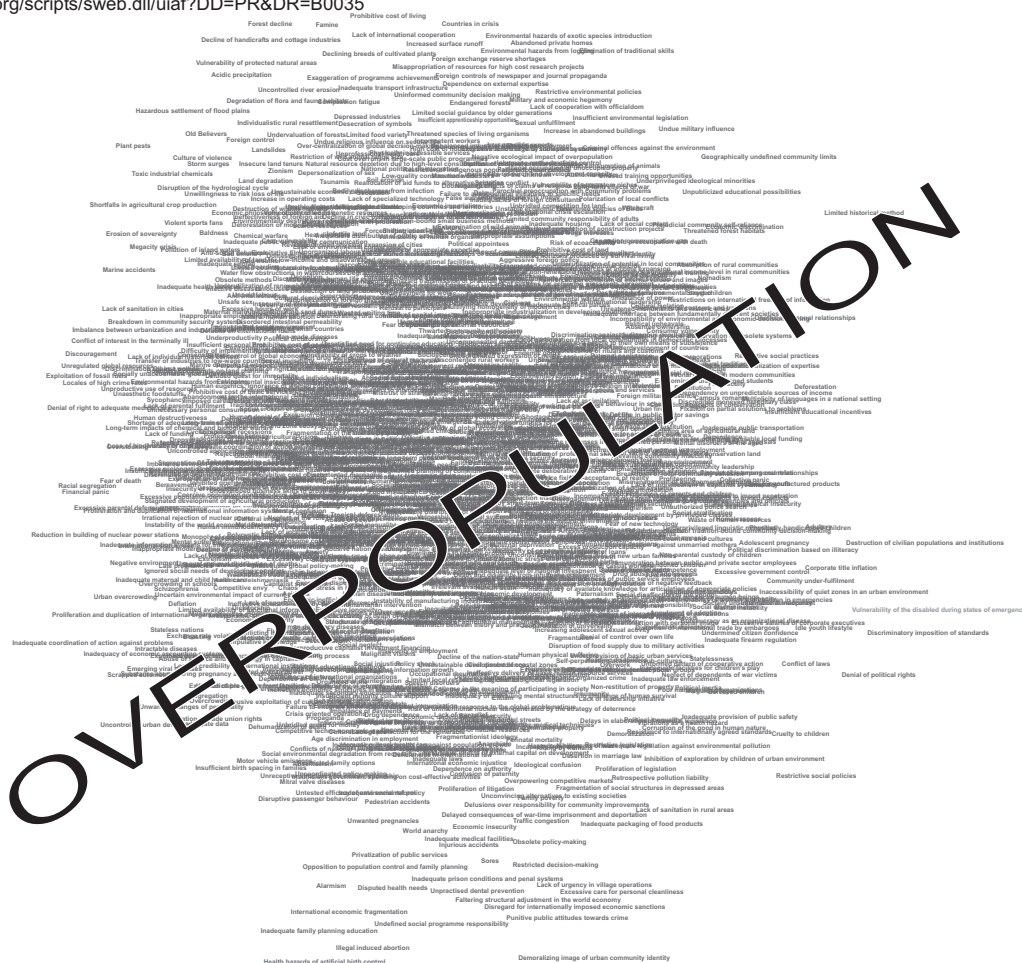


Database: World Problems and Issues
Link type: aggravates problems
Network nodes: 1501
UIA database: <http://db.uia.org/scripts/swdb.dll/uiaf?DD=PR&DR=B0035>



and counter-claims

! Population growth is a false issue deriving from a neo-colonial approach by the developed countries to hold down the developing countries for their own self-interest or, in extreme cases, as a subtle form of genocide. It is also used by developed countries as a diversionary, superficial form of reform to alleviate the present corrupt system. and to delay or defer the needed revolution.

! It is not the total numbers which are important, but rather their distribution over the land area. It is the concentration of people in urban conglomerations which is the real problem.

! Overpopulation is a relative concept. It signifies that, at a given stage in international development,

so low that it is no incentive to work. The phenomenon can of course be attributed to exaggerated population growth, but is also, more than anything else, a consequence of the endemic inadequacy of

On average, standards of living have improved throughout the world. Between 1960 and 1990, as world population went from 3 billion to 5.3 billion, infant mortality dropped and life expectancy, literacy, per capita income, food production and nutrition all increased.

! Within 20 years the AIDS epidemic may turn current high population growth rates negative. For example, India has a 15 million population of 100 million, and the rate of 1.1%

the United States will — but the stress on the natural world caused by new Americans may exceed that from new Indians and Chinese combined. The expected 57.5 million new people added to the US population during the 1990s will add more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere than the roughly 900 million new people in developing countries.

Homo sapiens will keep growing in number, as everyone agrees, and that growth may have disagreeable consequences. But those consequences seem less likely to stem from the environmental collapse the apocalyptists predict than from the human race's perennial inability to run its political affairs wisely. The distinction is important, and dismaying.