

*N.B. This translation contains errors due to the insurmountable language differences between German and English*

## The Overpopulation Problem

by Edith Beldi

There are too many human beings. This claim is based on facts.

Our planet Earth could support 529 million human beings problem-free. Each and every living being, be it plants, animals or human beings of all races and peoples would have conditions that are fair for all to develop.

But we already have 5.9 billion human beings (in 1993) which the planet Earth has to support (7,503,846,002 on December 31, 2005 at 00:00).

The resulting and future problems which the entire human race will be confronted with will be unpleasant ones. We are already seeing the effects in the form of earthquakes as well as flooding brought about by climatic changes etc., which cause great suffering over the entire Earth. The series of environmental catastrophes will not stop because Earth is defending itself in its own way just like how any other living being would defend itself when exploited.

To pursue a policy that is only based on taking cannot have good results in the end. Earth must be able to regenerate itself, but that is a difficult or rather impossible undertaking when it is populated with 5.9 billion human beings (7.5+ billion in 2006) who naturally all want to have their needs, e.g. food, clothing, warmth, shelter etc., satisfied which is of course everyone's right.

Just imagine: In 1993 six human beings were born every second and five of these were born into a new suffering, putting an even heavier burden on nature.

The planet Earth is also a living being with rights and obligations which it would also like to fulfil; we human beings prevent it from doing so because we have forgotten our own rights and obligations. We not only owe something to our landlords and fellow human beings, etc. but also to Earth. We have lost this immensely important wisdom and only a diminishing small number can still remember fragments of this. Unfortunately those are not the ones who have the power to bring this awareness back among the peoples. But every human being has the possibility to change their situation and to direct their thinking in this direction. Each individual can think about the problem of overpopulation and find ways to contribute to solving this problem. For example, each human being could set themselves the goal of choosing not to marry before the age of 30; in view of the seriousness of the problem they could decide to have only two children.

Thus every human being can carry out a correct family planning which takes into consideration the economic situation, the opportunities of earning an income, the children's educational opportunities etc.

What each individual does is important regardless of where they live. When anyone does something, then it influences those around them and spreads, just as a corn seed produces an ear of corn with dozens of new seeds.

By the time governments really tackle the problem, it will already be too late. Those who are in power bask in their positions – it doesn't concern them, they have a house with a garden and enough space for their personal development.

Perhaps some human beings think that the population could be reduced through wars and diseases such as AIDS, but that is not the solution of the problem. Many human beings suffer because of war and lose their friends, relatives, loved ones etc., who all have an important task in life which they are no longer capable of fulfilling. The human being's evolution is blocked because they no longer can be creative when occupied with the following worrying thoughts: • How do I obtain food? How do I protect myself? Where are my children? Where are my friends and neighbours? Where is my loved one? •

People who think that the population will be reduced by wars and diseases are making a big mistake. How many wars have already broken out on Earth that have brought suffering and misery but no reduction in the population. In my opinion, human beings who think like this no longer have love in themselves and also make no effort to thoroughly think about the situation.

Why are history books even written? For one reason only, namely to learn something from the past.

The sole solution for stopping the population explosion is for every individual to exercise restraint in regards to producing children; married couples should for example have only one child and not five to ten because the population problem affects and concerns everyone. This contribution is rather minor when one considers all the things that will happen to us if we don't do anything against the overpopulation.

If someday the point is reached where the population has reduced then a law must be enacted which allows up to a maximum of THREE children per family – but no more than three. This is very crucial and of great importance. If this number had been complied with, then it would never have come to an overpopulation problem like we have on Earth today.

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Translation of the original article titled "Problem Überbevölkerung" from the booklet "Überbevölkerung 3" by Willem Mondria.

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