

# BODHI TIMES

FOUNDING PATRON: HIS HOLINESS XIV DALAI LAMA

Public Health Adviser: Dr. Maurice King

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Environmental Adviser: Dr. Bob Brown

## SELF-MUTILATION

When the gem was mine  
I cared not, and ignored its value.  
Now that the gem is lost to others  
Melancholy overwhelms me  
As its pure worth dawns on me.

Tsangyang Gyatso, VI Dalai Lama  
(1685-1706)

*In Tibet the people of Tawang tell the story of Tsangyang Gyatso, the rebel sixth Dalai Lama, miracle maker and poet of the people, and how he planted three sandalwood trees close together in their area before fleeing into exile. He is reported to have said that the trees would grow equal to each other on the day that he again visited Tawang.*

*Hundreds of years later, in 1959, to their amazement local people noticed that the three trees were identical in size and shape. Being extremely superstitious, the good people were quite worried when the trees caught fire—an event that they learned subsequently had coincided with the latest in a series of Communist Chinese invasions of Tibet. True to prophecy, Tenzin Gyatso, the fourteenth Dalai Lama, soon passed through Tawang on his way into exile in India.*

Each part of the world has its own tales of plunder and woe. Deforestation, desecration and decimation pervade our planet body, from our Tibetan roof to our Amazonian lungs to our Australian feet, with its abysmal record of stamping out mammals.

### CROWNING GLORY

Tibet is rather a crown than a roof, its jewels irresistible to an overcrowded, depleted nation—China. The word for “Tibet” in Chinese is Xizang, or “Western treasurehouse.” Tibet had forests sustainably managed since the beginning of history, land lush with animals and birds blackening the sky, too many minerals to count, a strategic geographical location and wide open spaces. Tibet was politically isolated and vulnerable, ripe for invasion by a colonial neighbor; sure enough the Chinese invaded in 1949, unified by the Communists.

The United Nations states that a clean and healthy environment is a basic human right. The Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 confirmed to the world what the Tibetans have long known: China has an appalling record of human rights violations. China’s ecological record in Tibet also illustrates the abysmal excesses of colonial mentality. Not only are the Chinese guilty of attempting cultural genocide in Tibet, they are also perpetrating ecocide. Just as the world protested after Tiananmen, similar pressure must be brought against the Chinese occupiers of Tibet to protect human rights and the environment.

Deforestation, exploitation of natural resources, militarization, overgrazing,

wildlife and habitat destruction and matters nuclear and toxic are turning Tibet into a high-altitude outback. Even the geography of Tibet is abused for propaganda purposes: the Chinese “T.A.R.” —“Tibet Autonomous Region” — represents less than 50% of true Tibet. Consider these environmental facts of life for Tibetans under Chinese occupation, reported in *Tibetan Bulletin and Tibet: The Facts*, published in 1990 for the United Nations commission on Human Rights:

▲ The Chinese have extracted \$54 billion worth of timber from Tibet, mostly from old growth forests. As of 1990, 200–400,000 square kilometers (50–100,000 square miles) have been deforested. “Deforestation continues at the rate of sixty truckloads an hour,” Tibetan scholar Robert Thurman told Hong Kong journalists August 1, 1991.

▲ The value of Tibet’s mineral wealth was estimated in 1985 to be one trillion dollars—and this is thought to be an underestimate. Strip mining of borax, using Tibetans as slaves, enabled China to pay off its debt to the Russians. Many thousands of Tibetans perished while despoiling their beloved land. Environmental safeguards for mines are nonexistent, leading to slope destabilization, land degradation and hazards to human health and life.



Common sight in the Himalayas.

▲ Allegedly, China has built an underground nuclear testing site and, according to International Campaign for Tibet’s John Ackerly, “established five missile bases armed with . . . intercontinental ballistic missiles . . . on the Tibetan plateau.”

▲ Tibetans have demonstrated in large numbers against Chinese nuclear testing. The Chinese admit to nuclear atmospheric poisoning in the Lap Nor area. There are many reports of deformed animal and human births.

### HUMAN VULTURES

The Chinese are not the only vultures picking over the bones of a wounded life. Western hunters and nations are in on the binge.

*Tibetan Bulletin* reports that a staff scientist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has acted as a guide for big game hunters worldwide who shoot species known or thought to be endangered in China and Tibet. Among the animals hunted is the Tibetan antelope (*Ovis ammon hodgsoni*), a Class 1 Protected Species.

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## THE TECHNOLOGY TRAP AND GLOBAL HEALTH

In the last BODHI TIMES, I discussed the Demographic Trap: attaining population stability by repeated catastrophes rather than by rational means, such as better wealth distribution, family planning and female empowerment. The implications of this concept are so controversial that its main medical proponent, Dr. Maurice King, has been pilloried in some academic quarters.

In this issue I discuss the Technology Trap, another controversial concept. Pundits such as UNICEF believe that global population growth will level out when enough "economic" growth occurs in the Third World and when the infant mortality rate falls sufficiently. Most political and intellectual elites in the North and the South view accelerating industrialization as the only way of achieving these goals. They refer to industrial countries in the North, such as Britain, which long ago achieved demographic transition and newly industrialized countries, such as Taiwan, which has a rapidly rising life expectancy rate and falling fertility rates—hallmarks of impending demographic stability. These success stories are not mirrored in countries such as Somalia and Mozambique, but that's another story.

Even if global population stabilizes, associated pollution from industrialization may cripple global health if growth relies on fossil fuel dependent and polluting twentieth century technology. Such technologies were developed before their global environmental consequences were understood. It is now essential that these technologies be supplanted.

### SUFFOCATING CO<sub>2</sub>

For example, China, which already produces 5% of the world's carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), is currently embarking upon an ambitious mass refrigeration campaign. While no one can deny that the Chinese deserve access to consumer goods taken for granted in the North, there is no evidence that planners of such campaigns consider their global ecological impact; rather, they follow blindly the example set by energy profligate countries such as the U.S., which alone produces 27% of global CO<sub>2</sub>. As Mrs. Maneka Gandhi, then Indian Minister for the Environment, told us in December, 1990, the Third World is like a blind man doggedly following the North, not seeing that the North has already fallen into a drain.

The current Chinese refrigeration program relies heavily upon chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) and energy intensive technology. Most power in China is produced by burning coal, thus releasing CO<sub>2</sub>. In the lifetime of our children, China's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions may approach those currently emitted by the U.S. The same may happen in

India, Indonesia and other developing countries with comparatively large populations.

Accelerated global warming from industrialization in the Third World was coined the "Energy Trap" by Paul and Anne Ehrlich. In addition to this the "Technology Trap" encompasses:

- ▲ Further ozone layer damage from the release of CFCs;
- ▲ Loss of biodiversity from both specicide and increased use of cloning and other genetic biotechnology; and
- ▲ Desertification from clearing tropical forests, thus reducing the tropical cloudcover and changing global weather patterns.

The output of pollutants from the industrializing South may mock any belated attempt by the North to be cleaner, for example to abate global warming and to protect the ozone layer. The combined effects of the Technology Trap will seriously harm global health, for its people, for its other species, and ultimately for Gaia (James Lovelock's name for Mother Earth) herself.

CFCs and other pollutants are the ultimate tourists, ignoring all customs barriers and travellers' ethics. Ozone loss already affects public health in southern Australia, where people are becoming increasingly frightened of sunlight. Increased ultraviolet light particularly threatens the skin and the eyes—of both animals and people. Certain bacteria may also be vulnerable to harmful ultraviolet rays, thus causing unpredictable ecological damage.

### DROWNING COASTLINES

If global warming causes the seas to rise, then low-lying coastal areas, including large

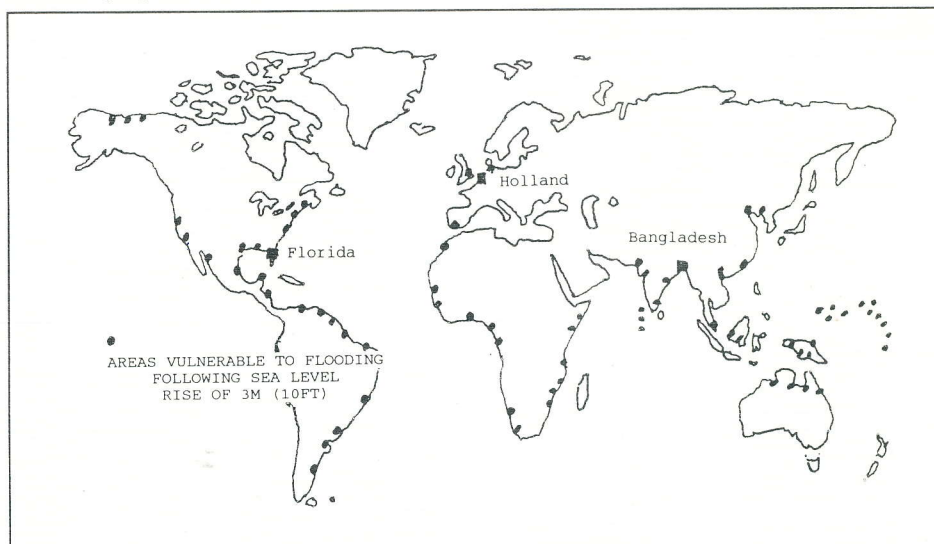
parts of Florida, Holland and Bangladesh and some island nations, like the Maldives, face immense destruction from flooding. Even without rising seas, increased storm frequency and severity coupled with changing rainfall patterns threaten untold havoc for the world's agricultural and infrastructural stability. The current devastating drought in southern Africa, 1992 storms in the southern United States and floods in Pakistan illustrate our continuing dependence on the weather. It is not necessary to hear reported news to realise this. Just look around. Listen to your friends and neighbors.

As this is written in October, a friend writes from Montana, USA that oldtimers are predicting a bad winter. We in Tasmania have just emerged from an unusually cold winter attributed to the global dust haze from Mt. Pinatubo's eruption. Perhaps this volcanic eruption, which may exacerbate ozone loss, will buy time from global warming. Really, we don't know—yet we continue to behave as if the next century and the next generation are not our concern, and as if Gaia is infinitely forgiving and patient.

A cult of doomsday scenarios has desensitized us to the immense damage that we face. Too often, such damage is seen only as television reality, or else, "out there" in the developing countries. However, if caught in the Technology Trap, those in the protected North will also experience this damage firsthand.

The flooding of coastal areas means destruction of densely populated human habitat and resultant loss of the fruits of human ingenuity—did this happen to Atlantis? Climatic changes threaten the viability of whole ecosystems—this is happening in southern Africa right now.

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Low-lying areas in danger of being flooded. Adapted from Edward Goldsmith, et al., *5,000 Days to Save the Planet* (London: Guild Publishing, 1990).



# TWO PLATEAUS—ONE ENDURING TRAGEDY

Bob Brown, MHA

This week I spent a day wandering on Tasmania's high Central Plateau. I walked for miles across frosty meadows where the little lakes were iced over and the grass was sprinkled with snow from a pre-dawn shower. As the day warmed up, the ice disappeared and the marshes were alive with the call of frogs, the bushes hid wallabies sleeping, and the woods on the hillsides were buzzing with birdlife.

I saw the huge burrows of wombats amongst the boulders, and the small footprints of Tasmanian devils on the claypans. A black cockatoo flew over whistling at me. When I whistled back, it landed on a nearby tree before taking off again and flying away with a series of typical, raucous cries. Between dawn and dusk, I saw no other human beings. Although the area still faces threats from commercial exploitation, it is now part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and should never again see the massive overuse by introduced cattle, horses and sheep which, half a century ago, saw it suffer the worst sheet soil erosion in Tasmania. The onrush of European settlement after 1810 brought more than cloven hooves: it also brought dogs and guns. Within a few decades the Aboriginal tribes had been murdered or forcibly removed. The emu, forester kangaroo and Tasmanian tiger had become extinct on the Plateau.

As I walked across this splendid, recuperating wilderness, I thought of the far greater, far higher, far more species-rich Tibetan plateau which has seen a far more calamitous invasion.

Earlier this century, the Tibetan plateau was described by British naturalist Joseph Rock as "one great zoological garden" and a German traveller estimated 10,000 Tibetan antelope in a single herd. Since Chinese troops overran Tibet in 1950, this vast wildlife stronghold, this great treasurehouse of Nature, has been ransacked.

China's invasion brought broadscale murder, cultural destruction and environmental catastrophe. Roads (and rivers used as roads) were built for the Red Army, and reports emerged of convoys of trucks taking Tibet's forests back to China. In 1987 one journalist, who travelled 300 kilometers up the Min River Valley, saw nothing but log jams along the entire river. Logging was by clear-felling of the forests.

Most of the Tibetan plateau is, however, above the treeline. The Chinese moved in, with guns, in a massive slaughter of wildlife. Habitat was lost to intensive communal farming by Chinese immigrants. This "progress" replaced the age-old Buddhist compassion for all living things which had protected Tibet's great wild lands and wildlife down the centuries.

It is inevitable that the Chinese Government will rue its reign in Tibet. Our job, each in our own way, is to oppose the Chinese occupation and to return Tibet to Tibetans—to bring forward the day when Nature will once again be revered and peace returned to the Roof of the World.

Old horrors cannot be undone. But they must not be let continue. As I enjoyed the peace, freedom and restoration of midday in the Tasmanian highland sun, my mind was with Tibet where darkness still holds sway and the new dawn is yet to come.



## MAILING LIST UPDATE

This is the third unsolicited BODHI TIMES that some of you have received. Since we are a fairly new organization, we wanted to give you an idea of what we are all about. Now you know!

Subsequently, only those who have responded will receive BODHI TIMES. If you would like to remain on our mailing list, please fill out the enclosed form. If you do not receive a form, contact us at either address.

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Continuing, increasing droughts threaten our ability to feed ourselves—imagine the effects of devastating droughts in the U.S. wheat belt. Such losses will, however, be felt particularly keenly in the Third World, which has far fewer resources to deal with these problems.

The North will have its resources and tolerance tested by ever-increasing numbers of refugees from the South. It is a test that the North is likely to fail. Germany seems to be unable to tolerate its current refugee problem; to imagine its neo-Nazi anti-refugee viciousness extrapolated to the developed world at large is frightening indeed. On the other hand, according to U.S. Vice President elect Al Gore, both German and Japanese industrialists foresee environmentally superclean technology as the major growth industry of the twenty-first century.

Solutions indeed exist. We must adopt a more generous and far-sighted approach. Better education for all and much more sharing of technology and wealth are necessary to avoid these and other doomsday scenarios. The resources of the military-industrial complex must be channelled to meet the world's major security threat: runaway pollution. The North must support effective and rapid transfer of minimally polluting technology to the Third World, even though the economic benefits may not be apparent for some generations. Are there votes in this? There are, especially from our children!

## THANK YOU

Once again, many thanks to Marty Rubin of Santa Rosa, California, for financing the last newsletter. Thanks also to Kevin Garratt of Canberra, Australia for his editorial suggestions and to Margaret Woodward and Tony Scavone, both of Hobart, Tasmania, Margaret for fine-tuning our logo and Tony for fine-tuning our legal status. A special thank you to donors in Europe, whose generosity enables us to implement our projects so much more effectively.

## NEXT EDITION OF BODHI TIMES

Our next newsletter will feature an article by Dr. Maurice King and the first reports of our upcoming trip to India.

## ERRATA

July, 1992 BODHI TIMES: The caption accompanying the baby's photograph should have read: "Baby afflicted with TB" and have been credited to T.A.L.C. Mundgod is in Karnataka State, not Kanara.

BODHI TIMES is the periodic newsletter of Benevolent Organisation for Development, Health & Insight (BODHI). BODHI is a non-profit, international organization whose goal is to utilize skillful means to promote sustainable global survival.

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BODHI is now incorporated in Australia and awaiting ruling on its tax-deductible status.

A minimum \$20 donation annually includes a subscription to BODHI Times. We offer discounts to the elderly, students, prisoners, dharma centers and those from developing countries.

U.S. donations are tax-deductible  
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cont. from p.1

Both the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the World Resources Institute report at least thirty animal and bird species to be endangered in Tibet. Among them are the yak, the snow leopard and the giant panda, which has retreated to Tibet due to deforestation and loss of habitat in its native China. Kevin Garratt, member of the official Australian 1991 Human Rights Delegation to China and Tibet, reports that he saw not a single yak and remarkably few birds in the area around Lhasa.

Unsubstantiated reports, including from Earth Island Institute, the *Washington Post* and Vanya Kewley's *Behind the Ice Curtain*, state that West Germany and Switzerland may have signed contracts for nuclear waste dumping in Tibet. Greenpeace reported in 1991 that the U.S. plans to ship toxic municipal sludge to China for use as "fertilizer" in Tibet.

### ROOFTOP REFUGE

The Dalai Lama wants to turn Tibet into a Zone of Peace. Discussing future policy the Dalai Lama has declared, "The government of Tibet would pass strict laws to protect wildlife and plant life. The exploitation of natural resources would be carefully regulated. Manufacture, testing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and other armaments must be prohibited as well as the use of nuclear power and other technologies which produce hazardous wastes. It would be the government's goal to transform Tibet into our planet's largest natural preserve."

Other signs of hope are springing forth worldwide. In Tasmania, Australia's island state (approximately the size of Sri Lanka, West Virginia or Ireland), 19% of the land surface is protected by World Heritage legislation—protected forever. The Chipko tree huggers in India work to prevent deforestation by taking direct action. Marine activists worldwide are banishing drift nets from our oceans.

On June 7, 1992, while addressing the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the Dalai Lama said, "I think we can say that, because of the lessons we have begun to learn, the next century will be friendlier, more harmonious and less harmful. Compassion, the seeds of peace will be able to flourish. I am very hopeful. At the same time, I believe that every individual has a responsibility to help guide our global family in the right direction. Good wishes alone are not enough; we have to assume responsibility. Large human movements spring from individual human initiatives."

Perhaps, in 300 years, another Dalai Lama will pass through Tawang on a twenty-fourth century horse and see those same three sandalwood trees glowing with health. ■

## PROJECT UPDATES

### WILD DOG STERILIZATION

Colin and Susan will be in India December, 1992-February, 1993. At this time, we hope to begin dog sterilizations in Dharamsala and Kollegal. We will vaccinate against rabies simultaneously and will offer the services to owners of domestic animals. For this program to be sustainable, Tibetans need to demonstrate that they will continue the program after we are gone, which includes not only sterilizing wild dogs but also evaluation and record keeping. Therefore it is essential to find motivated Tibetan trainees to be involved from the beginning.

We have been negotiating with Help In Suffering (HIS), an international animal welfare organization based in India. HIS has offered to work with BODHI to sterilize wild dogs, using a vaccine developed by Professor Talwar of the National Institute of Immunology in New Delhi. Professor Talwar and the Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals, Limited in Bangalore have also offered help.

### HEALTH EDUCATION

We are investigating producing health education videos for Tibetans. Save the Children Fund in New Delhi has been helpful in our preliminary research.

We also continue to seek ways to involve monks and nuns in further health roles. We will visit the world-famous Christian Medical College at Vellore in Tamil Nadu to research this further, although initial prospects of collaboration look doubtful for the time being due to CMC's lack of resources.

### PLEASE— WE NEED YOUR HELP

BODHI has been able to begin some exciting and innovative programs to benefit Tibetan refugees in India. We need your donations to continue these efforts. We can do so much more if you'll support us with a contribution.

Please send us your check, payable in U.S. dollars to:

BODHI  
Box 7000-GRD  
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or in Australian dollars to:

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### NEW PROJECT

BODHI is working with Dr. Maxine Manifold of Latrobe, Tasmania, to survey infant rearing practices among Tibetans.

### DR. BOB BROWN ABOARD

Dr. Bob Brown became BODHI's environmental adviser during the week of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro last June. We are deeply honored.

As well as being Australia's most articulate and well-known environmentalist, Dr. Brown is the leader of the Green Independents in Tasmania, where he holds a seat in Parliament. Dr. Brown left a career in healing human bodies for one in healing the planet body. He has won many international awards, including the UNEP Global 500 Award, the Goldman Environmental Prize, the MAPW Distinguished Physicians Award and the IUCN Fred M. Packard International Parks Merit Award. He received *The Australian* newspaper's "Australian of the Year" Award in 1983. He is also the patron of Schumaker College in the U.K.



PHOTO:  
Noeline  
Robinson

Dr. Brown with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Hobart, Tasmania, May, 1992.