreseeable Future? 121

YES: **Stephen Lendman**, from "Global Food Crisis: Hunger Plagues Haiti and the World," *Global Research* (April 21, 2008) 123

NO: **Bee Wilson**, from "The Last Bite: Is the World's Food System Collapsing?" *The New Yorker* (May 19, 2008) 131

Stephen Lendman, a research associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization in Montreal, argues that the global food crisis is related to rising prices in an economically troubled time rather than to a lack of food production. Bee Wilson, a critic for *The New Yorker*, argues that the global food system is in need of radical change if the world is going to be able to feed itself in the future but that such prospects are unlikely to happen, as the "global manufacturers and wholesalers have an interest in continuing . . . stroking our colossal hunger."

Issue 8. Is the Threat of Global Warming Real? 141

YES: **David Biello**, from "State of the Science: Beyond the Worst Case Climate Change Scenario," *Scientific American* (November 26, 2007) 143

NO: **Richard S. Lindzen**, from "No Global Warming," *Environment News*, The Heartland Institute (August 2006) 147

David Biello summarizes the 2007 report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which concludes that climate change is unequivocal, almost certain to be caused by human activity. Richard S. Lindzen takes issue with those who suggest that "the debate in the scientific community is over" regarding the existence of global warming, and argues that to believe in such warming requires one to "ignore the truly inconvenient facts."

Issue 9. Is the Threat of a Global Water Shortage Real? 155

YES: **Mark Clayton**, from "Is Water Becoming 'the New Oil'?" *Christian Science Monitor* (May 29, 2008) 157

NO: **Bjørn Lomborg**, from *The Skeptical Environment: Measuring the Real State of the World* (Cambridge University Press, 2001) 161

Mark Clayton, staff writer for *The Christian Science Monitor*, suggests that changes in population, pollution, and climate are creating water shortages around the globe, leading private companies to take advantage of the increased demand for clean water while governments are slow to act. Lomborg contends that water is not only plentiful but is a renewable resource that, if properly treated as valuable, should not pose a future problem.

UNIT 3 EXPANDING GLOBAL FORCES AND MOVEMENTS 175

Issue 10. Can the Global Community “Win” the Drug War? 176

YES: **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**, from “2007 World Drug Report” (2007) 178

NO: **Ethan Nadelmann**, from “Drugs,” *Foreign Policy* (September/October 2007) 185

This 2007 report by the UN’s Office on Drugs and Crime provides “robust evidence” that “drug control is working” and “the world drug problem is being contained.” Ethan Nadelmann argues that prohibition has failed by not treating the “demand for drugs as a market, and addicts as patients,” resulting in “boosting the profits of drug lords, and fostering narcostates that would frighten Al Capone.”

Issue 11. Is the International Community Adequately Prepared to Address Global Health Pandemics? 193

YES: **Global Influenza Programme**, from “Responding to the Avian Influenza Pandemic Threat,” World Health Organization (2005) 195

NO: **H.T. Goranson**, from “A Primer for Pandemics,” Global Envision www.globalenvision.org (March 2006) 208

The document from the World Health Organization lays out a comprehensive program of action for individual countries, the international community, and WHO to address the next influenza pandemic. H.T. Goranson, a former top national scientist with the U.S. government, describes the grave dangers posed by global pandemics and highlights flaws in the international community’s ability to respond.

Issue 12. Do Adequate Strategies Exist to Combat Human Trafficking? 213

YES: **Janie Chuang**, from “Beyond a Snapshot: Preventing Human Trafficking in the Global Economy,” *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies* (Winter 2006) 215

NO: **Dina Francesca Haynes**, from “Used, Abused, Arrested, and Deported: Extending Immigration Benefits to Protect the Victims of Trafficking and to Secure the Prosecution of Traffickers,” *Human Rights Quarterly* (vol. 26, no. 2, 2004) 238

Janie Chuang, practitioner-in-residence at the America University Washington College of Law, suggests that governments have been finally motivated to take action against human traffickers as a consequence of the concern over national security implications of forced human labor movement and the involvement of transnational criminal syndicates. Dina Francesca Haynes, associate professor of law at the New England School of Law, argues that none of the models underlying domestic legislation to deal with human traffickers is “terribly effective” in addressing the issue effectively.

Issue 13. Is Globalization a Positive Development for the World Community? 257

YES: Robyn Meredith and Suzanne Hoppough, from “Why Globalization Is Good,” *Forbes* (April 16, 2007) 259

NO: Steven Weber, Naazneen Barma, Matthew Kroenig, and Ely Ratner, from “How Globalization Went Bad,” *Foreign Policy* (January/February 2007) 263

Meredith and Hoppough argue that the data supports the conclusion that globalization works for both rich and poor. They particularly point to the growing middle class in many countries throughout Asia, Africa, and Latin America, to support this conclusion. Weber et al. argue that globalization and the American predominance that drives it amplify a myriad of evils, including terrorism, global warming, and interethnic conflict, creating a less stable and less just world community.

Issue 14. Is the World a Victim of American Cultural Imperialism? 272

YES: Allan Brian Ssenyonga, from “Americanization or Globalization,” *Global Envision* (October 2, 2006) 274

NO: Tyler Cowen, from “Some Countries Remain Resistant to American Culture Exports,” *The New York Times* (February 22, 2007) 279

Allan Brian Ssenyonga, a Ugandan freelance writer for *The New York Times*, suggests that America is now selling its culture to the rest of the world “as a new and improved product of what we (the world) have as a culture.” He decries the negative effects of the global spread of many things American. Tyler Cowen, a George Mason University professor of economics, argues that the “complaint of ‘(American) cultural imperialism’ is looking increasingly implausible” as the evidence suggests that (1) local culture commands loyalty, and (2) cultural influences come from many external cultures, not just from America.

Issue 15. Is the Global Economic Crisis a Failure of Capitalism? 282

YES: Katsuhito Iwai, from “Global Financial Crisis Shows Inherent Instability of Capitalism,” *The Tokyo Foundation*, (December 8, 2008) 284

NO: Dani Rodrik, from “Coming Soon: Capitalism 3.0,” *The Taipei Times* (February 11, 2009) 288

Katsuhito Iwai, professor of economics at the University of Tokyo, argues that the current economic collapse is a sign of the inherent instability of global capitalism. He argues that capitalism’s failure in this crisis is inherent because capitalism is based on speculation and therefore belief

or faith in the strength of the system and its various parts. Dani Rodrik, professor of international political economy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, contends that the current economic downturn is not a sign of capitalism's failure but rather its need for reinvention and adaptation. Rodrik argues that this is precisely why capitalism will survive and thrive because it is so changeable based on new trends and conditions.

UNIT 4 THE NEW GLOBAL SECURITY DILEMMA 293

Issue 16. Are We in a New Cold War? 294

YES: **Stephen F. Cohen**, from "The New American Cold War," *The Nation* (June 8, 2007) 296

NO: **Stephen Kotkin**, from "The Myth of the New Cold War," *Prospect Magazine* (April, 2008) 310

Stephen F. Cohen, professor of Russian studies at New York University, suggests that U.S.–Russian relations have "deteriorated so badly they should now be understood as a new cold war—or possibly a continuation of the old one." He argues that the origins of this circumstance can be found in the attitudes and policies of both the Clinton and Bush administrations. Stephen Kotkin, professor of history and director of the Program in Russian Studies at Princeton University, argues that Russia has not reverted to totalitarianism under Putin and his successor. Rather, it is a combination of a closed unstable political system and a growing economic power that poses a threat to the West for that reason, not because it poses a military threat.

Issue 17. Are We Headed Toward a Nuclear 9/11? 321

YES: **Brian Michael Jenkins**, from "Terrorists Can Think Strategically: Lessons Learned from the Mumbai Attacks," Rand Corporation (January 2009) 323

NO: **Graham Allison**, from "Time to Bury a Dangerous Legacy—Part I," *Yale Global Online* (March 14, 2008) 327

Brian Michael Jenkins, senior advisor to the President of the Rand Corporation, in testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, posited that a team of terrorists could be inserted into the United States and carry out a Mumbai-style attack as terrorism has "increasingly become an effective strategic weapon." Graham Allison, Harvard professor and director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, affirms that we are not likely to experience a nuclear 9/11 because "nuclear terrorism is preventable by a feasible, affordable agenda of actions that . . . would shrink the risk of nuclear terrorism to nearly zero."

Issue 18. Is Religious and Cultural Extremism a Global Security Threat? 331

YES: **Hussein Solomon**, from "Global Security in the Age of Religious Extremism," *PRISM* (August 2006) 333

NO: **Shibley Telhami**, from "Testimony Before the House Armed Services Committee: Between Terrorism and Religious Extremism" (November 3, 2005) 342

Solomon argues that when religious extremism, which is a security threat in and of itself, is merged with state power, the threat to global security is potentially catastrophic and must be met with clear and uncompromising policies. He contends that this is present across all religions, and he uses both a born-again George Bush and a fundamentalist Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as his examples. Telhami, on the other hand, does not argue that religious extremism is the threat, but rather that global security threats are from political groups with political agendas and not extremism as such.

Issue 19. Is a Nuclear Iran a Global Security Threat? 347

YES: U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy, from "Recognizing Iran as a Strategic Threat: An Intelligence Challenge for the United States" (August 23, 2006) 349

NO: Office of Director of National Intelligence, from "Iran: Nuclear Intentions and Capabilities," *National Intelligence Estimate* (November 2007) 373

The House Select Committee concludes that Iran's weapons program and missile development technology combined with the nature of fundamentalist regimes pose a grave security threat and thus must be addressed. The National Intelligence Estimate contends that Iran is not a global security threat because they have decided to suspend their nuclear weapons program and would not be able to develop the capacity for such weapons until at least 2015.

Issue 20. Will China Be the Next Superpower? 382

YES: Shujie Yao, from "Can China Really Become the Next Superpower?" *China Policy Institute* (April 2007) 384

NO: Pranab Bardhan, from "China, India Superpower? Not So Fast!" *YaleGlobal Online* (October 25, 2005) 389

Yao analyzes the current state of the Chinese economy and policy and postulates several possible scenarios for development. Ultimately, Yao surmises that China will develop as the next superpower by the mid-twenty-first century. Bardhan argues that there are many variables and factors that can and will hinder China's development into a superpower, including vast poverty, weak infrastructure, and China's authoritarian government.

Contributors 394