

# 1 . The Population Explosion and Poverty

## 1. QUIZ: What is the Cause of Population Increase?

- Poverty ?
- Low standards of education?
- Lack of knowledge of birth control?

However.....

- Living things increase their number in an abundant environment. Are humans the only exception?
- Aboriginal people never experienced a population explosion.
- The population explosion has been a problem only in recent times. Does this imply that in earlier times, there was less poverty, higher standards of education and more use of birth control compared to now?
- Without exception, all the countries that are suffering from a population explosion are those that have close economic ties with developed countries.

## 2. The Drama of an Explosion in Population

- Columbus came to a village of indigenous people, found that they had coffee, and demanded that they trade with him.
- As a result of this trading agreement, life at first was good, the people prospered, and the death rate fell. As the death rate fell, the population increased, and agricultural production also went up. However, the native people were no longer self-sufficient. The increased production led to greater need for labor power. Increased population→poverty→increased production→increased population, etc. In this vicious cycle, the population constantly increases.

→Breakdown

Natural resources become exhausted and the environment is destroyed. Examples of population explosions that resulted from this scenario: Somalia and Ethiopia by coffee, Brazil by rubber and coffee, India by tea, silk and spices.

→Conflict

Meanwhile, a ruling class emerges, and conflict develops.

An example can be seen in Rwanda, with the conflict between the Tutsi and the Hutu, which reflects the conflict between Germany and Belgium.

Poverty is not the cause of the population explosion. It is the effect.

It is the government and business of advanced nations that act in the role of Columbus. In other words, we are Columbus.

Year	World population	Increase/100 years
BC 1 million	1 million	-----
BC 10,000	10 million	Less than 0.1%
AD 0	100 million	2%
AD 1,000	200 million	7%
AD 1,500	500 million	120%
AD 1,800	1 billion	130%
AD 1,900	1.5 billion	150%
AD 2,000	6 billion	400%

### 3. The Current Economic Mechanism

- There is a 100-time difference in price between developing countries and developed countries. This is fundamentally unfair.
- Developed countries buy raw materials at low price and sell their products at a high price, thereby becoming wealthy. Developing countries sell raw materials at a low price, but when they buy finished products the price are high; therefore they become poor.  
For example, one ton of Iron is sold for ¥1,000(Japanese yen). But a one ton bulldozer is sold for ¥1,000,000 (Japanese yen).
- If developing countries continue trading, they debt in creases.
- In developing countries, the trade deficit increases as they make the transition to a monetary economy.
- Developed countries increase their activity by extending their enterprise.
- The result is a consumption-based economy, which can only lead to over-population, depleted natural resources, an exhausted environment, and ultimately economic collapse.
- In those cases when developing countries join the ranks of developing countries, they do so at the expense of other developing countries, which may become their victims.

#### **4. The Problem is the Developed Countries.**

- It is the developed countries that are over populated. In Europe, the population has increased 5-fold in the past 300 years. In The United States, there has been a 10-fold increase in population over the past 200 year, while in Japan, the increase is 4-fold in 100 years.
- Developed countries operate on a consumption economy, which treats developing countries as expendable.
- Now, we must return to self-sufficiency throughout the entire world.
- Over population is not the developing countries' problem, it is the developed countries' problem.
- It is important for the developed countries to become independent.
- It is essential for developed countries to return to self-sufficiency, or a breakdown is inevitable.

#### **5. What we can do?**

- Reduce the amount of imported products. (Importing goods from developing countries leads to depletion of their environment.) (Examples: Coffee, tobacco, beef, shrimp, banana, pineapple and natade coco)
- Buy domestic goods and organic products.
- Reduce over- consumption and waste.
- Revive primary industries. (Agriculture, stock breeding, forestry, marine products, etc)
- Recover self-sufficiency in food production.
- Reduce consumption of energy and develop substitutes. (Solar, geothermal and wind power)
- Develop a non-industrial, non-consumptive, non-materialistic society.
- Realize self-sufficiency, which retains the balance with the natural environment.