

Environment Degradation over the last century has played a major role in the collapse of many resources. It has also contributed to many conflicting issues about the available resources. It has caused many disagreements among countries and their governments connected with the scarcity of the natural products and natural resources.

Among the resources that have contributed to the conflict in the past and are still continuing today are fresh water, productive land, fisheries, mineral deposits and fossil fuels. So the question in most people's minds is what is happening to our resources and what we can do to stop it.

In 1999, the human population passed 6 billion in number, having grown about four times itself during the 1900's. This is a substantial increase in a diminutive period of time. With the increase of population has come the abundance of available resources that are needed to help with the standard of living. It has also come with an equally unprecedented rise in the movement of resources. It is clear that in the past century the

disruptions in supplies of energy and natural resources has led to the degradation of the environment and the hope for global tranquillity unattainable.

The twentieth century has also seen many changes in the way the land is used. It must now accommodate more humans and the land must extend to produce the food they need in order to survive. More & more land has been taken over, trees have been cleared from forests and the underground surface waters have decreased drastically making it increasingly impossible to be able to maintain enough land and energy to supply the entire population.

As the population has grown over the years, the land that is readily available has become less and food production has become severe. There doesn't seem to be ample enough land and water to supply the need to grow agriculture for life on earth. It is also said to be true that since 1950, with the new modern agriculture procedures and the fresh water for irrigation, there has been a steadily rise in the food supplies. But this gain may prove temporary with rapidly growing technology

putting too much pressure on this systems causing it to fail and break-down.

Agriculture has also seen a decline because of the way people view the forest. There is a larger number in population which means more trees are being cut down to make room for housing and developments in society. If the population continues to grow at its current pace, many forests world-wide will suffer from deforestation.

As the population continues to grow and the land degrades at the level it currently is then before long a sizeable amount of migration will occur, generating problems amongst society. There will be more poverty and the competition over the limited amount of resources will cause a lot of conflict between groups. Given that, as we enter the twenty-first century and the population is continuing to grow we will see a greater increase in a conflict over the available resources.

Another resource that is greatly affected by the overpopulation of certain areas is the fisheries. Coastal ecosystems such as marshes, shallow bays, wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs

and sea-grass beds play a major role in the life cycles of many marine organisms. Over 95% of the world marine production of the world marine production have come from the coastal ecosystems. Where more land is being overdeveloped to make room for modern structures such as houses, office buildings, etc. The marine fisheries are being threatened. There have also been industrial wastes that are wearing away the ecosystems and there has been the contamination of the water that has made fish life impossible. With the quality and quantity of water as scarce as it is, a lot of conflicts have arose between the fisheries management and the inland industries.

Another resource that has shown possible environmental degradation is the mining. Mining has not shown any shortages due to the increase in population, but it has faced many obstacles. There doesn't seem to be enough land to develop the minerals. The land that is available, the mining industry must compete with other land developers for it. The mining industry has also destroyed many habitats essential for key plant life and animal communities. Mining has

disrupted many natural ecological processes and made many people reluctant to approve mining operations in their area.

There have been many conflicts over the mining industry. People feel that the water resources that are needed and the unnecessary pollutions are harming their land. The mining industry's reputation continues to degrade and more and more conflict is the result. Thus making it harder and harder for any mining land to be found.

Fossil Fuels is another resource that has shown some signs of environmental degradation. Fossil Fuels are currently the most available resource of power for both personal and commercial use. More than 85% of the global energy consumption is done through the process of Fossil Fuels. Society once believed that Fossil Fuels were a renewable resource but we now know that as we enter the twenty-first century we are using Fossil Fuels at an unsustainable rate. Thus making our supply of Fossil Fuels extremely limited. Fossil Fuels release toxic gases into the air, thus causing air pollution which can be very harmful to the

environment. The mining for coal and drilling for oil has ruined much of our landscapes, making it impossible to work the land for agriculture. Also, by digging up the land for massive mines and wells, they are disrupting the nearby ecosystems and plant life. This causes many conflicts among conservation groups.

History has shown many instances in which very few resources and environmental degradation played a role in generating conflict and leading even to the collapse of societies and civilizations, some as early as the beginning of written history. Shown below are just a few examples of wars and conflicts over natural resources that have had dire consequences. In the war of 1812, one of the things being disputed was land ownership. The U.S.A failed in an attempt to capture Canada and the British Army failed their attempt to capture Baltimore and New Orleans. Overall it ended in a stalemate. World War 1 was started because Europe wanted new raw materials and natural resources. They didn't receive what they wanted and so, World War 1 began. The primary beginning of World War 2 comes from Hitler's

intent to invade Poland as a stepping stone toward his World Domination! At the same time, restricted access to oil & minerals were another cause for aggravation. It was the most conflict the world had ever seen. That war alone caused enormous damages. The Gulf War was clearly all about a conflict over access to oil resources. Over the centuries there has been many conflicts and wars arising from disputes between different ethnic or ethno-national groups over the natural resources such as land and oil. It has been rising steadily since the end of World War 2 and it doesn't look like it's going to end any time soon.

During the period of time in history dating back to the First War right up to the Persian Gulf War resources and resource-supply systems have become targets. In modern times energy plants, dams and other facilities have been bombed and destroyed for political gain. They have had oil-rigs destroyed and water plants demolished just to show that the hostility has arisen to another level of unpleasantness.

Since we have reached the twenty-first century resources have become more scarce. It has

become an important object of concern with the military for political goals. The resources are unevenly distributed throughout the world. The overpopulation of the world has made sharing of the land nearly impossible with too many people and too little land. The water quantities are varied throughout the world as some regions receive huge amounts of rainfall and river flow while others rarely see any. Water forces some countries to put a treaty in place forcing them to share the water that is available with neighbouring countries. Without this treaty there would be no end to the disputes that is taking place. In recent studies it has shown that the higher deforestation is the main cause of many environmental degradation. This is caused by the over population of people and the trees being cut down and cleared to make more room. Also the soil is being used and abused so much that it's nearly impossible to keep up with the growing economy. Also there is a problem with the toxic dumping into our water supply and nuclear oxides polluting the air thus damaging plant life and ecosystems.

Tension and conflicts is also a result of

unfair distribution and development of resources. The bias distribution of Energy, Water, Food and Minerals has caused many disruptions among numerous nations. It has left many with a sour taste in their mouth and a feeling of desertion from their country. There have been Third World Countries left on the poverty line with no food or clean water. By the end of this century if it continues most people living in these regions would either die of disease or starvation. There is no question that the environment degradation can trigger conflicts with the potential to turn violent.

With all the changes going on in the world today environment degradation seems to be the major cause of most severe conflicts. Many research show that environment degradation has played a crucial part in the breakdown of communications between many political and ethnic groups. Thus causing undisputable differences and with violent outcomes. So the question that arises is what can be done to stop the environment degradation and make this world a more pleasant and war-free place to live. Over the pass few years a new structure

has been put in place to help organize and examine the problems that are in place and to try to find a way of maybe not fixing it but reducing the way it is wasted. Thus trying to lessen the regional and international conflicts.

The water resources have been investigated and considerable progress have been made in understanding the connection between water resources and the conflicts that are generated because of the scarcity. There has also been a policy put in place in trying to promote cooperation among countries over sharing freshwater resources.

With regard to the prevention of land degradation they are finding it more difficult to control the deforestation and destruction of the land. The situation under which the land is protected has been improving steadily over the last few years. Land degradation has become a primary focus global wide as more and more people are aware of the dire consequences of the loss of productive land. In addition there has been some funding put in place to help improve the conditions of the land in the Third World Countries (ex.Africa) that have experienced

severe drought.

The fisheries have shown a small increase due to the management of fishing stocks. The guidelines are now in place making it impossible for certain fisheries to take place in certain areas. With pertaining to the ecosystems, river banks and coastal areas need to be given proper attention so that the marine organisms and plants can survive. It is vital that governments promote an active interest in the aquaculture and participate in helping conserve the resources.

The fossil fuels speak for themselves. All you must do is try to conserve oil and natural gases. Try to put less pollution and toxics into the air and for example the next time you want to go somewhere try walking or taking a bicycle instead of starting a vehicle.

Environment Degradation is a worldwide problem. Most people simply hide their heads in the sand and pretend it's not happening. But the reality of the situation is that it's there and it's not going away. It is not only the government and officials that should have to deal with this. It just starts with one person (YOU) spreading

the word and before long you will see more and more join. The truth is our resources are no longer renewable and it has become crystal clear that if we don't take care of them now they won't be around for more generations to come. If it doesn't slow down the validity of the situation is that the environment will keep suffering and degrading at a rapid pace and the fight over the available resources will become so out of hand that World Peace will become nothing but a dream.

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