

Increasing Human Demand and the Role of United Nations

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Abstract

From their very inception maps have been flexible. All geographers, political scientists and historians recognize this fact. Driven by need man has drawn imaginary lines on the earth and created states/nations. History tells us about the rise and decline of such states. Even before his swimming on the surface of the seas came to an end, man dived deep under water to touch and explore the ocean floor, so as to gift his nation with another repository of treasures. It was, as if, that space was a part of the unlimited area of a nation beyond any boundaries. In the last phase of history the large, powerful, ancient states became intensely preoccupied with extending their right over the ocean floor by pushing the lines of their map into the very depths of the sea, while the small, weak, new states remained mere spectators. At the turn of the last century many nations in a united effort sought help from the United Nations to resolve this problem. Consequently, in 1962 an Agreement was signed by the representatives of 160 nations, even though the United States of America and some other nations refrained from signing the same. The formal name of this Agreement is United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Present author has loudly proclaimed that the increase in population is not the only problem we are facing. If population had been the greatest problem then neighboring states with the same population would not have had such different standards of living. The main key to development and non-development is the supervision and evaluation of population. Therefore, the counting of population should not be a head-count, but should be based on human demand and its quantity. We are completely absorbed in a strange life-style. The mercury of our demands goes on rising everyday – uncompromising demand – the demand to sustain commercial enterprise. The clue to a solution to the problem regarding the occupation of the ocean floor by different nations can be found in the UNCLOS Agreement of the United Nations. . Just as UNCLOS protects the resources of the ocean floor, a similar Agreement called the United Nations Convention on the law of demand (UNCLOD) is necessary to stop the excessive and unscientific use of resources to meet man's extraordinary demands. This Agreement will draw a boundary around every person's demands. Every country's size, total population, population-density, rate of expansion, water resources, forest area, soil content, landforms, etc, can easily be calculated in statistical terms. In order to make the attempt of UNCLOD to limit every man of every nation to a fixed quota of demands effective, a statistical assessment of resources, and an evaluation of other resources

and an estimate of the inner strength of such resources must be made. At this Convention a long catalogue of nations consisting of several levels/ strata will be prepared. Every nation will find a place in one or another level/ stratum. That level/ stratum itself will determine how much demand per head of a nation's population is legitimate.

Keywords: Political Scientists, UNCLOS, UNCLOS.

Introduction

From early times the proportion of land has neither increased nor decreased in compliance with any simple rules. Today man has as much control over land resource as he had in the past. A long time ago man had come to realize that he would have to be content with the resources that could be found in his share of the land. But the moment he set sail across the seas and gained experience, the definition of the map began to change. The extent to which his boat could sail on the sea – that entire area – came under his country's control. The shore-lines on a map became indistinct to man as he gazed upon the expanse of the ocean. From that juncture national boundaries have been in a state of flux. The extent to which you can access the depths of the ocean from your shore – all that area belongs to you – just as in the dawn of civilization, the area traversed by a group of people with weapons in hand outside the cave came under the control of its community. This is almost another kind of work-shop for the making of a country's map. Thus maps change shape and clothing overnight. The sea-facing nations compulsively try to extend their boundaries deep down the waters of the sea. A new slice of land added to a state is no doubt a source of extra earning, for it brings with it another list of resources, thus marking a new stage in the restless change of the map. In the last phase of history the large, powerful, ancient states became intensely preoccupied with extending their right over the ocean floor by pushing the lines of their map into the very depths of the sea, while the small, weak, new states remained mere spectators. At the turn of the last century many nations in a united effort sought help from the United Nations to resolve this problem. To establish this truth the United Nations organized a World Conference. Many learned persons attended it. Consequently, in 1962 an Agreement was signed by the representatives of 160 nations, even though the United States of America and some other nations refrained from signing the same. The formal name of this Agreement is United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). On 25 April, 1986 and 12 October, 1993 the United Nations together with Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados island-states strengthened this Agreement by making many modifications and framing some new laws. But there are so many resources and so much demand that the problem with the ocean floor continued to intensify. The matter was further complicated when Russian scientists planted the national flag made of titanium in the hard rock bed, 14,000 feet deep under sea water in the Arctic region on 2nd August, 2007. It is presumed that the area is a store-house of mineral oil. This is a kind of imperialism in a period of extreme scarcity of fuel oil. Scientists of neighboring nations became involved in a political mess quite unwittingly. An analysis began on how far land divisions among nations actually contributed to the formation of the floor of the Arctic Ocean. It was discovered that on 20% of the divided land within the imaginary line called the Arctic circle Russia had the maximum claim from a geological point of view. A total of 18 plates of different nations have converged in this area: 8 belong to Russia, 4 to Canada, one each to Denmark, Norway, Finland and the United States of America including a bit of Alaska.

For a long time the Arctic Ocean had remained undisturbed in the northern region of the world, but now, at the slightest hint of a new natural resource, nations have started tearing

it apart. In order to draw a new map the submarine vessels of various nations have started polluting the water with their hectic movements. There is a frenzied rush among the states to hoist titanium flags on the ocean floor. The future of the region remains unknown. In order to control natural resources to meet the demands of the future everyone seems to have acquired clairvoyance. Everyone has gathered together to make the economy of individual nations prosperous. Groups of clever people are attempting to divide the ocean floor of, not just the Arctic Ocean, but of other oceans and seas. Each and every nation has become alert; scientists are receiving invitations from everywhere. A new area has emerged on the map of the world. This is perhaps the closing scene of the constant bid for domination over the waters of the earth. An Agreement like UNCLOS is being highly acclaimed and relied upon. Last 11 July, on the occasion of a celebration of World population Day, I had loudly proclaimed that the increase in population is not the only problem we are facing. If that had been the case then the people of Congo and Somalia, which have a small population, would not be suffering so much, nor would the inhabitants of China with its largest population in the world be leading a life of quasi-contentment. If population had been the greatest problem then neighboring states with the same population would not have had such different standards of living. The main key to development and non-development is the supervision and evaluation of population. In contrast to the use of resources by a man living for 50 years in the Third World, a man living for the same number of years in a country like United States of America, which belongs to the First World, utilizes more resources on an average. Based on this assessment if the current population of the United States of America is calculated in terms of utilization of resources, it will be double the current population of India which is more than a hundred million. Therefore, the counting of population should not be a head-count, but should be based on human demand and its quantity. Then the map of the world will take on different shades; the accusing finger will turn in another direction.

This issue will become clearer if a study is made of one particular demand. The basis of my argument will be strengthened if the nature of the use of water per person in all nations is analyzed. According to a survey made in 2005, a man in the United States of America uses 1654 cubic meters of water annually, while, an Iraqi person, in spite of being a desert-dweller, uses 2,486 cubic meters, an Indian 613 cubic meters, a Kenyan, despite living in an equatorial region, only 80 cubic meters of water annually. The point is that in order to supply a huge amount of water to desert-dwellers the modes of procurement adopted involve high expenditure and go against nature. There will probably be no opportunity in the future to rectify the damage done to the ecological balance in the name of progress in an attempt to bring water to the desert-dwellers merely with the aid of economic power. To ignore the guide-lines of nature and think along the lines of progress and modern life-style is a massive error. I feel that it is not right to lure an Iraqi to use water on the pretext of development. Hence, from the viewpoint of the use of water, the birth of an Iraqi child means imposing a huge demand on insufficient drinking water resources. The repercussions of that demand can be felt in a different form in the thick forests of Kenya. The birth of an American means a lengthy list of demands on natural resources. To fulfill them the United States of America has to play a game of fraud, display of power, and promotion of the myth of progress with other nations. But the list of demands in the whole life of a child in Congo is so short that it cannot suffice for a single year in the life of an adult American.

We are completely absorbed in a strange life-style. The mercury of our demands goes on rising everyday – uncompromising demand – the demand to sustain commercial enterprise. Everyone has been imbued with the same germ of greed. As a person who values civilization I am lately very scared that the child in Congo may try to compete with the demands of an American. In that case the store of water on the map of India will disappear to simply supply water to a few Indians.

Literature Review

The Source of Methodology

To do the whole work I studied different articles, books, journal, and web site publications. These are like: *Using article 43 of UNCLOS to improve navigational safety and prevent pollution in international straits, Tropical Coasts* of R. Beckman (2001), *The Atlas of Water* of M. Black & J. King (2009), *Globalization in search of Monotony* of M. Mukhopadhyay (2011), *One Earth one future* S. C. Simon (1991) etc. On the other side I used different websites of United Nations like: United Nations convention on the law of the sea agreement relating to the implementation of part xi of the convention etc. So the whole analysis is based on the literary survey in respect of electronic and non-electronic data.

Findings and Discussions

A clue to a possible solution to the dormant problem: The clue to a solution to the problem regarding the occupation of the ocean floor by different nations can be found in the UNCLOS Agreement of the United Nations. It will be wrong to presume that the constant bickering over the rights to the ocean floor has ceased completely. But now, it is also not right to think that any nation using its power and infrastructure of progress can access all the resources of the ocean floor. Just as UNCLOS protects the resources of the ocean floor, a similar Agreement called the United Nations Convention on the law of demand (UNCLOD) is necessary to stop the excessive and unscientific use of resources to meet man's extraordinary demands. This Agreement will draw a boundary around every person's demands.

Now the question is, in what way lines can be drawn on human demands. To put a restraint on earthly needs requires a mental transcendence which is not easy to attain. Then again, the imposition of such a mind-set on the practical life of all inhabitants of the earth may not be acceptable. Hence, the draft of the Agreement must seek a different orientation.

Every country's size, total population, population-density, rate of expansion, water resources, forest area, soil content, landforms, etc, can easily be calculated in statistical terms. In order to make the attempt of UNCLOD to limit every man of every nation to a fixed quota of demands effective, a statistical assessment of resources, an evaluation of other resources and an estimate of the inner strength of such resources must be made. At present and in the future an evaluation of the use of resources needed for development must be shown in statistical terms. As a result, the value of every nation will be made in statistical terms. After that, the number thus obtained must be divided by a nation's population, and then only the demand per person and suitable demand of the people of that country can be found. This is a complicated mathematical exercise. Different resources have different trends and units; moreover, population is not constant. To bring the nature of all resources under the same unit is a massive problem – but it has to be done. Today scientists are able to solve many problems with the help of many technological devices; I believe this one can also be solved.

At this Convention a long catalogue of nations consisting of several levels/ strata will be prepared. Every nation will find a place in one or another level/ stratum. That level/ stratum itself will determine how much demand per head of a nation's population is legitimate. In future the generation of new resources by a nation will lead to its promotion from one level/ stratum to another in that catalogue. At once the amount of demand per person will change. Scientists will get more recognition in every state. They alone will indicate the discovery of new resources. Work in the field of progress will go on day and night. One nation will learn from another nation. Every state will have to be satisfied with the resources given by nature. The map of the world will become more varied and colorful. A new kind of education will affect man's life-style.

Through the application of the UNCLOS Agreement a new aspect will emerge, for instance, no nation would be able to extract resources in unscientific ways to compete with neighboring nations. As a result the natural habitat will be well protected. Running a nation is like running a family. It can be assumed that the total earnings of a family should determine the limit of its demands. But when a family tries to compete with its neighbors, then only does a problem arise. Expenditure beyond its means spoils the very character of the family. The surroundings become constricted, a simple life-style becomes complicated, terrible problems lurk in the future.

This is also true in the case of nations. In order to provide citizens with easy facilities by emulating advanced countries, many countries are emptying their coffers. Immediately a limit has to be imposed on the demands of advanced nations with the help of the UNCLOS Agreement. They must be made aware of the amount of resources they possess, how much disparity there is in the ratio of resources used per person in proportion to their population, their position in the list of nations charted by the United Nations, the level of the demands of their citizens, and where the United Nations' prohibitory rules are being flouted. For instance, on the basis of the allotted water resources, the amount of water to be used per person in a country will be determined. It will not be allowed to take water from other countries for excessive use. Similarly, in the field of cultivation, the scientific mode of farming and production should suit the specific area where it is done. The natural environment of that area cannot be spoilt in a bid to follow another country's mode of cultivation. The excessive use of resources for the sake of larger profit will not be permitted. Inappropriate afforestation in imitation of a neighboring nation will be prohibited. The project of making the desert green by unscientific methods will be stopped. Marshy lands will not be destroyed to serve the interests of the majority.

Proposing such an Agreement as the UNCLOS may seem impractical. But recently the prohibition on the use of sea resources by UNCLOS, fixing the amount of carbon-dioxide production on the international level and based on that, the spread of Carbon Trading and Carbon Sink Forest teach us again and again that more of the same kind is necessary to impose a discipline on our daily life. All such cautionary measures are emerging from the very depths of our consciousness. At the outset of the 21st century a group of Western scientists have talked about removing the basis of earthly demands of the Human Development Index and thus establishing the Human Happiness Index. This theory has given a new direction to the creation of human life-style. All this is a result of a new mode of thinking or a new realization.

UNCLOD is one such idea. Man's demand must be lowered or propelled in another direction. After all, this is our earth, and there is no other way to sustain it.

I feel faint to think what would happen if every man's demand on earth catches up with the demand per person in advanced countries. How would man satisfy his demand? It is our responsibility to establish peace on earth. We are all absorbed in creating new markets to satisfy our demands. We narrate stories of happiness to everyone and display commodities for commercial purposes. It is to be seen when and how this trend will cease. Many are waiting for this to happen. Therefore, I feel that the signing of the UNCLOD Agreement and its application are extremely relevant today.

Conclusion

Even a few decades ago no one could think of the United Nations' role in the division of resources of the ocean floor and an agreement like UNCLOS. Today this has become acceptable as a means of solving problems. In much the same way UNCLOD – that is, the prohibition on demand per person – may seem impractical for the present, but in the near future the United Nations will be compelled to hold a world conference on such an issue. There the representatives of different nations will exchange ideas and arrive at an easy solution. After all, the problem of the future is everyone's problem – strong-weak, rich-poor, thick-thin, accessible-inaccessible, no one will be spared. Pre-empting this situation I am putting forward the suggestion of limiting human demands. It has been seen that the main clue to a solution lies in such suggestions. Thus a world accord is given shape a proper background is created for the sustenance of human civilization.

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- Special Note:* This concept has recently emerged through in depth social consciousness of the present author.