

August 17, 2017

Of Population and Pollution
Chapter 12: A Plan for the Nations
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In chapter eleven I wrote a most idealistic scenario: the richest oligarchs and the poorest common folk all pitching in to help solve global warming in any way they can; money being returned from tax havens; corporations gladly using their factories to produce global warming infrastructure; journeymen, apprentices and common labor all standing ready to do the work. We can only wish that human nature worked this way. The reality is: people don't do stuff unless they really believe or are pushed.

In chapter twelve I will lay out my action plan by which that needed push will be given. Action is what we need. So far, there has been more talk than action. We agree. We have a global problem. The fact that no person, no organization, no nation is in charge, stands out loud and clear. How can we solve global warming if no one is made the boss? Where can we turn to find someone to tell us what to do? My inclination is to turn to one of the most important people in the world.

In paragraph #175 of Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment the pope writes, with regard to the environmental crisis, "As Benedict XVI has affirmed in continuity with the social teaching of the Church: 'To manage the global economy; to revive economies hit by the crisis; to avoid any deterioration of the present crisis and the greater imbalance that would result; to bring about integral and timely disarmament, food security and peace; to guarantee the protection of the environment and to regulate migration: for all this, there is urgent need of a true world political authority, as my predecessor Blessed John XXIII indicated some years ago.' "

Pope Francis and his predecessors have it right, especially with regard to the environmental issues facing humanity today. Global warming does indeed include such topics as peace, food, immigration and economic stability. If I were the pope I would have added reducing the human population and ending nuclear energy production to the list. But regardless, the question is: "Would it be possible to create a true world political authority as envisioned by the popes?" My answer is yes.

My suggestion is for the nations of the world to appoint a temporary world government, with authority limited to ending global warming. The goal of this temporary authority will be threefold: remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to a level of 280 parts per million; reduce the population in a humane, nonviolent, non-eugenic manner; and dismantle everything nuclear. These three goals when accomplished will provide a healthy and happy place for humanity to abide, for a very long time, if not forever.

The single authority called for by Pope Francis cannot be a single person, or a junta, or a cabal of military generals, or a dictator, because they will not respect the people. The single authority cannot be a religious sect because individual dogma can become so strong that it can become misdirecting. The single

authority cannot be a single country, because it will put itself first; or a group of countries, because they will argue and delay amongst themselves. The single authority cannot be The United Nations, because proposals can be vetoed by one country in the Security Council. The single authority cannot be the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank or the World Court, or NATO because their work is authoritarian or military in scope. Our single authority must be trusted by the people. It must be given the authority to operate freely. The nations of the world must be willing to defer to it. Nations must be willing to use their strength, even their military might, to support and protect this single authority.

Please consider: the problem is global therefore the solutions must be global. The solution is a world government. I see a world government that is agreed to and put in place by the nations acting together. I see a world government that is controlled by the nations. I see a world government that has been given powers limited to ending global warming that will last only as long as the nations want it to last.

This means that the nations will have to make treaties among themselves. The treaties will say that the new temporary government is in charge of ending global warming; that the nations will not interfere; that the nations will provide, without question, all of the money, expertise, manpower, goodwill, police and military support that the new temporary government should ask for.

When the nations decide to act they will make certain that our new government will always have officers who are trusted by the people. There are two factions in the broad makeup of humanity that are trusted by the people. The people will trust a new temporary government that has religion and science/education at its core. People, around the world, trust their religious leaders and their teachers.

What will this world authority look like? It will have one ruling body to set out the work that needs to be done; a special committee to clear the work site of encumbrances; and a group charged with the responsibility to see that all of the work gets done.

Where will they find the people to run the world authority? My strict rules for choosing these people are: they must be trusted; they must want to end global warming; they must have an aptitude for leadership; they must not be seeking political nor monetary gain; they must not have other agendas. My choice of where to find people with these qualifications is in a remote nondescript place. The temporary government will have officers who will be chosen from the science and comparative religion/humanities departments of colleges and universities everywhere in the world.

Please note that leaders chosen from science and comparative religion departments are as qualified to administer the office of a special world government as people chosen from anywhere else. And, besides, universities have legal departments with the expertise to write treaties, constitutions and all those other niceties that will no doubt be needed. Colleges and universities are not weak forces in our societies. All of the colleges and universities, worldwide, acting together will become a strong platform, a strong force, on which to build a temporary world government. But, just like the nations, the colleges and universities will

not be permitted to interfere with the temporary government. They will be expected to join in supporting and maintaining the new government.

I have given this new world authority three distinct parts. It will have a ruling body to set out the work that needs to be done; a special committee to clear the work site of encumbrances; and a group charged with the responsibility to see that all of the work gets done. Let me introduce you to the names that I have given these three bodies: the ‘Alliance’, the ‘Committee of the Prominent’ and the ‘Association’.

The Alliance

This is the entity that the nations will anoint as being in charge. The Committee of the Prominent and the Association will serve at the pleasure of the Alliance. The Alliance is an alliance of science and comparative religion departments. At this early time in developing this process I have chosen to call it simply the Alliance. The nations can give it a formal name at the time of anointment.

After having authorized the Alliance the nations will appoint temporary officers whose job it will be to arrange a time and place for an election of permanent officers. Let me give you a feel for how this election process will work.

- A. When the nations authorize the Alliance they will agree that the only people who can hold offices and be in charge of the Alliance will be people chosen from the science and comparative religion/humanities departments of colleges and universities worldwide.
- B. Employees from these departments who choose to be candidates will meet at a place and time and elect officers from among themselves.
- C. There will be two elections at different venues: one for candidates from the science departments and one for candidates from the comparative religion/humanities departments.
- D. If it is decided that twelve officers should run the Alliance then six would come from science departments and six from comparative religion/humanities departments.
- E. Two college campuses will be made available, one for each election.
- F. To start the election process two or more days should be set aside for meetings and conversation among the candidates; so that each candidate can get to know the others.
- G. Each candidate will be given two votes to cast as they choose. They could cast one vote for themselves and one for another who they think might be an effective officer. Having the choice they could cast both votes for themselves or however else they may choose.
- H. Electing 6 officers from a large number of candidates will take several ballots. The people setting up the election get to choose how many ballots will be needed and how the candidates will advance to subsequent ballots. The next three bullet points are three ways that I might suggest.

- I. One way might be to eliminate candidates who received zero, one or two votes. Continue this process on subsequent ballots until only six candidates are left standing.
- J. Fewer ballots will be needed if the exponential powers of the number of winners are used. For instance, if 6 officers are to be elected then the number of candidates on each ballot could be limited to not more than 1,296; 216; and 36; by choosing the candidates who have the highest vote totals on the previous ballot; until 6 candidates with the highest vote totals remain standing.
- K. Still another way would be to use agreed upon multiples of 6. For instance, each ballot could be limited to not more than 1,200; 600; 300; 60; 30; 18; and 12 of the highest vote getters, until 6 winners are left standing.
- L. Time will be set aside for more meetings and more conversation between ballots.
- M. Those candidates who have been eliminated will be asked to stay to participate in voting for remaining eligible candidates.
- N. If the task is to elect six officers, then the election will be over when six candidates are left standing after having received the greatest number of votes.
- O. Who will be at this election? I expect that hundreds of colleges and universities will send their best, their most qualified staff, from the science and comparative religion departments, hoping they will become elected.
- P. The election process will choose the best of the best.

The Committee of the Prominent

After the Alliance has been staffed with permanent officers, its first task will be to appoint a very special committee. The entire notion that we will ever be able to end global warming will hinge on this committee. The people appointed to this committee are the most revered and most awarded people on the planet. Their job will be to convince everybody that global warming is real; that we have to stop using fossil fuel; that the planet is being overcrowded with people; that all of the wherewithal available, including money from tax havens and other accounts, must be made available; and that the people are kept apprised so that everyone has a positive understanding of events and efforts. This committee will be staffed with the most prominent people in the world and their emissaries.

The people serving on the Committee of the Prominent will need someone to stand in for them when they are not available. These are the emissaries. The emissaries will speak with the same authority as the peerless ones. The Alliance will determine the size and functions of this committee. This committee will be answerable only to the Alliance.

The Association

Let me use a simple metaphor to help explain the Association. As we go about our daily lives we may decide to remodel, repair or otherwise fixup something that we own. First, we decide on the job. Second,

we study the ramifications of the job and remove any contingencies or encumbrances. Third, we get to work and do the job. Our new temporary world government will act in much the same way. The Alliance will decide what needs to be done; the Committee of the Prominent will remove the encumbrances; and the Association will get to work and do the job.

I see humanity as being divided into four subsets: science, religion, business and government. The Association is named because it is made up of the association of these four separate groups. The Association will develop and engineer solutions; organize business arrangements; negotiate contracts; assign work and workers; provide oversite to the workplaces; see the work to its completion and report back to the Alliance. People identified with these four groups have the abilities and characteristics needed to coordinate, arrange and complete all of the work that needs to be done to end global warming.

The Association will have a board of directors. The board will be made up of an equal number of members from each of the four divisions: science, religion, business and government. For instance, if the board is to have twelve members then three will be elected from each faction. Each faction will hold its own separate election following the same process as that used to elect the officers of the Alliance.

How will we know if a person who wants to become a board member of one of these groups is best suited to that particular group? The Alliance will set up criteria to direct candidates to the most suitable group. We can know and be assured that each faction of the board of directors will be made up of the best of the best in each of the factions.

After the elections, the board of directors will decide among themselves who should be the Chair, the Recorder and other needed positions. A constitution, bylaws, standards of operation and other documents would be written and approved by the Alliance. The Association will become a very large, bureaucratic entity; facilitating projects and work orders everywhere in the world. All of these projects will have been ordered by the Alliance.

Pope Francis asked for a true world political authority. Who in the world has the authority to create such a thing? The short answer is ‘the nations’. The nations are of the people. The nations not only have the authority, they have the responsibility. National leaders must not shirk their responsibility toward their constituents with regard to global warming. The United Nations recognizes one hundred ninety five member nations. Wouldn’t it be grand if one hundred ninety five nations could decide to act together in creating a temporary, limited, world government designed to end global warming?

The process I have laid out will work if the nations allow it to work. The nations will have to sign treaties to allow the Alliance to exist. Perhaps the United Nations will be able to help with that. Where

will the Alliance and all of its activities be headquartered? This decision will be made by the nations. How many nations will we need to get the conversation started? Perhaps two or three will be enough.

Will the temporary government be easily corruptible? No. The election process will ensure that only the best of the best will serve. It would be possible, I suppose, that an official could be bribed or otherwise compromised. But a provision for special elections could control that.

We are short on time. We need to decide what we are going to do. Let me rephrase that. *We are short on time. The leaders of the nations need to decide what they are going to do.* I suggest that the leaders begin meeting together and create the Alliance and the Committee of the Prominent and the Association. If the nations give up a little power to a temporary, limited in scope, global government, they will have engineered mankind's best bet to save the planet from global warming. It can be done. The reality is that nations are permanent; the Alliance will be temporary. Setting all this up will be good work for lawyers from colleges and universities.

Everybody knows how important it is to end global warming, but, nothing will happen unless there is a boss to tell us what to do. What if the nations won't act or can't get together to act? If the nations won't do it then the people will have to do it themselves. The people can petition the presidents and boards of regents of colleges and universities. Science department and comparative religion department heads could begin talking it up with their peers from other universities. They could be the petitioners.

Universities and colleges are not without power and prestige. If colleges and universities throughout the world sign on to having a single world authority, national officials will pay attention. When the national leaders see that support of the people is strong, they will be able to accept a temporary world authority. National leaders have a choice. They can use their own initiative or they can listen to the people. In either case a temporary government such as the Alliance must be approved.

Please consider the following excerpt from a speech made by Dr. Martin Luther King on August 28, 1963. This speech is often called his fierce urgency of now speech. "We are now faced with the fact, my friends, that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us standing bare, naked and dejected with a lost opportunity."

We really don't have much time left to deal with the problems facing humanity. I am concerned for my grandchildren, my greatgrandchildren and future unborn progeny. Why should they suffer the chaos and hardship that will lead to possible extinction because we have been unwilling to act? The specter of extinction of the human race looms and we must acknowledge. Be afraid. Be strong. Be willing to choose a method to combat global warming that includes: a temporary world government with leaders who can be trusted; a nonviolent, non-eugenic process to reduce the population; a plan to dismantle all things nuclear; an infrastructure of solar panels and wind turbines to end the use of fossil fuel; an infrastructure of mini refineries to remove the excess carbon from the atmosphere; and a gardening technique that will feed the population while crop land is being used to save the planet.

My hope is that this chapter will inspire the nations to create the Alliance for the purpose of solving global warming. The Alliance will be given the protection, the wherewithal and the authority it will need. These needs will include trillions of dollars as well as factories and suppliers. Providing the needed equipment, materials and manpower will be crucial. Please know that if every decision is filled with empathy and understanding; things will be done right; nobody will lose.

Earth and humanity are forever linked. Humanity began with only a few people and has now grown until it is no longer sustainable. Earth's resources are being depleted. This is all happening on our watch and we need to act. We must maximize energy output from renewable sources.

The sun is the source of the wind, the ocean's waves and direct solar radiation. Gravitation is the source of the tides. These are the renewables. Nuclear power is not renewable. It depends on a resource, uranium. Geothermal is not renewable. It depends on the heat from the center of the Earth. Hydroelectric power depends on gravity and is often thought of as renewable. But, wouldn't it be nice to allow our rivers to run free?

The future of humanity is dependent on the amount of energy we derive from the sun. It is the sun that provides life on Earth. Let us use the sun to the fullest extent.

If one wanted to employ a little dark, snarky humor one might say, "Earth does have a safe nuclear power plant. It's the sun. It is safe because it is ninety three million miles away." Another might say, "Yeah, but It'll run out of power in two billion years. Will humanity last that long?"