

Chapter 1

100 YEAR FORECAST

The Good, The Bad, And The UGLY: Over the next 100 years, our world will undergo many changes – some will be ‘good’, many will be ‘bad’, but the one single word that summarizes the state of the world 100 years from now is ‘UGLY’...

I was born in the USA in 1958. I was a school age boy during the 1960’s and 1970’s. I remember our reference books reported back then that the world population was right around 3 billion people. I also remember that they stated that the world population was only around one billion in 1900, and that the population was only around 250 million back in 1492 when Christopher Columbus discovered America (or should I say, ‘rediscovered America’?). Well, the world population now (2024 A.D.) is right around eight billion people. If it makes a bigger impact to you, I’ll spell it out numerically: 8,000,000,000!!! During my lifetime, I’ve already witnessed the doubling of America’s population since I was a child. Barring any unpredictable cataclysm (such as a crashing ‘mega asteroid’ from outer space), our population will keep on growing. It roughly doubles every forty years. Thus, 100 years from now, I conservatively predict the world’s population will be somewhere around **40 BILLION PEOPLE**.

I believe it is very reasonable to think of the Earth as a large spaceship orbiting a small star, we call the Sun. I used to watch the TV show ‘Star Trek’ in the 1970’s when I was a kid. If memory serves me right, the ‘Starship Enterprise’ was designed to support a crew of 700. Well, try to imagine stuffing 10,000 people onto a starship that is designed for 700? It doesn’t take a genius to figure out that the living conditions on that spaceship will be pretty awful, to put it mildly. As overcrowding becomes worse, people will resort to more cheating and stealing just to make up for basic shortages. Even ‘normal people’ may resort to criminal activity under extreme conditions, such as when survival is at stake. We all know that desperate people perform desperate deeds, and desperation worldwide is definitely on the rise.

On the same train of thought, our planet has a very finite size, with finite (and dwindling) natural resources. I’ll bet you the universe that our ‘planet Earth spaceship’ is not designed to sustain 8 billion people – and much less the anticipated 40 billion population figure that we will be reaching in a short

century. Most people would agree with me that living conditions on Earth are worsening. Unfortunately, the prognosis for our worldwide situation is that conditions will continue to regress dramatically, unless major changes are initiated now. Something must be done – and I have a plan...

Before we look at the plan, let me mention that it's not just our rapid birth rates that contribute to overpopulation. First, technology, that being the 'good technology' of improvements in the medical field, has helped to reduce the rate of infant mortality, so that a much higher than ever percentage of newborn babies survive. Secondly, the 'good technology' has greatly increased the average life expectancy of the average earthling by a lot. Don't misunderstand me by thinking I am anti-technology. I am 110% for developing technology that improves, lengthens, and enhances lives. However, it is an inevitable side effect that technology contributes to our world's overpopulation.

'Shrinking Planet': Our planet is truly shrinking, both metaphorically, and even in actual size... Since this chapter is all about a 100-year forecast, there is clear evidence that the polar ice is melting. While it can be debated whether or not man's pollution is the main cause of the Earth's rising temperature (via the 'greenhouse effect') the fact of matter is that ICE IS MELTING, regardless of blame. If the ice continues to melt, eventually the sea level will rise by a significant amount. Needless to say, lowland coastal areas, such as many parts of Florida, will disappear into the sea, and countless coastal areas worldwide will become submerged. Truly the square mileage of total land space will shrink noticeably, and thus further adding to overcrowding... Maybe that old joke that goes something like, "I can sell you some oceanfront property in Kansas", might actually become a harsh reality someday.

Metaphorically, the world is shrinking in a different way. Not long ago, a simple journey from Europe to America would have taken over a month by sailing ship. Communication between distant places was equally slow. Today, we can hop on a jet and cross the Atlantic Ocean in a few hours, and we can instantly communicate by using telephones, cell phones, Zoom, text messaging, and computer e-mails which travel at the speed of light. It made sense in the past to have isolated autonomous governments with their own constitutions. It still does, but things have changed. Our global economies have become fully integrated, intertwined, and dependent on each other. There is a real need to create a new worldwide governing body with its own constitution to handle certain big issues that affect occurrences beyond the boundaries of individual countries. By all means, we will still keep our individual national borders, languages, religions, cultures, and our individual governments. However, the time is now to create a new, worldwide decision-making body, and all national governments will need to honor decisions rendered by a 'world council' when an international conflict arises. For example, when a nuclear disaster in Chernobyl affects half of Europe, or polluting factories in China affects

Greenland's ice shelf, we'll need more of a 'team government' to handle the issues. A significant portion of my plan includes a humane and equitable strategy to target population management. That idea will be fully explored later in this book. That's the underlying reason why I titled this book, 'BLUEPRINTS FOR A BETTER WORLD'.

Earlier, I mentioned 'good technology' as being helpful primarily in the health and medical field, but there is another newer technology that is currently in its infant stages that will be making vast advances over the next 100 years. That technology, my friends, is the field of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. I think we will soon develop true, human-like robots that can replace the need for many forms of human labor. We are certainly headed in that direction. I'm talking about the robotics, along with Artificial Intelligence, that will increase the average human worker's productivity by a whole lot – the kind of robots that can allow a single man to do the work of a dozen (or more). Today, America's unemployment rate is described as 'normal' – approximately 4%. When the true age of robotics arrives, unemployment rates of 30%, 40%, and even 50% can be expected as the 'new normal', and the so-called middle class will largely disappear.

A big company like our airplane builder, Boeing, which currently employs over 80,000 workers (who often seem ready to go on strike), would enthusiastically choose to have a robotic work force instead of dealing with disgruntled human laborers. They could replace most of those 80,000 well-paid workers with about 1,000 robotic engineers, and still produce the same number of airplanes. Boeing never needs to pay a robot a 'Christmas Bonus', 'sick leave', 'maternity leave', Department of Labor & Industry injury claims, paid vacations, and make contributions towards any 'retirement pension plan'. Besides, robots don't cheat and steal from the company they work for. Most labor unions will lose any collective bargaining strength they have at present. The robots are just too hard to compete against. Thus, my theory is that robotics will lead to vastly greater productivity, which in turn significantly reduces the demand for human labor.

Robotics have already advanced a great deal since I mentioned them in my first edition of BLUEPRINTS FOR A BETTER WORLD...

Back in 2010, the big news story was the huge oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico when British Petroleum's oil rig blew up. Of course, the whole world was upset over the incredible mess it made, but at the same time I found it fascinating that they used robots at around 5,000 feet below sea level to repair the leak. Of course, no deep-sea diver could go that far down and survive. While robots are still in their infancy stage, they will make major advances during the next century. To be sure, the full arrival of the robotic era will be a double-edged sword: on the one hand, productivity and profitability will soar to fantastic

heights, while at the same time MANY jobs will be permanently replaced by a far more efficient robotic labor force.

Robotics don't always involve a mechanized critter that resembles C3PO from Star Wars. For example, one of the varieties of robotics, which is coming very soon to a 'car dealer near you', involves 'self-driving vehicles'. While that's a technological advance with many desirable aspects, including: the elimination of drivers falling asleep at the wheel; breaking of traffic laws; and people driving while intoxicated, just imagine what that would do for cab drivers, bus drivers, and truck drivers. While this isn't exactly a robot driving a car, the need for human participation (when it comes to driving) will soon be eliminated. Some of this is definitely for the better, yet I wonder, how many millions of people will become unemployed as a result of just this one single, new technology?

When the technology is originally marketed to the consumers, will they all immediately run out to buy the new 'driverless car technology'? Not immediately. Initially, the price will probably be quite high, but as monopolistic pricing will encourage more competition, prices will end up quite affordable.

I remember back in 1974, my dad bought me one of the early calculators. It was a clunky Texas Instruments basic model. It only could perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, it had a single memory, and a square root button on it. I took special care of it since my dad paid \$149 plus tax for it. That equals about \$400 in today's dollars. Very few students had a calculator back then. Since 1974, calculators have become quite cheap. A generic calculator with similar functions costs under \$5.00 today, yet few people buy one, since smartphones are already equipped with calculator capability.

While economists have always cried about inflation, I need to point out technological advances always makes high tech products cheaper over time. Similar to my calculator example are flat screen TVs, computer equipment, and cell phones/smartphones have all had a 'deflationary' affect. Prices continue to drop, and the products continue to improve.

To be sure, the first robots to be developed will appear prohibitively expensive as well. Possibly so expensive that the public doesn't recognize the robots as a potential threat to their own employment. The people had better not get too complacent, since before 100 years have passed, the price of robotics will come down to the point where human labor (even minimum wage labor) seems expensive when compared to the price of robots. This will lead to the next disaster...

The Greatest Depression of 2088 A.D. Why will 2088 have such a major depression? History shows that the economy runs in roughly 80-year cycles. The crash of 1929 was 79 years before the Great Recession of 2008.

Supposedly, we have recovered from that deep recession (although that's a topic for a different debate), and theoretically, our economy will chug along until the next great economic implosion again in 2088. Apparently, an 80-year cycle roughly coincides with the typical human life span. Virtually anybody who was an adult back during the last depression has already died. When nobody is around who learned the lessons the hard way, mistakes will be repeated. This next time will be no different. The robot era will trigger a new economic bubble. The profiteers will become euphoric, then suddenly the bubble will burst, and the 'party is over'.

The main reason that our Great Recession of 2008 was milder than the 1930's Depression is that we currently have great growth coming from the 'emerging markets' in China and India. In 2008, they were still growing their economies by around 10% per year, and their combined populations represent about one third of the world's population.

That will be quite different in 2088. The world will have completed its greatest growth spurt ever stemming from the seemingly endless economic growth provided by Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. It will surely be the King of all Bubbles. Yet, this bubble will ultimately burst on itself when unemployment becomes too high due to near zero hiring by large companies. Thus, the purchasing power of the consumer plummets, and the world economies will suffer the longest and deepest depression ever seen.

The difference between 2088 versus 2008 is that China and India will no longer be emerging markets with 10% annual growth rates, and they will not be able to bailout the world economy as they did in 2008's recession. This next time China and India, with a combined population of close to 5 billion in 2088 will probably have an unemployment rate of over 50%. This will happen when low cost producing factories in China and India switch to a robotic labor force. So, even summoning the ghost of the great economist, Milton Friedman, won't cure that giant depression.

According to news reports, our economy has already recovered from the Great Recession of 2008, and supposedly unemployment levels have returned down to 'full employment' levels. However, with each vicious economic cycle, the middle-class family takes it on the chin. Not only do unemployment figures fail to account for 'discouraged workers', there is an ever present, growing problem of the so-called 'under-employed' class.

For example, when many old, established banks went out of business during the last recession (such as Washington Mutual Bank), many well-paying bank jobs were lost forever. Many of the upper-middle class employees who were accustomed to earning six-figure incomes were forced to accept new jobs paying half as much – or even less. That's just a microcosm of similar

happenings across the board, yet their individual hardships don't register at all within the reported unemployment statistics. Getting back to my Monopoly Game example, the last economic cycle represents one full trip around the board for all the players, whereby at least one of the poorer players was completely eliminated, and the 'middle-class' players became progressively more squeezed on cash, while the kid with hotels built on Boardwalk and Park Place continued to rake it in.

In a nutshell, the economy nevertheless has improved slightly and slowly, and the president (past or present) will declare that his economic programs are/were a roaring success, when in reality, we can all attribute the growing economies in China and India as being the real reason the last recession wasn't twice as severe, and for twice as long of a period of time.

With each minor business cycle downturn, the corporate CEO's will figure out how to get the same amount of work produced by fewer and fewer workers. This is called increased productivity. As Robotics and Artificial Intelligence contribute to labor productivity, companies will become less motivated in hiring a bunch of expensive employees. The labor force will have to do more work, get paid less money, and face stiffer competition from hungrier unemployed workers.

Therefore, prior to year 2088, the Robotic Era will lead to more and more wealth in the hands of fewer and fewer people. Within a few short decades from now, I believe the richest people will be the primary developers of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. The next richest bunch will be company CEO's who have largely replaced their wage intensive work force with cheaper, headache-free robots. The masses of poverty-stricken people will comprise well in excess of 50% of the entire population, with a smallish middle class. The middle class will include teachers, white collar management positions, a few surviving small-business owners, and policemen. I can see that police crews will need to grow in force, since many of the rich people will need protection from the hungry, poor, desperate masses. Of course, even the police departments may be able to shrink as well if we ever reach the "ROBOCOP" development stage (as in the 1980's movie).

During the next 100 years, a lot of food shortages are likely to happen. They claim that technological advances in farming will help feed a growing population. I dispute that on several fronts. First, weather patterns in general are changing. More disruptive weather such as severe hurricanes, tornadoes, torrential rains in some areas, extreme droughts in others, and unseasonably hot and cold spells all wreak havoc on farmers. Some scientists even predict a returning 'dust bowl' (a la 1930's) for our country's 'farm belt'. These weather pattern changes probably are the result of global warming.

On the other hand, companies such as Monsanto are developing GMO food products to feed a starving world. While on the surface that may sound like a noble undertaking, there is a very sinister ulterior motive involved. The acronym 'GMO' stands for 'genetically modified organism'. One doesn't need to be a rocket scientist to arrive at the conclusion that such 'laboratory foods' have dire, unhealthy side effects, such as: causing cancer, diabetes, and obesity to name just a few. I'm appalled at how many obese teenagers there are today – obesity has truly become an epidemic. The primary customers of GMO foods belong to the lower and middle classes, since they no longer can afford to eat 'the good stuff'. There is real evidence that Monsanto is contributing to the gradual extermination of the poorer classes by reducing their respective life expectancies, with the intent that the ultra-rich may inherit the entire world (a likely strategy of the infamous Illuminati – more on that in later chapters).

For a variety of reasons, both known and unknown, even the insect world is becoming nastier. Many insects have adapted their bodies to become pesticide resistant. Swarms of locusts, army ants, Murder Hornets, and even killer bees will hurt farm productivity in many parts of the world.

Many popular types of fish are likely to disappear altogether. That's due to a combination of increasing food demand, over-fishing due to the never-ending greed of professional fishermen, and even the effects of global warming are adversely affecting the entire seafood industry. Similarly, meat production, which involves animals in the middle of the food chain, will end up in shortage. We use corn to feed much of our livestock, but now much of our corn crop will be used to make Ethanol (a substitute for imported gasoline). Of course, the price of meat will rise to the point where only the rich can afford it. One hundred years from now, sadly a Thanksgiving Day turkey feast will only be available to the upper classes (unless Monsanto pumps enough poison into a regular turkey to make it grow into a 1,000-pound beast to feed the starving masses).

So, what do hungry, starving, desperate people generally do? They revolt. First, let's look at the French Revolution. This was one of the earlier noteworthy 'War Between the Classes'. This culminated with the snobbish French Queen Marie Antoinette being guillotined. Since history repeats itself, an eerily similar situation happened a little over 100 years later with the Russian Revolution in 1916.

The Russian masses were starving and abused. They were kept under control by the military which represented the elite Russian aristocracy. So along came Lenin to unite the masses, and the revolution was on.

Lenin's revolution was based on the Communist Theory, originally developed by Karl Marx. Marx claimed that the proletariat masses would always

be competing with one another for jobs, and thereby keeping workers' wages at bare minimum subsistence levels. Keep in mind that Marx wrote his Communist Manifesto in the mid 1800's, prior to the formation of any labor unions.

Since labor unions with their collective bargaining powers came to be, wages and the standard of living have been elevated in the capitalist world. This spurred the growth of a large middle class. However, with the full arrival of robotics, labor unions will lose all their bargaining powers, since they are at a major competitive disadvantage to compete with the robots. Thus, without strong labor unions in the future, our middle class will disappear, and our society will end up resembling pre-revolution Russia. That sounds like *déjà vu* all over again. The only difference is that this next time, the rich will mobilize a robotic army to subdue the masses. Man versus robotic machines. If I were a betting man, I'd put my money on the robots.

Once we combine the devastating effects of the Greatest Depression of 2088 with a world population that has ballooned to around 30-40 billion, things are going to become extremely 'ugly'. With as many as 20-25 billion people living below the poverty line, many social behavioral barriers will fall. Billions of hungry people will eat literally anything. Look for people's pet dogs and stray cats to be captured and eaten. I remember reading when the city of Leningrad was besieged by the Nazis in WWII. The starving people even turned to cannibalism just to survive. Back then, orphaned children were often captured, then ground up and turned into sausages. Bon appetit.

Since history has a way of repeating itself, one can expect even unthinkable acts of cannibalism to happen on a regular basis. I suppose Earth's population may eventually peak out and stabilize at around the 35 billion since cannibalism may prevent the population from growing even further.

A certain percentage of our population will come to the conclusion that it is better to be incarcerated than to live homeless and hungry. At least in prison one is provided with some food and shelter. That may easily be a logical choice for somebody who is starving and freezing to death. Thus, expect prisons to be brimming full of inmates seeking to improve their standard of living. Many 'regular people' will commit various crimes with the intention of being caught, just to earn them the 'luxury of jail life'.

Of course, only a portion of the jail inmate population will be comprised of people who freely choose to be incarcerated. The other portion of inmates will be in jail against their will. Since I was a child, I have been told that 'drugs are for people who can't handle reality'. Thus, the question I give to you is, "With the quality of life deteriorating horribly over the course of the next 100 years, what percentage of the grief-stricken masses will become addicted to mind-

altering drugs or alcohol?” Those numbers surely will reach unheard of numbers.

I'll bet they invent some new extreme drug even worse than Fentanyl, that totally eliminates any sense of reality. With the miserable projected state of the world in 2088, it's hard to blame anybody who turns to drugs as a way to escape the tortures of everyday life. Thus, 100 years from now, expect at least half of the entire population to become totally addicted to some nasty drug that has not even been invented yet.

I don't want my readers to scoff at these predictions. Do not make the mistake of overestimating the 'moral fiber' of our society. Keep in mind when Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, many chose to stay behind there during the peak of the hurricane just to go looting businesses. They even looted their next-door neighbors' homes – so much for 'high morals'. With billions of more people overcrowding the world, it will truly be 'every man for himself'. That kind of selfish attitude will become a necessity just in order to survive.

I've been primarily focusing on the demise of the middle class, and the vast expansion of the 'regular' poverty level people. However, even at the very extreme, bottom end of the poorer class are the truly homeless, panhandler types. As sad as life is for today's typical panhandler, conditions for the beggars will become far worse for the beggars of tomorrow. Obviously, with so many billions of more beggars, there will be stiff competition for the few dollars of charity available to be handed out.

Today, one usually sees just one beggar at a time on any given street corner. Imagine several of them standing next to each other at the same street corner. One can expect violent fights to occur between beggars over a prime busy street corner they view as a 'charity hot spot'.

As society continues to crumble, more beggars will gain notoriety for robbing the people generous enough to donate a buck in the first place. This will lead to paranoia among the remaining charitable people, which in turn reduces the net total of charitable donations.

Sadly, I predict that the lifestyle of tomorrow's panhandler will be noticeably worse than the lifestyle of the impoverished people of today. According to Darwin's theory of 'survival of the fittest', even the homeless bums will split up into a hierarchy of subclasses, with the more successful panhandlers being the 'alpha males' rather similar to the 'baboon society'.

Naturally, nobody aspires to become homeless. Most people would rather be a member of the upper-class elite. However, even with their piles of money, the rich people will have to live in security guarded neighborhoods. They will have to hire armed bodyguards to take their kids to their private schools.

Kidnapping of rich kids for cash ransom will become a booming industry. Thus, the world will deteriorate to the point where even the rich people of tomorrow won't be able to enjoy the perks that the rich people are enjoying today.

In conclusion, the poor people will suffer horribly. The middle class will mostly vanish. Amazingly, even the rich people of tomorrow will be living in fear and paranoia of the revolting poor. Ultimately, there will be virtually no joy left for hardly anyone. So that is 'the good, the bad, and the UGLY' of the world for the next 100 years.

This all sounds like a pretty damn awful place to live in, unless something is done about it. PS: for what it's worth, I am by no means a prophet, clairvoyant, nor am I a psychic of any kind. I'm just an extremely logical-thinking, observant guy with a lot of imagination. I happen to see some very disturbing trends. I used to be my school's chess champion, so maybe I'm accustomed to 'thinking several moves ahead'. That's how I derived my 100-year forecast.

GUN CONTROL: I didn't want to devote an entire chapter to this touchy subject, but I will summarize my own position regarding this manner, since mass shootings at schools and other venues has become such a frequent event in America... According to the US Constitution, it states: Americans have the Right to Bear Arms... I agree with what Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Constitution, wrote well over 200 years ago, but I need to point out a subtle, but important difference... When the Constitution was first drafted, the choice of guns was limited to single-shot pistols and muskets. All firearms required the cumbersome reloading of each individual bullet. Back then, there were no Machine Guns and Automatic Firearms of any kind. So, for the conservative gun advocates who demand their precious guns: you may keep your firearms, as long as they can't be classified as automatic, rapid-fire, machine gun-type of weaponry. A basic handgun or hunting rifle is acceptable, but not the type of weaponry that has typified mass shootings that have become prevalent in our society.