

Re: Earth's Carrying Capacity

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"John Schilling" <schillin@spock.usc.edu> wrote in message
news:cg2ngn\$19k\$1@spock.usc.edu...

>
> *From the standpoint of maximizing reproductive advantage, it is*
> **clearly* suboptimal to become pregnant at the rate prosperous*
> *and educated people chose to become pregnant. What babies are*
> *produced may be produced at the optimal time, but if the number of*
> *babies produced is zero or one per woman, as it now is in Europe,*
> *no optimization of the timing is going to offer a net reproductive*
> *advantage.*
>
> *In pursuit of optimal reproductive fitness, then, evolution will seek*
> *some combination of immunity to contraception, increased*
> *preference for childbearing, reduced ability to obtain and keep*
> *wealth, and immunity to education.*
>
> *If immunity to contraception is the easiest chromosomal hack, it can*
> *be expected to dominate the evolutionary adaptation to declining*
> *TFRs. Not clear that this is the case, but worthy of speculation at*
> *least.*

I suspect an increased preference for childbearing will be the favoured evolutionary pathway. This preference already tends to increase as people get older. I expect the trend for people to have more children when they are older to continue, this might also select for longevity.

I expect cultural adaptations might kick in before biological ones, though some individuals already have the necessary cultural and/or biological adaptations. Evolution is not starting from scratch on this one, it just has to readjust the balance.

I recently heard something about how in a part of Berlin? It was becoming fashionable to again have kids. I think it might have been statistically significant.

There has also been a tendency toward small nuclear families, perhaps for ease of frequent moving. This does not have the economies of scale

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that a community has, a flexible sort of urban kibbutz might enable higher birth rates.

Pete.