

Restore Nation-States To Create New ‘Man-Made’ Water Resources

by Marcia Merry Baker

April 24—This week, a panoply of events was staged in Washington, D.C. on the eve of the annual IMF/World Bank meetings, to decry the extensive food and water deprivation in the world, while calling for so-called solutions of the type that created the crisis to begin with. The World Health Organization (WHO) released its Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS), with a Washington presentation April 23, hosted by UNICEF, of the first annual High-Level Meeting of Sanitation and Water for All. On April 22, a new “Global Agriculture and Food Security Program” multi-donor fund was announced.

The picture is stark:

- 900 million people have no access to “improved” water supply (defined as including even just a neighborhood pipe or hose)
- 2.6 billion people have no sanitation facilities at all, not even primitive ones.
- 1.02 billion people lack sufficient food. Water for agriculture is depleting.

But behind all the fanfare in Washington, at which depopulation philanthropist Bill Gates participated prominently, alongside top Obama Administration officials, the premises and explanations being offered for the crisis are all falsehoods. The lying assertions are: 1) resources of land and water are fixed and running down; 2) population growth is a “pressure”; 3) global warming is intensifying, causing harsh climate change; 4) nation-states are an outmoded structure for caring for “people and the planet.”

The reality is, that the London-centered financial interests behind all this orchestration of concern and set-up of new “initiatives” for global water, health, food, and science, are those who perpetrated practices over the past 40 years that today have brought the world to the brink of an epic Dark Age: in particular, subversion of national economies under the WTO-era globalized “markets,” and monetarism; obstruction of science and infrastructure; and imposition of cultural degradation.

Now, the various new water and anti-hunger “initiatives” are calling for yet more of the same. They want

“market-based” ways to manage scarce resources, for mega-companies to “partner” with smallholder farmers and poor people, and for more cartel domination of basic science. It’s criminal.

Natural Resources Are ‘Man-Made’

There are two principles to understand: First, natural resources are “man-made”; and second, well-functioning nation-states foster the ingenuity, productivity, and process of betterment of populations, that lead to dominion over resources—even beyond our planet, to the rest of the universe. Consider the situation with water.

Over the ages, man has augmented the apparent “natural” available freshwater by organizing increased supplies, through wells, impoundments, aqueducts, catchment vessels, etc., all the while, going from a hunting-and-gathering population of a few millions, to the 6.8 billions today.

Only a relatively small amount of freshwater—perhaps just 0.3% of Earth’s total water volume, or 100,000 km³, is accessible, in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and underground sources at accessible depths. Over time, more and more of this has been brought into use.

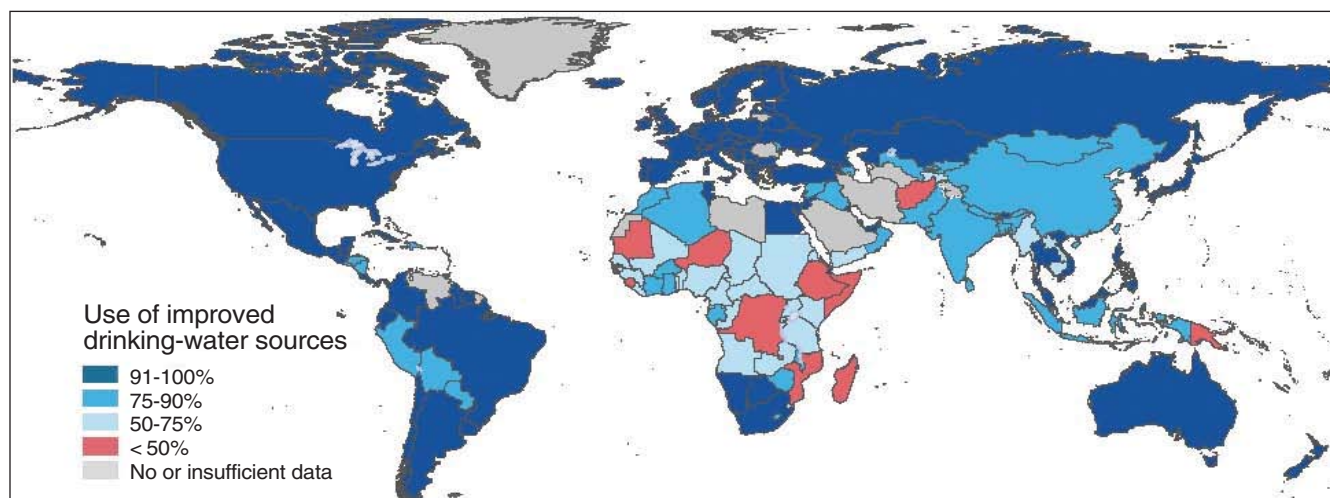
(Total freshwater on Earth is estimated to constitute 3% of all the planet’s water, the rest being saline water of varying degrees. The volume of this freshwater is in the range of 35 million km³, and most all of it lies in underground aquifers, iceflows, and soil moisture.)

As of the 20th Century, after thousands of years of increasing drawdown of surface and underground water, many parts of the world have experienced shortages. However, projects were devised to continue to expand water supplies. For example, the Franklin Roosevelt-era harnessing of the Colorado River Basin, to manage and increase the flow for maximum use in the Southwest.

Following World War II, there were similar projects envisioned for priority river basins on all continents, of three types: large-scale diversion of water from bountiful areas, to water-scarce regions; second, large-scale, nuclear-powered, desalination of saltwater; and third, high-energy purification of brackish or waste water, for re-use.

Take the example of the Jordan River Basin, already

FIGURE 1
Use OF Improved Drinking Water Source, 2008



WHO/UNICEF, UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water, April 2010

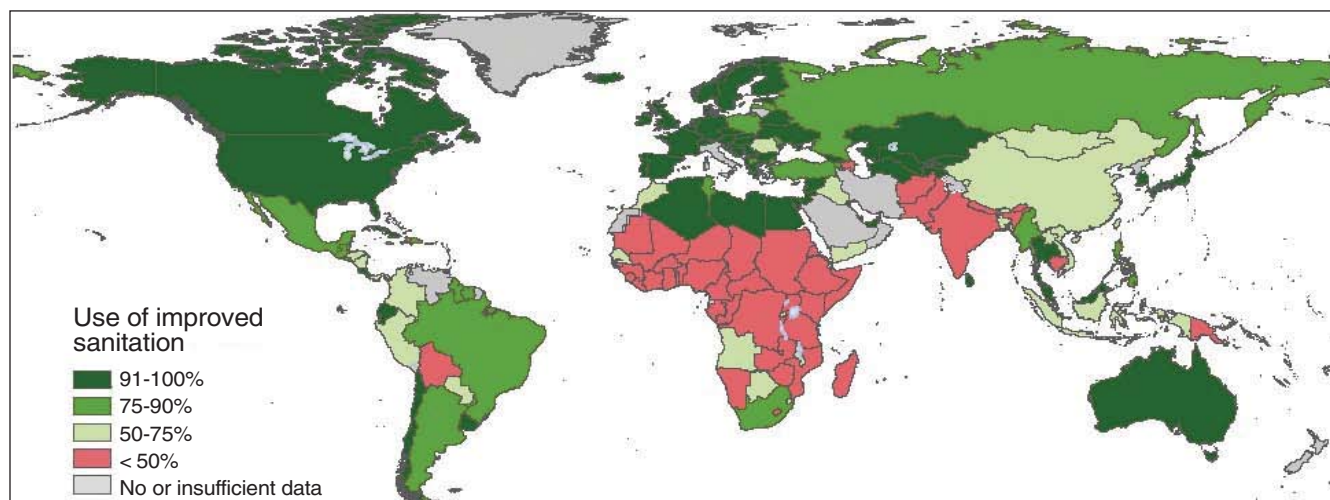
water-short as of the 1920s. Officials from the 1930s Tennessee Valley Authority, offered hydrological plans in the 1950s, for how to maximize water availability in the Trans-Jordan, through selected dams, channels, and other management. Moreover, with nuclear-powered desalination, it was calculated that only 22 desalination plants sited throughout the region *would create an annual volume of water equal to the 3,500 million cubic meters of renewable water in the Jordan River Basin*; in other words, a new Jordan River!

With the advent of the world Casino Economy, and GATT/WTO era, all of these projects were shelved, in-

cluding even nuclear power. Today, we have an urgent need to resume these nation-building projects, and the principles and outlook behind them.

The two maps (**Figures 1 and 2**) provide the background to the consequences of staying the course with today's collapse policies. Diarrhea, from unsafe water and lack of sanitation, is the second leading cause of death in the world today, after respiratory illnesses. Every year, 2.2 million children, under the age of five, die from diarrhea, or diarrhea-related malnutrition. For children under age 15, the disease-burden of diarrhea is greater than that of HIV/AIDS, malaria, or tuberculosis.

FIGURE 2
Use of Improved Sanitation, 2008



WHO/UNICEF, UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water, April 2010