

# THE BIOCENTRIC INSTITUTE

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## MEMORANDUM

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For decades, the emphasis by environmentalists has been on “sustainability” – the long-term matching of population with resources. That vision is threatened by projections that show Earth’s human population, now 7.3 billion, headed for 9 billion by mid-century even as birth rates decline. But the overpopulation deniers are back in force. Despite overall increases in population, they say, birthrates are falling in many countries. Soon there will be too few people of working age to fund entitlement and safety net programs critical to the growing ranks of the retired. So more babies, and immigrants, please.

“America’s declining birthrate, inaccurately portrayed as a ‘baby bust’ by these alarmists, has inspired fears that we are falling off a demographic cliff,” writes William B. Dickinson in this communication from the nonprofit Biocentric Institute. “But the U.S. Census Bureau projects that today’s population of 315 million will top 400 million by mid-century. Young or old, the real problem down the road is likely to be how to create enough middle-class jobs in a fractured society with too many people.”

President Obama has seized on the demographic cliff scenario to press his case for liberalization of immigration policy. In a March 22 “Fact Sheet on Economics of Immigration Reform,” the White House concluded: “With slowing of population growth, and the aging of the American workforce, America needs more workers.” “This will come as news to many young graduates living in their parents’ basements and unable to find permanent jobs,” Dickinson writes. He is a former Washington editor and journalism professor who writes regularly for the institute.

Declining populations are anathema to business leaders who seek ever bigger global sales. And political leaders in many poor nations also embrace “the chimera of ever-more babies as the key to national power and influence,” Dickinson says. In the Middle East, now overrun by unemployed young people, clerics fulminate against Western plots to limit the Muslim population through family planning. So great is the fear of economic stasis that even the most prosperous nations (such as Singapore) feel impelled to add more people. “The real demographic problem in the world, and in the United States, is not posed by too many oldsters and too few young,” Dickinson concludes. “Rather, the problem is too many people to maintain quality of life for all, on a finite Earth where we have failed to live within limits.”

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