

Contents

Preface xiii

Introduction xv

PART ONE Malthusian Nightmares

Chapter 1 A Dark and Terrible Genius 3

Chapter 2 The Road to Skibbereen 13

Chapter 3 Saving the White Man 20

PART TWO Rise of the Population Controllers

Chapter 4 An Ornithologist Speaks 33

Chapter 5 The Contraceptive Cavalry 39

Chapter 6 Three Wise Men 51

Chapter 7 Six Dollars a Snip 58

Chapter 8 Green Revolution 66

Chapter 9 One Child 75

PART THREE Implosion

- Chapter 10 Small Towns in Germany 87
Chapter 11 Winter in Europe 94
Chapter 12 Russian Roulette 102

PART FOUR The Reproductive Revolution

- Chapter 13 Sisters 111
Chapter 14 Sex and the City 121
Chapter 15 Singapore Sling 128
Chapter 16 Missing Girls 138
Chapter 17 Where Men Still Rule 147

PART FIVE Migrants

- Chapter 18 Waving or Drowning? 157
Chapter 19 Migrant Myths 165
Chapter 20 Footloose in Asia 174
Chapter 21 God's Crucible 179

PART SIX Reaching The Limits

- Chapter 22 The Tigers and the Bulge 193
Chapter 23 Footprints on a Finite Planet 201
Chapter 24 Feeding the World 209
Chapter 25 Slumdogs Arise 222

PART SEVEN Older, Wiser, Greener

Chapter 26	The Age of the Old	231
Chapter 27	Silver Lining	239
Chapter 28	Peak Population and Beyond	246
Notes on Sources	251	
Index	278	

PREFACE

I was brought up in Lenham, a village in the middle of Kent in England. On my final day at the village primary school, I walked down Honeywood Road, where I lived, and past the imposing Honeywood House to the vicarage where I received a small cash award, the Honeywood Prize. It paid out once a year, not as much as it does now, but more than three hundred years before by the village's most famous inhabitant, Mary Honeywood. The money was there to buy tools for whoever made a chair that of a carpenter, or of a blacksmith. So I bought a few pins and a compass and pen-knives for my father's watch, and kept all about it. Only later did I discover that Mary Honeywood is more famous—not for her house or her road or her prize, but for her life and work. When she died in 1680 at the age of sixty-three, and her body was placed in Lenham churchyard, Mary Honeywood left behind 25 children, 122 grandchildren, 122 great-grandchildren, and 9 great-great-grandchildren—a total progeny of 462. So far, and still counting, that remains a world record for one woman in her lifetime. I suspect it is a record that will stand forever.