CHAPTER 21

Human Ecology and the Millennium: Overwhelming (or Overcoming) Disaster Ahead?

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ABSTRACT Given the interrelationships between people and environment, as well as the links between past decision-making and present day outcomes, the current state of the world is precarious at best. Many problems have accumulated, and new ones are emerging, while key decision-makers have ignored responsible and ecologically aware and appropriate actions. The result, as the new Millennium gets under way, is a frightening choice about issues such as an “excess” population, severe environmental damage, and inequitable resource allocation. Most people ignore or deny the dilemmas now evident, but the future will both demand and yield answers.

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