Recommended Reading "*Homo sapiens:* Clever But Seldom Wise" 3/18/2018

Brannen, Peter, 2017. The Ends of the World: Volcanic Apocalypses, Lethal Oceans, and Our Quest to Understand Earth's Past Mass Extinctions - a tour of the "Big Five": what they can tell us about our not-too-distant future and what steps we might take to mitigate anthropogenic CO2 driven climate change

Butler, Tom, ed., 2015. Overdevelopment, Overpopulation, Overshoot - a coffee-table-sized photoessay which dramatically illustrates the enormity of the human enterprise, punctuated by brief, pertinent quotations from Kenneth Boulding, Albert Bartlett, Paul and Anne Ehrlich, Edward Abbey, Wendell Berry, and many others.. Highly recommended as a convincing new way to comprehend the impacts of human population size and consumption on the planet, Beautiful, but not for the faint of heart! Online version can be viewed at Global Population Speakout.

Diamond, Jared, 2005. Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed - Diamond identifies five factors that have contributed to collapse of human civilizations: climate change, hostile neighbors, collapse of essential trading partners, environmental problems and failure to live within the limits of the local carrying capacity

Dilworth, Craig, 2009. Too Smart for Our Own Good: The Ecological Predicament of Humankind - taking up where Darwin left off on human evolution, Dilworth argues that our ecologically disruptive behavior is rooted in our very nature as a species. Through his invention, the "Vicious Circle Principle" (VCP), he describes how scarcity/need leads to technological development, which leads to population growth, which leads to more scarcity/need - and around again.

Dumanowski, Dianne, 2009. The End of the Long Summer: Why We Must Remake Our Civilization to Survive on a Volatile Earth. Earth's stable climate has allowed human civilization to flourish, but this long benign "summer" is an anomaly in geologic history and rapidly coming to an end, in large part the result of human activity. Contrary to the widespread belief that climate change will be gradual, Dumanoski points out that earth's climate system has a history of radical shifts that could easily result in the collapse of human civilization as we know it.

Hansen, James, 2009. Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity - One of the nation's leading climate scientists warns that the planet is speeding even more rapidly than acknowledged to a point of no return. Hansen argues that we must phase out all coal and achieve a goal of 350 ppm CO2 if our descendants are to avoid global meltdown and storms of catastrophic proportions.

Harari, Yuval Noah, 2015. Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind - the Cognitive, Agricultural, and Industrial Revolutions have resulted in the single, planet-wide human "Superorganism" which is our modern *Homo sapiens* society. Myths and fictions - especially money, religions, and empires - have bound small foraging bands of ancestral *Homo* species, allowing them to live in fixed cities and states, expanded in numbers to the current 7.7 B

_____, 2016. Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow - Artificial Intelligence could transform human nature by uncoupling intelligence from consciousness. Organisms are algorithms and as such *H. sapiens* may no longer dominate in a world were "dataism" is the paradigm because the algorithms we have created can process data far more efficiently than we can.

Hardin, Garrett, 1986. Filters Against Folly - shows how the the filters of *literacy* (understanding what words really mean), *numeracy* (being able to quantify and interpret numerical information), and *ecolacy* (ecological assessment of the effects of complex interactions over time - asking the "...and then what?" question) - can help us make sensible judgments about ecological issues

_____, 1993. Living Within Limits: Ecology, Economics, and Population Taboos - focuses on the neglected problem of overpopulation, making the argument for accepting the limits of the earth's resources, i.e., living within the limits of the carrying capacity, recognizing as did Darwin that "there is *no exception* to the rule that every organic being naturally increases at so high a rate that, if not destroyed, the earth would soon be covered by the progeny of a single pair!" A real primer on ecological problems by one of our foremost intellects and critical thinkers, the late ecologist Garrett Hardin.

Klein, Naomi, 2014. This Changes Everything: Capitalism versus the Climate - Klein argues that climate change is an alarm that calls us to fix an economic system that is already failing, namely our devotion to rampant capitalism and its growth model. Massive reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions is our best opportunity to reduce gaping inequalities in wealth and re-imagine our broken democracies. Changes in our relationship with nature and each other are required to respond to climate crisis humanely. Unfortunately, like many otherwise excellent environmental writers, she ignores the most critical issue - overpopulation.

Kolbert, Elizabeth, 2015. The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History - over the last 500 million years there have been 5 mass extinctions when biodiversity has declined dramatically. Currently, scientists are monitoring the sixth, or Anthropocene, extinction, largely a consequence of human activities, which is predicted to be the most devastating since the asteroid wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize. Unfortunately, Kolbert fails to discuss human overpopulation, the most important factor in the Anthropocene Extinction.

Mann, Charles C., 2018. The Wizard and the Prophet: Two Remarkable Scientists and Their Dueling Visions to Shape Tomorrow's World - a portrait of two 20th century scientists, Norman Borlaug (the Wizard), father of the Green Revolution, and William Vogt (the Prophet) father of modern environmentalism, whose visions of the environment through diametrically opposed lenses have laid the groundwork for how we will choose to live in the 21st century. Mann describes their diverging viewpoints about four of the great challenges humanity faces on an increasingly crowded planet: food, water, energy, and climate change.

McKibbon, Bill, 2010. Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet. McKibbon invites us to imagine that we live on a new planet - not the cozy, taken-for-granted, hospitable earth, but a new one with melting poles, dying forests, a corrosive sea, raked by storms and scorching heat. Trouble is, this is not an imaginary planet, but the real one that our earth is becoming - that is, "Eaarth". He goes on to propose that our best option might be to choose how to manage our descent, to aim for a relatively graceful decline. Although it is very unfortunate that McKibbon tiptoes around the population issue, the book is an important one, with some practical suggestions on how to live "lightly, carefully, gracefully".

Oreskes, Naomi, and Erik Conway, 2014. Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming - despite abundant, incontrovertible scientific evidence to the contrary, a small group of politically influential scientists with close connections to big industry have run effective campaigns to mislead the public about the dangers of global warming. The authors have shown how ideology and corporate interests have skewed public understanding of some of the most important issues of our time. Unfortunately, they ignore overpopulation and concomitant over-consumption, the most important contributors to global warming.

_____, 2014. The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future (science fiction) - a chilling thought experiment from the vantage point of the year 2093... public and government inattention to clear warnings of climate catastrophe has led to the "Great Collapse of 2093" when disintegration of the Antarctic ice sheet resulted in mass migration and disruption of global world order; shows how the political and economic elites of the advanced industrial societies failed to act, and so brought about the collapse of Western civilization

Quammen, David, 2012. Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic - a quest to understand the *evolution and ecology* of AIDS, Ebola, SARS, influenza, and a number of other zoonotic diseases (whose reservoirs are in non-human animals). Quammen concludes that human population explosion, destruction of natural habitats, and rapid international travel create a "perfect storm" for the outbreak of devastating epidemics.

Quinn, Daniel, 1992. Ishmael - Quinn's classic novel featuring an extended conversation between a man (the pupil) and the gorilla Ishmael (the teacher) drawing contrasts between primitive "Leaver" cultures and our civilized "Taker" culture

Weisman, Alan, 2013. Countdown: Our Last Best Hope for a Future on This Earth? A follow-up to his earlier The World Without Us, Weisman considers how many people the planet can sustain and how we might be able humanely to reduce human population to that level and design an economy no longer based on growth

Wright, Ronald, 2004. A Short History of Progress - the 20th century, a time of unprecedented progress, has produced a tremendous strain on our life support systems. How long can this go on? Wright makes the case that various cultures throughout history have literally manufactured their own ends by producing an overabundance of innovation while emasculating the very elements that allowed them to advance in the first place. A fascinating rumination on the hubris at the heart of human development and the pitfalls we still may have time to avoid.

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"The Impact of Immigrant Children on America's Public Schools", Daly, Christopher J., Feb. 2017. NPG Forum Paper

"Unlimited Compassion Is Not Sustainable" , Murray, Tim, Oct. 2015. www.balance.org

"The Uninhabitable Earth", Wallace-Wells, David, July 9, 2017. New York Magazine

"Framework of the Future: A Geologist's Perspective on the Human Predicament", WalterYoungquist, Dec. 2016. NPG Forum Paper

"The Impact of U.S. Population Growth on Global Climate Change", Edwin S. Rubenstein, June 2017. NPG Forum Paper

"Chain Immigration: How Immigration Begets More Immigration", Jessica Vauighan, Feb. 2017. NPG Forum Paper

"Overpopulation: The Ultimate Exploiter", Karen I. Shragg, July 2016. NPG Forum Paper

"Food Security in the 21st Century", David R. Montgomery, May 2015 NPG Forum Paper

"A Geomoment of Affluence Between Two Austere Eras", Walter Youngquist, June 2015. NPG Forum Paper

"Reflections on Sustainability, Population Growth, and the Environment", Albert A. Bartlett, Feb. 2016. NPG Forum Paper

"The Scale of Things and Demographic Fatigue", Walter Youngquist, April 2016. NPG Forum Paper

"Our Plundered Planet and a Future of Less", Walter Youngquist, July 2014. NPG Forum Paper

"Capitalism: Growth and Collapse", Lindsey Grant, Oct. 2013. NPG Forum Paper

"The Apocalypse Is on Schedule", Lindsey Grant, Mar. 2011. NPG Forum Paper

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