

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

College Course 4

Fall, 1976

The Limits-to-Growth Controversy

Purpose of the Course

This course will focus on the debate over limits to growth and implications of this debate for the maintenance of world order. Political, economic, social, environmental, and individual dimensions of the problem will be explored. After setting the controversy in the context of the Western intellectual tradition, all sides to the dispute will be considered.

Books for purchase

Harold Sprout and Margaret Sprout, Multiple Vulnerabilities: The Context of Environmental Repair and Protection

(Note: This is to be purchased in Office of the Government Department.)

Herman Kahn, The Next 200 Years

E.F. Schumacher, Small Is Beautiful

J.B. Bury, The Idea of Progress

Donella Meadows, et al., The Limits to Growth

M. Mesarovic and E. Pestel, Mankind at the Turning Point

Robert Heilbroner, An Inquiry into the Human Prospect

Rufus E. Miles, Awakening From the American Dream

Course requirements

Each student is expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading for that day. In addition, each student will write four papers (maximum length five pages) on various topics covered by the course. Topics will be assigned as the term progresses. Due dates are as follows:

Paper #1	October 7
Paper #2	October 21
Paper #3	November 16
Paper #4	December 2

Reading ScheduleI. Emergence and Evolution of the Idea of Progress

September 23 "The Idea of Progress" Professor Arthur Wilson
(Government Department)

J.B. Bury, The Idea of Progress,
pp. ix-xi, 1-216

September 28 "Nonwestern Perspectives on Progress"
Professor John Major
(History Department)

E.F. Schumacher, Small Is Beautiful,
pp. 1-62

L.T. White, "The Historical Origins of Our
Ecological Crisis" (handout)

September 30 "The Idea of Progress in the West II"
Professor Michael Ermarth
(History Department)

J.B. Bury, The Idea of Progress,
pp. 217-352

II. The Limits-to-Growth Argument

October 5 Limits to Growth

Donella Meadows, et. al., The Limits to
Growth (whole book)

III. Critics of Limits-to-Growth

October 8 "The Economic Critique."
(Friday !!) Professor William D. Nordhaus
Yale University

William D. Nordhaus, "Is Growth Obsolete?"
(handout)

Willem Oltmans, On Growth, pp. 13-18, 47-50,
65-71, 93-99, 119-125, 210-215, 437-441,
216-231 (on reserve)

Carl Kaysen, "The Computer that Printed
Out W*O*L*F" (handout)

(Please note that the regular Thursday class has been
rescheduled to Friday.)

- October 12 "The Economic Critique Continued."
Professor Marc Roberts
Harvard University
- Peter Passell, Marc Roberts, and Leonard Ross, Review of The Limits to Growth, New York Times Book Review, April 2, 1972 (handout)
- Marc Roberts, "On Reforming Economic Growth", in Mancur Olson and Hans Landsberg (eds.), The No-Growth Society, pp. 119-137 (on reserve)
- E.J. Mishan, "Growth and Antigrowth: What Are the Issues?" in Weintraub, Schwartz, and Aronson (eds.), The Economic Growth Controversy, pp. 3-33 (on reserve)
- Robert M. Solow, "Is the End of the World at Hand?" in Weintraub, Schwartz, and Aronson (eds.), The Economic Growth Controversy, pp. 39-61 (on reserve)
- October 14 "Social Justice and LTG"
Professor Ronald Green
(Religion Department)
- Ronald Green, "Inter-Generational Distributive Justice and Environmental Responsibility" (handout)
- October 19 Inside Critics: The Second Club of Rome Report
- M. Mesarovic and E. Pestel, Mankind at the Turning Point (whole book)
- October 21 Technological Optimism and Limits to Growth
- Herman Kahn, The Next 200 Years, pp. 1-105, 163-180
- October 26 "The Futurist Perspective on Growth".
Dr. Herman Kahn, The Hudson Institute
- Herman Kahn, The Next 200 Years, pp. 106-162, 181-228
- October 28 "Politics and Limits to Growth"
Professor Karl W. Deutsch,
Harvard University
- Karl W. Deutsch, "On Inequality and Limited Growth". (handout)
- November 2 Criticisms of LTG: Summary and Review
- Dennis and Donella Meadows, "Limits to Growth: Its Critics and Its Challenge" (handout)

IV. Goals and Policies for the Future

November 4 The Steady State Society

Kenneth E. Boulding, "The Shadow of the Stationary State" in Olson and Landsberg (eds.), The No-Growth Society (on reserve)

Kenneth E. Boulding, "The Economics of the Coming Spaceship Earth" in Herman E. Daly (ed.), Toward a Steady State Economy (on reserve)

Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons" in Herman E. Daly (ed.), Toward a Steady State Economy (on reserve)

Herman Daly (ed.), Toward a Steady State Economy, pp. 149-173 (on reserve)

November 9 The Third World

E.F. Schumacher, Small Is Beautiful, pp. 163-220

John P. Lewis, "Oil, Other Scarcities, and the Poor Countries", World Politics (October, 1974) (on reserve)

Edward J. Woodhouse, "Re-Visioning the Future of the Third World: An Ecological Perspective on Development" World Politics (October, 1972) (on reserve)

Garrett Hardin, "Lifeboat Ethics -- The Case Against Helping the Poor" (on reserve)

November 11 Social Organization and Limits to Growth
Dr. William Ophuls

William Ophuls, "Leviathan or Oblivion" in Herman Daly (ed.), Toward a Steady State Economy (on reserve)

William Ophuls, "Scarcity Society" (on reserve)

- November 16 The International System
Philippe de Seynes, Director,
Programme of Futures Studies,
United Nations Institute for Training
and Research
- Philippe de Seynes, "Prospects for a Future
Whole World" International Organization
(on reserve)
- David H. Blake and Robert S. Walters,
The Politics of Global Economic Relations,
pp. 154-167 (on reserve)
- Nazli Choucri and Robert North, "The Dynamics
of International Conflict" (copies on reserve)
- November 18 "Growth and the Human Prospect"
Robert Heilbroner,
New School for Social Research
- Robert Heilbroner, An Inquiry into the
Human Prospect
- Robert Heilbroner, "Growth and Survival,"
Foreign Affairs (October, 1972) (on reserve)
- November 23 The United States
Rufus E. Miles, Jr.
Princeton University
- Harold and Margaret Sprout, Multiple Vulner-
abilities: The Context of Environmental
Repair and Protection, pp. 1-66.
- Rufus E. Miles, Jr., Awakening from the
American Dream (whole book)
- November 30 Images of Man
- Elizabeth Dodson Gray, "Masculine Consciousness
and the Problem of Limiting Growth" in U.S.
House of Representatives, Hearings: Growth
and Its Implications for the Future, pp. 2009-
2028 (on reserve)
- "Changing Images of Man" in Hearings,
pp. 1929-1975 (on reserve)
- C.S. Lewis, "The Abolition of Man" in
Herman E. Daly (ed.), Toward a Steady
State Economy, pp. 321-332 (on reserve)

December 2

Growth, Progress, and World Order

Richard A. Falk, A Study of Future Worlds,
pp. xvii-xxvii, 1-4, 40-43, 46-52,
150-154, 282-292, 397-406, 492-494
(on reserve)

Jan Tinbergen, "Towards a Better Inter-
national Economic Order" (on reserve)

Willem Oltmans, On Growth, pp. 26-34,
40-44, 339-348, 448-456

William I. Thompson, Evil and World Order,
pp. 79-111 (on reserve)

Books on Reserve

- Baldwin, David, America in an Interdependent World
- Beckerman, Wilfred, In Defence of Economic Growth
- Cole, H.S.D. et al, Models of Doom
- Connelly, Philip & Perlman, R., The Politics of Scarcity
- Daly, Herman E., Toward a Steady-State Economy
- Falk, Richard A., A Study of Future Worlds
- Goldsmith, Edward, et al., Blueprint for Survival
- Hardin, Garrett, Exploring New Ethics for Survival
- Heilbroner, Robert L., An Inquiry into the Human Prospect
- Kuznets, Simon, Economic Growth of Nations
- Maddox, John, The Doomsday Syndrome
- Mendlovitz, Saul, On the Creation of a Just World Order
- Miles, Rufus, Jr., Awakening from the American Dream
- Oltmans, Willem, On Growth
- _____, On Growth Two
- Olson, Mancur and Landsberg, Hans, The No-Growth Society
- Perleman, Louis, The Global Mind
- Pollard, Sidney, The Idea of Progress
- U.S. House of Representatives, Hearings: Growth and Its Implications for the Future (4 volumes). 93rd Cong., 1st Sess., 1973. (Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries).
- Weintraub, Andrew, et al., The Economic Growth Controversy