

next decade. This is a state-directed form of capitalism, which is likely to result in narrow development and unlikely to produce self-sustaining growth (although there are strong state-directed elements in European and East Asian capitalism as well). But it is much closer to the global capitalist norm than the economic systems in these countries—from Russia to Saudi Arabia—a generation ago.

The most acute problem of plenty is the impact of global growth on natural resources and the environment. It is not an exaggeration to say that the world is running out of clean air, potable water, agricultural produce, and many vital commodities. Some of these problems can be fixed—by improving efficiency and developing new sources of supply—but progress has been far too slow. Agricultural productivity, for example, is rising. But feeding a global population of eight billion, which we will get to by 2025, will require crop yields to reach four tons per hectare from only three tons today. Similarly, our ability to manage and conserve water is not growing nearly as fast as our consumption of it. World population tripled in the twentieth century, but water consumption increased sixfold. Americans use more than four hundred liters of water a day to drink, cook, and clean themselves. People in poorer countries today are lucky to get forty, but as they get richer, their rising demands will cause greater stress.⁶ Violent clashes over water have already broken out in Africa and the Middle East. Historically, populations have moved to find water; if water sources dry up in the future, tens of millions of people will be forced to start moving.

Over the last decade, many predictions about the effects of climate change have proven to be underestimates because global growth has exceeded all projections. The most recent

assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was released in mid-2007. It had shown that the polar ice sheets were melting at the rate the report expected.⁷ The report also predicted more cars, and more planes, and more ships, in years ago. And it keeps growing. It also predicts huge infrastructure projects that, from 2006 to 2030, in China will rise from 26 billion to 100 billion dollars. There's India, Russia, the Middle East, and Africa.

Demand for electricity is growing at a rate of one year for decades. And that's the dirtiest fuel available—the world relies on it to generate electricity. To understand the impact on the environment, look at China. Between 2006 and 2012, China added 100 billion dollars worth of new coal-fired power plants, which is five times the total capacity of the United States.

The Rise

In a globalized world, almost everything is interconnected. Whether it's terrorism, nuclear war, environmental degradation, economic crisis, or any other issue can be addressed with international cooperation among many countries. Information, and even cultural exchange, is becoming a formal political power remains a state, even as the nation-state is becoming obsolete. Most of these problems until now have been solved by states are becoming less w

assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was released in mid-2007. By the year's end, scientists had shown that the polar ice caps are melting twice as fast as the report expected.⁷ There is greater demand for electricity, more cars, and more planes than anyone imagined fifteen years ago. And it keeps growing. The McKinsey Global Institute projects that, from 2003 to 2020, the number of vehicles in China will rise from 26 million to 120 million. And then there's India, Russia, the Middle East—the rest.

Demand for electricity is projected to rise over 4 percent a year for decades. And that electricity will come mostly from the dirtiest fuel available—coal. Coal is cheap and plentiful, so the world relies on it to produce most of its electricity. To understand the impact on global warming, consider this fact. Between 2006 and 2012, China and India will build eight hundred new coal-fired power plants—with combined CO₂ emissions five times the total savings of the Kyoto accords.

The Rise of Nationalism

In a globalized world, almost all problems spill over borders. Whether it's terrorism, nuclear proliferation, disease, environmental degradation, economic crisis, or water scarcity, no issue can be addressed without significant coordination and cooperation among many countries. But while economics, information, and even culture might have become globalized, formal political power remains firmly tethered to the nation-state, even as the nation-state has become less able to solve most of these problems unilaterally. And increasingly, nation-states are becoming less willing to come together to solve