

The Myth of Planetary Overpopulation



**By Jacqueline
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The Myth of Planetary Overpopulation Dr. Jacqueline Kasun



DR. JACQUELINE KASUN professor of economics at Humboldt State University in California, observes in her 1988 book *The War Against Population* that:

- (1) No more than 1-3% of the Earth's ice-free land area is occupied by humans.
- (2) Less than 11% of the Earth's ice-free land area is used for agriculture.
- (3) Somewhere between 8 and 22 times the current world population could support itself at the present standard of living, using present technology.
- (4) This leaves 50% of the Earth's land surface open to wildlife and conservation areas.

The lower limit of 8 times the current population (about 44 billion) has been considered as being perfectly workable. According to Dr. Kasun, "better yields and/or the use of a larger share of the land area would support over 40 billion persons." Former Harvard Center for Population Studies Director Roger Revelle estimated that the agricultural resources of the

world were capable of providing an adequate diet (2,500 kilo calories per day) for 40 billion people, and that it would require the use of less than 25% of the Earth's ice-free land area –Revelle estimated that the less-developed continents were capable of feeding 18 billion people, and that Africa alone was capable of feeding 10 billion people, or twice the current world population, and more than 12 times the 1990 population of Africa.

In addition to the fact that many new strains of food have been developed that can boost food production, there are other indications that food would not be a problem. In the September 1976 issue of Scientific American, Dr. David Hopper asserted that the world's "food problem" does not arise from any physical limitation on potential output or any danger of unduly stressing the environment.

The limitations on abundance are to be found in social and political structures of nations and the economic relations between them. In fact the planet, during its least populous years, suffered from hunger and famine.

It was only when state political controls receded in the late 19th century that hunger also began to recede. With the rise of Communism, welfare states, fascism and international corporate capitalism (all forms of Darwinist Socialism), many of the destructive controls preventing adequate growth and distribution of resources returned.

Since absolute cooperation and free-market planetary economic is counterproductive to global socialist and capitalist goals, it is quite apparent that the myth of overpopulation is a form of attack on this same free market, even though no more lawlessness and evil use of men and materials exists than under Socialism.

It is curious that many densely populated countries with relatively free economies are thriving, and are seldom mentioned in the "over-population" debate, while sparsely populated nations with oppressive governments are "plagued with problems relating to population." Taiwan, with a population density of five times that of China, produces 20 times as much Gross National Product than China. Similarly, Singapore, with a density of 11,910 per square mile, enjoys a per capita GNP of \$8,782, while Ethiopia,

with a density of 101 per square mile, has a per capita GNP of \$121. The real problem is that big government is the greatest obstacle to the social advancement of the human race.

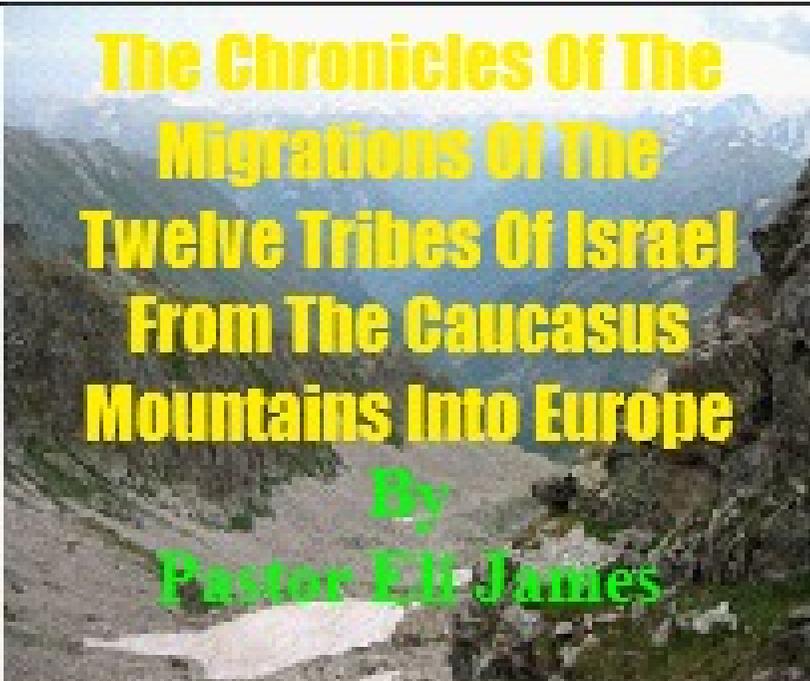


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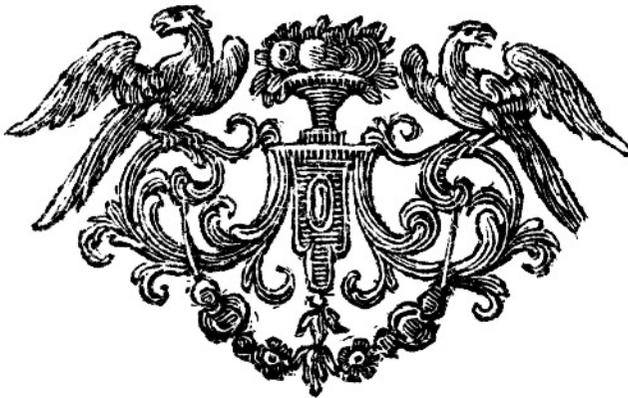
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