








CHAPTER 42


FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF BIOSPHERIC RESOURCES: HOW WILL HUMANS FRAME THEIR WORLD VIEWS?

 **TO UNDERSTAND THE EVENTS OF THE NEXT 50 YEARS, ONE MUST FIRST AND FOREMOST UNDERSTAND ENVIRONMENTAL SCARCITY OR “DIMINISHING NATURAL RESOURCES.”¹**

-  **Biospheric resources, such as grain, are at record breaking high prices, which also increase livestock prices.²**
-  **Global climate change (e.g., global warming, altered rainfall, droughts) already adversely affects regeneration of renewable resources.**
-  **Human population is growing exponentially while renewable resource regeneration is declining.**
-  **No political infrastructure exists that has the authority to address global resource crises.**

 ***“NATURE IS TRYING VERY HARD TO MAKE US SUCCEED, BUT NATURE DOES NOT DEPEND ON US. WE ARE NOT THE ONLY EXPERIMENT.”³***


 ***“THE GREEKS RIOTED IN RESPONSE TO ‘AUSTERITY MEASURES’ — BUT TO NO AVAIL. THE EARTH RUNS THE SHOW.”⁴***






***“TO BE UNCERTAIN IS TO
BE UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT
TO BE CERTAIN IS TO BE
RIDICULOUS.”*** Chinese Proverb








***“YOU CANNOT DEVALUE THE BODY
AND VALUE THE SOUL — OR
ANYTHING ELSE . . . CONTEMPT FOR
THE BODY IS INVARIABLY
MANIFESTED IN CONTEMPT FOR
OTHER BODIES — THE BODIES OF
SLAVES, LABOURERS, WOMEN,
ANIMALS, PLANTS, THE EARTH
ITSELF.”⁵***



 ***“DINOSAURS DOMINATED THE EARTH WELL BEFORE HUMANITY AND SURVIVED OVER 150 MILLION YEARS. HUMANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR ABOUT 3 MILLION YEARS. NATURE DESTROYED THEM [the dinosaurs], ARE WE NEXT? SOMETHING MUST BE DONE SOON BECAUSE ‘NATURE BATS LAST!’”⁶***


-  ***“The technical term for understanding within the cognitive sciences is ‘framing.’ [Humans] think, mostly unconsciously, in terms of systems of structure called ‘frames’ . . . the frame circuitry in our brains doesn’t change overnight.”⁷***
-  **The way humanity frames its present circumstances, climate change, and scientific evidence of the probability of future changes will strongly affect the survival of *Homo sapiens*.**
-  **Realistic framing was less important when resources were abundant relative to human population size. However, in an era of resource scarcity, realistic framing is essential.**




IF ECOLOGICAL OVERSHOOT IS NOT ELIMINATED, THE PRESENT BIOSPHERE WILL COLLAPSE, AS DID FIVE PREVIOUS BIOSPHERES, AND HUMAN CIVILIZATION WILL PROBABLY NOT SURVIVE.

-  **Option #1 — Continue business as usual and hope someone or something (technology) will save humanity.**
-  **Option #2 — Humanity could try living frugally within the resources available in each nation and share limited resources with compassion until the human population is at or below carrying capacity.**
-  **Option #3 — Forget the common good and let the “winners” take all.**
-  **Option #4 — When on the Titanic, one might as well go first class — not very good news for posterity.**

 **THE HUMAN PREDICAMENT CAN BE DESCRIBED IN A FEW WORDS: “*TOO SMART FOR OUR OWN GOOD . . . AND TOO DUMB TO CHANGE.*”⁸**

-  For example: “*. . . climate change causes 400,000 deaths on average each year, primarily due to hunger and communicable diseases. Separately, fossil fuels and the activities that support such a carbon-intensive energy system cause an estimated 4.5 million deaths each year linked to air pollution, hazardous occupations and cancer.*”⁹
-  “*Economic losses in 2030 of China, India and the United States alone will collectively total \$2.5 trillion and more than 3 million death[s] per year, or half of all mortality . . .*”⁹

 **UNTIL THE NINE INTERACTIVE THREATS^{10,11}
TO THE PRESENT BIOSPHERE ARE
ELIMINATED, HUMANITY WILL REMAIN AT
HIGH RISK, AS WILL THE MILLIONS OF OTHER
SPECIES THAT EVOLVED IN THE PRESENT
BIOSPHERE.**


-  **How much scientific evidence will it take to counter the effective news activities of the “merchants of doubt”?¹²**
-  **How much additional human misery will it take to awaken reason and compassion?**
-  **Must the present Biosphere collapse before humanity realizes that the human economy is a subset of the present Biosphere?**


HUMANITY'S ANCIENT TRIBAL ANCESTORS PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE HABITATS FROM WHICH THEY OBTAINED THE RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR THEIR SURVIVAL — IF THEY HAD NOT, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED.

- 🌐 Tribal ancestors were far from perfect since they drove some megafauna to extinction by over hunting.
- 🌐 However, *Homo sapiens* managed to live sustainably for approximately 200,000 years.
- 🌐 The six other species in the genus *Homo* lived sustainably for approximately 4 million years.
- 🌐 Living sustainably was accomplished in the Edo (now Tokyo) period in Japan from 1603 to about 1847.
- 🌐 *Homo sapiens* may still live sustainably if strong actions are taken immediately.

 ***“MORE THAN 99 PERCENT OF ALL SPECIES THAT HAVE LIVED ON EARTH ARE NOW EXTINCT.”***

(<http://dsc.discovery.com>)

 **If humanity's world view is not congruent with the universal laws of physics, chemistry, and biology, catastrophic consequences will follow.**

 A SPECIES WITH A GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION (I.E., *HOMO SAPIENS*) MUST DEVELOP A WORLD VIEW BASED ON THE HEALTH AND INTEGRITY OF THE PRESENT BIOSPHERE — THE SOURCE OF RENEWABLE RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.

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