

POPULATION GROWTH

Facts and events

The African youth boom : what's worrying Bill Gates

- Africa will soon face a serious population issue and Bill Gates thinks that we need invest in Africa because ignoring Africa can be a threat for the entire world
- Africa will have to multiply its food productivity because by the end of the century there will be 3 billion more people in Africa

Natality policies refer to state intervention concerning birth control :

- Such policies can either be pro- natalist or anti-natalist → the one-child policy in China introduced in 1978.
- More drastic measures such as coerced sterilisation were taken in Asia in the 1970s.
- Pro-natalist policies include schemes or laws that encourage people to procreate. Longer maternity leaves for women and family allowance can be considered as incentives. As recently as 2016, posters in Italy reading "Beauty knows no age...Fertility does" were put up by the government to promote natality.

Human activity has a huge impact on the environmental situation :

- In China, the activity of industries has dropped over the last few weeks because of the coronavirus outbreak and the quarantine measures. As a consequence, the air quality improved and people can breathe without wearing masks because of the pollution.

Ted conference- Hans Rosling :

- Religion isn't the real factor of population growth; to have fewer babies: Be out of deepest poverty, have an access to family planning, children must survive (political stability in the country) women's education
- Some figures: Average number of children per woman = 2.4

The Guardian :

- Megacities aren't a problem for population growth, they could be a solution ; Average in India 2.4 then in Mumbai 1.4 and in Delhi 1.6 In cities : easier to set up public transport + too expensive to have children == People have more babies in the countryside where children are considered as workforce
- Overpopulation is a red herring, consumption is the problem If we lived the lifestyle of an Indian villager, we could be 12 billion, but if we lived like an American upper- middle-class, 2 billion people would be unsustainable

Questions

Is sustainable development the most efficient way to improve the current environmental situation ?

Is population growth responsible for environmental issues ?

Should we rethink development to spare nature ?

Arguments

Is there a viable future for 10 billion people?

→ **Resources problems**, consume like western people → 3 planets ⇒ Reduce our consumption ex : Control our impulse buying, (**ex.: sales periods**)

→ **Environmental issues**, greenhouse gases ⇒ imperative to reduce them ex : Consume local, **T-Shirt Propre** is a French company which manufactures clothes with sustainable and local

resources

Vocabulary

a red herring = *Leurre*

to vanish = *Disparaître*

a boon = *Une Aubaine*

the pinnacle = *L'apogée*

to step in = *Intervenir*

scarce = *Rare*

shrinkage = *Pertes, rétrécissement* / to shrink = *réduire*

deplete = *épuiser*

degrowth = *décroissance*

countryside = *campagne*

sustain = *durer*

starvation = *famine*

to tend to = *avoir tendance à*

to soar = *augmenter très vite*

to peak = *atteindre une limite* / reach = *atteindre*

aging = *vieillissement*

financial incentives = *motivations financières*

rate = *taux*

slum = *bidonville*