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THE

WAR ON
OVERPOPULATION

CRISIS

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In the year 1804, the world's population hit 1 billion people. 123 years later, in 1927, it hit 2 billion.

Today, the world has a population over 7 billion

(Rosenberg).

These statistics seem promising for the future of a vibrant species. The problem is that our species is moving quickly towards what scientists believe is the maximum capacity of the earth: around 10 billion people (Wolchover).

While some experts cite technological development as a saviour for the species, others are skeptical of its ability to match the pace of population growth. Outside of the scientific community, some have fanned the flames of public distress, with an aim of pursuing their own financial and political goals.

One such politician is the President of the United States, who in recent weeks has reached a rhetorical fever pitch on the issue. At a speech in New Jersey, he told a crowd that,

“the Southern border has become infested with litters of filthy children, using up our good food and clean air”.

He claims that “liberals want to see an overpopulated world because it means the death of America!” A hero of alt-right and far-right political circles, the President has been directing much of his fear-mongering towards undocumented immigrants entering the United States at the Southern border. He recently tweeted the unsubstantiated claim that, “Most Mexicans have never even heard of condoms; they just keep having babies and throwing them over the border! #Buildthewall”. While there has been some outcry about his comments, his approval ratings have stayed steady at about 40%, but higher among military service-people.

USA

An outside presence on the world stage, the USA claims that multiplying groups of undesirables are pushing us towards a population ceiling, and seems to be willing to remedy this through extreme measures.

CHINA

Although China is publicly condemning the US's actions in relation to Mexico, it is simultaneously detaining up to 1 million Muslim Uyghurs in Xinjiang province. This may limit China's willingness to engage strongly with the US on this issue.

EU

The EU fears that the US's actions could have severe consequences on Europe's own immigration policies, where many countries are already facing blowback for their accommodation of refugees from the largest refugee crisis in human history.

AFRICAN UNION

The AU is concerned about the implications of a global application of the POTUS' rhetoric: focus on 'undesirables' living in developing countries would certainly concentrate on Africa. It wishes to show solidarity with the Mexican government, as well as avoiding military action.

CANADA

As the only country in North America not involved in the ongoing crisis, Canada has made multiple pitches for peace and the tolerance of diversity, to little result.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. What is the future of the US-Mexican border, the EU approach to refugees, and similar incidents across the world? How will countries work together to implement any kind of long-term plans for issues regarding border limits and refugees?
2. How will overpopulation affect existing institutions, global relations, and other factors between major global powers? Will this necessitate a renegotiation of those institutions and relations?
3. What credible steps can the world take to curb the dangers of Malthusian population growth? Is it better to invest in new technology that may be better able to feed and house people, or to come up with some way to limit the population and conserve our resources?

WORKS CITED

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