

Over the past decade, Peter Gleick's Pacific Institute-based publications accessible, and creative description and analysis of global water issues. They consistently offer fresh and authoritative perspectives on how disputes over shared water resources—disputes that are intensifying in many regions—have national and international security implications. These publications also suggest new ways of approaching interrelated policy remedies for water shortages, declining water quality, and discrepancies between water supply and demand.

In *The World's Water 2002-2003*—the third in “The World's Water” biennial series—Gleick incorporates single and multiple-authored contributions by Pacific Institute colleagues on diverse topics such as the effects of climate change on small, developing Pacific

engineering, economic, and social aspects of difficult water problems. These books make a crucial contribution, since the quest for solutions to water issues is frequently distorted by national and international politics.

Soft Paths and New Thinking

To keep its research agenda lively and flexible, Gleick's group must continually look at long-standing water issues from fresh perspectives while trying to shape substantive new ways of thinking about them. *The World's Water 2002-2003* achieves this balance nicely.

shortage, surplus, and distribution), Gleick bravely confronts a mostly unconvinced international community of water professionals. His appeals, however, are gaining greater credibility, as the scale, scope, complexity, and intractability of interrelated global water problems intensify.

Next, in “The Privatization of Water and Water Systems,” Gleick, Wolff, Chalecki, and Reyes tackle the complex implications of the recent global interest in promoting market-driven initiatives and mechanisms in water policy development. Can the private sector translate the vague notion of water as an “economic and social good” into more equitable and efficient water supply systems for both rich and poor? The chapter’s thorough discussion of the perils and potential benefits of privatizing water systems is most welcome, since policymakers are only beginning to recognize and acknowledge an inherent, multidimensional conflict between traditional government responsibility to the community for providing clean water and the profit-making objectives of private firms involved in water development, delivery, and quality maintenance.

***The Need for Multisectoral
and Indigenous Perspectives***

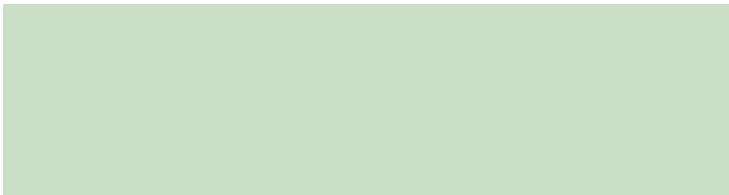
Following this foray into a murky and contentious policy arena, Gleick, Chalecki, and Arlene Wong (in “Measuring Water Well-Being: Water Indicators and Indices”) once

engineering, institutional, and water resource management approaches.

Gleick acknowledges the obvious contributions of water science and engineering, but he also calls for new, more humane and environmentally-sensitive ways of thinking about water—given expanding global population, a growing wealth gap between rich and poor, and increasingly severe shortages of clean water for drinking and sanitation, especially in developing countries.

An Invaluable Resource

Finally, the “World’s Water” series has always been distinguished by carefully compiled and very useful supplementary and documentary materials. The “Water Briefs” section of *The World’s Water 2002-2003* (about half the book) includes Gleick’s well-documented “Environment and Security



Notes

¹ For example, large water resources development schemes around the world are still framed and justified as having “multipurpose” benefits, a concept first brought forth in the 1930s by governments and private engineering firms to meet multiple objectives: flood prevention and control; urban, industrial, and agricultural water supply; energy and fisheries development; and water-based recreation.

References

Lovins, Amory B. (1976, October). “Energy strategy: The road not taken?” *Foreign Affairs* 56(1). [On-line]. Available: <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/19761001faessay10205/amory-b-lovins/energy-strategy-the-road-not-taken.html>.

World Commission on Dams (2000). *Dams and development: A new framework for decision-making*. London: Earthscan Publications.

State of World Population 2002: People, Poverty and Possibilities

New York: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 2002. 80 pages.

Reviewed by Tom Merrick

Poverty reduction has moved to center stage in the international development arena, and today’s poverty agenda is multi-dimensional—it not only addresses income poverty, but it also recognizes that illiteracy, ill-health, gender inequality, and environmental degradation are aspects of poverty as well. The contemporary commitment of global leaders and international agencies to fight poverty is crystallized in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), through which the world’s nations have agreed to specific targets for reduction of both income poverty and other poverty measurements by the year 2015.

The 2002 edition of UNFPA’s annual State of World Population—*People, Poverty and Possibilities*—argues that poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs will not be possible unless the world also effectively addresses population and reproductive-health issues. This focus is important: for while the MDG process consolidated agreements made at the major 1990s international conferences (Rio, Cairo, Beijing, and Copenhagen) into a set of measurable goals for each of the main dimensions of poverty, the Goals themselves exclude population and reproductive health.

The 1994 International Conference on

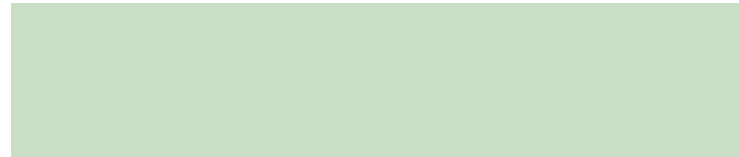
Population and Development saw the world set a goal of universal access to reproductive-health services, a goal that was reaffirmed five years later in the five-year ICPD progress review. But universal access to reproductive-health services was eliminated from the MDGs in a concession to a few opponents who found the concepts of reproductive health offensive. Nonetheless, two of the MDGs (reducing maternal mortality and turning back the HIV/AIDS epidemic) are directly related to reproductive health, and two others (gender equity and reduction of child mortality) are closely linked. *State of World Population 2002* spells out these connections and also goes on to show how population and reproductive health affect the other MDGs.

A Window onto World Poverty

State of World Population 2002 is brief, clear, and comprehensive. An opening overview maps paths toward achievement of MDGs and provides a succinct table summarizing specific links between reproductive health, family planning and population, and the eight Goals. Subsequent chapters fill out the story based on key research findings, data on progress toward MDGs, and a rich array of boxes illustrating successful

important when discussing the links between poverty and reproductive health—links which go beyond mortality and morbidity (although the disease burden of reproductive ill-health is also very high for poor women). Enabling women to decide when and how many children they will bear affects their own chances of escaping poverty as well as the chances of their children and other family members.

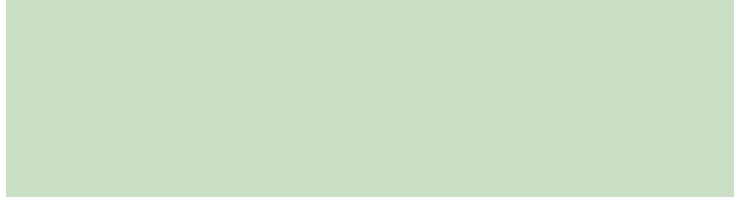
The report illustrates the essential multi-



sectoral approach to poverty reduction with examples of initiatives that empower women by giving them control over productive assets. For instance, Bangladesh's Grameen Bank provides loans to groups of women to enhance mutual support for each debtor; the process allows women to interact with the market and community at large and promotes basic literacy and family planning. Mexico's PROGRESA program also illustrates a successful approach to demand-side interventions aimed at reducing the financial and social obstacles that often prevent poor women from accessing basic social services. PROGRESA provides sustained financial support to poor families along with nutritional supplements, education grants, and a basic health package. As a box in the report notes, "[o]ne of [PROGRESA's] innovations is to provide money directly to women, putting additional resources under their control and giving them greater freedom in their own movements" (page 29).

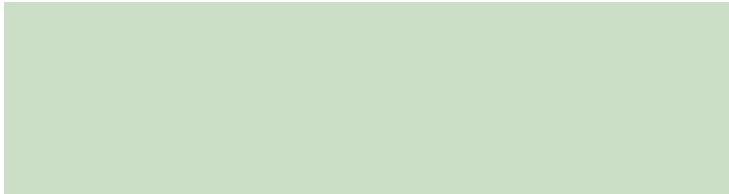
State of World Population 2002 gives particular attention to the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and its effects on poverty-reduction efforts. Again, the report's approach is multisectoral: the UNFPA authors detail how HIV/AIDS undermines not only health but human development and poverty reduction, especially through its impact on the health and education workfor

linguistic and other cultural groupings.



Focus on the 21st Century

Throughout *Six Billion Plus*, Newbold emphasizes the extent to which population growth and population distribution create insidious multiplier effects on a range of social and ecological problems. The word “insidious” is important here: what differentiates the Newbold text from others in the field of population studies is that Newbold does not shy away from communicating his political



or ideological point of view.

But rather than subject the reader to polemic or tiresome advocacy, Newbold has skillfully woven into his analysis the idea that demography’s overarching concern should be to better understand the root causes of inequalities in the world and, by doing so, help to alleviate them. Simple (and perhaps trite) as it may seem, such a “mission statement” is not present in other population textbooks. It is refreshing, for example, to read Newbold on how the richest country in the world (the United States) can have a system of public health and of medical care that is effectively off-limits for a large and growing population of poor and marginalized citizens. In fact, Newbold’s ability to constructively

to

Newbold text.

Other quibbles with the text involve the figures, which are small and difficult to read. (For example, one graph showing human mortality schedules should use a logarithmic scale for ease of presentation.) I would also like to see more material used to round out the discussion of population-environment dynamics. Perhaps more detailed discussion of Richard Bilborrow (e.g., Bilborrow & Hogan, 1999) and of Norman Myers (e.g., Myers, 1990) is warranted, and citing the work of Joel Cohen (1995) and Paul Harrison (1992) might also be helpful.

Anderson, Barbara A. (1986). "Regional and cultural factors in the decline of marital fertility in Europe." In Ansley J. Coale & Susan Cotts Watkins (Eds.), *The decline of fertility in Europe: The revised proceedings of a conference on the Princeton European fertility project* (pages 293-313). Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Bilborrow, Richard E. & Daniel J. Hogan (Eds.). (1999). *Population and deforestation in the humid tropics*. Liege, Belgium: IUSSP.

Bouvier, Leon F. & Jane T. Bertrand. (1999). *World population: Challenges for the 21st century*