

Frontiersman

Facing the truth, however great the cost.

December 2026

What Is For To Come

Sam Aurelius Milam III

What is past I know, but what is for to come I know not.

—II Esdras 4:46
The Apocrypha

The human population is expected to reach 9 billion in about 10 years or so. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, it will peak at 10.6 billion in 2092, and then decline. There are many things that I do not know but I do know one thing for sure. The human population cannot continue to grow forever. Eventually, the growth will stop. I also believe that human society in its present form is unsustainable in the situation predicted by the Census Bureau.

There are many possible futures, and I've suggested a few of them here. Some of them are more likely than others. Maybe some of them aren't likely at all. Whatever the case, here are my predictions, as I understand them, and not necessarily in their order of likelihood.

1. The population will crash. Our species will become extinct.

2. The population will crash. A small number of people will survive and live as scavengers. Their descendants will devolve into some sort of neo-chimpanzees.

3. The population will crash. A few people will survive and acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to subsist as hunter-gatherers. About 8,000 years from now, their descendants will reconstruct technological societies.

4. The population will continue to increase but at a reduced rate. If the decrease in the rate of growth is sufficient, and if we stop squandering our resources and destroying our wealth, then it might be possible for relief and development efforts to keep up with the growing demand, at least sufficiently to avoid a crash. I speculate that, as the decades go by, efforts to provide better housing than sidewalks or tent cities will result in most people living in tiny apartments. I don't know what will become of wealthy people. My scant knowledge of history suggests that they will stay wealthy, but wealth is relative. Maybe they'll have bigger tiny apartments. I don't know.

As the human population continues to grow, and population pressure continues to increase, efforts to conserve wildlife and wilderness will fail as open space is necessarily replaced by factory farms and the structures needed by people. Most life on the planet, except for people and the species that we save for our own purposes, will become extinct. All depletable forms of energy will be depleted. All sustainable forms of energy will be harnessed.

People will seldom travel, increasingly spending their time being entertained at home. Most transportation, most of which will be autonomous, will be dedicated to moving products from the factories to the people and moving waste and debris from the people back to the factories, most of which will be automated. Every kind of material, without exception, will be reclaimed, recycled, and reused. The worldwide human ecosystem will become completely self-sufficient, independent of the natural ecosystem, which will mostly disappear anyway.

Over many generations, our species will adapt to inactive living in tiny apartments, with personal contact and physical activities being supplemented by virtual reality. The time will come when improvements in biotechnology will enable virtual reality to completely replace physical reality. After that, people will leave their tiny apartments in favor of tanks of inert liquid, in which they will be sustained by life-support technology, communicate electronically, live in virtual worlds of their own →

Google AI Overview

The global population is projected to reach 9 billion around 2037, according to official United Nations Population Fund estimates. This milestone comes roughly 15 years after the world crossed the 8 billion threshold in November 2022.

—Downloaded on Monday, August 10. 2026

Google AI Overview

Earth is widely considered to be entering or experiencing its sixth mass extinction (known as the Anthropocene or Holocene extinction), driven primarily by human activities like habitat destruction, climate change, and overexploitation.

—Downloaded on Wednesday, October 21, 2026

U.S. Census Bureau

The world population reached 8 billion in 2023, and the IDB projects it will reach 8.2 billion in July 2026, 9 billion by 2039, 10 billion by 2060, and peak at 10.6 billion in 2092 before declining.

—Downloaded on Saturday, November 14, 2026

Also See Population Studies
http://frontiersman.org.uk/Population/Curve.html

Original Material

choosing, and be tended by robots. Such speculations might seem bizarre but imagine how bizarre our present way of life would seem to our ancestors who lived 8,000 years ago. Whatever the case, with the human population stabilized, with all human functions under perfect control, with all risks eliminated, and with all technological processes approaching the limit of absolute efficiency, such a society might endure for eons.

I'll touch briefly, in passing, on the debate over AI. Some people believe that AI can be trained to be benevolent and protective. I suggest that the eventual result of such an AI will be exactly the same as the society that I've described here. People living in tanks will be as well protected as people can possibly be, and AI will be satisfied.

As I've been working on this article, I've been trying to imagine a future in which our descendants would be able to live normal lives as ordinary people. Such a future would require that our population be reduced to a fraction of its present size and that the reduction happen soon, before it's too late. The reduction couldn't be an uncontrolled crash. It would need, somehow, to allow our society to function during the transition, and afterward. How could that be done? I can't think of any humanitarian or humane way to accomplish it. Maybe it's possible. Maybe not. I don't know.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Sam:

In your October 2026 newsletter, you make reference to the widespread confusion about the concept of rights. I want to endorse and amplify some of your points, and add a bit to them.

Your idea about contracts being the only true basis of valid politics deserves to be taught in every high school. I think that the purest rights are to be found in valid contracts. A valid contract can contain a reference, or references, to a specific something, or somethings, known to the parties to the contract, that they refer to, for the sake of convenience, as a "right".

As you aptly point out, fake "rights" are defined and enforced by governments. Whatever they entail, they are privileges, not rights. Some theologians and philosophers promote the idea that rights (and morality in general) have a metaphysical or ontological existence. Like the laws of mathematics, rights exist (so they say) independently of human thought or language. Proper rights can be discovered (they say) by using faith, or proper reason. Unfortunately, this approach generates conflicts, because there is no tether to objective, physical reality. One professor says that humanity has a right to "A". Another professor says that humanity has a right to "Anti A". Neither professor can be proven wrong.

My point in all this is that an enforceable "right" can be almost anything, depending on the culture, custom, and ruling government of a nation. Whether or not these rights are "just" is another question. As you pointed out in your article, the current semantic chaos in regard to "rights" is a nearly insurmountable barrier to clear analysis of these issues.

—The Elusive One

Dear Sam,

Greetings, I pray this email finds you well. I'm still plugging away at my degree in History. I start my Undergraduate at [*university name withheld*] in the Spring semester. I'm working at [*employer name withheld*]. They withhold my entire paycheck to save for when I am out of this halfway house program.

Your Frontiersman [*November issue*] like always is a good read. Your article 'Proof Enough' has Always caught my attention. There are plenty of different things if we started that would create a riot. Somehow you're only considered to have a misfortune if you are any color, or sex other than a white male. I think we should get together and start 'White Entertainment Television.', or WET, in its shortened version. And show nothing but talk shows that talk about 'reverse racism' and how white males have become the pariah and beating post for everyone else's problems.

So politics has been shaken up to its core. Democrats had a hat trick on Nov. 3rd. →

Preview Only

They took control of both chambers of congress and dominated the governor's races too. And What? Texas turned Blue? That shows how Trump being unconcerned about the affordability of Americans while building his ballroom came back to bite him, that and promising to release the Epstein files and backing out on his promise, that and getting America embroiled in another forever war, and.... I could go on forever.

The Democrats won't do much better if at all, as the government in itself is an entity that is all about repression and controlling its citizens by stripping their freedoms and rights. Anyway, I pray you have a good day, I as always am appreciative you keep me on your mailing list even though I am out of prison.... Have a nice day. —S. H., of Bakersfield, California

Status

Sam Aurelius Milam III

On Friday, August 22, 1862, in a letter to Horace Greeley, Abraham Lincoln wrote, "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that."

The abolition of slavery might or might not have been an objective of The War Between the States. That's debatable, but it most certainly wasn't one of the accomplishments of that war. After the war, the status of slave was extended from black people to all citizens. The ownership of slaves was transferred from individual people to the police state. See the Fourteenth Amendment. Today, every citizen is a slave. The police state is the owner. Note that elections are irrelevant to the status of citizens. The ability to vote for the agents of the police state doesn't make that police state any less the owner, or a citizen any less a slave.

Additional Reading

- *Slavery and the Police State*, in *Pharos*

http://pharos.org.uk/Social_Contract/Social_Contract.html#Police_State

Shooting Himself in the Foot

Sam Aurelius Milam III

If Trump really did win that second election, as he claims, then his present term in office is unconstitutional. The U.S. constitution prohibits its getting elected for a third term. Duh.

Get Hacked

Sam Aurelius Milam III

If the managers of food stores are sufficiently stupid to connect their refrigerators to the internet, instead of using a simple thermostat, then they deserve what they get.

Gender Studies 101

♀ ≠ ♂

Sam Aurelius Milam III

I've had various relationships and arrangements with women. I learned from all of that experience that a man doesn't necessarily realize a net gain by sharing his home with a woman. Any benefit that he can obtain from a woman can usually be obtained otherwise, and at less cost. A man's home can be a refuge from women, or a place to entertain women, but he doesn't have to let one live there. ♂

Addiional Reading

- *Unbended Knee*, in the October 2017 issue

http://frontiersman.org.uk/2017/2017-10/2017-10.html#Unbended_Knee

* *Essays About Women and Feminism*, in *Pharos*

http://pharos.org.uk/Essays_About_Women/Essays_About_Women.html ♂

Not Genocide

Sam Aurelius Milam III

The security forces in Myanmar aren't guilty of genocide against the Rohingyas. They might be guilty of attempted genocide. The Israelis aren't guilty of genocide against the Palestinians. They might be guilty of attempted genocide. It's necessary that such a legal distinction be made between committing an act and attempting to commit the act. With murder as an example, if the intended victim survives, then it isn't murder. It's attempted murder. An identical distinction must necessarily be made for genocide. The definition that's presently being used fails to make that distinction. It's a phoney definition, useful only for political posturing, false accusations, and propaganda.

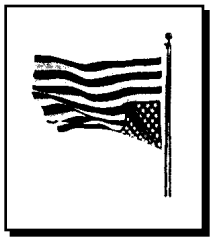
Stray Thoughts

Sam Aurelius Milam III

- Things should be voluntary.
- We're not nearly as controlled by our minds as people want to believe. Most of what we accomplish is motivated by physical desires. To a large extent, our minds are merely another appendage that we use for the satisfaction of those desires.

Preview Only

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Nation in Distress

Good intentions are the source of more folly than all other causes put together. —from *Glory Road*, 1963 by Robert A. Heinlein

Preliminary

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Websites

http://frontiersman.org.uk/
http://moonlight-flea-market.com/
http://pharos.org.uk/
http://sam-aurelius-milam-iii.org.uk/
http://sovereign-library.org.uk/

Thoughts About Work

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by Don G.

- The more crap you put up with the more crap you have to put up with.
- Never delay the end of a meeting or the beginning of a cocktail hour.
- Everything can be filed under "Miscellaneous." ∞

Looking Back

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by Don G. I didn't verify them. —editor

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer. That's where the phrase, "goodnight, sleep tight" came from.

The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything thicker than your thumb.

About 4,000 years ago, in Babylon, a bride's father supplied his son-in-law with all of the mead he could drink for a month after the wedding. Mead is a honey beer and, because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the "honey month", or what we know today as the "honeymoon." ∞

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—Sam Aurelius Milam III, editor