THE HOME OF MAN

A Book by Barbara Ward
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The Home of Man by Barbara Ward was published early in 1976. The well-known British political economist had elaborated some of the major themes of this book in her previous publications. The book represents the prologue to her forthcoming trilogy.

There are two reasons why it is exceedingly difficult to get a reasonably coherent grip on the human habitat, the settlement of the whole world, the welfare of all mankind. The first reason is that this habitat includes everything. A Roman philosopher once said, "Nothing human is alien to me." As the scope of man's sway expands, so does the inelapsable context within which man acts, while the scale of humanity escalates. No one can say when. Within a very few years the whole of mankind may be affected. You never know which social questions will come up when. The second reason is that inhabitants of the whole world are engaged in an apparently unbroken concert of change. In knowledge. In power, In everything, there is an increasing population of people with a higher than average standard of living, who have access to a considerable range of services. The next two centuries may be as much of a breakneck change as was the first. Of course, this is not to say that the coming decades will not bring a lot of personal crises and widespread suffering. The human embryo has always had to suffer. But the stresses are more widespread. People are living longer. More people have access to the amenities of life. And more people have access to the amenities of life is more important for the human race than for any other species that has ever existed. As the human race becomes more aware of itself, it is also becoming more aware of the fate of all mankind. There is no longer a problem of survival. There is a problem of what kind of world we shall leave to future generations. And it has to be faced now.

For a century and a half, the population of the world has been increasing at a rate which has both delighted the optimists and alarmed the pessimists. The rate of increase during the next half century will be slower than during the past half century. The rate of increase during the next hundred years, the next only thirty. Between 1950 and 1970 the human population has increased by 1.8 times, or six billion. Between 1970 and 2025 the number will exceed 6 times the number of all the people who have ever lived. The average annual population growth rate in the period 1950-1970 was 2.1 percent. The average annual population growth rate in the period 1970-2025 is projected to be 1.3 percent. If this average annual growth rate were to persist through the next half century, the world would have 9.3 billion people by the year 2025. The number of people in the world is the product of the size of the population and the rate of growth. The size of the population is the product of the number of births and the number of deaths. The rate of growth is the product of the rate of increase and the size of the population. The rate of increase is the product of the natural rate of increase and the size of the population. The natural rate of increase is the product of the death rate and the birth rate. The death rate is the product of the mortality rate and the size of the population. The mortality rate is the product of the life expectancy of the population and the size of the population. The life expectancy of the population is the product of the age structure of the population and the size of the population. The age structure of the population is the product of the age distribution and the size of the population. The age distribution is the product of the age-specific fertility and the size of the population. The age-specific fertility is the product of the age-specific birth rate and the size of the population. The age-specific birth rate is the product of the age-specific fertility and the size of the population. The age-specific fertility is the product of the age-specific birth rate and the size of the population. The age-specific birth rate is the product of the age-specific fertility and the size of the population. The age-specific fertility is the product of the age-specific birth rate and the size of the population.

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