# 'Human Doubling Doubled in Past 80 Years'

By H. D. QUIGG
United Press International

New York (UPI) – Tick-tick-tick-tick-tick-tick . . .

The average wristwatch beats along at 18,000 ticks an hour. In the passing of each second, it ticks five times. And in that same second, three more human beings are born on this planet.

At the present estimated rate, each year 100 million babies arrive and about 50 million people die – a yearly gain of about 50 million. Each year another Italy.

Not long before the day last fall when the Russians began loosing megaton blasts in a breach of the moratorium on nuclear testing, humankind of this earth scurried past a milestone toward which it had been moving for at least 200,000 years, perhaps a million years.

**Three Billion People**

This was the moment when, suddenly, there were 3 billion of us.

Yellow men, black men, bronze, mocha, pink and white men. And women. And children. The world population had hit 3 billion – but in the very next minute, there were 190 births and only half that many deaths.

It took us all of human history to multiply ourselves to that fertility milestone. And yet, if the present compound-interest growth increase rate keeps up, we will double again in only 38 years and explode upon the 21st century, at the end of 1999, with more than 6 billion human souls alive on earth. The projected rate by that time would double us to 12 billion in only 27 years.

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High in the green-glass walled skyscraper that houses the United Nations secretariat, the U. N. statistical office sits behind big windows affording a magnificent view–on days when the man-polluted air is scrubbed clear enough to see through – of the city (pop. density 24,697 harried New Yorkers per square mile).

From that office, this month, will come the official word that the humanity count – it's really an estimate, since half the births and about a third of the deaths are not registered–has passed 3 billion.

The quarterly "population and vital statistics report" for July, which takes a year to check on the world, will contain the figure for 1961 midyear: 3,060.8 million.

Suppose a decision should be made that this is enough, that 3 billion is as big a human hive as this earth could hold. So will we populate other planets, send the surplus migrating to new worlds? If a rocket took off every hour on the hour, day and night, each one would have to carry 5,707 passengers. That's the present rate of world growth per hour.

This is the "population explosion," which some voices of opinion now are ranking second only to control of atomic weapons as a threat to human existence. Others say it is preposterous to project the present world growth over a long period. It's now 1.7 per cent a year.

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About two out of every three babies born at present will live long enough to have babies of their own. And at least two-thirds of all babies born each year are in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the underdeveloped areas. Their birth rate has remained high and science has spectacularly cut the death rate, particularly infant mortality.

In the underdeveloped countries at least 40 per cent of the population is under 15 years of age, according to the French authority Alfred Sauvy. That's compared with 20 to 30 per cent in western countries. So the underdeveloped countries have a smaller proportion of productive workers, and the dependency load is greater on those who do work.

A country that has a population growth of 2 to 3 per cent a year–as a great many of these underdeveloped lands do – must spend up to 10 per cent of its national income just to keep its living standard from going down.

Prof. Sauvy is on the population commission of the U.N. and holds the chair of social demography at the College de France. His book "Fertility and Survival: Population Problems from Malthus to Mao Tse-tung" recently was translated and published here.

In it he discusses whether underdeveloped countries can depend on savings of their poor for national development:

"In all these countries, income is very low, often lower than $95 a year per person; this income (or rather this produce) is seldom enough even for purely physiological needs. How then, or by what magic, can this undernourished and debilitated man renounce part of his vital food and that of his children?

Sauvy expects the tremendous spurt of population in the underdeveloped regions to continue for at least another generation and says their living standards must be improved: "It would be inhuman and dangerous to allow human beings to multiply in wretchedness."

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When John D. Rockefeller III, chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation, told a Rome meeting of the U.N. food and agricultural organization that population growth ranked next to A-bomb control as "the paramount problem of mankind," The New York Times said the statement was incontrovertibly true, as of today.

But it added in an editorial: "Judging, however, by the explosive rate at which population is increasing in the underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the time may soon come when even the control of atomic weapons may be second to population growth . . ."

Those three regions between 1950 and 1957 accounted for more than 77 per cent of the estimated world increase. Some of their countries are hitting 3 and 3.5 per cent yearly increases, compared with 1.7 world average. Estimated increases to the year 2000 would give the three areas more than 5.5 billion people out of the expected world total of 6.2 to 7 billion.

The following estimates show the increases for the span of years 1950-2000 (in millions); Latin America, 163-650; Africa, 199-663; Asia, 1,380-4,250.

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The study of populations is called demography. What has inspired demographers to phrases like "demographic revolution" is the speed-up in the rate of population increase in this century. As Sir Julian Huxley put it: "The rate of human doubling has been doubled in the last 80 years."

Sauvy calls this sudden "rapid growth in numbers" a new factor that has come to our planet. In a few centuries the world has gone from an increase rate of 0.5 per cent to today's 1.7, a rise of more than 200 per cent. The U. N. "medium assumption" is that world population might grow at 2.1 per cent between 1950 and 1975 and almost 2.6 between 1976 and 2000. The first rate would double the populace every 33 years; the second, every 27.

To dramatize what even a steady 1 per cent rate would do, Philip M. Hauser, chairman of the University of Chicago sociology department, wrote in the magazine Science:

**Contemporary Population**

"One hundred persons multiplying at 1 per cent per year, not over the period of 200,000 to 1 million years of man's occupancy of this globe but merely for the 5000 years of human history, would have produced a contemporary population of 2.7 billion persons per square foot of land surface of the earth!"

It has been pointed out by those who argue that the world is easily able to support expanding populations that if you could put the world's whole 3 billion population into the United States, it still wouldn't be any more crowded than the Netherlands is now. Holland's population density is 916 per square mile and the Dutch aren't complaining.

But a demographer has figured out that if the present rate of U.S. growth (1.8 per cent) continued steady for 800 years, there would be one person for every square foot in the country. And he added that 800 years isn't very long in a demographer's reckoning.

**Welter of Figures**

Through the welter of figures on the subject of population there has swirled for several decades a sometimes bitter controversy in religious groups about birth control. But the emotionalism apparently has tended to obscure major areas of agreement.

Catholics, Protestants, and Jews generally are in agreement that serious social and economic problems can occur. As the Rev. John A. O'Brien of Notre Dame University has observed, the three groups agree on the "objectives of family planning but disagree over the methods to be used."

Students of population-increase emphasize the danger to quality.

Robert C. Cook, president of the Population Reference bureau, a private organization, says the greatest hope now is that technology – the expansion of science that brought, in a sense, death-control and thus set off the population explosion – now can control fertility.

"Essential to this is an understanding of basic arithmetic – that numbers per se are the enemy of quality of living – that people who improvidently worship the stork doom their children and their children's children to poverty and despair."

Julian Huxley, keynoting a series in the British magazine Punch on "The Crowded World," said the explosion posed the fundamental question of human destiny – what are people for?

"Surely," he wrote, "people do not exist just to provide bomb-fodder for an atomic bonfire, or religion-fodder for rival churches, or cannon-fodder for rival nations, or disease-fodder for rival parasites, or labor-fodder for rival economic systems, or ideology-fodder for rival political system, or even consumer-fodder for profit-making systems.

"It cannot be their destiny to exist in ever larger megalopolitan sprawls, cut off from contact with nature and from the sense of human community and condemned to increasing frustrations, noise, mechanical routine, traffic congestion and endless commuting; nor to live out their undernourished lives in some squalid Asian or African village.

"Man's dominant aim must be increase in quality – quality of human personality, of achievement, of works of art and craftsmanship, of inner experience, of quality of life and living in general. But the inordinate growth of human numbers bars the way to any such desirable revolution, produces increasing frustration instead of greater fulfillment."

He called for a world population policy, under the U.N.

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It has been said that the leaders of some of the newly independent nations look with pride on their ballooning populations because numbers mean national power.

But lack of economic development and skill come in too.

The four biggest nations total more than half the world's population. The forthcoming U.N. report will list them, as of mid-1961, with these figures: U. S. A., 183,650,000; U.S.S.R., 218,000,000; India, 440,316,000; Mainland China – well, the latest is a semi-official guess back in 1958 of 680,000,000 and some say Red China must be nearing 700 million.

**Food Supply Growing**

The world food supply is growing at more than 2 per cent a year and it can be upped drastically. But there is a great diversity of opinion about how much it can be increased and what top size of world population should be.

Huxley says it should be a little less than it is right now. The Catholic Digest has quoted Oxford university economist - demographer Colin Clark as saying that "with common sense development and production, the world can comfortably accommodate about 60 billion people."

A British food and population specialist, Edward Hyams, wrote in Punch that "every minute about 6 hundredweight of a finite supply of (eatable) matter is being reorganized into human bodies" and that the ultimate result is that all suitable elements at present in the earth's crust and in animals and vegetables will be converted into humanity. But he said we can – if we buckle down to it – hold our own in the food race for a long time.

The top population limit, he guesses, probably would be about 15 billion: "That limit having been reached, there is no solution short of cannibalism."

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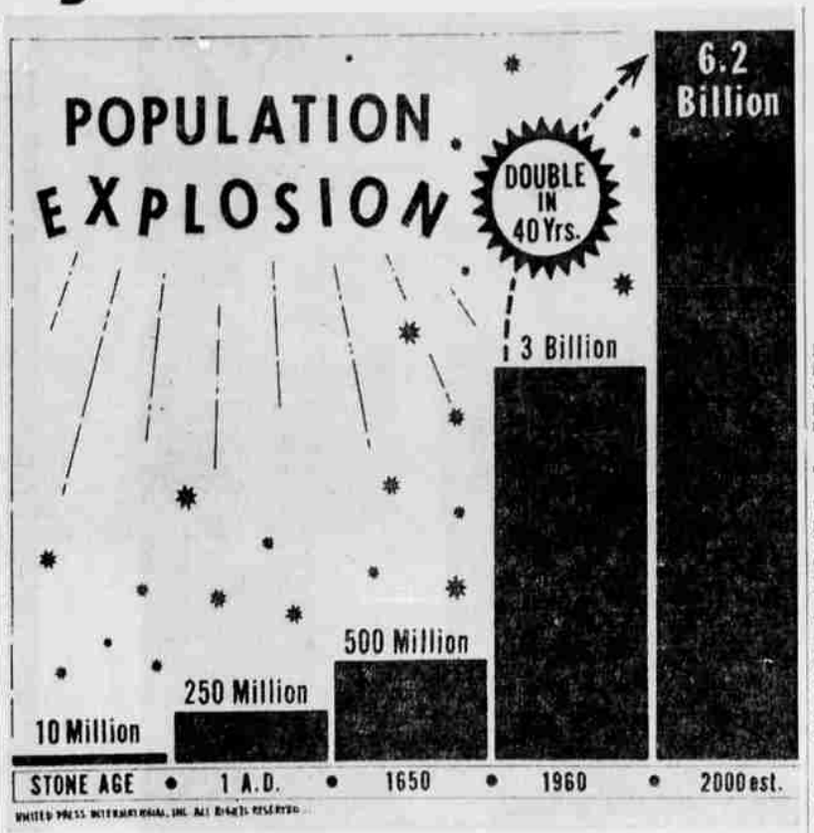
The word "explode" combines the Latin words for "off" and "applaud." The original meaning of explode was "to drive from the stage by noisy disapproval; to hoot off." If the world is indeed a stage, as Shakespeare called it, and the men and women players, some authorities believe their last dramatic act might be to explode themselves right off the stage by fondly reproducing their like.

Eugene R. Black, president of the World bank, wrote a foreword to the recent report on the population explosion made by the center for economic international growth. He said the "surging increase of people:

". . . Threatens directly the success of the greatest enterprise of our day – the international development effort which is attempting to provide tolerable living standards to the two-thirds of mankind which is now almost always in want."

In 1962, one billion persons live under communism. Half a billion live in the industrial countries of the West, including Australia and Japan. The other 1.5 billion – with shrinking elbowroom and bitter food problems – occupy half the problems – occupy half the globe's land and these are the contested people of the cold war.




POPULATION ON THE LOOSE — This chart by UPI shows estimated growth of the world's population since the Stone Age. At the current rate of increase, the world's population would be near 6.2 billion by the year 2,000. (UPI)

## Concerts Planned During Festival

Ashland – Theater - goers at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival in Ashland will again be invited to concerts on alternate Sundays sponsored by the Festival association and performed by the Festival musicians.

Patterned around an Elizabethan theme, the popular concert series is scheduled this afternoon, Aug. 5, Aug. 19, and Sept. 2.

Today the Festival musicians under the direction of W. Bernard Windt will present a varied program which will include "Pastorale" (Vivaldi), "Gardens in the Rain" (Debussy), "French Suite in G" (Bach) as well as other works by Mozart, Bach and Beethoven in addition to assorted Madrigal singing selections.

Singers participating in the Sunday concerts are Willa Warren, Carol Hendrick, Everett Winter, and Roy Bogosin. Musicians performing are Shanne Crouch, Sue Ann Rutherford, Marilyn Baker, Lucille Mellnat, Judy Bjorlie, Lyn Sohler, and W. B. Windt.

The Sunday concert series is held bi-weekly in the old Presbyterian church building in Ashland starting at 3:30 p.m.

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- MACHINERY and equipment should always be kept in good repair, and used with guards and safety devices in position.
- CLOTHING that is loose-fitting or torn should never be worn around moving machinery.
- GUNS should always be stored unloaded, and put where children can't get at them.
- WATER HOLES on your property are a potential danger to children . . . they should be fenced off to prevent mishaps.
- BUILDINGS and your home should be kept in good repair at all times, with all safety hazards carefully eliminated.
- FIRE HAZARDS are everywhere . . . be careful with matches . . . don't smoke around the barn!
- ANIMALS may bolt if startled; warn them of your presence by speaking before approaching.
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