

THE POPULATION AS A GLOBAL PROBLEM

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Summary

This article presents the issue of human evolution while Homo Sapiens is a centre of ecosystems, shaking natural selection and being involved in a demographic expansion, facing the challenges of its own reproduction as well. The highest population growth rates over the last three centuries and the danger of exhausting resources needed for the existence of today's and future generations are discussed. The club of Rome is one of the first informal scientists' group and acts as a whistle-blower. In the 1970s it was indicated using the method of system dynamics that a high population growth rate in the developing countries is world menace and its stop have been recommended, while the UN undertook a multifaceted population programme aimed at birth control and acceleration of demographic transition in those countries (at present embracing 81% of world's population, about 7 billion by 2011). It is highlighted that many versions have been drafted concerning the future population growth and the transition finalising but nothing is being said about the post-transition perspectives. This is the context where the Bulgarian case is presented as an example of fast transition without reaching stable population and jumping into negative natural growth while the descending birth rates, increasing mortality and fast ageing are dominating: a process acquiring the nature of a crisis. The hypothesis is that the same model could be followed by the global population. This model considered by some Bulgarian scholars as the demographic transition's fifth stage, probably might lead to the end of Homo Sapiens's existence.

Avoidance of such perspective is to be among the key issues on researchers' agenda having in mind the responsibility not only for the next generation, but the human being surviving on the planet alike.

Keywords: global issues, demographic transition, economic growth, reproductive level, demographic crisis

GENERAL ISSUES

There has always been one question raised throughout the centuries and the answer to it still remains incomplete, yet expected. This question is: what are the people on the planet Earth and what is their future, through a demographic perspective, inclusive.

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We have appeared on the planet as an animal population, and called ourselves Homo sapiens believing that we are the only thinking population. This is why we have conquered this planet: we have conquered both its lifeless and living world. In our attitude toward it we have always striven to adapt and utilise it so it would fully serve to our own existence. This is something that may be noticed even in our times as we have shown and proved our concern for the environmental equilibrium. What we are ignorant of what the attitude of nature to us, the humans, is, as nature has its own patterns which are valid for each living population. And the difference here is that we interfere into our reproduction when we have already lost ground in the natural selection (Томов, 2013: 140).

We are ignorant of how we have appeared here, do we see sufficiently well our future prospects no matter how tenaciously we peer at the Universe? The most curious thing is that we have always associated the very conditions of our existence with the qualities and quantities of the sources in the outer world, according to our needs, we size them, we seek for more, developing techniques and technology in all directions. Even given this enormous progress we have made, there is still something lagging behind. And this is how we peer at the inner laws of our biological reproduction taken as an animal population, as a system, both open and sustainable, however featuring its rigid rules in terms of its internal elements and links. It is this system that makes part of the planet's existence. According to modern estimates taken from the scientific research, our presence in time is equal to several seconds of our planet's lifetime. It is a common fact that, according to the stratigraphic research, which help us read the features scattered around the rocky layers on the Earth, over the last 4.5 billion years our planet has survived a number of serious cataclysms. Having studied and marked the changes those cataclysms have caused, a periodicity of planet's life has been made and so has a typing of each era's flora and fauna. The last of all five cataclysms caused by an asteroid marked the beginning of the Cretaceous period about 65 mln years ago. Man is supposed to have appeared somewhere around this period, however it is assumed that there has been life on this planet for at least 13.7 billion years. How, where and when man has appeared are all questions whose answers are still sought by a variety of sciences and many societies. Carl Linnaeus's (1707-1778) ideas set three centuries ago and the well-known Charles Darwin's (1809-1882) theory make for the time being the backbone of the explanations. While Linnaeus divides the world of nature into mineral, vegetation and animal, his generic classification treats man as an animal (*homo anima*), and in his species classification he defines man as *homo sapiens*. Both Linnaeus and Darwin assume that man is an animal standing the view that an animal species may not be superior to another. In addition, Darwin sees intraspecific competition as a way of dominance of individuals having similar structures and needs at equally favourable climatic and other conditions in favour of those more adaptable. This process of natural selection is in the heart of today's Theory of Evolution and is the basis of the explanation of biodiversity. However, further scientific knowledge prompts how human kind slipped off from it, from the intraspecific competition and the limitations of the demographic growth. The biologic individual evolves in a social environment featuring technological achievements and supra-biologic needs, adaptive behaviour capacities, showing his confidence that he