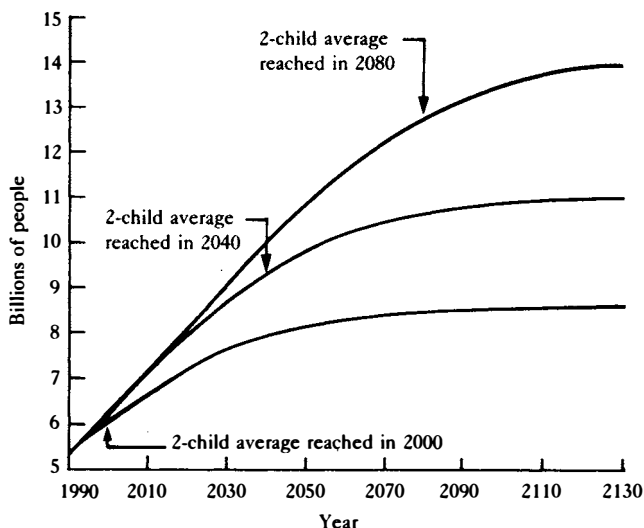


Figure 1a. Momentum of Population Growth

Ultimate Stable World Population Size Depending on When the Two-Child Family Becomes the Norm



The crucial factor is the pace of fertility decline in the near future. Each 20-year delay in establishing replacement-level fertility, i.e., an average of 2.1 children per woman, will add at least 1 billion to the world's population size when it ultimately stabilizes at zero growth.

Note: Two-child average family size = replacement-level fertility, or an average of 2.1 children per woman with low mortality.

Source: C. Haub, M. M. Kent, and M. Yanagishita. *World Population Data Sheet 1990* (Population Reference Bureau, Washington, D.C., 1990).

Norman Myers's graph promotes the eugenical idea that "the crucial factor" in stabilizing the world population "is the pace of fertility decline in the near future."

sance which made such progress possible—with the extraordinary population growth accompanying it—by supplying great projects of economic infrastructure. Myers, in the debate, uses Simon's "free market" Pollyanna flaw to score points on the ongoing depression of the world's economies, for which he postulates environmental causes without evidence—then from these "causes" he generates further "effects" such as massive extinctions of species and erosion of soils, again without any basis in evidence.

Human 'fertility' and lifespan

The most fundamental issue in this debate on the human species' population growth, may not be the most obvious to a reader distracted by the "debaters' points" here. It is the issue of what accounts for human population growth, and on this historical issue, it is conclusive that Julian Simon lives and thinks in the real world, while Norman Myers speaks from the fog of centuries-old British eugenics.

Myers's "program" for saving the biosphere, as he presents it here, centers on the claim—put in chart form (shown

here) in his conclusion section—that the number of children that individual couples "choose to have" will determine the human population far into the future. In other words, that what demographers call the "fertility rate of women" determines future population. His chart says that simply whether world average fertility rate in 2025 is 1.8 or 2.8 children per woman, will determine whether the world population in 2100 (75 years later) is 6 billion or 19 billion.

Simon, presenting historical charts instead, shows that the growth of population in the world or a nation is determined much more fundamentally by *lifespan* than fertility; 80% of world population growth has occurred in the last 150 years, when the average human life expectancy has doubled. Simon's charts also relate both population and lifespan to urbanization—the drop in the portion of population needed to produce food, and the growth of cities with manufactures—with very interesting results.

The idea that *fertility determines population* is a crude, strongly eugenical fallacy which was embedded in the so-called "origins of population studies" by Sir William Petty and his friends in the British Royal Society from 1675-1715. It is, today, the line of the United Nations Population Fund, Planned Parenthood, and the rest of the heirs of the Eugenics Societies of the 19th and 20th centuries. In their drive to reduce fertility of Third World populations, eugenics is tantamount to genocide.

In fact, population growth is primarily associated with increases in lifespans and increase in the rate of marriage and family formation per capita per year. Both, in turn, are related to city-building and urbanization measures of human progress of which Simon gives a partial outline in his research, here and in other locations.

Books Received

The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance, by Laurie Garrett, Farrar Straus Giroux, New York, 1994, 750 pages, hardbound, \$25.

The Hot Zone, by Richard Preston, Random House, New York, 1994, 300 pages, hardbound, \$23.

Queen Elizabeth II: A Woman Who Is Not Amused, by Nicholas Davies, Birch Lane Press, New York, 1994, 511 pages, hardbound, \$24.95.

Conor: A Biography of Conor Cruise O'Brien, by Donald Harmon Akenson, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N.Y., 1994, 573 pages, hardbound, \$35.

A Mind of My Own: My Life with Robert Maxwell, by Elisabeth Maxwell, HarperCollins, New York, 1994, 536 pages, hardbound, \$25.