

**INFERNO** – Film at CONCA VERDE on 20.02.17

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I would like to start with some food for thought:

In this theatre right now there are what, 100 people? Are you comfortable with that number? Would it make a difference to you, if this cinema were completely full? Would your comfort be challenged if this place were so full, that people were sitting in the aisles, and on the steps here? This is not allowed, of course!

Transfer that thought to outside: How would you feel if the streets were crowded every day, if the roads were so jammed, that you couldn't drive faster than say, 30 kph everywhere?

The world's population has increased dramatically over the past century; in fact it is three times greater than ever before. According to Wikipedia, our population increases by 75 million, per year. And that means that in a few years' time, this cinema will be full, every time, which is great news for the owners.

How can we cope with this persistent increase? How can hospitals manage to deal with an ever increasing number of patients? Build more hospitals?

How about culling the population? Ghengis Khan, Vlad the Impaler, or the Black Death of the 14<sup>th</sup> century... Adolf Hitler in the 19<sup>th</sup> century ... There is always something or someone that facilitates lowering the population, but is this acceptable? Is this moral? Is this... helpful? Dan Brown's *Inferno* tackles this very issue.

Following global success with the previous novels and movies *The Da Vinci Code*, *Angels and Demons*, and *The Lost Symbol*, *Inferno* once again puts our reluctant hero, Professor Robert Langdon, into dangerous waters, well, fires.

Dan Brown's Robert Langdon novels have always been a source of realisation, or criticism. Was Copernicus murdered by the church for false teaching? Were the Vatican's Swiss Guard guilty of murdering Muslims in the Crusades? Was Galileo a member of the Illuminati?

The answer to all three is: 'No'. Copernicus died of a stroke. The crusades ended long before the Swiss Guards existed. And the Illuminati were formed over a hundred years after Galileo's death.

*Inferno* opens on the evening of Good Friday in the year 1300. Traveling through a dark wood, Dante Alighieri has lost his path and now wanders fearfully through the forest. Lose All Hope, Oh Ye who enter! The sun shines down on a mountain above him... Sorry, wrong *Inferno*.

Dan Brown's *Inferno* is, indeed, filled with reference to both Dante's written work, and Botticelli's artistic representation of Hell. Tom Hanks must once again interpret an interpretation, but this time his investigation is more difficult than before, because this time he is handicapped by an incident that he himself cannot remember happening. Enter the young, beautiful English Rose, Felicity Jones who uses her charm and intellect to aide Tom Hanks in recovering from said handicap, and discovering what it is that threatens our humanity.

Like all Dan Brown novels, we are exposed to incredible 'truths'. But do we really care what Dan Brown *claims* to be true? Aren't we all just a little curious as to whether there is even just a little truth in what he claims?

*Inferno*, like its predecessors, indulges our imaginations in more 'truths'. But one thing for sure, we cannot deny, is that the world at times, is indeed on fire.

### **Projections of population growth**

According to the 2015 edition of the United Nations' World Population Prospects report, the world population is currently growing by approximately 83 million people each year. The growth rate keeps slowing, having decreased from 1.55% per year in 1995 to 1.25% in 2005 and 1.18% in 2015. The median estimate for future growth sees the world population reaching 9.7

billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100, assuming a continuing decrease in average fertility rate from 2.5 in 2015 to 2.25 in 2050 and 2.0 in 2100. With longevity trending towards uniform and stable values worldwide, the main driver of future population growth is the evolution of the fertility rate.

While most scenarios still predict continued growth into the 22nd century, there is a roughly 23% chance that the total population could stabilize or begin to fall before 2100. Longer-term speculative scenarios over the next two centuries can predict anything between runaway growth to radical decline (36.4 billion or 2.3 billion people in 2300), with the median projection showing a slight decrease followed by a stabilization around 9 billion people.

By 2050, the bulk of the world's population growth will take place in Africa: of the additional 2.4 billion people projected between 2015 and 2050, 1.3 billion will be added in Africa, 0.9 billion in Asia and only 0.2 billion in the rest of the world. Africa's share of global population is projected to grow from 16% in 2015 to 25% in 2050 and 39% by 2100, while the share of Asia will fall from 60% in 2015 to 54% in 2050 and 44% in 2100. The strong growth of the African population will happen regardless of the rate of decrease of fertility, because of the exceptional proportion of young people already living today. For example, the UN projects that the population of Nigeria will surpass that of the United States by 2050. The population of the more developed regions is slated to remain mostly unchanged, at 1.2 billion, as international migrations from high-growth regions compensate the fertility deficit of richer countries.

### **Growth regions**

During 2005–2050, twelve countries are expected to account for half of the world's projected population increase: India, China, United States, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Philippines, Mexico and Egypt, listed according to the size of their contribution to population growth.

In 2010–2015, the average world fertility was 2.5 children per woman, about half the level in 1950–1955 (5 children per woman). In the medium variant, global fertility is projected to decline further to 2.25 children per woman in 2045–2050 and 2.0 in 2095–2100.

Global life expectancy at birth, which is estimated to have risen from 46 years in 1950–1955 to 65 years in 2000–2005, is expected to keep rising to reach 75 years in 2045–2050. In the more developed regions, the projected increase is from 75 years today to 82 years by mid-century. Among the least developed countries, where life expectancy today is just under 50 years, it is expected to be 66 years in 2045–2050. The population of 31 countries or areas, including Ukraine, Romania, Japan and most of the successor States of the former Soviet Union, is expected to be lower in 2050 than in 2005.

### **Projected migration to Western countries**

According to the United Nations, during 2005–2050 the net number of international migrants to more developed regions is projected to be 98 million. Because deaths are projected to exceed births in the more developed regions by 73 million during 2005–2050, population growth in those regions will largely be due to international migration. In 2000–2005, net migration in 28 countries either prevented population decline or doubled at least the contribution of natural increase (births minus deaths) to population growth. These countries include Austria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

By 2050 (Medium variant), India will have 1.660 billion people, China 1.425 billion, United States 440 million, Nigeria 391 million, Indonesia 327 million, Pakistan 308 million, Brazil 238.3 million, Bangladesh 201.8 million, Democratic Republic of Congo 195.3 million, Ethiopia 188.5 million, Mexico 164 million, Philippines 157.1 million, Egypt 142 million, Russia 133 million, Tanzania 129.4 million, Vietnam 112.8 million, Japan 107 million, Uganda 101 million, Turkey 96 million, Kenya 95.5 million, Iran 92.1 million, Sudan 81 million, Germany 78 million and the United Kingdom 75 million.

### **World population in 2050**

Estimates of population levels in different continents between 1950 and 2050, according to the United Nations. The vertical axis is logarithmic and is in millions of people.

The median scenario of the UN 2015 world population prospects predicts the following populations per continent in 2050:

- Asia and Oceania – 5.3 billion
- Africa – 2.5 billion
- Americas – 1.2 billion
- Europe – 0.7 billion
- World total – 9.7 billion

Walter Greiling projected in the 1950s that world population would reach a peak of about nine billion, in the 21st century, and then stop growing after a readjustment of the Third World and a sanitation of the tropics. Recent extrapolations from available figures for population growth show that the population of Earth will stop increasing around 2070.

In a 2004 long-term prospective report, the United Nations Population Division projected the world population to peak at 9.22 billion in 2075. After reaching this maximum, it would decline slightly and then resume a slow increase, reaching a level of 8.97 billion by 2300, about the same as the projected 2050 figure. However, with more recent data on hand, the same institution in 2015 predicted continued growth beyond 2100. A 2014 paper by demographers from several universities and the United Nations Population Division forecast that the world's population will reach about 10.9 billion in 2100 and continue growing thereafter.

Jørgen Randers, one of the authors of the seminal 1972 long-term simulations in *The Limits to Growth*, offered an alternative scenario in a 2012 book, arguing that traditional projections insufficiently take into account the downward impact of global urbanization on fertility. Randers' "most likely scenario" predicts a peak in the world population in the early 2040s at about 8.1 billion people, followed by decline.

These projected growth patterns depend on assumptions about vital rates. Total fertility is assumed to continue to decline, at varying paces depending on circumstances in individual countries, to a below-replacement level of 1.85 children per woman by mid century. Countries already at this level or below, and other countries when they reach it, will eventually return to replacement over a period of a century and stay at replacement going forward. All countries are projected to have reached replacement fertility by 2175.

Some of the authors of the 2004 UN report say that life expectancy is assumed to rise slowly and continuously. The projections in the report assume this with no upper limit, though at a slowing pace depending on circumstances in individual countries. By 2100, the report assumes life expectancy to be from 66 to 97 years, and by 2300 from 87 to 106 years, depending on the country. Based on that assumption, they said that rising life expectancy will produce small but continuing population growth by the end of the projections, ranging from 0.03 to 0.07 percent annually.

However, based on recent research, many expect that life expectancy will leap ahead and indefinite human lifespans are not necessarily unfeasible. This could significantly raise the estimates. In an essay within the U.N. report, Tim Dyson said,

*"A rapid increase in life expectancy, which would raise the population pyramids, seems within reach, since it responds to an old and powerful demand for longevity."*

### **The sponsors**

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4. and, last but not least, by CRTDrills LINGUE Bergamo – the Resource Centre for Language Teachers for the province of Bergamo coordinated by Noemi Ciceroni which operates within the Ufficio Scolastico Territoriale – the local education authority.

**The film show**

**This is the sixth film in English this year. The next film will also be in English – SNOWDEN – about the leakage of the NSA’s illegal surveillance techniques to the public. There are 13 more movies here at the Conca Verde until the summer, following Snowden: 11 in English, one in Spanish, and one in German.**

**Enjoy the film!**