

TABOO OPINIONS #87

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3-19-06 TITANIC CLASH OF DEADLY HISTORIC FORCES --- ALL IN YOUR LIFETIME --- YOU POOR BASTARDS

1. OIL DEPLETION
2. POPULATION GROWTH
3. GLOBAL WARMING
4. DECLINING SCIENCE
5. DOOMSDAY RELIGIONS

Our modern world civilization is primarily based on burning oil. Period. We use it for fuels, plastics, fertilizers... And if not now, in a few years **OIL DEPLETION** will rise up out of a sea of Denial and bite us bone-deep in the ass. The world's production of oil at its present maximum rate will decline---and keep on declining, becoming more and more and more expensive.

This means the present breakneck speed of the largest Asian countries [China, India, Indonesia] to become mass production, mass consumer nations like the United States is suicidal and absurd. Where do they think the fuel will come from to fill the tanks of an additional billion personal autos and another billion commercial trucks and another million diesel locomotives and another million jet planes?

There will quickly come----to the entire world---a point at which the personal auto (even after desperate 'downsizing' and greater efficiency) will become too expensive to buy, insure and operate.

We will go retro to "the shared family car," and then to borrowing on special occasions the rich uncle's car (all the while using efficient motorcycles and scooters... and also more---billions more---bicycles.

Governments will of course come to rationing scarce oil and gasoline to insure enough for vital transportation---trucks, railroads, jets, ships. But states and counties will necessarily allow more and more highways and roads and bridges to sink into disrepair and ruin.

Suburbs will shrink and die as people migrate back to cities and towns to be within walking and/or biking distance of work and relatives.

Ah, yes, there's a lot of coal in the ground, and there are expensive ways of "liquefying" coal, but what government will spend trillions to convert coal to something a personal auto can use, when the greater need will be for steel, plastics and fertilizer.

Please don't try to tell me the government will allow millions of acres of farmland to be used to grow corn and sugar to be used to ferment ethanol to power personal autos.

And, yes, our governments will have to be far more authoritarian than they are now. Our present "Capitalist/Consumer Democracy" will be a luxury of the past. Society will have to be far more disciplined, and most luxuries and many necessities rationed.

Ah, you think salvation is the billions of barrels of thick oil in tar sands and locked up in oil shale? Sorry, that oil is very, very expensive to extract and refine. And what to do with literally mountains of 'empty' sand and roasted shale? Would any use of that monstrous residue be worth the oil energy used to load it, move it and use it?

What would the cost of a new nuclear power plant be today (including the increasing costs of the oil and gasoline going into its construction)? And don't forget the even higher costs of 'decommissioning' that power plant after it's worn out.

Solar power? Again, still too costly. Maybe science will find more efficient and inexpensive solar cells which can be mass mass produced; that's the dream.

Hydrogen? Dangerous! The insurance would kill you, as would a car accident.

The only options I think have any potential are tidal power and geothermal power, but again, science will have to make some important discoveries.

You see why oil is so good today? Relatively cheap, relatively easily gotten and relatively easy to use. It is the backbone of world civilization. The other options are relatively more expensive in various ways, and relatively more difficult to convert.

And as oil becomes more expensive in real terms (purchasing power) it becomes too expensive to use it to facilitate using the other sources of energy. Sort of a catch-22.

POPULATION GROWTH in the near future will have to be controlled. Mother Nature, that cruel bitch, never tires of telling us: “Pay me now or pay me later!” People and their governments will be too poor to sustain large families and as well pay taxes to support unrestricted single motherhood.

China sort of rations births. America and Europe have legalized abortion (let’s call it by its True Name---infanticide) and promoted anti-conception.

How to discourage kids from fucking? Can you go up against instincts?

As kids become more and more wired to the family (for lack of personal autos and lack of easy privacy), I expect a form of old-fashioned anti-pregnancy values/religions to emerge. But we do now admit that sex is fun and pleasurable, and kids will rebel...

So I think ‘illegal’ pregnancy will indeed be rare, but they’ll be allowed all the masturbation, oral and even anal sex they can handle. But not blatantly allowed. It’ll be ignored or tsk-tsked as a necessary evil.

A minor aspect of the current, leading-edge secular “promotion” of homosexuality has given boy-girl anal sex some common acceptance. And the ever-greater presence and acceptance of pornography, I suspect, has the side-effect of promoting oral sex --- as another, easy-quick alternative to dangerous intercourse.

Each society will handle the sex drive differently, I suspect, but discouraging pregnancy and accepting the other ways to orgasm will have to be present.

Still, world overpopulation exists (promoted and permitted by our insane over-use of oil) and its famines-wars consequences will have to be endured. I expect horrific famines in Euro-Asia, again and again in Africa, in Central and South America... Eastern Europe. And severe food shortages in America, mostly due to cycles of bad weather crops.

And I expect the quality and availability of health care to diminish, again because of costs and turned-away millions of patients. More and more people will die in bed at home...or homeless on the street.

OK, let’s go on to the next gigantic force for change afoot in the world today---**GLOBAL WARMING.**

It’s taken us about 100 years to get to the point, now, where

we're heating up the planet's atmosphere enough to melt Arctic and Antarctic ice to the point of raising the levels of the oceans and altering climates.

We've managed this heating and melting by burning a virtual ocean of oil and mountains of coal. It will take this process decades more to start cooling and reversing (assuming we are about to be forced by oil "shortages" to reduce all this heat-making).

So I don't sweat Global Warming for the long run. We might have some climate disasters for decades, but in the long run humbled humanity will again have to endure the natural swing of weather cycles caused as in the past by sun cycles, shifts in the planet's molten innards, and ocean flow variations.

I assume that in spite of our illusions, delusions and helpless dreads, **ADVANCING SCIENCE** will not find a way for us to escape this used-up planet and will not find ways for us to continue to live this absurdly spendthrift way with the world's diminishing natural resources.

Science is itself dependent on the wealth created by oil and easily mined metals and minerals, and I foresee that Science Departments and R&D Departments in the future will be downsized and wiped out as they fail to produce the golden geese we wish for...and demand!

Disillusion and hatred will come swiftly for science in the next few decades. It will be increasingly noted that wonder drugs almost always have deadly side-effects...and most times the flame isn't worth the candle.

And as the general living standard falls around the world as living costs go up and we can afford fewer and fewer household toys and ignore almost all advertising, and as science becomes more and more a creature of the dictatorial [For the Greatest Good!] government and the military, science will accrue a bad reputation.

We'll probably send old-fashioned science fiction to the dumpster of history, since visiting aliens and humans fighting in space will seem quaint egotistic fantasies. We can see now the decline of our Star Wars future and the emergence of magicals like Harry Potter, and the endless popularity of the supernatural. Somehow---perhaps on an instinctual premonition level---ghosts and vampires and magic are becoming more acceptable than the old spaceship future.

There isn't much to say about **DOOMSDAY RELIGIONS**. The worst case scenarios look like religious dictatorships subjecting the remnants of mankind to endless crusades to force other peoples to obey different worshiping rules and different conduct regulations.

And the best case futures subject the endless waiting-for-God-to-end-the-world-and-punish-sinners-forever crowds to enough secular control to avoid some unnecessary wars and mad crowd movements.

But I'm probably too optimistic.

War and a quick, heroic death may be preferable to endless lifelong grinding poverty.

So on that bright, sanguine note, let's end this glum look into the future.

Have a good day. Have a great day. Treasure it.

END TABOO OPINIONS #87