

# A Primer on Population

BOOK REVIEW BY JOHN F. ROHE

Every generation of readers is benefitted with a lesson on population dynamics. Preferably, the lesson will be neatly packaged in plain English.

This book offers information on population dynamics in an engaging style. There are no intimidating charts, no convoluted equations, and no undefined terms. Just straight talk on how fertility and immigration multiplies the numbers. The author, Edward C. Hartman, also examines the underlying root causes of the ongoing population explosion in the United States.

If you have been following the literature on the population/immigration movement for many years, this book will offer a refreshing approach. *The Population Fix* might be just the right form of relief to send a friend or family member on the road to recovery.

*The Population Fix* introduces the reader to carrying capacity issues. It enables the reader to instinctively correlate highway gridlock, polluted waters, and urban sprawl with population pressures. The author maintains a keen gaze on the uninitiated in this work.

Hartman's leading qualification in writing this book is his immodest status as a grandfather in California. Twenty-eight years in the telecommunications industry and in the financial services business provide a world of experience from which to draw wisdom. Life has exposed Hartman to the symptoms of population growth. The book explains a coherent and accessible series of population concerns. They lead the reader to an unavoidable conclusion: overpopulation threatens

---

*John F. Rohe is an attorney in Petoskey, Michigan with a long-standing concern for the environment and a frequent Contributor to The Social Contract.*

every facet of life on the planet.

In her Foreword, Diana Hull, president of Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS) asks: "Do Americans have the right—and the responsibility—to determine America's ultimate population?" She enthusiastically recommends this book.

Hartman frames thought-provoking population-related questions. For example, will the next wave of illegal workers rush to fill the void left by yesterday's amnestied illegal workers? In 1913, each

member of the House of Representatives spoke for 200,000 constituents. Today, each speaks for 690,000. Where will this end? Will the

addition of more workers today save Social Security tomorrow? Or, will it only add the weight of more retirees later?

Hartman hopes to build an army of "populationists." As the protagonist in Hartman's work, the "populationist" impulsively correlates population pressures with overcrowded schools, highway bonds, environmental hazards, and urban sprawl. The "populationist" learns to identify population growth addicts, such as food processors, bankers, home builders, and cheap labor advocates. The book draws a direct parallel with "other addictions." This addiction includes a team of "enablers," such as Congress, the mortgage industry, sanctuary supporters, growth-oriented economists, the elites, and even certain environmental organizations like the Sierra Club.

Among the "victims" of population growth addicts, Hartman includes the motorists on congested highways, the employees competing for lower wages, energy users, home buyers, students, taxpayers, water users, and the wildlife lost to sprawl.

In our enduring quest to determine an optimum national population, Edward C. Hartman sets forth a helpful frame of reference. ■

---

## **The Population Fix: Breaking America's Addiction to Population Growth**

by Edward C. Hartman

Think Population Press, 2006

238 pages, \$24.50

---

