

So Much Accomplished ... So Much To Do

# May 7, 2001 Earth Policy Institute begins



# Earth Policy Releases 2001

- Lester Brown Launches Earth Policy Institute (May 8)
- Dust Bowl Threatening China's Future (May 23)
- Wind Power: The Missing Link In The Bush Energy Plan (May 31)
- Worsening Water Shortages Threaten China's Food Security (October 4)
- Eco-Economy Offers Alternative to Middle East Oil (November 1)
- Rising Sea Level Forcing Evacuation of Island Country (November 15)
- World Grain Harvest Falling Short by 54 Million Tons (November 21)
- This Year May be Second Warmest on Record (December 18)
- Iran's Birth Rate Plummeting at Record Pace (December 28)

Photo Credit: Yann Arthus-Bertrand

# ECO-ECONOMY

# "One of the world's most influential thinkers." — Washington Post

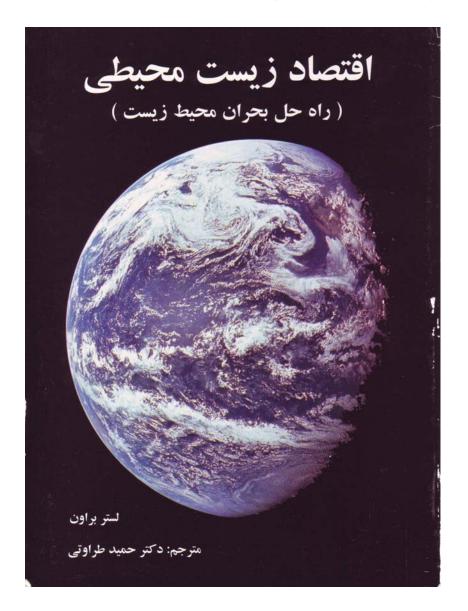
Building an Economy for the Earth

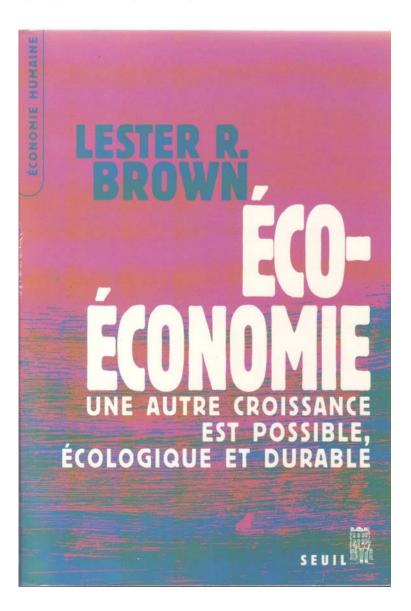
LESTER R. BROWN

### November 2001

"... an instant classic."
-E.O. Wilson

# Farsi & French editions





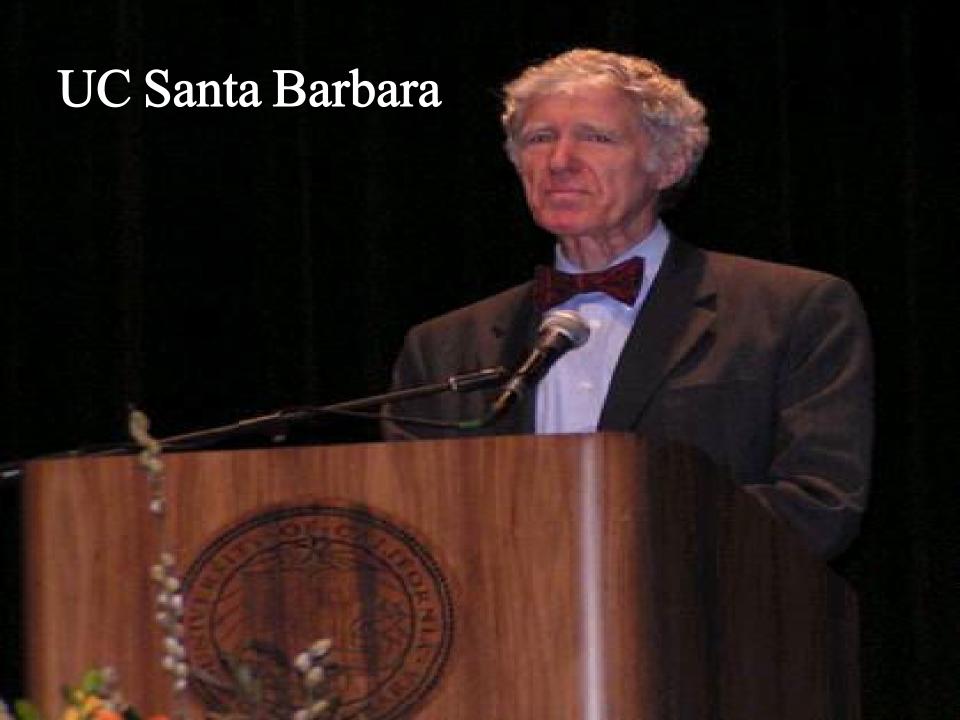
# Christmas 2001

- Janet
- Millicent
- Lester
- Reah Janise



"Your updates are among the most important emails I receive. They both inspire and educate. Keep up the great work."

—Steve Krueger, KPLU radio





# Warning of Collapse

- In contrast, natural scientists see an economy destroying its natural supports
- Humanity is running up against the natural limits of aquifers, soils, fisheries, forests, even our atmosphere
- In system after system, our collective demands are overshooting what nature can provide

How can we assume that the growth of an economic system that is destroying its environmental supports can simply be projected into the long-term future?

### Three Indicators to Watch

**Economic** 

**Social** 

**Political** 

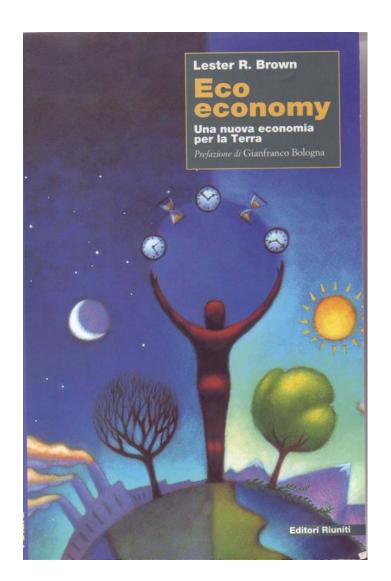


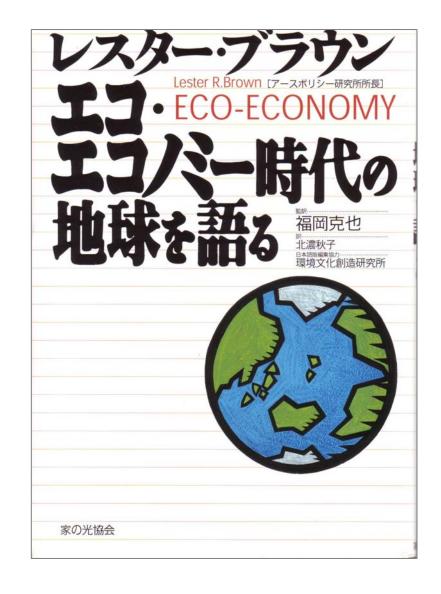




These indicators help give a sense of how close to the edge our civilization may be.

# Italian & Japanese editions

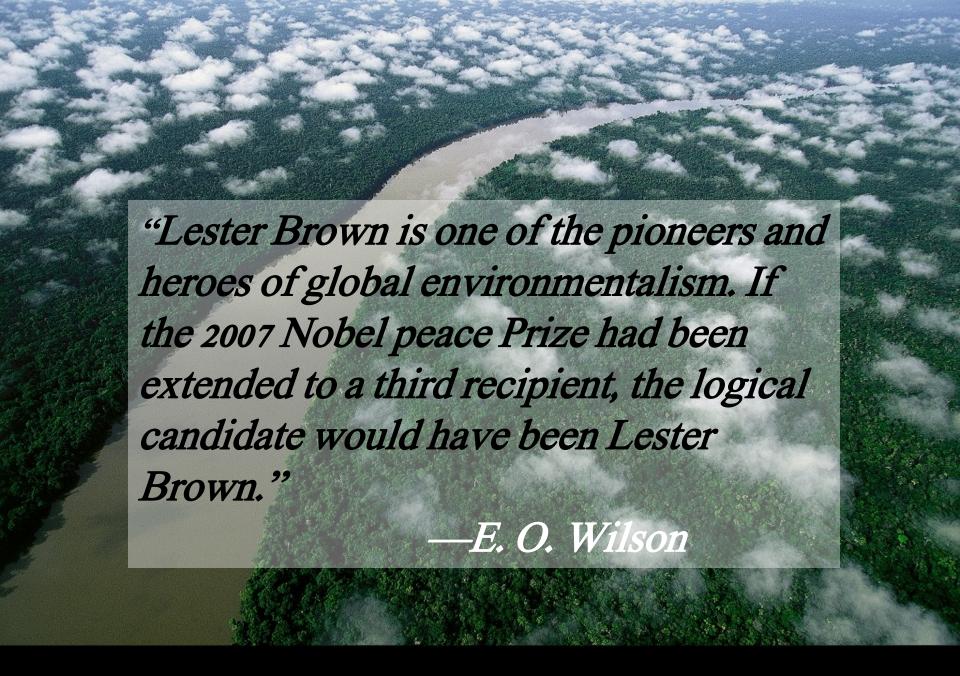




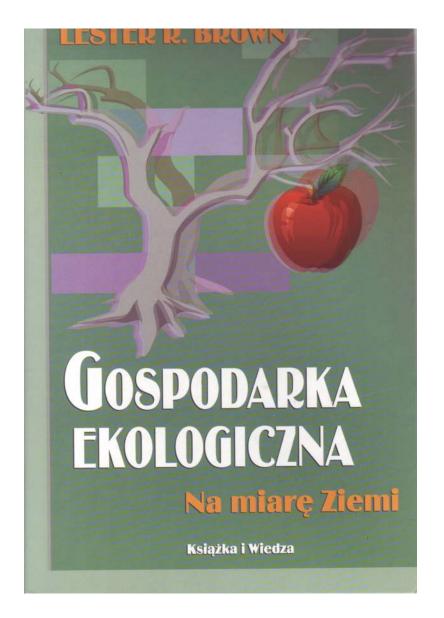


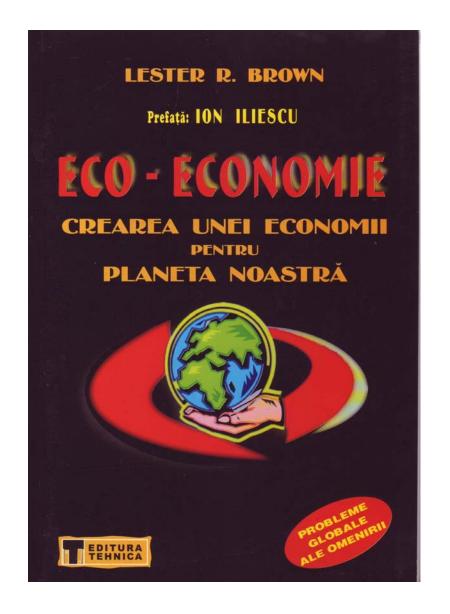
Yummy! Italian cuisine!





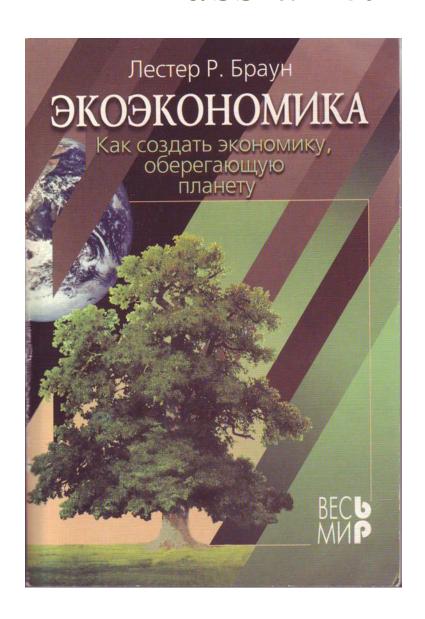
## Polish & Romanian editions

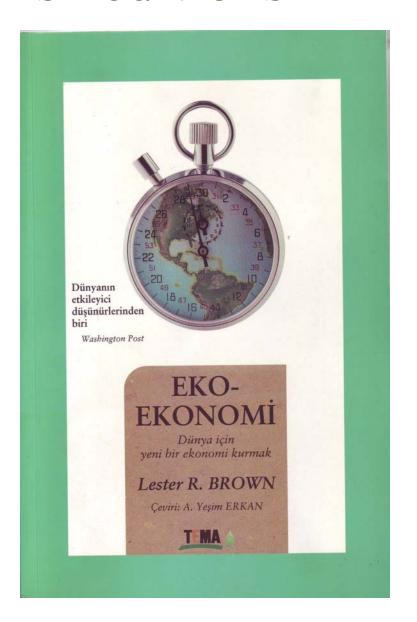






# Russian & Turkish editions





# **Eco-Economy Indicators**

Population Carbon Emissions

Global Economy Global Temperature

Grain Harvest Ice Melting

Fish Catch Wind Power

Forest Cover Bicycle Production

Water Resources Solar Power

# THE EARTH POLICY READER

Lester R. Brown

JANET LARSEN and BERNIE FISCHLOWITZ-ROBERTS

EARTH POLICY INSTITUTE

## November 2002

"Every decisionmaker and voter on
the planet should
read and study this
thought-provoking
book."

-Wildlife Activist

# Water Shortages

- Overpumping produces food bubbles that burst when water supplies dry up
- In the Arab Middle East, a collision between population growth and water supply is reducing regional grain harvests
- If multiple food bubbles burst at nearly the same time, the resulting food shortages could cause chaos

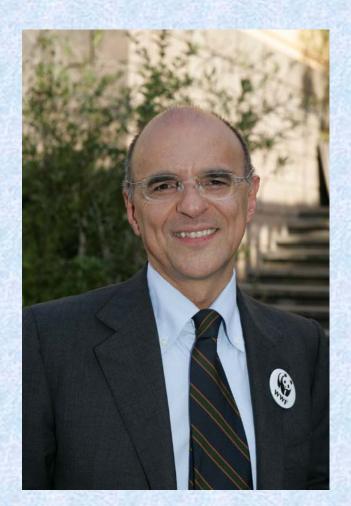
#### **Countries Overpumping Aquifers in 2010**

Country	Population
	Millions
Afghanistan	29
China	1,354
India	1,214
Iran	75
Iraq	31
Israel	7
Jordan	6
Lebanon	4
Mexico	111
Morocco	32
Pakistan	185
Saudi Arabia	26
South Korea	49
Spain	45
Syria	23
Tunisia	10
United States	318
Yemen	24
Total	3,545

Source: EPI with population data from UNPop

# Lester Brown **Janet Larsen Bernie Fischlowitz-Roberts Bilancio** saggistica ambientale TERRA Gli effetti ambientali dell'economia globalizzata Edizioni Ambiente

# Gianfranco Bologna, head of WWF-Italy and mastermind behind Italian translations



# London: Interview



# Honorary Degree: Westminster College, PA



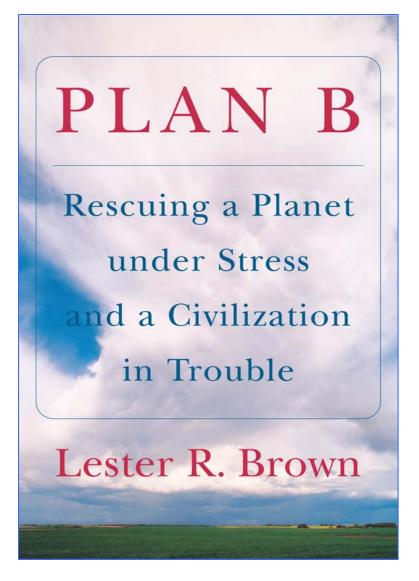


Canada Glacier and Lake Fryxell, Antarctica (South Pole) (77°37\'S, 162°59\'W). www.yannarthusbertrand2.org

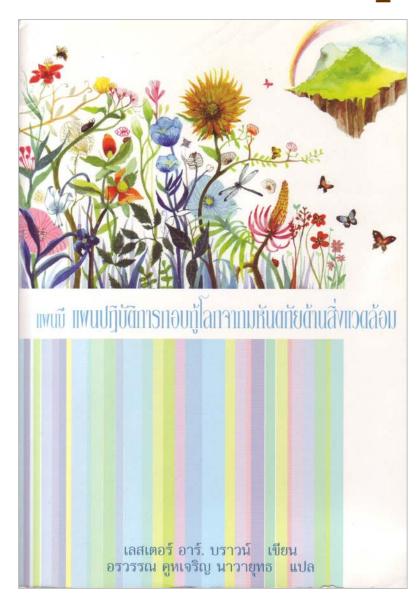
# 2002 Cherry Blossom 10-Mile Race Finishers

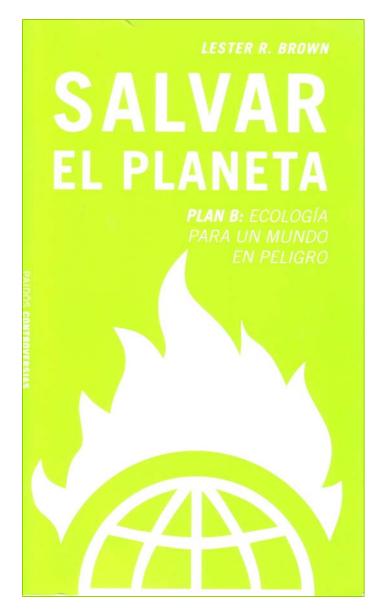


# Book of the Month award, Omnipedia Top Ten Book award, TheGlobalist.com

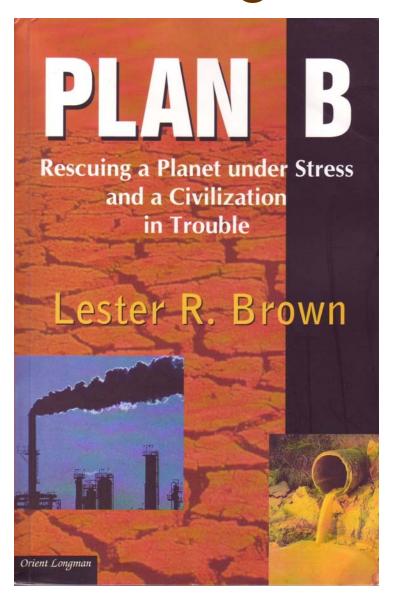


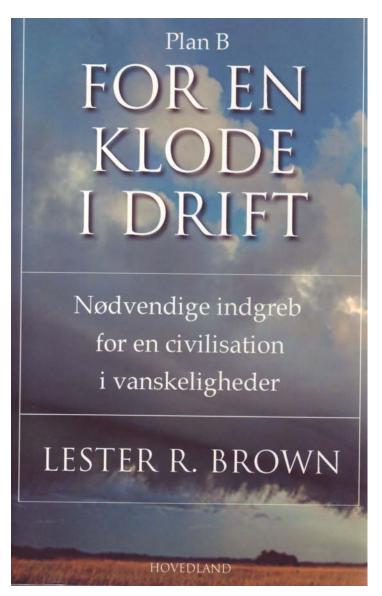
# Thai & Spanish editions





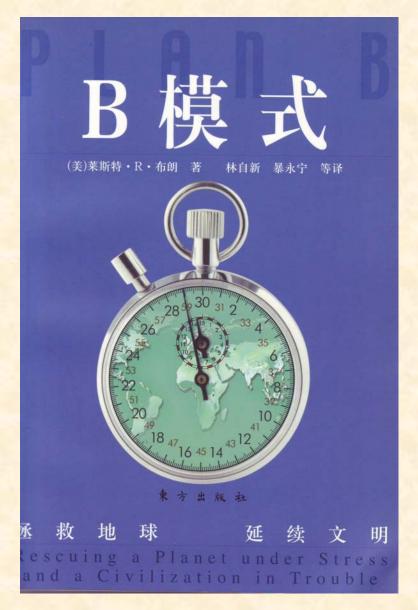
# India (English) and Danish editions





# Plan B – Chinese ed.

Winner, National
Library of China
book award



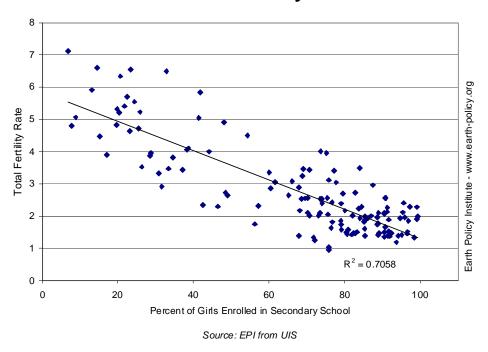
"Lester R. Brown, one of the world's preeminent ecoeconomísts...has a solution for dealing with the threat...Plans must be periodically revised and refined, which Brown has done with insight and foresight in this volume."

- ODE

# The Poverty – Education – Population Connection

- School lunch programs help kids, especially girls, stay in school
- Girls who stay in school longer are likely to have fewer children
- Reducing family size helps lift families out of poverty

## Female Secondary Education and Total Fertility Rates

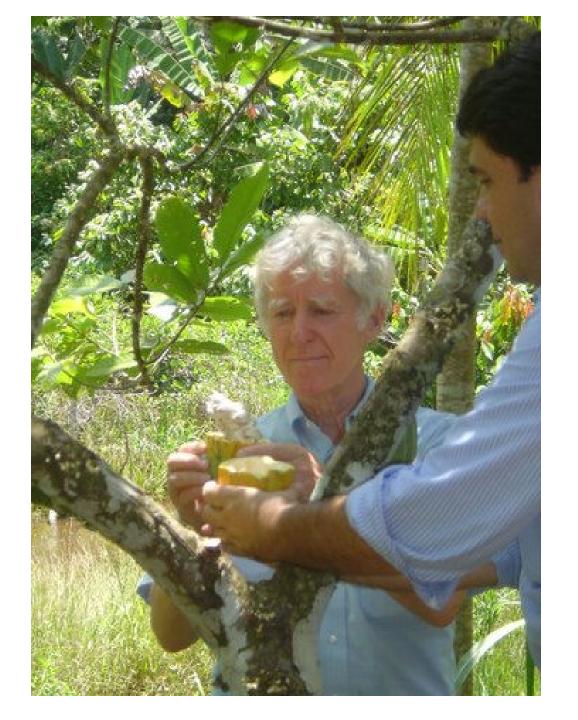


Efforts to eliminate poverty and slow population growth reinforce each other—and they also help prevent state failure by addressing the root causes of instability.



# Toshishige Kurosawa & Lester





Mid-Atlantic Rainforest, Brazil

# Interview with Elephant Journal, Denver



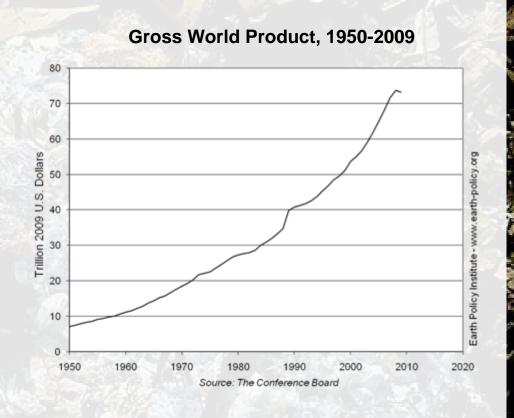


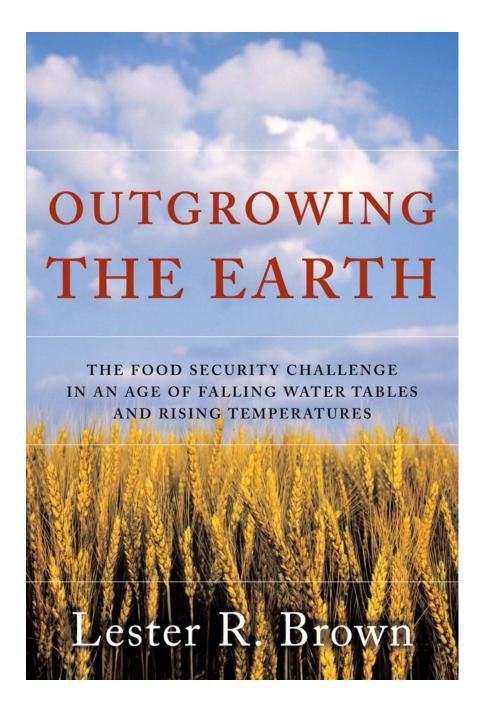
Janet: New Zealand speaking tour



#### A Bright Economic Future?

- The global economy has grown nearly 10fold since 1950
- Mainstream
   economists typically
   project 3% annual
   growth
- In this view, an illustrious economic past is extrapolated into a promising future...





#### February 2005

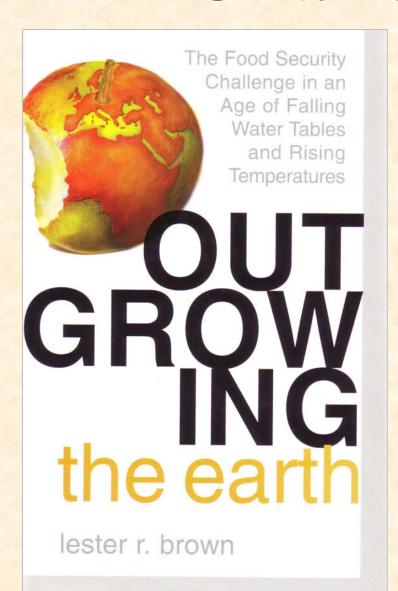
"... groundbreaking ..."

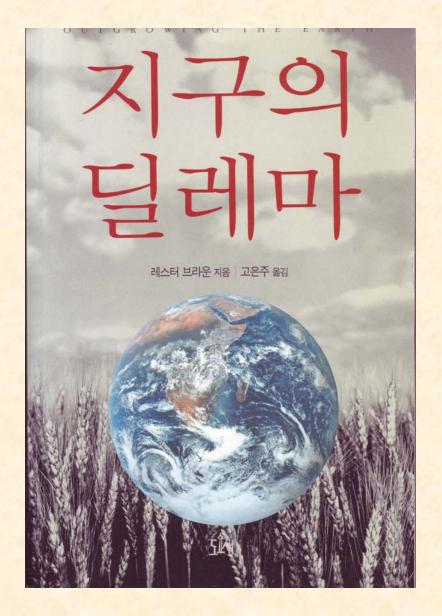
– Herbert Girardet,
World Future Council
Initiative

## "I'm fine; it's the world I'm worried about."



#### **UK & Korean editions**





#### Eroding Soils, Expanding Deserts

- Overplowing, overgrazing, and deforestation make soil vulnerable to wind and water erosion
- Roughly 1/3 of the world's cropland is now losing topsoil faster than it can be re-formed
- Topsoil loss reduces productivity, eventually leading farmers and herders to abandon their land
- Countries such as Lesotho, Haiti, Mongolia, and North Korea are losing the ability to feed themselves

We have yet to see the full effects of two giant dust bowls now forming: one in northwestern China and western Mongolia, and another in the Sahel of central Africa.

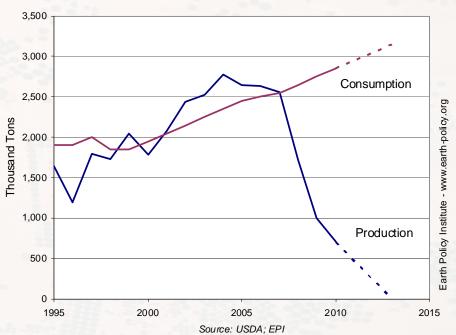




#### Saudi Arabia's Bursting Bubble

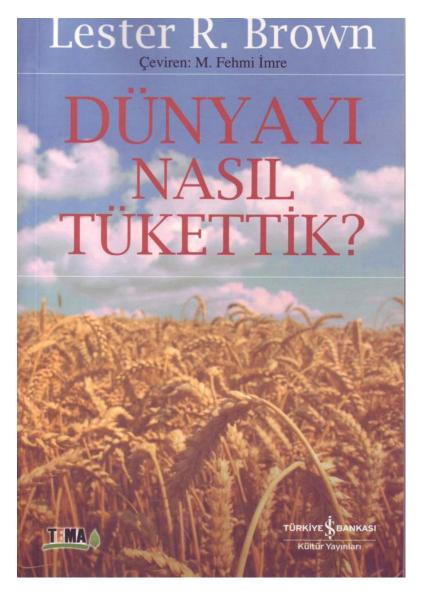
- Saudi Arabia became self-sufficient in wheat by tapping a nonreplenishable aquifer to irrigate the desert
- In early 2008, the government announced the aquifer was largely depleted
- The population of nearly 30 million could be entirely dependent on imported grain by 2013

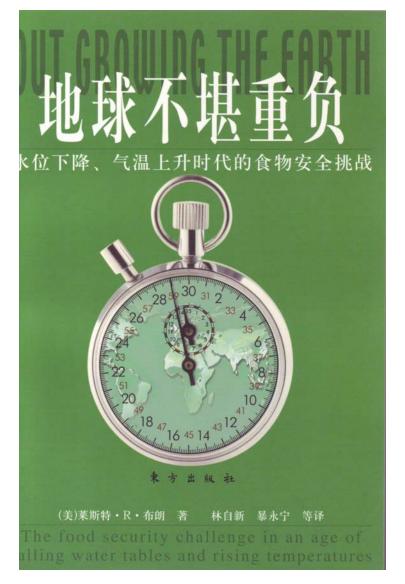
#### Wheat Production and Consumption in Saudi Arabia, 1995-2010, with Projection to 2013



Saudi Arabia is the first country to publicly project how aquifer depletion will shrink its grain harvest.

#### Turkish & Chinese editions





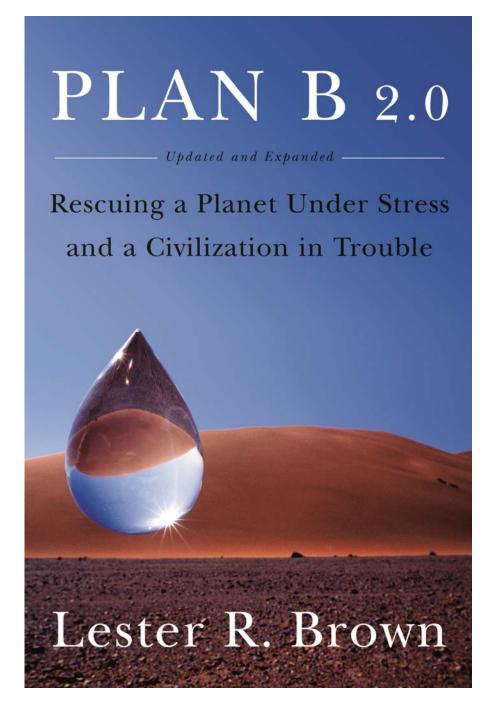
#### 10-Mile Cherry Blossom Race, 2005





#### January 2006

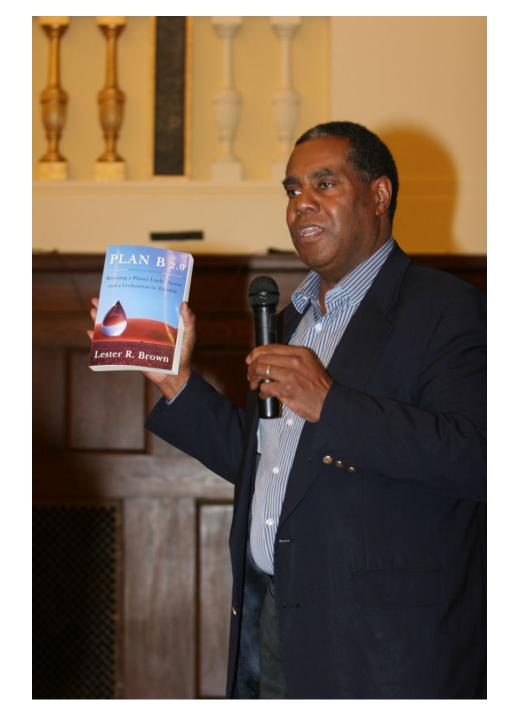
"Lester Brown should receive a Nobel Peace Prize for his new book." -Talli Nauman, The Herald Mexico



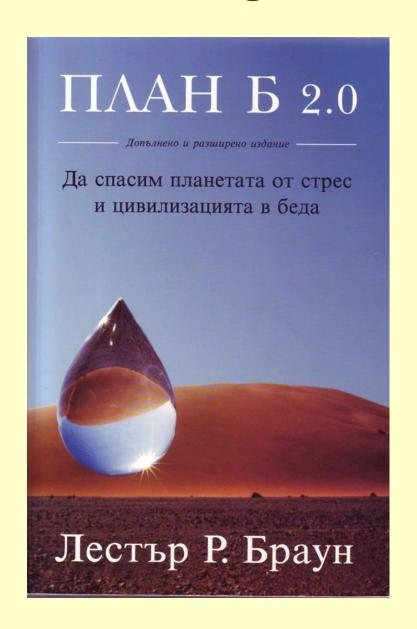


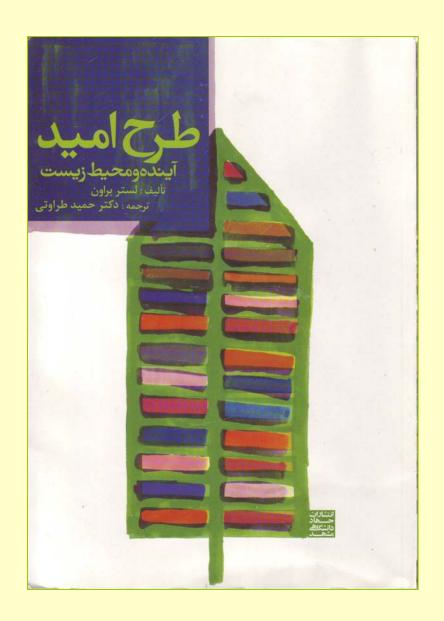
Lester's written the kind of book that when you put it down you HAVE to pick it up again! ©

Steve Curwood of NPR's Living on Earth introducing Lester, Lexington, Mass.



#### Bulgarian & Farsi editions





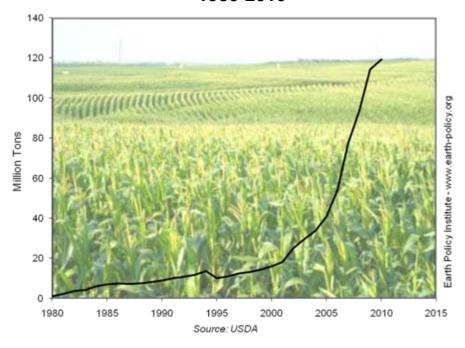
#### Bulgaria 2006



#### Food vs. Fuel

- Rising price of oil has made it profitable to turn grain into fuel
- More than one fourth of the U.S. grain crop is now going to ethanol
- U.S. ethanol euphoria helped double annual growth in global grain demand, raising food prices worldwide

#### Corn Used for Fuel Ethanol in the United States, 1980-2010

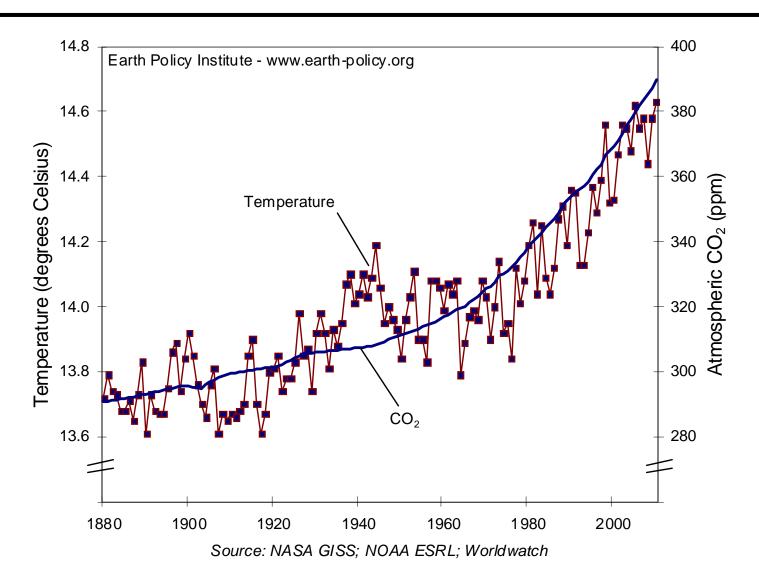


The grain needed to fill an SUV's 25-gallon tank with ethanol once could feed one person for an entire year.

#### Testifying on the Hill: Biofuels



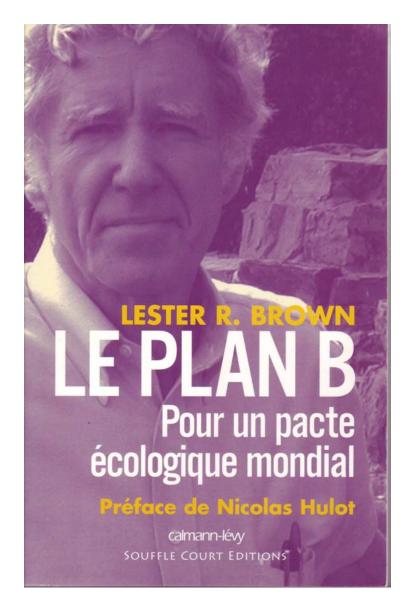
### Average Global Temperature and Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide Concentrations, 1880-2010

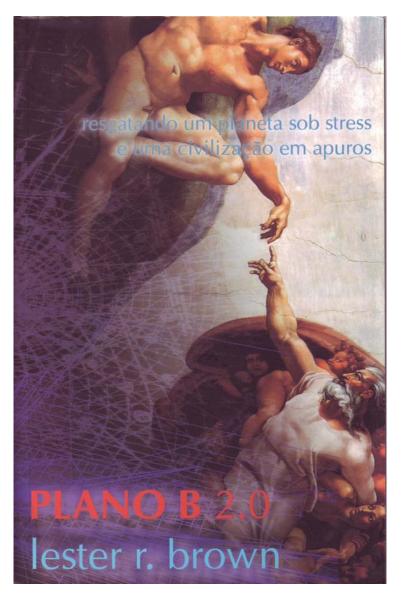


"Lester R. Brown... offers an attractive 21st-century alternative to the unacceptable business-as-usual path that we have been following with regard to the environment (Plan A), which is leading us to 'economic decline and collapse.'"

— Thomas F. Malone, American Scientist

#### French & Portuguese editions





# The French Team: Pierre-Yves Longaretti, Philippe Vieille, and others



#### Lester and Nicolas Hulot – Paris Launching Plan B 2.0



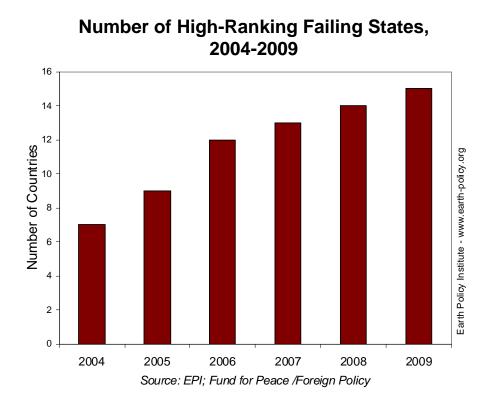
#### Receiving the Georg and Greta Borgström Prize, Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, 2005



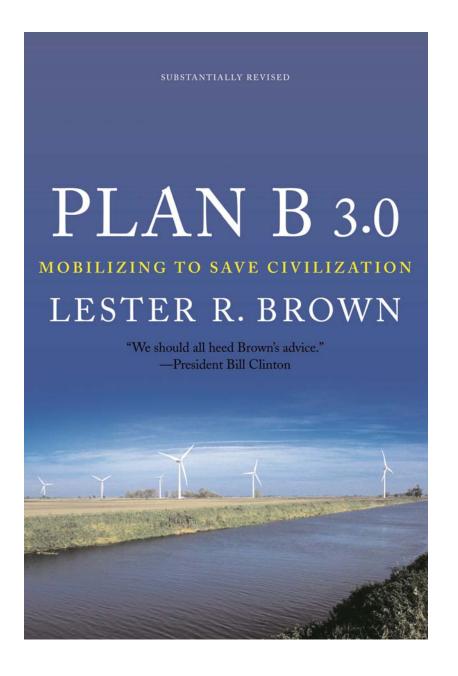


#### More States Failing

- States fail when governments lose control of part or all of their territory and can no longer ensure their people's security
- As pressures from population growth, water shortages, climate change, and food scarcity increase, state failure is both spreading and deepening



How many states can fail before our global civilization begins to unravel?



#### January 2008

"Lester Brown tells us how to build a more just world and save the planet from climate change in a practical, straightforward way. We should all heed his advice."

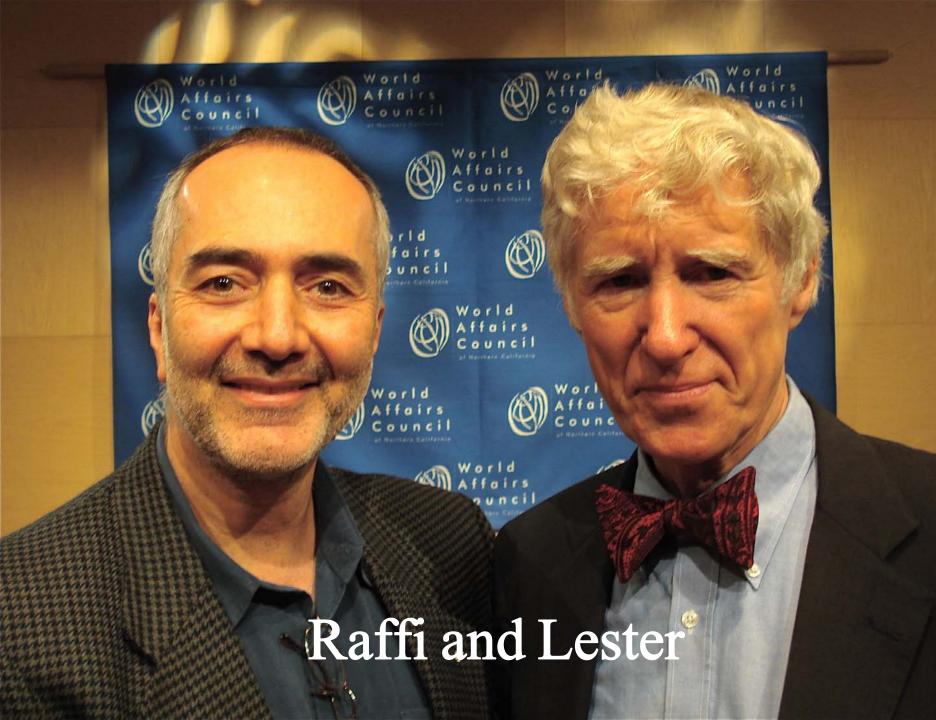
-President Bill Clinton

#### BOOKS! ... Off the truck and into the office



Books and more books ... let no one





# Presentation sponsored by Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition



#### Ramping Up Renewables

- Wind
- Solar
- Geothermal
- Other: Small-scale Hydro, Tidal and Wave Power, Biomass





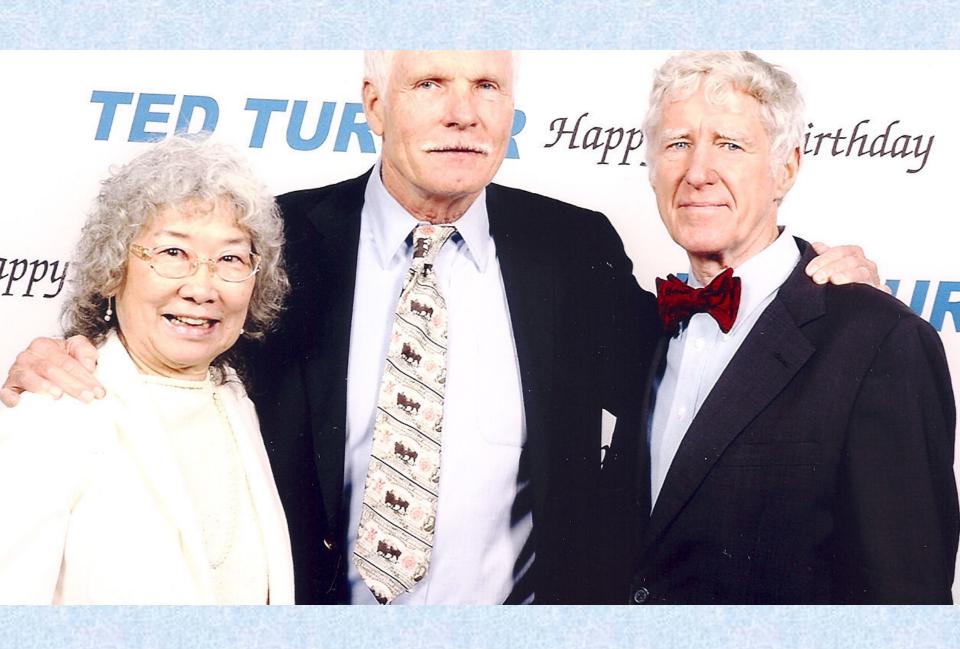
#### Norwegian Launch



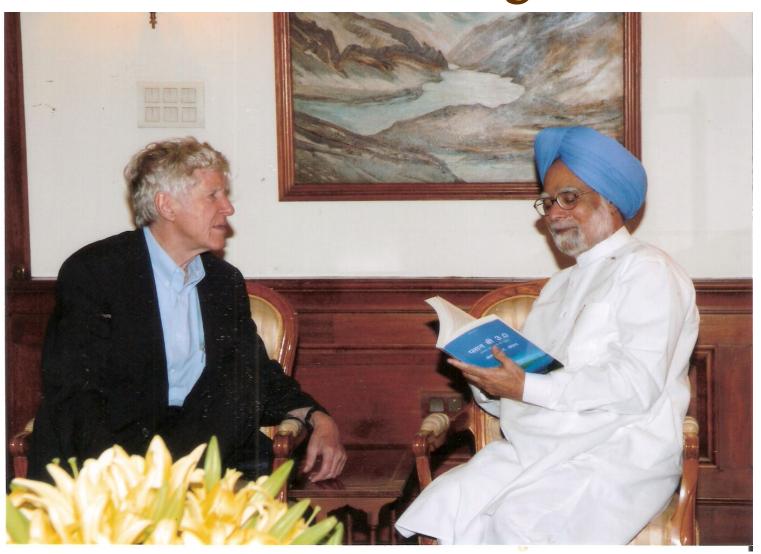


# Meeting with 6<sup>th</sup>-graders from Branksome Hall, Toronto



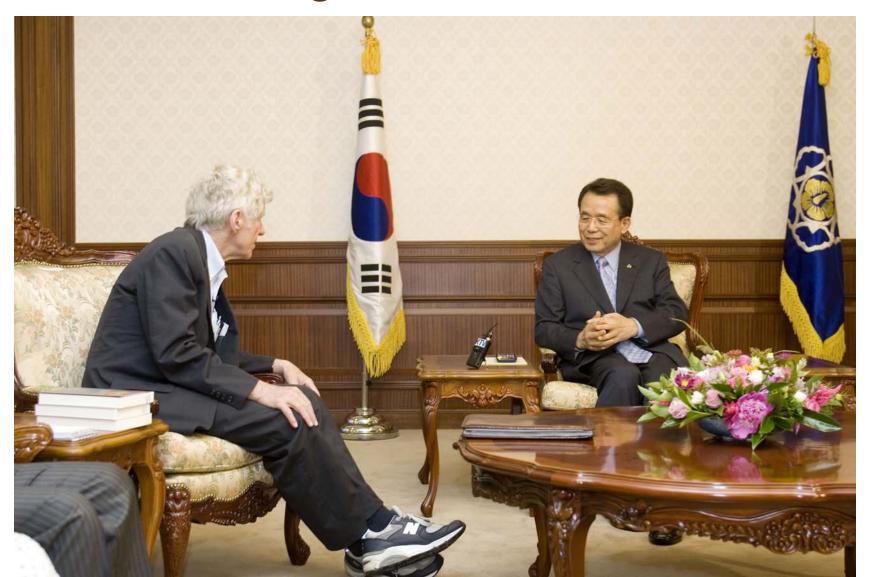


## Meeting with India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh





## A chat with South Korea's Prime Minister Han Seung-soo about Plan B



## Yul Choi, head of KFEM & Goldman Prize recipient, introducing Plan B





#### Plan B: Four Main Goals

- 1. Stabilizing Population
- 2. Eradicating Poverty
- 3. Restoring the Earth's Natural Support Systems
- 4. Stabilizing Climate

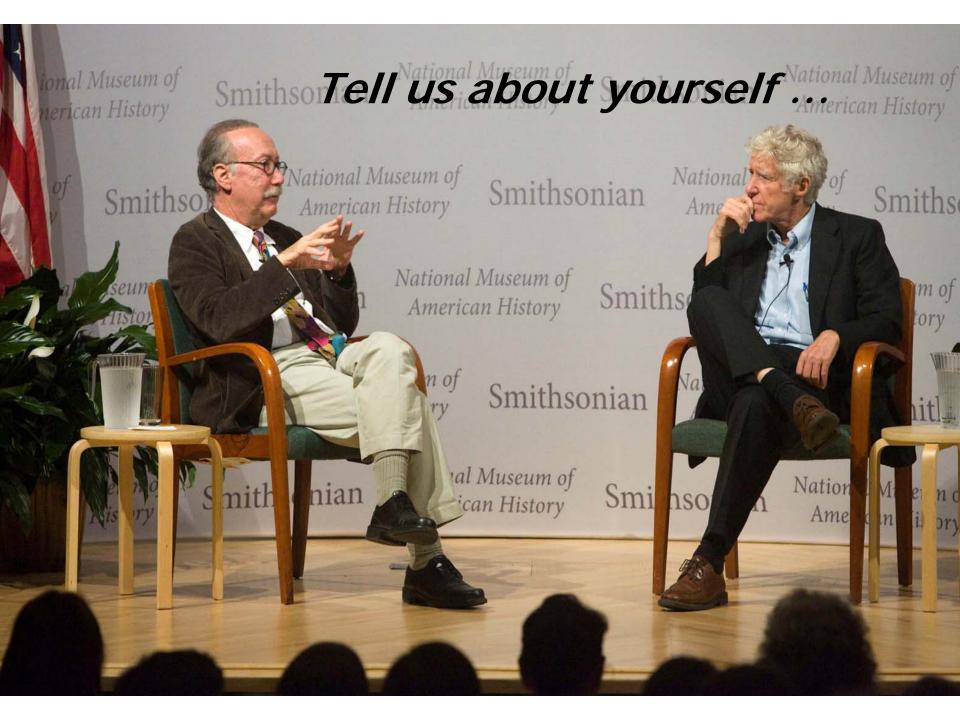


"Brown is impassioned and convincing when talking about the world's ills and what he considers the four great goals to restoring civilization's equilibrium..."

-April Streeter, TreeHugger.com

## Smithsonian – Living Portrait with Marc Pachter





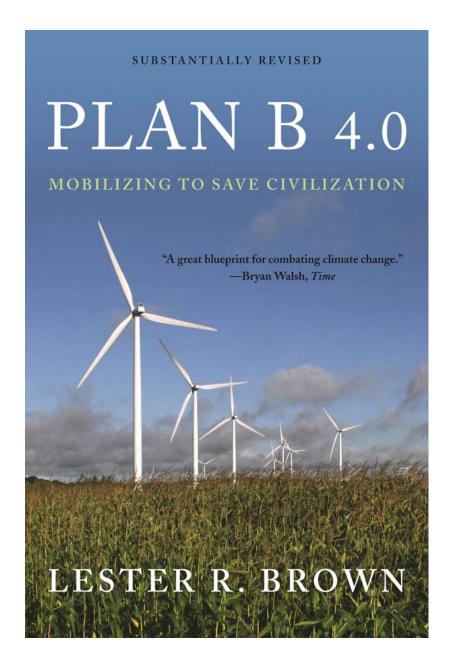


### ... even time for family



#### October 2009

"If you want to know the future of Planet Earth, there is one good place to look. It is a book entitled 'Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to save Civilization.'"
—Bill Boyne, Post-Bulletin



### Autographing books



### Yep ... it takes two!

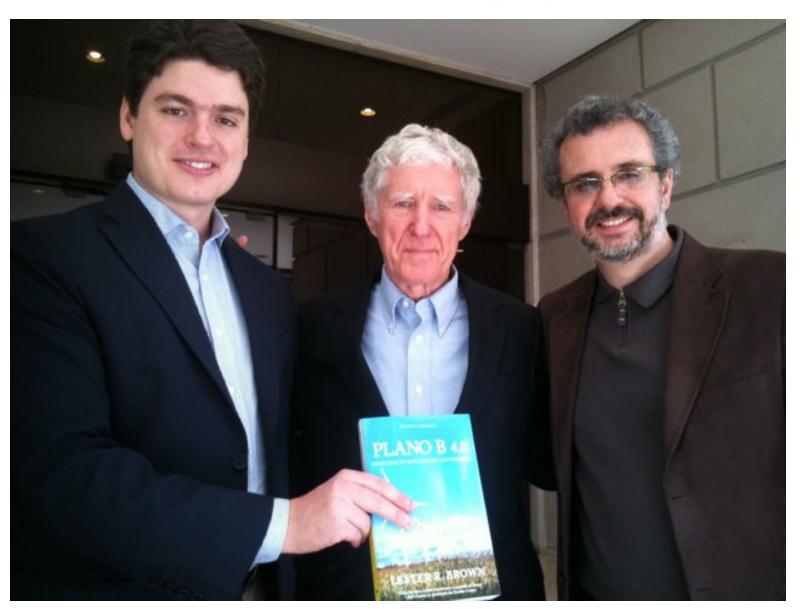


## Janet speaking at an NGO-sponsored event at the UN Conference on Climate Change.





#### Brazilian launch



### Brazil's Premiere Cultural Program: Roda Viva (artist Paul Caruso)





### Raising Energy Efficiency

#### Buildings

 Retrofits with better insulation and more efficient appliances can cut energy use by 20-50%

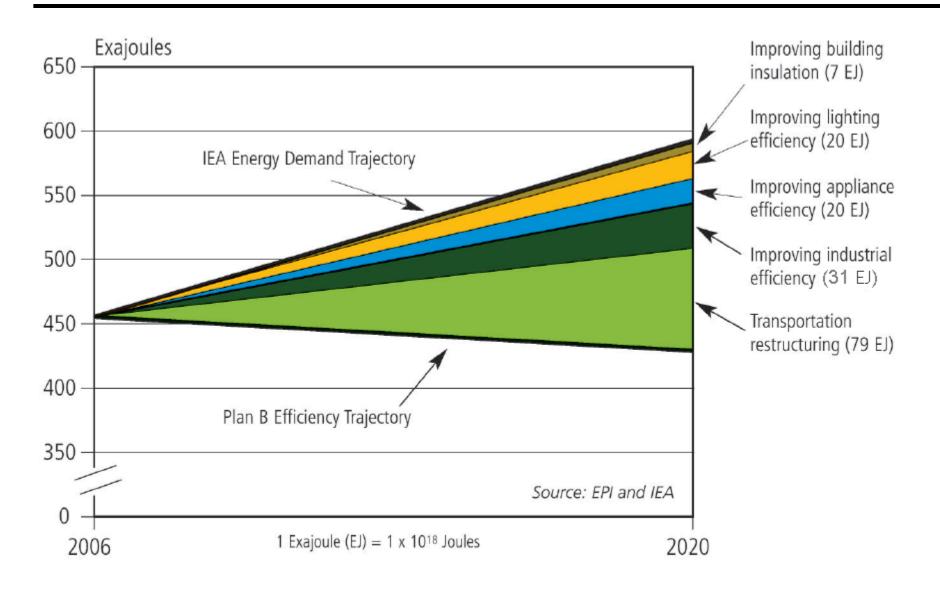
#### Lighting

 A worldwide switch to highly-efficient home, office, industrial, and street lighting would enable the world to close 705 of its 2,800 coalfired power plants





#### Plan B Energy Efficiency Measures



Launch in Shanghai

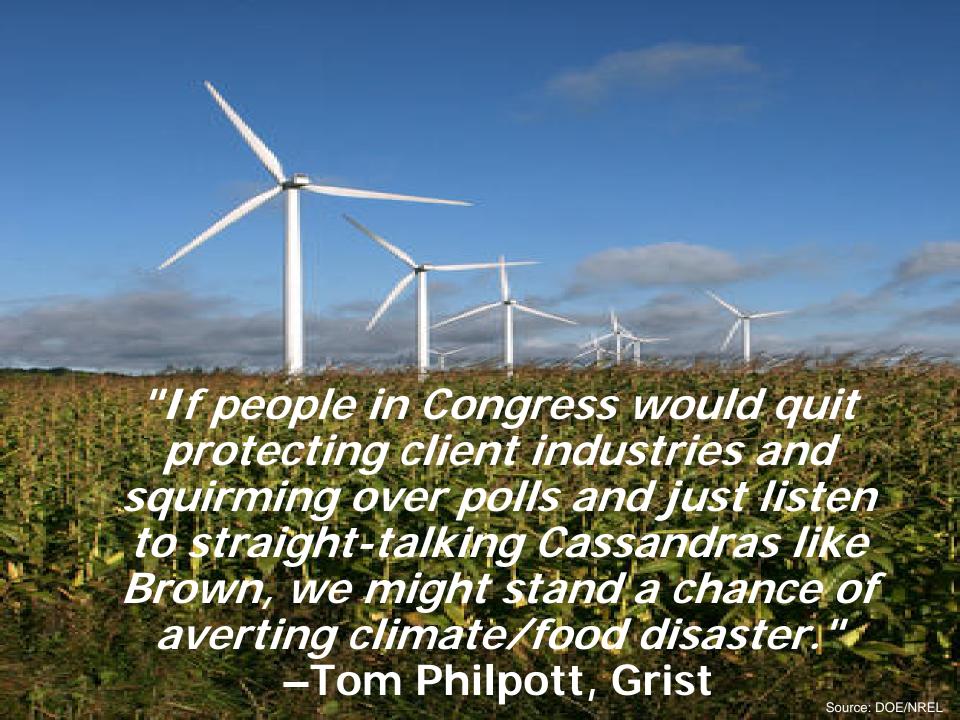




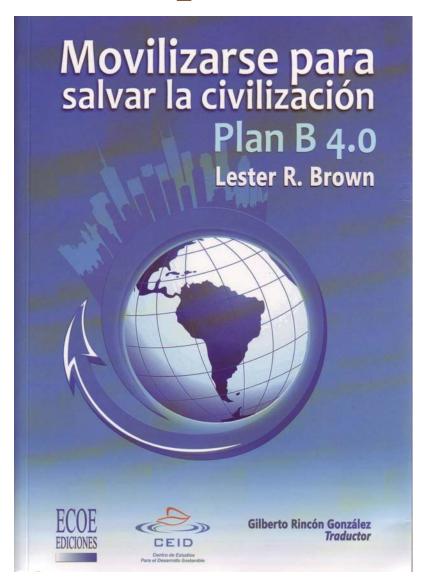
## Launching Chinese edition

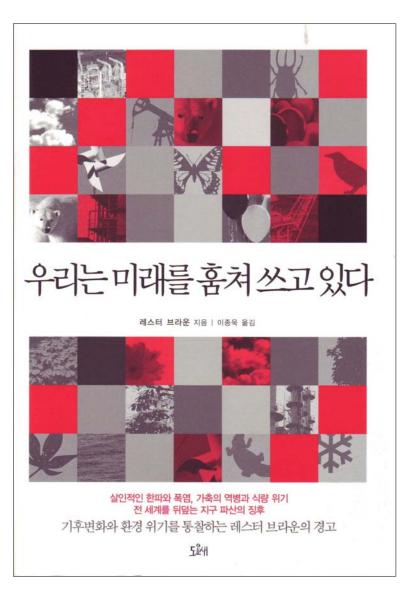
Lester with
Lin Zixin,
mastermind of
Chinese
translations





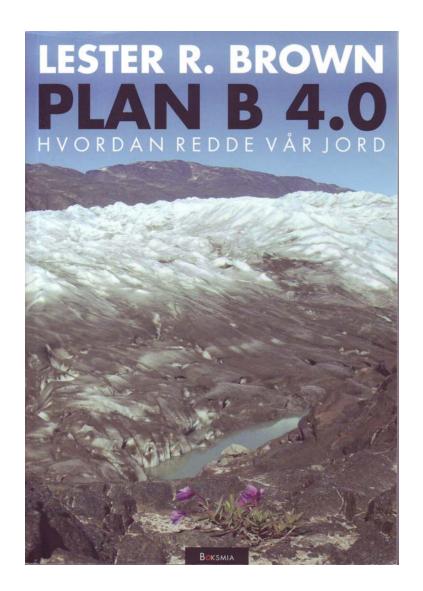
### Spanish & Korean editions

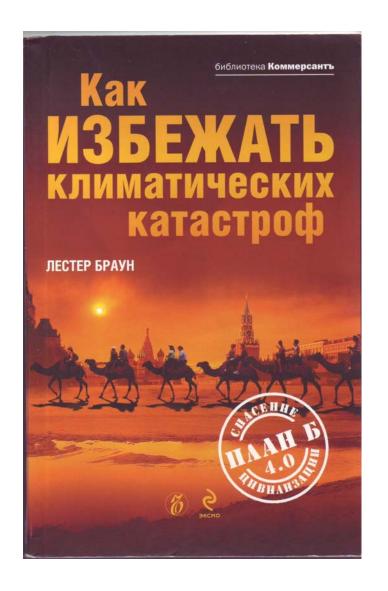




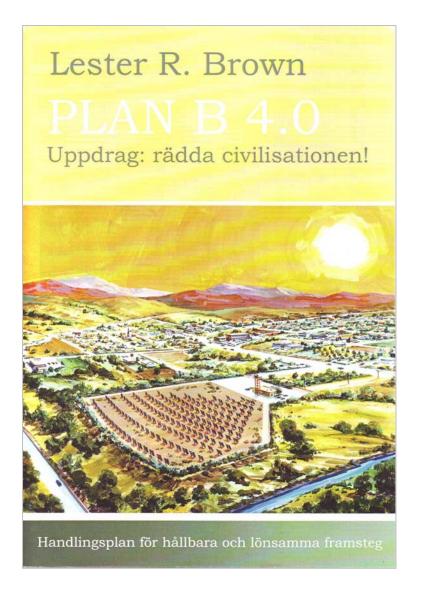


### Norwegian & Russian editions





#### Swedish & Italian editions





#### Overview

#### A World on the Edge

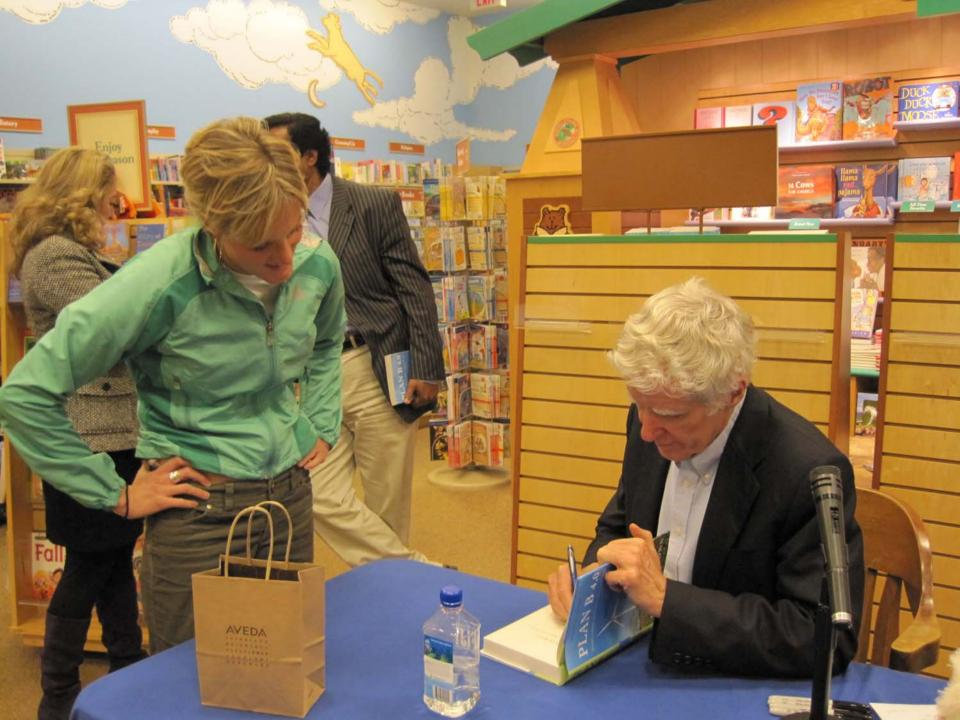
- A Bright Economic Future?
- Warning of Collapse
- Three Indicators to Watch
- Precarious Global Food Situation: How Did We Get Here?
- Food Demand Growing
- Food Supply Tightening
- Watching the Clock

#### The Response: Plan B

- Plan B: Four Main Goals
- Stabilizing Population and Eradicating Poverty
- Restoring the Earth
- Climate Action Plan
- How Do We Get There?
- Plan B Budget
- A Wartime Mobilization
- Let's Get to Work







# Lester with Junko Edahiro, head of several Japanese NGOs and author



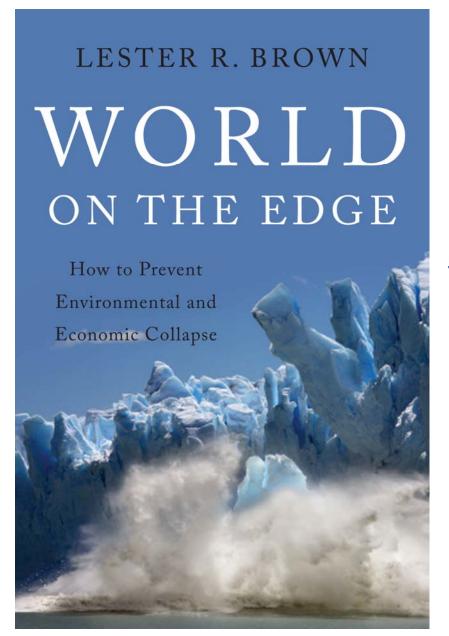
#### 2010: A Year of Extremes

- 2010 tied with 2005 as the hottest year since recordkeeping began in 1880
- 19 countries set high-temperature records, most notably Pakistan, which hit 128.3 °F, a new record for all of Asia
- Extreme weather events included flooding in Pakistan and Australia, the heat wave in Russia, fires in Israel, and landslides in China

The number and severity of these events are symptomatic of instability in the climate system.

### A World on the Edge

- A gathering "perfect storm" of trends threatens to send civilization into economic and political chaos
- The 2010 extreme heat wave in Russia and record flooding in Pakistan are early warnings of the global consequences we can expect if we continue with business as usual

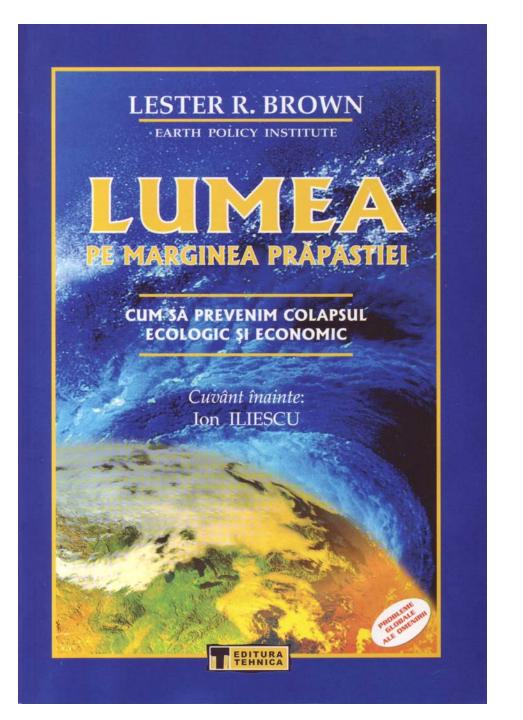


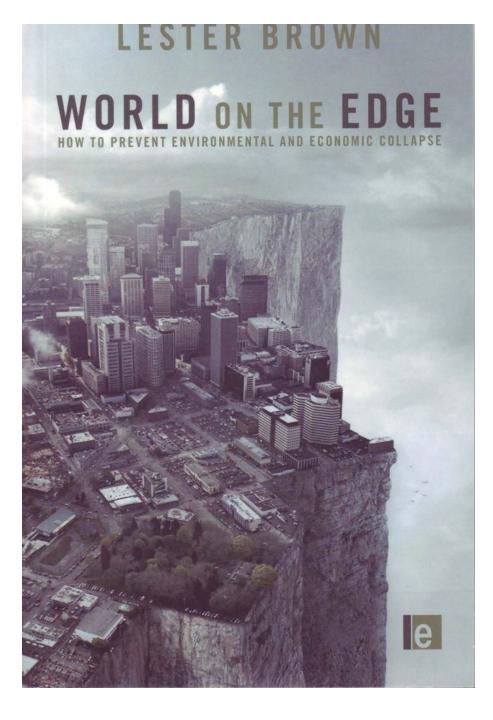
## January 2011

"[World on the Edge]
manages to cover both the
grand sweep of global
trends and the fine detail
of some of the ideas being
developed in response."

—Ed Crooks,
Financial Times

Romanian ed.





UK/Commonwealth ed.

(with distribution throughout South Asia)

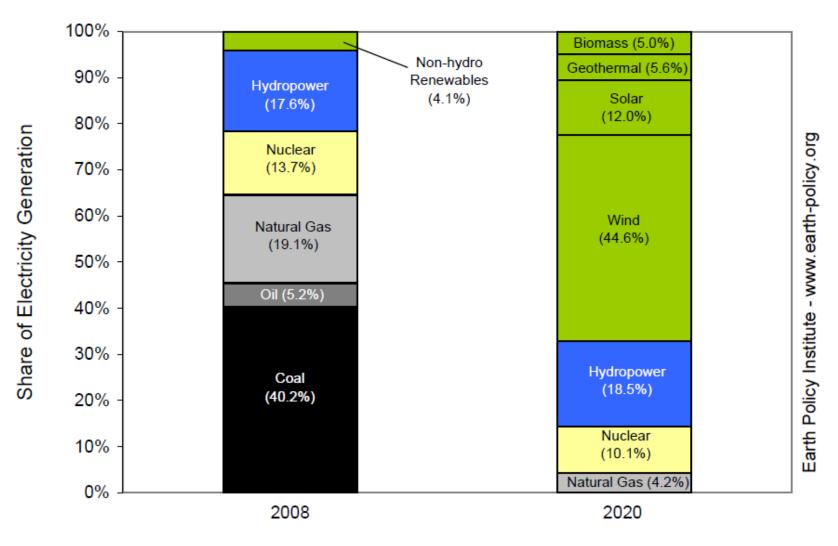
#### Restoring the Earth

- Planting trees
- Protecting topsoil on cropland
- Restoring rangelands
- Restoring fisheries
- Stabilizing water tables
- Protecting biological diversity

Total Additional Annual Cost = \$110 billion

"This is the ultimate survival quide for our species. Lester Brown plots a path around and beyond the looming environmental abyss with courage, compassion and immense wisdom." -Jonathan Watts, Asia Environment Correspondent for The Guardian and author, When A Billion Chinese Jump

# World Electricity Generation by Source in 2008 and in the Plan B Economy of 2020



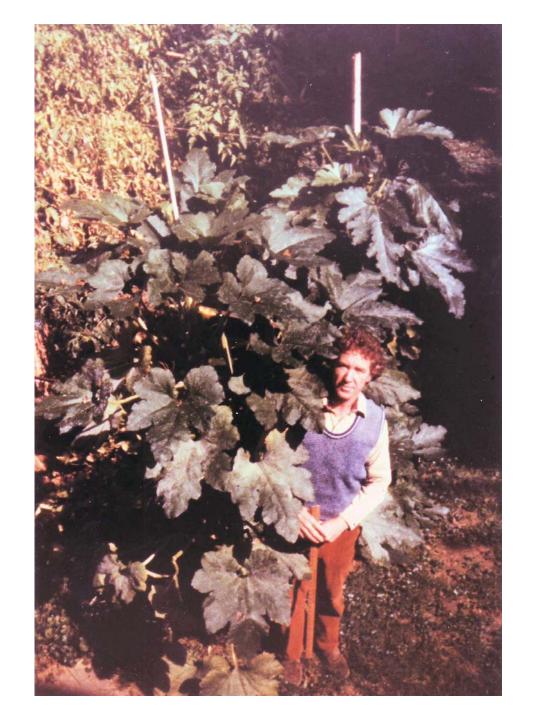
Source: EPI and IEA

"The world is a much more hopeful place because of the work and life of Lester Brown."

—Ted Glick, Policy Director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network

# So Much Accomplished ...





#### THE PUBLIC TELEVISION SERIES

## JOURNEY TO PLANET EARTH



# PLAN B MOBILIZING TO SAVE CIVILIZATION

Based on the book by Lester R. Brown

Narrated by Matt Damon

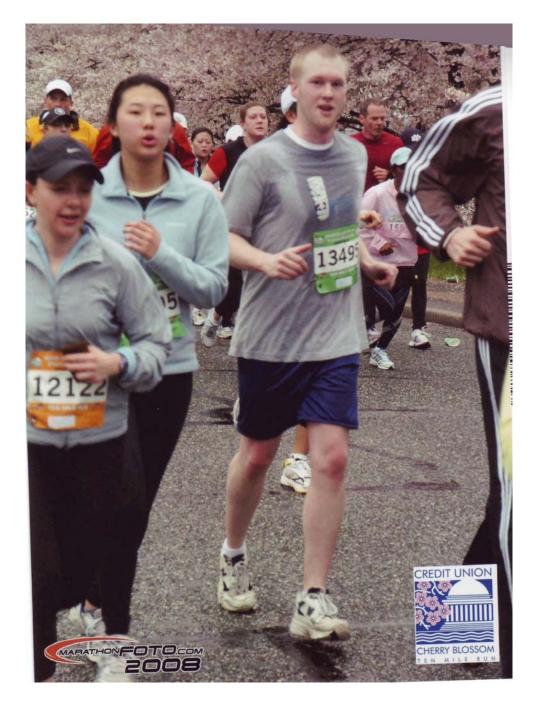




The New Geopolitics of Food

cover story by Lester Brown









# ... So Much To Do

