

Preface xiii

Chapter 1

Population, Resources, Environment: Dimensions of the Human Predicament

The Essence of the Predicament	2
Interactions: Resources, Economics, and Politics	2
Interactions: Technology, Environment, and Well-Being	4
The Prospects: Two Views	5

SECTION I

NATURAL PROCESSES AND HUMAN WELL-BEING 7

Chapter 2

The Physical World 11

Earth's Solid Surface and Below 14

The Hydrosphere	21
Atmosphere and Climate	32

Chapter 3	Nutrient Cycles 67
Dynamics of Nutrient Cycling	68
Chemistry of Nutrient Cycles	70
Cycles of the Principal Nutrients	73
Other Nutrients and Geographical Variations	92

Chapter 4	Populations and Ecosystems 97
Population Dynamics	98
Natural Selection and Evolution	122
Community Ecology	128
Biomes	145
Freshwater Habitats	160
Marine Habitats	161
Ecological Models	170

SECTION II POPULATION AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES 177

Chapter 5	The History and Future of the Human Population 181
Population Growth	181
Demographic Projections and Population Structure	202
Population Distribution and Movement	227

Chapter 6	Land, Water, and Forests 247
Land	247
Water	257
Forests	272
The Taken-for-Granted Resources	278

Chapter 7	A Hungry World 283
The Production of Food	284
The Dimensions of World Hunger	290
The Distribution of Food	297
Expanding the Harvest	328
Food from the Sea	352
New and Unconventional Food Sources	370
Should We Be Pessimistic?	376

SECTION III ENERGY AND MATERIALS 387**Chapter 8 Energy 391**

- Size and Sources of Contemporary Energy Use 393
- Growth and Change in Energy Flows 396
- Energy Resources: Supplies, Depletion, Limits 400
- Energy Technology 411
- Energy Use and Conservation 489
- Perspectives on the Energy Problem 498

Chapter 9 Materials 515

- Materials Use: Flows and Stocks 516
- Prospects for New Mineral Supplies 522
- Augmenting Resources: Recycling, Substitution, Low-Grade Ores 525
- Conclusions 530

SECTION IV UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL DISRUPTION 535**Chapter 10 Direct Assaults on Well-Being 541**

- Air Pollution 542
- Water Pollution 556
- Pesticides and Related Compounds 561
- Trace Metals 567
- Fluorides 575
- Chemical Mutagens 575
- Ionizing Radiation 579
- The Environment and Cancer 586
- Noise Pollution 596
- The Work Environment 597
- Geological Hazards 600
- The Human Environment 601
- The Epidemiological Environment 606

Chapter 11 Disruption of Ecological Systems 621

- Modifying Ecosystems 623
- Pollutants in Ecosystems 629
- Atmosphere and Climate 672
- Thermonuclear Warfare 690
- Ecological Accounting 691

**SECTION V THE HUMAN PREDICAMENT:
FINDING A WAY OUT 711**

Chapter 12 Humanity at the Crossroads 715

- The Optimum Population 716
- Understanding the Web of Responsibility:
The First Step to Solutions 719
- The Prospects 730

Chapter 13 Population Policies 737

- Family Planning 738
- Population Policies in Developed Countries 745
- Population Policies in Less Developed Nations 761
- Motivation 776
- Population Control: Direct Measures 783
- Population Control and Development 789

Chapter 14 Changing American Institutions 805

- Religion 806
- Science and Technology 813
- Medicine 823
- Education 824
- The Legal System 829
- Business, Labor, and Advertising 840
- Economic and Political Change 843
- Some Targets for Early Change 858
- A Question of Goals 873

**Chapter 15 Rich Nations, Poor Nations,
and International Conflict 885**

- Rich World, Poor World 887
- Population, Resources, and War 908
- Helping the Poor: A Problem in Ethics 920
- Inventing a Better Future 924
- International Controls: The Global Commons 939

Chapter 16 Summary 953

- Cornucopians Versus Neo-Malthusians 953
- Defects in the Cornucopian Vision 954
- Alternative Approaches to Technology and Well-Being 955
- Epilogue 957

Appendix 1 World Demography 959

Appendix 2 Food and Nutrition 967

Appendix 3 Pesticides 979

Appendix 4 Reproduction and Birth Control 988

Acknowledgments 1001

Index of Subjects 1005

Index of Names 1029