



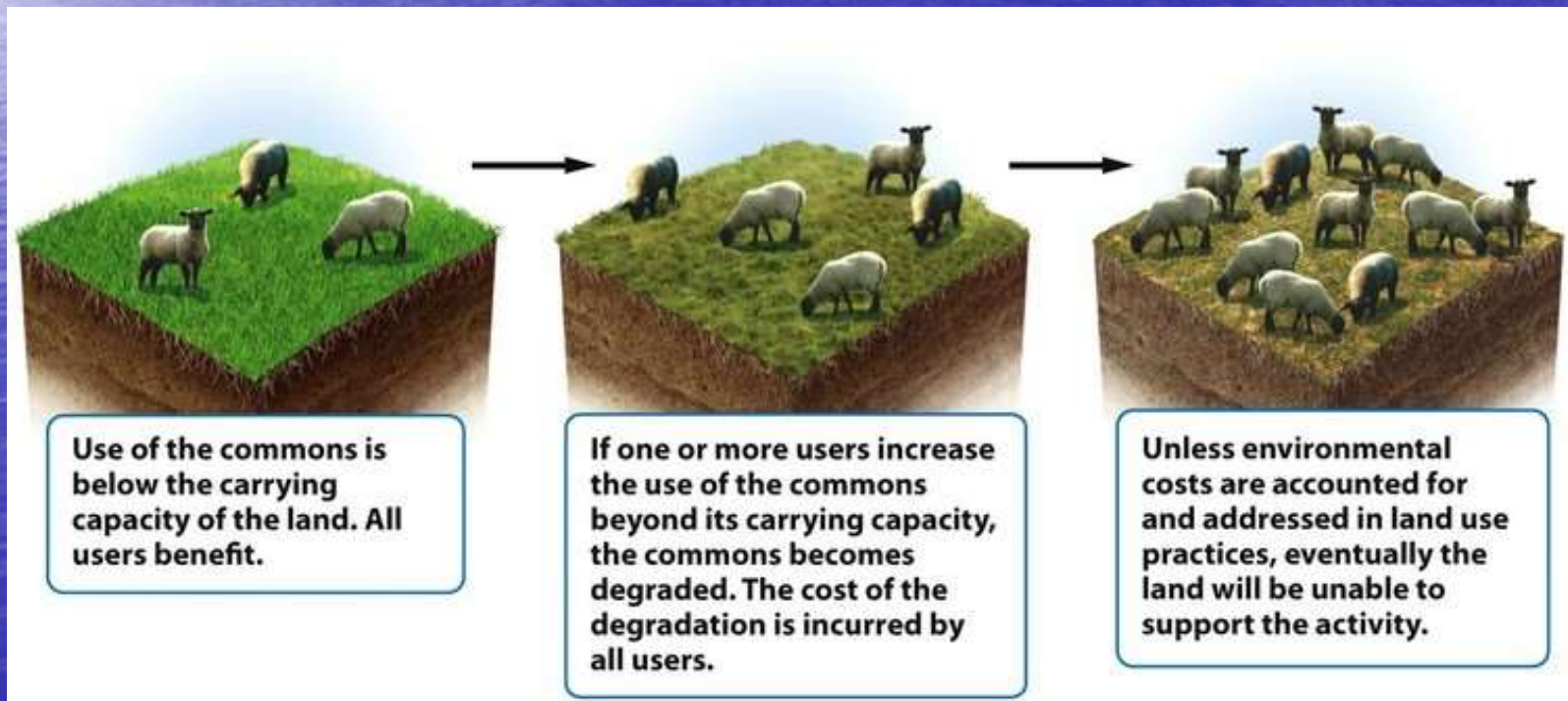
# **International Relations and the Global Environment**

# Terms And Concepts

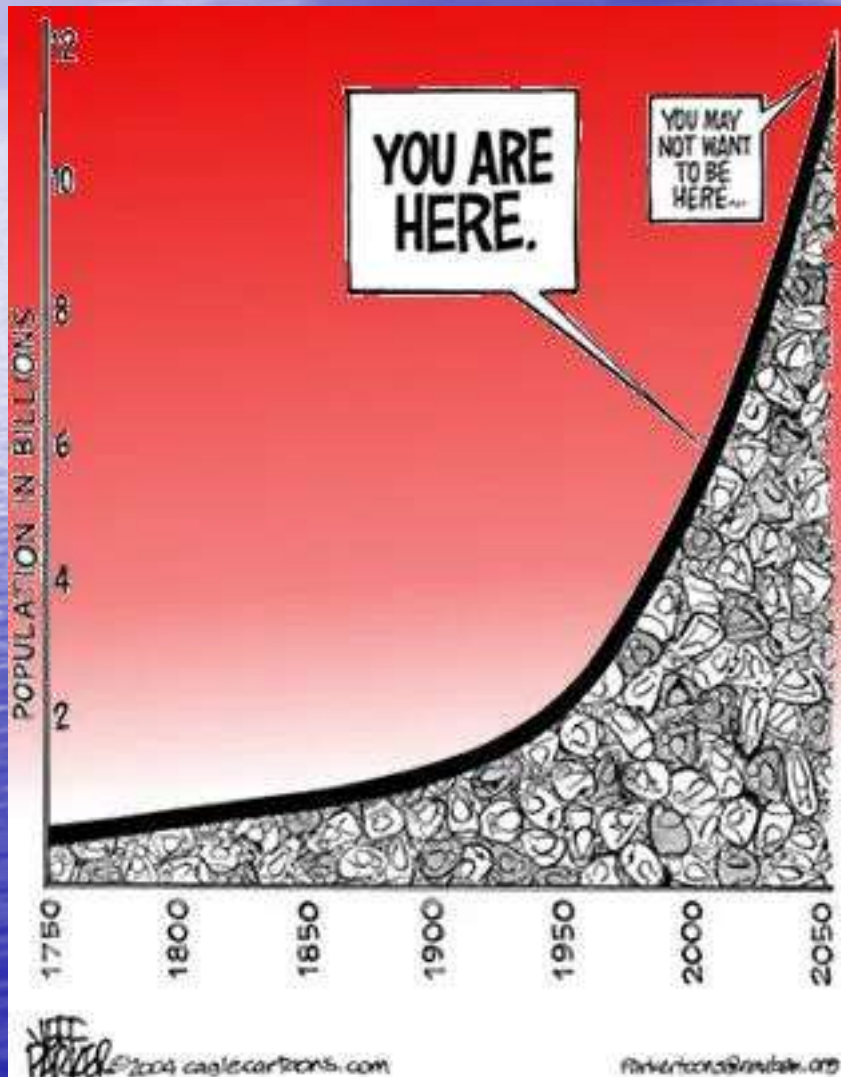


# Global Environment and IR

- 1. Tragedy of the Commons** – Garrett Hardin's metaphorical story of a village green where all can graze their sheep, but no one is accountable for its upkeep. The unregulated commons is eventually overgrazed and destroyed.



# Global Environment and IR



**2. Ecosystem** – a natural area whose plants, animals, and physical environment are closely interdependent. Each ecosystem has a *carrying capacity*, or limit on the amount of life it can sustain.

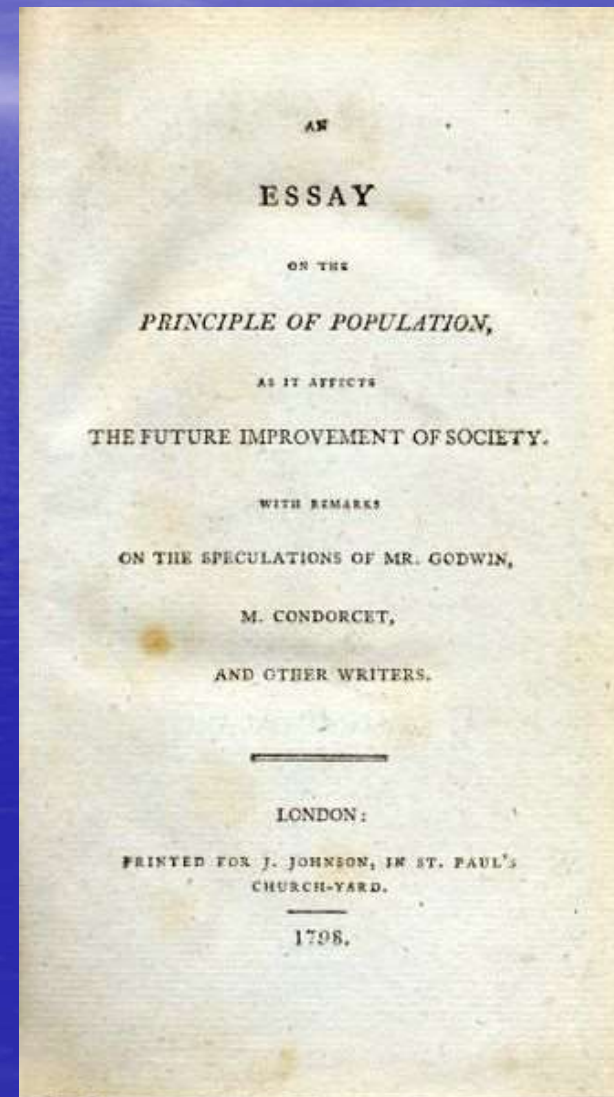
# Global Environment and IR



**3. Population Explosion** – the crisis that many ecologists point to as the central problem – too many people demanding more than the Earth can provide.

# Global Environment and IR

**4. Malthusianism** – author Thomas Malthus suggests in 1798 that the world's population would grow exponentially while its food grew arithmetically, leading to famine and death.



# Global Environment and IR



**5. Sustainable Development** – the major theme of the 1992 “Earth Summit” at Rio de Janeiro. Refers to economic growth that does not deplete resources and destroy ecosystems.

# Environmental Driving Forces

**1. Core Values** – the fundamental belief structures that influence human attitudes toward ecology.

a. ***Anthropocentrism***  
sacrificing species to satisfy human wants.

b. ***Contempocentrism***  
lack of regard for future generations.



# Environmental Driving Forces



**2. Amplifiers** – the instrumental means by which human values, behaviors, and possession are extended or expanded.

a. ***Population Growth*** impacts of a projected 9-14 billion people by 2050.

b. ***Technology*** unintended consequences of CFCs.

# Environmental Driving Forces

**3. Consumptive Behavior** – the tension between human needs and wants, and its ecological consequences as a function of material wealth.

a. **Poverty**  
deforestation for fuel wood in developing countries.

b. **Affluence**  
high per-capita consumption of “throw away” goods.



# Environmental Driving Forces



**4. Political Economy** – the dominant economic structure and ideology used to explain environmental problems.

a. **Market Failure** – unpriced costs of acid rain pollution and burning fossil fuels.

b. **Failure to Have Markets** – examples include overfishing as a “tragedy of the commons.”

# **7 Major Environmental Problems**

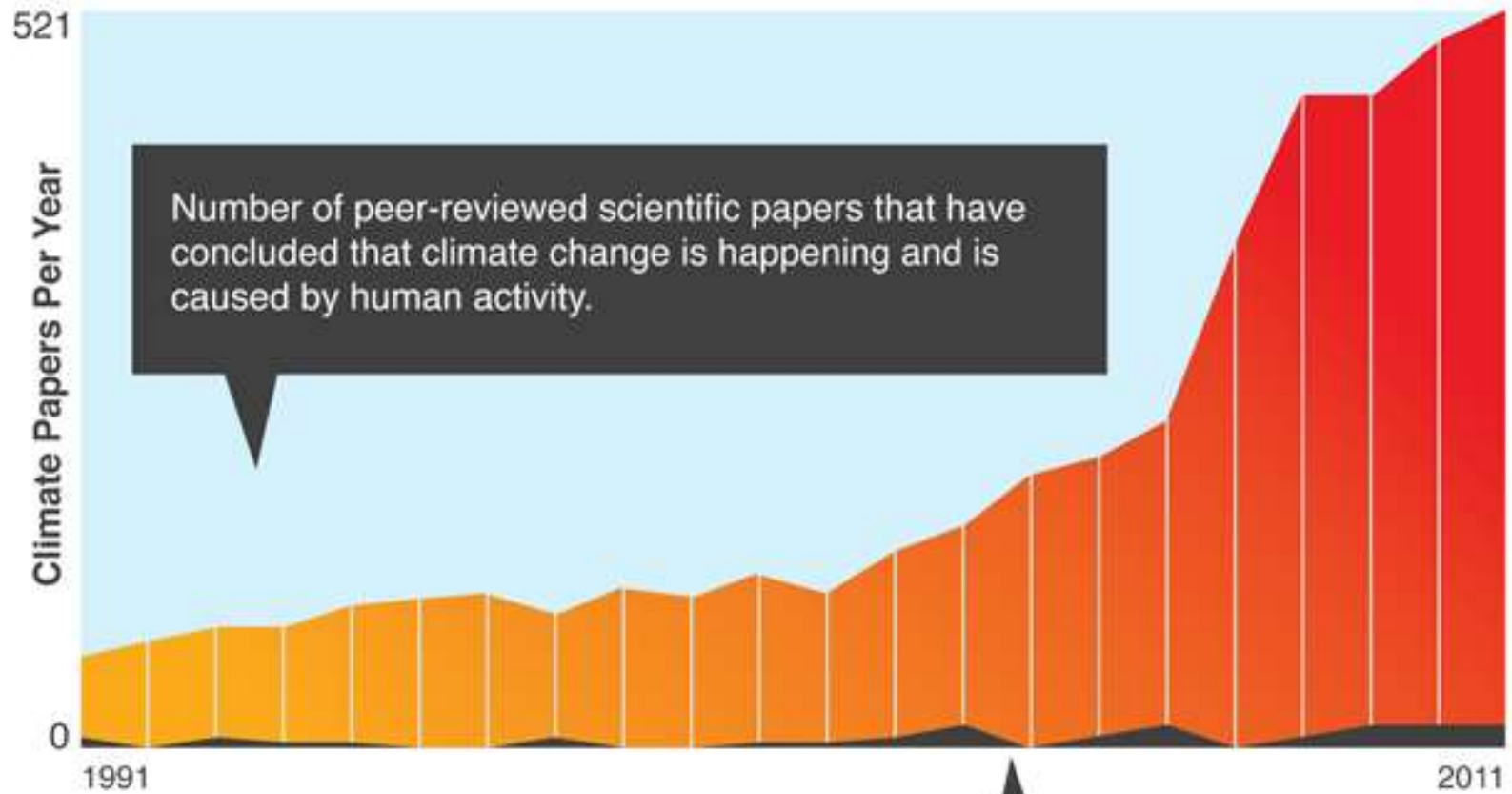
**The following seven problems can be plausibly considered to contribute to conflict within and among countries:**

# Environmental Problems

## 1. Global Warming / Climate Change



## Scientific papers on climate change

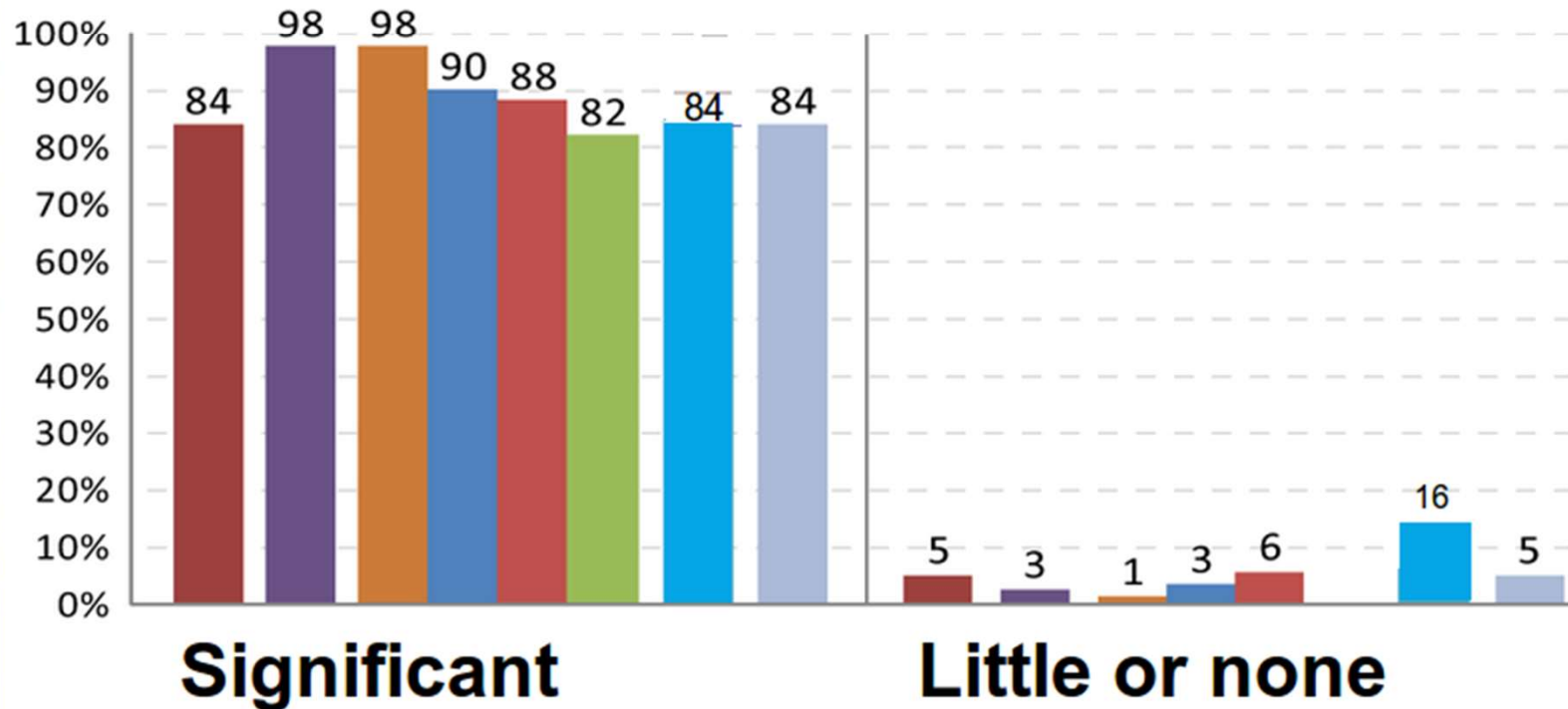


Number of peer-reviewed scientific papers that have concluded that climate change is happening and is caused by human activity.

Number of papers that disagree with the scientific consensus on climate change.

Data from Cook et al. 2013

# Opinions of Climate and Earth Scientists on Human Role in Global Warming



Farnsworth & Lichter (2011)

■ AGU / AMS Member Scientists

Anderegg et al. (2010)

■ 200 Most Published Climate Scientists

Doran & Zimmerman (2009)

■ Most Frequently Published Climatologists

■ Scientists Publishing on Climate Change

■ Climatologists

■ Earth Science Faculty / Researchers

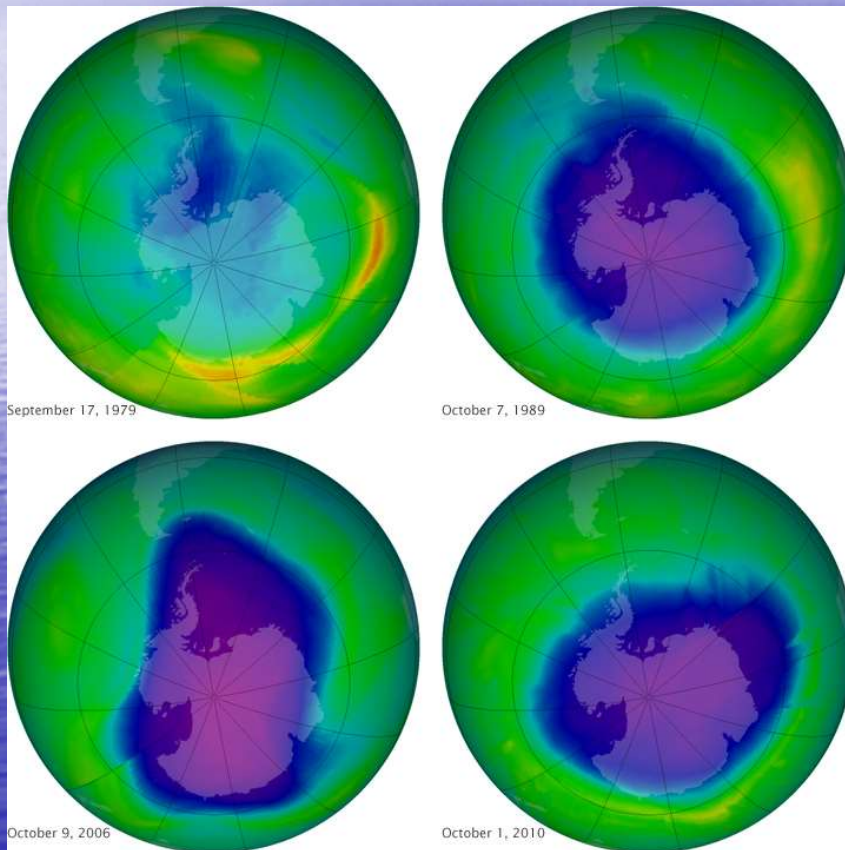
Bray & Von Storch (2008)

■ Climate Scientists

STATS / Harris Interactive (2007)

■ AGU / AMS Member Scientists

# Environmental Problems



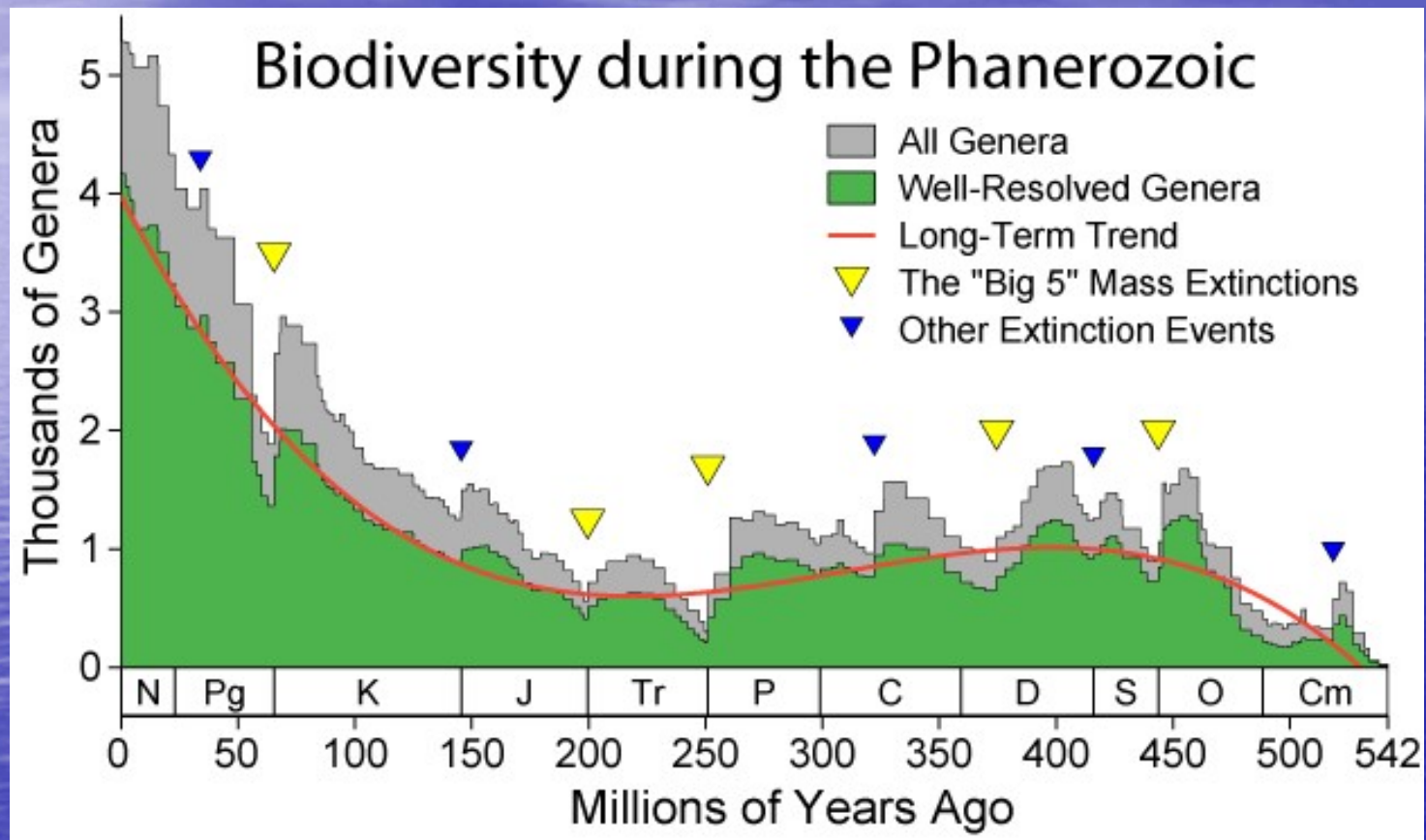
## 2. Ozone Depletion (Stratospheric)

# Environmental Problems



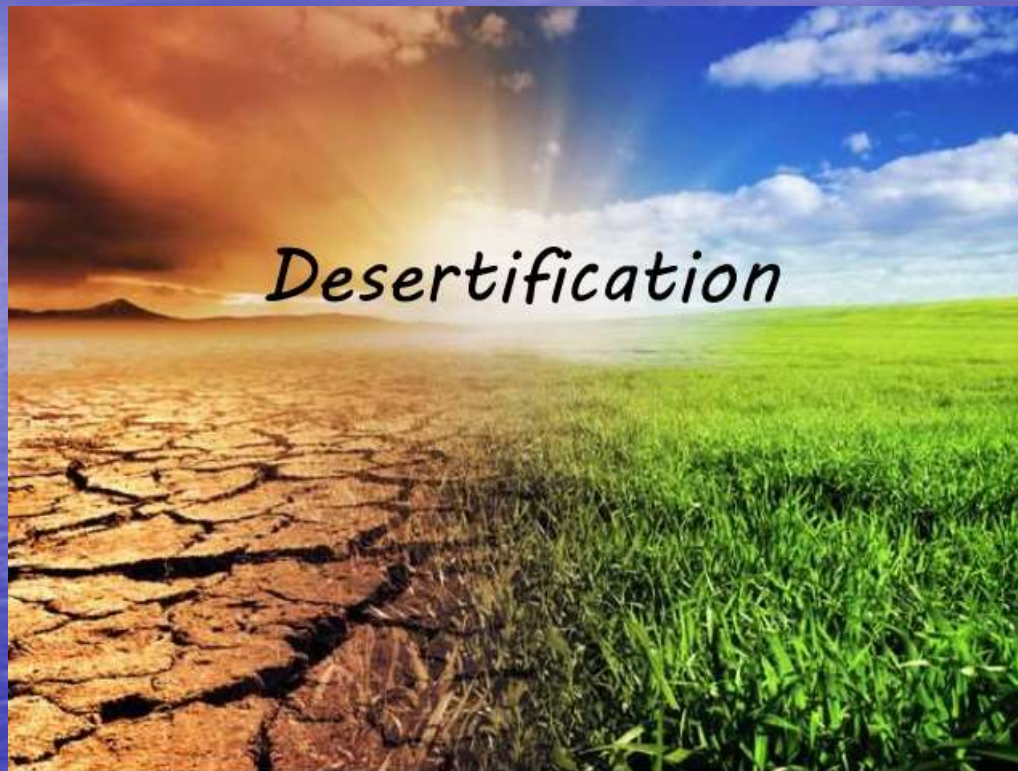
## **3.** Acid Deposition (Acid Rain)

# Environmental Problems



## 4. Deforestation (Loss of Biodiversity)

# Environmental Problems



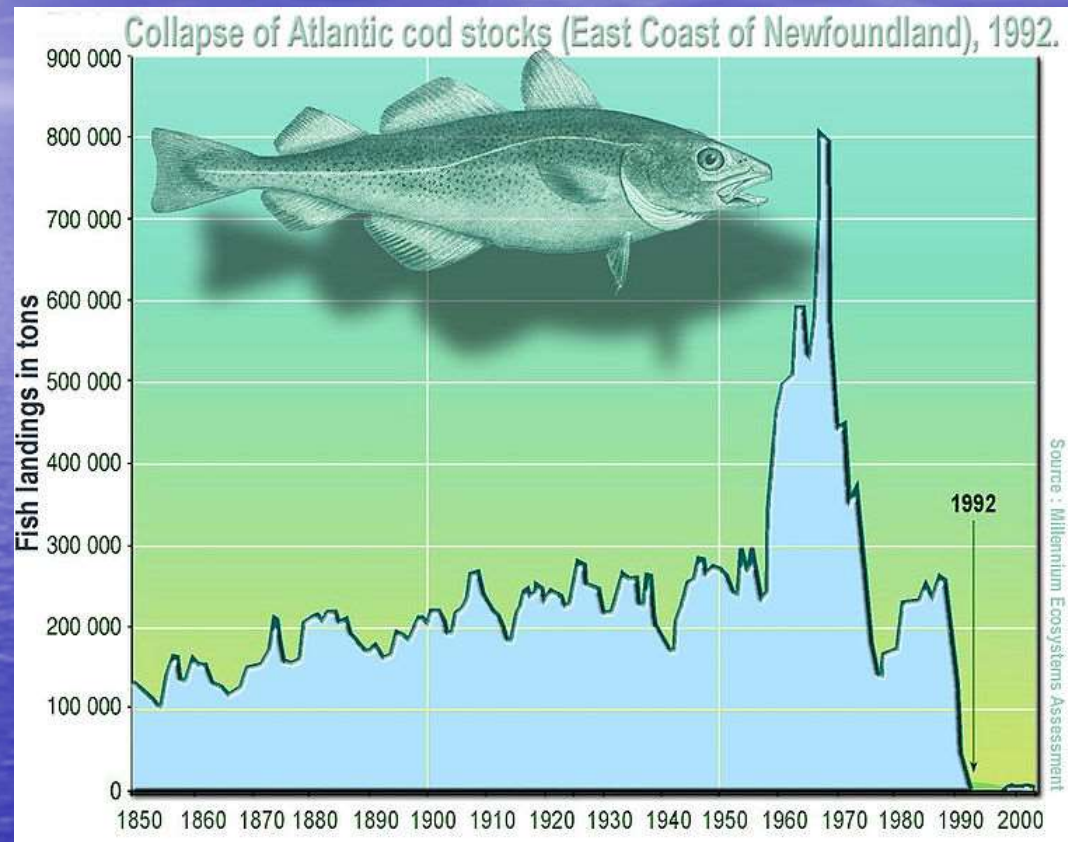
## **5.** Degradation of Agricultural Land (Desertification)

# Environmental Problems



## **6.** Overuse and Pollution of Water

# Environmental Problems



## 7. Depletion of Fish Stocks

# **Global Environment and IR**

**From these 7 problems,  
we can expect 4  
principle social effects  
leading to international  
conflict....**

# Social Effects

- 1. Decreased agricultural production leading to food shortages.**



# Social Effects

## 2. Economic Decline



**FIGHT  
BACK!  
NEWS**

**LARGEST ECONOMIC DECLINE SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION**

**NEW CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE NOW TOTAL 27 MILLION OVER THE LAST FIVE WEEKS**

# Social Effects

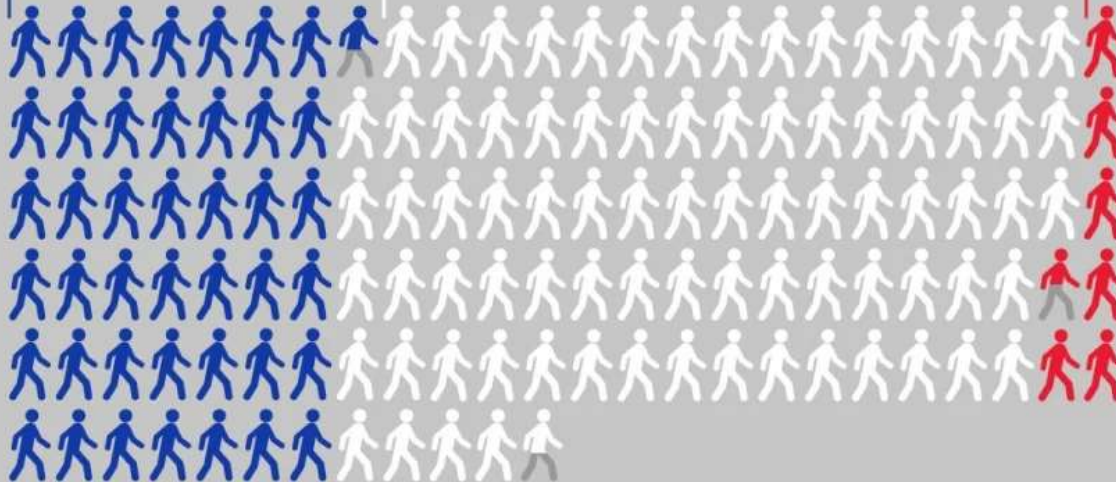
## 3. Population Displacement

**65.3 million** people worldwide are forcibly displaced — roughly the population of France

**21.3 million**  
Refugees

**40.8 million**  
Internally displaced people

**3.2 million**  
Asylum-seekers



500,000

Source: UNHCR / 20 JUNE 2016

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

# Social Effects



## 4. Disruption of Legitimized and Authoritative Institutions and Social Relations