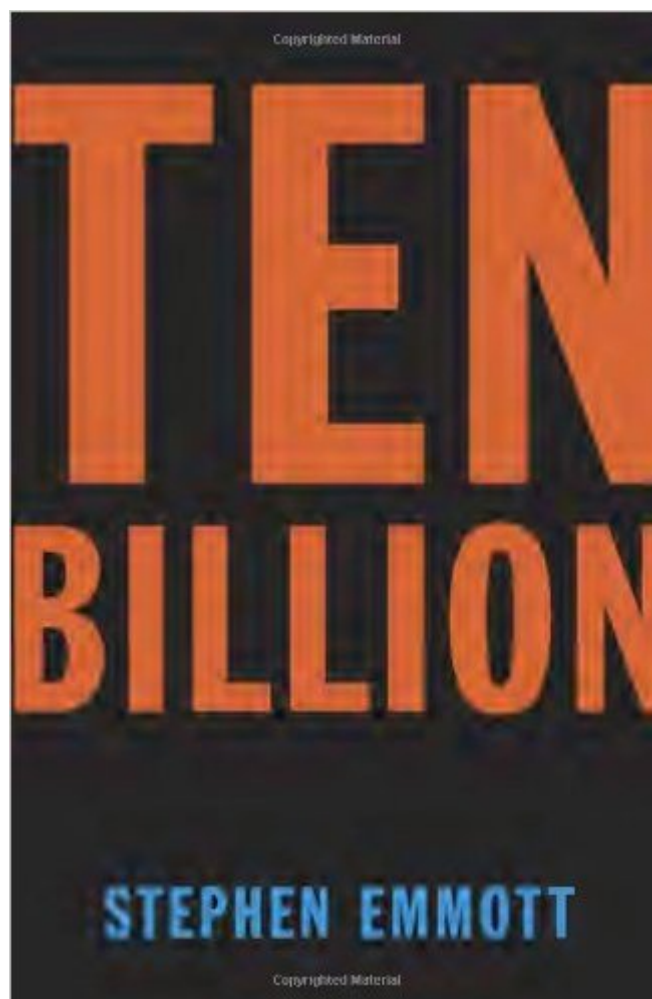


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Ten Billion



Synopsis

A VINTAGE ORIGINAL Just over two hundred years ago, there were one billion humans on Earth. There are now over seven billion of us. And, sometime this century, the world population will reach at least ten billion. Deforestation. Desertification. Species extinction. Global warming. Growing threats to food and water. The driving issues of our times are the result of one huge problem: Us. As the population continues to grow, our problems will increase. And this means that every way we look at it, a planet of ten billion people is likely to be a nightmare. Stephen Emmott, a scientist whose lab is at the forefront of research into complex natural systems, sounds the alarm. TEN BILLION is a snapshot of our planet, and our species, approaching a crisis, and a stark analysis of where this leaves us. TEN BILLION is not another climate book. TEN BILLION is a book about us.

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Customer Reviews

Ten Billion is top line summary of where we are in terms of near total destruction of the Earth as we know it. It provides the usual top line stats, some startling photos, and a lot of justifiably pessimistic and realistic potential outcomes. Basically we're doing nothing at all to stop the total wreck of the planet, even though we see it coming, clearly and precisely. We continue to waste resources at ever more incredible rates. We waste four liters of water to produce a one liter plastic water bottle that we throw away after most of the liter of water inside has been consumed. We waste 800 gallons of water to produce a burger. At the same time, when 40% of arable land is already employed in

agriculture, we need to double production by 2050 to accommodate added population. Even the most optimistic scenarios regarding another green revolution are dependent on climate being stable, but it's anything but as wildfires increase, melting accelerates, hurricanes become larger and fiercer, tornados are gigantic, massive flooding is widespread, etc. Emmott frames it this way: if we knew an asteroid would hit the Earth on a certain day and wipe out a third of the world, we would mobilize every scientist, bureaucrat, CEO and soldier to deal with it. Well, an equivalent disaster is headed this way, and we aren't just doing nothing about it, we're actively ignoring and denying it. This will mean wars, as I've been predicting for years. Emmott says every climate conference he goes to these days is attended by the military. "The biggest most important experiment on Earth is the one we're conducting right now, on Earth itself." And the people conducting it have no idea what they're doing. David Wineberg

I experienced this as critical reading, written in a massively accessible way. When you consider the enormous challenges we are currently facing and the unprecedented changes we must make in order to thrive - massive accessibility for a mass audience is critically important. This book serves its purpose perfectly. If you're looking for counter arguments and follow-up research, there is an abundance of it available. But I think we've moved past the "research" phase and it'll serve us to start taking massive action.

This is a must read book. It is written to be easily accessible and it is a wake up call for us (because it is 'us' who are the problem) to begin to change our behaviors; and for politicians to start addressing some of the issues that Professor Emmott outlines. It's not a book about over population. It's a book about how we misuse the planet's vital resources, and how close we are to an irreversible tipping point.

Stephen Emmott's look at earth's burgeoning population is thoughtful, relatively short and worth the time it takes to read, particularly if you have an interest in demographics. Emmott's book is written in an almost point-like style, making it accessible and so is a little like a series of observations.

I too read this book in a single sitting of about one hour. I also have read a few of the reviews posted by other readers. From a pure scientific standpoint I agree professor Emmott could have added more references to back up the facts he has stated. This is always advisable and I am surprised he has not done so. Despite this he has presented the material in a manner that anyone

can read and digest. Yes it may be a simple format but I think it's with good reason. Overall I feel I have to agree with most of what he has said. I am glad someone has finally had the balls to come out and state it how it really is (I think others have previously but perhaps in a more refined manner). I sense he is very frustrated, gobsmeared and deeply worried by the attitude of big corporations, politicians etc to the threat facing us all. Plus I agree humanity is to blame for the trouble we are in and that we ARE truly F%*KED. I am so relieved someone else agrees with what I have been thinking for years. The fact that the urgency and scope of the problem is STILL not getting across is why I believe he has written the book in the manner that he has. ALL civilizations have come and gone. I'm convinced ours will join them but how much of the rest of the inhabitants of the earth will we take with us and will there be anything left for life to start again ?

Concise, to the point and depressing. Every other author follows the dictate of journalism school: end on a positive note. Instead, Emmons tells it like it really is. Humans are not good at dealing with this type of crisis. Much easier to go into denial. Magical thinking is much more comfortable than acknowledge that humans are the planet's most destructive predator, hell bent on bringing about the sixth major extinction on planet Earth. Given our history, and the trends of population growth (exponential), resource depletion (we are currently using 1.5 Earths) and climate change, what informed person would bet on our survival?

This is more like a pamphlet than a book, and all the better for it. It's a brisk, direct tour of the planet and it's not good news. Some people seem to claim that this is so basic and obvious that it's barely worth publishing - if that's the case then I'm even more concerned for the future of humanity as it suggests that we're just wilfully ignoring the destruction of the planet that's taking place. My advice: read it then make your own mind up if you agree or not. Quite simply you owe it to future generations.

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