

Global Village of 1000



What does it mean to live in a global village? In part, it means that we are instantly and constantly aware of events happening across the globe, and that no nation or state is entirely isolated from global issues. Communications technology draws all people closer together. Political leaders cannot ignore external influences or world events, even if they might wish to do so. More importantly, living in a global village means that we are neighbours, responsible for one another.

If the world were a village of 1000 people it would include:

- * 584 Asians
- * 124 Africans
- * 84 Latin Americans
- * 55 former Soviets (this includes Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, and other national groups)
- * 52 North Americans
- * 6 Australians and New Zealanders

The people of the village would speak:

- * 165 Mandarin
- * 86 English
- * 83 Hindu/Urdu
- * 64 Spanish
- * 58 Russian
- * 37 Arabic

The above list accounts for the mother tongues of only half the village. The other half speak (in descending order of frequency)

- * Bengali
- * Portuguese
- * Indonesian
- * Japanese
- * German
- * French
- * and 200 other languages.

In this village of 1000 there are:

- * 329 Christians (among them 187 Catholics, 84 Protestants, and 31 Orthodox)
- * 178 Muslims
- * 167 "Non religious"
- * 60 Buddhists
- * 45 Atheists
- * 32 Hindus
- * 3 Jews
- * 86 of other religions

One-third of the 1000 people in the world village are children, and only 60 are over the age of 65. Half the children are immunized against preventable diseases such as measles and polio. Just under half of the married women in the village have access to and use modern contraceptives.

This year 28 babies will be born. Ten people will die, 3 of them for lack of food, 1 from cancer. Two of the deaths will be of babies born within the year. One person of that 1000 in the village is infected with HIV; that person most likely has not yet developed a full-blown case of AIDS.

With the 28 births and 10 deaths, the population of the village next year will be 1,018.

In this 1000 person community, 200 people receive 75 percent of the income; another 200 receive only 2 percent of the income.

Only 70 people of the 1000 own an automobile (although some of the 70 own more than one car).

About one-third have access to clean, safe drinking water.

Of the 670 adults in the village, half are illiterate.

The village has 6 acres of land per person-6000 acres in all-of which:

- * 700 acres are cropland,
- * 1400 acres are pasture,
- * 1900 acres are woodland,
- * 2000 acres desert, tundra, pavement, and other wasteland.

The woodland is declining rapidly; the wasteland is increasing. The other land categories are roughly stable. The village allocates 83 percent of its fertilizer to 40 percent of its cropland-that owned by the richest and best fed 270 people. Excess fertilizer running off this land causes pollution in lakes and wells. The remaining 60 percent of the land, with its 17 percent of the fertilizer, produces only 28 percent of the food but feeds 73 percent of the people. The average grain yield on that land is one-third the harvest achieved by the richer villagers.

In the village of 1000 people, there are:

- * 5 soldiers
- * 7 teachers
- * 1 doctor
- * 3 refugees driven from home by war or drought

The village has a total yearly budget, public and private, of over \$3 million - \$3000 per person if it is distributed evenly (which, as we have already seen, it isn't). Of the total \$3 million:

- * \$181 000 goes to weapons and warfare
- * \$159 000 to education
- * \$132 000 to health care

The village has buried beneath it enough explosive power in nuclear weapons to blow itself to smithereens many times over. These weapons are under the control of just 100 of the people. The other 900 are watching them with deep anxiety, wondering whether they can learn to get along together; and if they do, whether they might set off the weapons anyway through inattention or technical bungling; and if they ever decide to dismantle the weapons, where in the world village will they dispose of the radioactive materials of which the weapons are made?