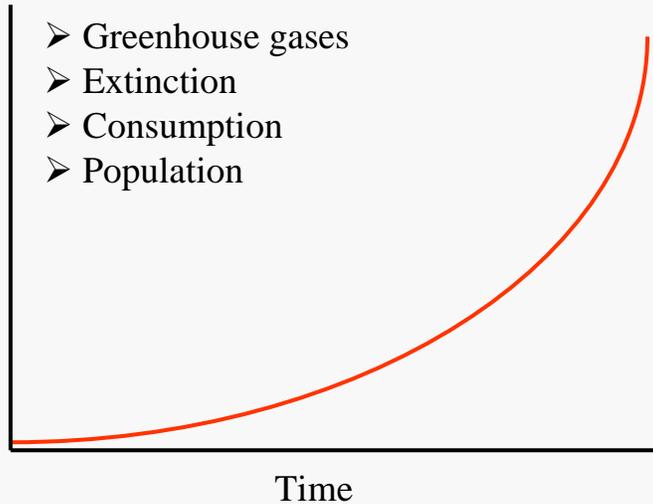


Four spikes*

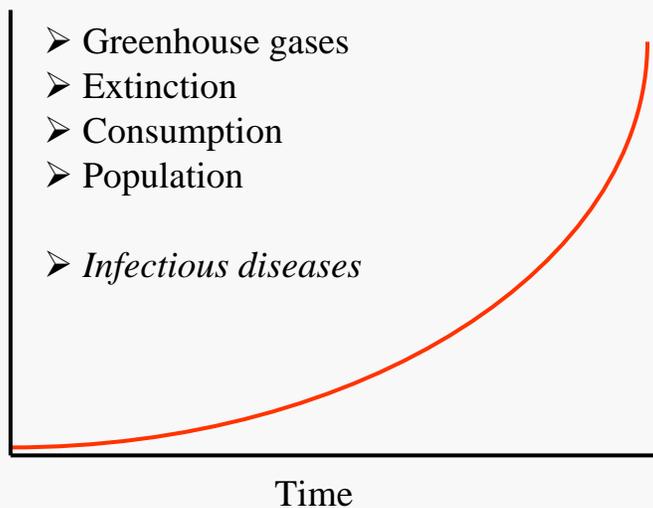
- Greenhouse gases
- Extinction
- Consumption
- Population



*Ed Ayres (1999, *God's Last Offer*)

Emerging spike?

- Greenhouse gases
- Extinction
- Consumption
- Population
- *Infectious diseases*



Pessimism?

“There is no point to intellectual and political work if one were a pessimist. Intellectual and political work require, nay, demand, optimism.”*

Air pollution
Water pollution
Ozone depletion
Veal consumption

*Edward Said (quoted by Joseph Massad, 2003, *Al-Ahram*)

Greenhouse gases

Outcomes

- Temperature
 - Precipitation
 - Altered ecosystems
- } e.g., Katrina, Rita

Sources

- CO₂—fossil fuels
- Methane
- CFCs
- NO_x

Solutions

- Kyoto et al.
- Energy policy
- Individual actions

GH gases—individual actions

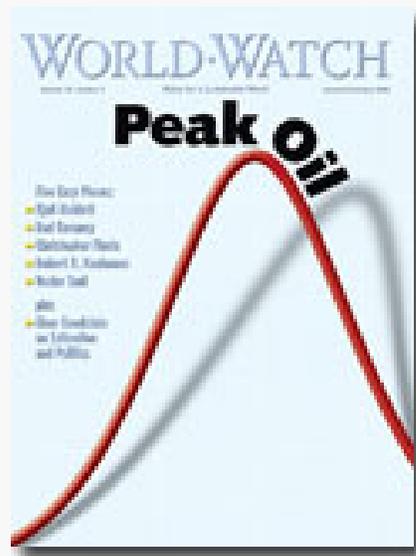
- Transportation
- Energy

Nietzsche's *Übermensch*

GH gases—individual actions

- Transportation
- Energy

Nietzsche's *Übermensch*



Greenhouse gases

Outcomes

- Temperature
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Sources

- CO₂—fossil fuels
- Methane
- CFCs
- NO_x

Solutions

- Kyoto et al.
 - Energy policy
 - Individual actions
- Runaway Greenhouse**

Extinction

Outcomes

- Reduced ecosystem services (valued at \$33 trillion/year, late 1990s)
- Reduced inspiration
- Reduced flexibility
- Reduced beauty

Drivers

- Loss of habitat
- Ecological footprint
- Homogenization

Solutions

- \$30 billion* (~70%)
- Individual actions

*E.O. Wilson (2002, *The Future of Life*)

Extinction—individual actions

- Support conservation organizations
- Reduce ecological footprint (1% → 40%)
- Lifestyle change (as if lives depended on it)



Consumption

Consume:

1. To do away with completely; destroy
- 2a. To spend wastefully; squander
- 2b. Use up
3. To waste or burn away; perish

Consumption

Outcomes

- Intergenerational inequity
- Distinct social classes
- Economic “growth”

Drivers

- Neoclassical economics
- Marketing
- Human desire

Solutions

- Steady-state economy
- Shift subsidies
- Individual actions

Hard-wired for simplicity

Flight or fight (i.e., survival)

Procreation

Acquisition

Neoclassical economics

“It’s the economy, stupid”*

Goal of economic growth
is never questioned

Positive discount rate
devalues future

*James Carville (Clinton administration)

Consumption

Outcomes

- Intergenerational inequity
- Distinct social classes
- Economic growth

Drivers

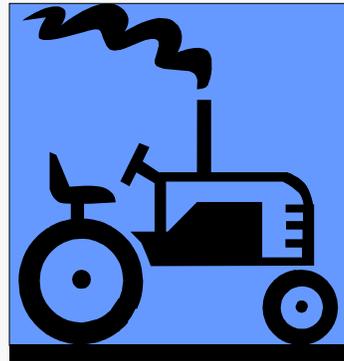
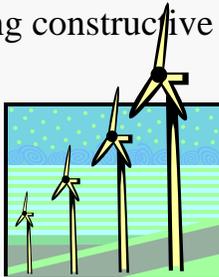
- Neoclassical economics
- Human desires
- Marketing

Solutions

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- Shift subsidies
- Individual actions

Consumption—shift subsidies

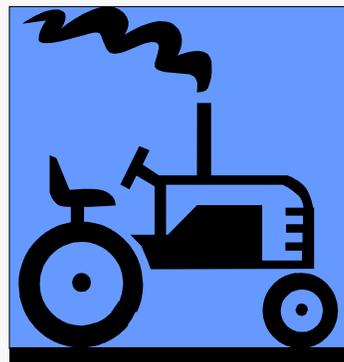
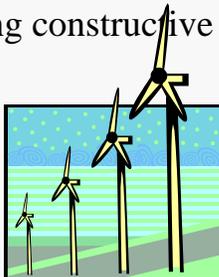
- Prices reflect total cost (e.g., gasoline > \$8/gal; coal ~ \$0.60/Kwh vs. solar ~ \$0.05/Kwh and wind ~ \$0.03/Kwh)*
- Stop subsidizing destructive practices
- Begin subsidizing constructive practices



*Lester Brown (2006, *Plan B 2.0*)

Consumption—shift subsidies

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*Lester Brown (2006, *Plan B 2.0*)

Peak Oil

Consumption—individual actions

- Reduce/Reuse/Recycle
- Think globally, eat locally
- Re-connect with nature



Consumption—individual actions

- Reduce/Reuse/Recycle
- Think globally, eat locally
- Re-connect with nature



Human population

Outcomes

- Increased demands on ecosystem services
- Reduced quality of life
- Underlies other forces

Drivers

- Natural selection
- Individualist ethic
- Denial

Solutions

- Socioeconomic policies
- Revised worldview
- Individual actions

Denial?

Human population can grow
“for the next 7 billion years”*

*Myers & Simon (1994, *Scarcity or Abundance: A Debate on the Environment*)

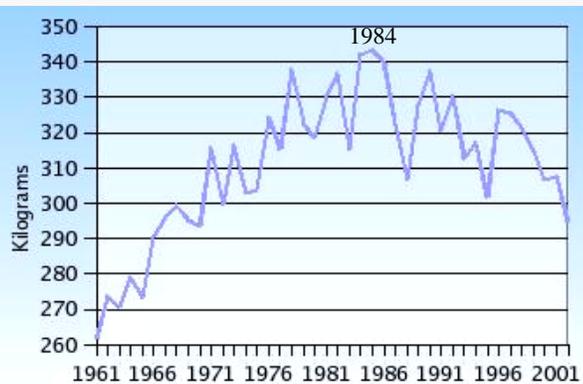
The energy myth

Biosphere II – unlimited energy, human carrying capacity of 6-8*

Global carrying capacity of 6-9 billion hard-working vegetarians

*Odum and Odum (2001, *A Prosperous Way Down*)

Global food supply



Per Capita Grain Production*

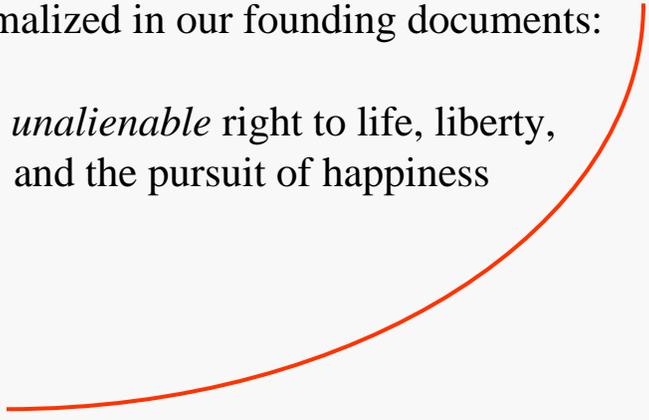


*Worldwatch Institute (2003, *Vital Signs*)

Individualistic ethic

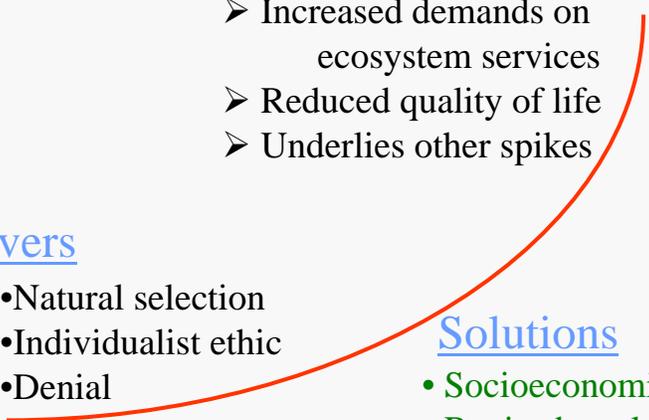
Formalized in our founding documents:

e.g., *unalienable* right to life, liberty,
and the pursuit of happiness



Human population

Outcomes

- Increased demands on ecosystem services
 - Reduced quality of life
 - Underlies other spikes
- 

Drivers

- Natural selection
- Individualist ethic
- Denial

Solutions

- Socioeconomic policies
- Revised worldview
- Individual actions

Population—individual actions

- Minimize reproductive output
- Support alternative lifestyles
- Find community



Population—two paths

Stabilizing population

- Decrease fertility
- Increase mortality



Population—two paths

Stabilizing population

- Peak Oil**
- Decrease fertility
 - Increase mortality



U.S. expenditures, world needs*

Military: >\$500 billion/yr

International aid: \$10 billion/yr

Needed to reach basic social goals:
\$68 billion/yr

- Education
- Nutrition
- Health care
- Reproductive services

*Lester Brown (2006, *Plan B 2.0*)

Envisioning the future

- Environmental protection
- Social justice
- Human economy
- Building design, livable space

Conservation biologists
Political scientists
Sociologists
Anthropologists
Economists
Environmental scientists

Engineers
Architects
Urban planners
Artists
Philosophers

Envisioning the future

Suppose you had had the revolution ..., and you had the kind of society you wanted. How would you live, you personally, in that society? Start living that way now. When you run up against obstacles, people, or things that won't let you live that way, then begin to think about how to get over or around or under that obstacle, or how to push it out of the way, and your politics will be concrete and practical.*



*Paul Goodman (1970, quoted by John Holt, *What Do I Do Monday?*)