

Prologue

The human race is playing a numbers game: a high stakes numbers game. The game requires no particular skills or expertise--in fact, it's a very simple game. One reason for its simplicity is that there are no rules. It demands neither intelligence, knowledge or special skills. As one might expect of a game that anyone can play, it is exceedingly popular, although it's not recommended for children under the age of 16. The game requires virtually no qualifications, but some play it with greater proficiency than others. Even though the game is played by individuals, it's really a team sport, requiring international competition to enhance its esprit de corps.

The object of the game is to pack as many people as possible into as small a space as possible. Extra points can be earned for consequences which result from packing huge numbers of people into small spaces. For instance, a very low standard of living is worth many points, a high standard of living is worth fewer points. High mortality rates command more points than low mortality rates. Endangered species, ghettos, unemployment, pollution, resource depletion, civil unrest, etc., are each worth lots of points. Conversely, large undeveloped tracts of land, full employment, clean air and water, abundant natural resources, high literacy rates, etc., are worth very few points. A very few people believe the object of the game to be an absurdity, but then, they don't have to play.

Of course, the game isn't entirely fair. Some countries are larger than others. Some have more resources. Some are blessed with rampant immigration. Some have despotic rulers. A few are fully industrialized and wealthy while most are not. But then, these inequities don't really matter unless the game is played, so if you elect to play you can't really complain. No one is holding a gun to your head.

If you haven't guessed the name of the game by now, don't worry. You not only can play, you probably are playing and you can still be a member of a winning team. But in order to win you must be selfish. You must be oblivious to the long term consequences of your game-playing or you must be uncaring. This does not mean that you have to be totally insensitive, however. You can still be a bell-ringer for the Salvation Army during the Christmas season. You can buy tickets to rock concerts staged for the benefit of Ethiopians. You can join the Peace Corps or the Catholic Church. You can participate in Walk-A-Thons and observe moments of silence (as many as you wish). Or you can pray. And in spite of this concern your team can still be a winner, or, at the very least, you can help your favorite team to win.

The game the human race is playing is called the Population Game. For hundreds of thousands of years it was rather ineptly played. It took over 3 million years to produce a human population of 1 billion. Today **we are producing nearly 1 billion people every 10 years**, the equivalent of another China every decade. But we have no new continental land masses on which to place this crowd. They must be absorbed into our existing 5 billion population. And they must be provided for, which we are tragically unable and unwilling to do even with our present human population.

This game is not only unnecessary and stupid; it is deadly. That the human population must be controlled is unarguable. That it can be effectively controlled through non-violent means is unarguable. That it will be controlled through non-violent means is debatable.