

## Population Growth and the Culture of Consumption

While not immediately significant, the human population eventually and radically increases after the domestication of plants and animals. It is important to point out that this growth in population is as much a result of the increased yield in food production as it is the requirements for increased labor input to sustain that mode and level of production. Preparing the soil, planting, irrigating, weeding, harvesting and storing the harvest necessitate intensive amounts of human labor. The increased yield allows larger families, yet larger families are needed to produce that yield. The one influences the other that influences the one.

It is estimated that **500,000 years ago**, humanity numbered **five million** individuals throughout the inhabited world. The human population remained stable, at five million, up to the domestication of plants and animals. **By 5,000 years ago**, the population had grown twenty-fold to **100 million**. In **1600 A.D.**, with the advent of the industrial revolution, the world population was **500 million**. And, by 1992, in less than 400 years, the human population has grown more than tenfold to 5.5 billion people. According to the United States Census Bureau the current world's population is estimated to be **7.1 billion people** (as of 2013). The United Nations Population Division has projected that the world's population will likely surpass **9 billion** in 2050. Each year, approximately 60 million human beings are added to the world's population.

And with the ever-expanding growth of a domesticated population, ever thrusting for more natural resources and commodities for consumption, the culture of consumption is born.

