

# CONTENTS

<b>1. Introduction: stop worrying</b>	<b>1</b>
Discovering a new world	3
After the Tsunami, being a 'possibilist'	16
The long-range forecast	26
Fibonacci's rabbits	39
Lessons from 'Coconut Land'	47
<b>2. The first half of human history</b>	<b>57</b>
Stepping on the gas	61
How many of us were there?	68
Doom-mongering through the ages	77
The value of labour	88
Apocalypse then	96
<b>3. 6 billion for the millennium</b>	<b>104</b>
The science of slums	108
Migration and consumption	115
Demography and deniers	122

Carrying capacity	131
Peak everything	140
<b>4. 7 billion in December 2011</b>	<b>152</b>
Forecast and project	155
Riot and disorder	163
Energy and equality	175
Future fear	183
Village people	195
<b>5. 8 billion by the quarter century (2025)</b>	<b>204</b>
Food and farming	206
Water, water everywhere	214
No marriage city	227
Learning not to be stupid	237
Meritocracy for the masses?	248
<b>6. 9 billion by 2045</b>	<b>252</b>
Passports and pass-books	254
An urban world	260
An unequal world	268
The super-rich	272
The super-poor	284

## CONTENTS

<b>7. 10 billion?</b>	292
Rare earth	293
Punctuated equilibrium	301
Deciding to have children	312
Ageing and learning to share	322
The new world geography	329
 <b>8. Or not 10 billion</b>	 335
Forecasting the end of times	336
Population decline	339
The last baby boom	345
The politics of hope	351
The history of the future	361
 <i>Afterword</i>	 369
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	371
<i>References</i>	373
<i>Index</i>	431