It remains unpalatable, if not suicidal, for political leaders to admit that the United States and other countries do not need just population control, but populations to prosper and be influential and that rich countries should reduce their rates of unintended pregnancy and help poor countries do likewise. With the globalization of work, the incentive for owners of capital today to ignore or not address rapid growth in the numbers of poor people remains as it was for the kings of yore: lower wages for workers at any level of skill offer a bigger economic surplus to be captured.

But just as pronatalism is unjustified, so is antinatalism. The head of the Laboratory of Population at Rockefeller University, Paul R. Ehrlich, said that science would have more people than China by 2025, 2040, and 2070, and that Africa will have more people than India before 2050. In 1950, there were nearly three times as many Europeans as sub-Saharan Africans. By 2050, there were 16 percent more sub-Saharan Africans than Europeans. By 2050, according to the Population Division of the United Nations, there will be nearly five sub-Saharan African countries for every European. In some ways, the growth in the numbers of people matters less than the size of the pie. The average household in each country has its own refrigerator, air-conditioner, TV and car, the average energy demand for a given number of people goes up as the average number of people in a household. The mismatch between the short-term incentives that guide our rule of law, less material-intensive consumption, and the world need a bigger pie (more productive technologies) or fewer forks and knives (more voluntary contraception) or better mattresses and more nutritious food on the table.

Can humanity handle the unprecedented rise in population?

The world's population is expected to reach 7 billion in 2012, compared with 6.1 billion in 2000. This is due to an unprecedented rise in the number of people, particularly in Africa and Asia. The world's population has grown rapidly over the past century, from 1.6 billion in 1900 to 6.1 billion in 2000. This growth is expected to continue, with the world's population projected to reach 9 billion by 2050 and 11 billion by 2100.

The world has a finite amount of resources, such as land, water, and minerals. As the human population grows, it becomes more difficult to meet the needs of the world's people. For example, the amount of arable land per person is expected to decrease by 2050, from 0.6 hectares to 0.5 hectares.

The increase in population has also led to an increase in the demand for energy. The world's population is projected to increase from 6.3 billion in 2005 to 8.4 billion in 2050, and 9.9 billion in 2100. This increase in population has led to an increase in the demand for energy, which has led to an increase in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere.

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