

Industrial civilisation has managed to push up food supply by both colonising ever-more wild land and developing fossil fuel reliant green revolution agro-technologies and transportation. Essentially, industrial agriculture relies on the harvesting of ghost acreage (the fossils of photosynthetic production from millions of years ago) to produce food at the present rate. This can be only temporary, for unless one is a believer in the cornucopian myth that resources are limitless, someday the fossil-fuel hunting will fail. When this will happen no one really knows, though many argue that we have already passed peak oil. Some counter that hydrogen fuel cells, solar power, nanotechnology, and green goo will somehow avert a population crash.

These apostles of progress more and more resemble cargo cults in their belief that technology—marshalled by either the market (if capitalist) or state planning (if socialist)—will provide all that is needed. In the unlikely event that they're right, and the food supply does keep up with population growth, the highly-managed nature of the provision will guarantee that freedom (for both humans and other animals) is increasingly scarce.

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