

Odds of Survival:

The napkin estimates ...



By

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At some point, in the not too distant future, the structures and systems that comprise our "normal world" will begin failing, falling apart.

Maybe it won't be apparent or obvious at first, and perhaps someone will trigger a world war when it does start (as cover, as a smokescreen) but it will begin soon enough and these systems, these safeguards against "the wolves in the distance", will simply cease to function.

So I thought it would be a nice thought experiment to do the maths, so to speak, on the "back of a napkin"; making a gross estimate of the population of the U.S. 5 and 50 years after the mostly likely BEST CASE SCENARIO occurs.

But first we need to cover the most likely scenario, and, as it so happens, the worst case scenario ...

Here is the worst case, and most likely, scenario: *our government, and other governments, get pulled into a world war which inevitably becomes a nuclear war - you might as well write-off most of the world, including America. I would be surprised if there were 20 million healthy Americans left in the U.S. after 5 years (might be closer to 2 million). The world population would go from around 7 billion to about 500 million in 5 years following a nuclear war. This might be optimistic.*

A nuclear war would suck - I hate to break it to you, but of all contenders, nuclear war, ranks the highest for "possible futures" ...

But what about the "best case scenario" that is also most likely?

And that is what I mean: the most likely "best case", not the "most likely" (the most likely scenarios are all way worse); the best chance and best **scenario** is the following (remember: this is as good as it gets):

1. Financial crisis leads to the disruption of major logistical systems, communication networks, and any other part of modernity that is both demanding of technical know-how and skilled labor. No, sorry, your iPhone and your bitcoin won't help you (so sorry you're a fucking moron).
2. Since food is not currently "local" in any real sense, populations will scramble for the resources to find food immediately AND to re-localize food production. This will be hard. Since most modern cities have about 7-10 days of food on hand, I would expect things to get really bad by week 3.
3. Water sources, at this point, are heavily dependent upon industrial methods of treatment and purification. Most of America's population lives in urban or suburban environments; these environments do not have "well" systems, they need water treatment plants. Disease will spread, thirst, dehydration and death.
4. Our medical systems are highly dependent upon industrial scale medicine, hospital systems, modern pharmaceuticals - those systems/businesses will cease to function very well (if at all). There will be no primary medical care for most, and what they do receive will be very limited. And childbirth? - expect both infant mortality and deaths due to childbirth to skyrocket. Inadvertently, the last century of improved care for birthing has reduced the natural population strength with respect to childbirth (survival of the fittest), this implies that death from childbirth will be worse during this time than at any previous recorded time in

human history. And disease? - Funny ... you're so funny that you don't realize what's coming on the disease/infection front. All those super-bugs we've created with the abuse of antibiotics and vaccines? - Yeah, they will hunt us with a vengeance (though they have no sense of vengeance - they're just tiny organisms after all).

5. Nuclear power? - ha ... Yeah ... I hope you don't live near one of the 61 nuclear power plants in the U.S., which have 99 nuclear reactors, because there are many things you can do with nuclear reactors - but ignoring them, and not showing up for work, and hoping they take care of themselves? (no, nuclear power plants do not take care of themselves) I would expect 1/3 of these plants to have an accident, a serious meltdown, during that time period. This only makes the fresh water/food and medical situation worse.

6. Psychologically - Do you really think your neighbors are ready to give up their old paradigm, are you? There are already signs that a "plague of madness" may be near, add to this that we've barely touched the real change, the real disruption. When the "shit starts hitting the fan", and people realize no one is coming to save them? - Then I expect to see the acts of spontaneous crazy and mayhem to be on the rise.

7. EBT/Welfare/Social Security/etc. - those who've become accustomed to handouts or support from the government are going to be sadly disappointed when either: a) their benefits are cut or suspended or b) the value of their benefits is inflated away (poof). In either case, many millions of Americans that have become used to living off the labor of others are going to have to find a means to survive at the worst time in American history for doing so. The most likely outcome is a transition from

welfare-slavery to predatory behaviors. I would expect the cities to boil down, after many months of violence, to a hardcore group of armed thugs and gangs that will move out of the cities and roam the countryside in search of food, water, and anything else they can take.

8. The failures of all the above are synergistic and cascading - they impact and amplify the negative effects of each other. *Simply put: stuff breaking down will make more stuff breaking down more likely and far more severe - each disaster compounding the weight of the next.*

I could keep going, but I think you get the point ...

And yes, I will repeat this: the above scenario, which could last many years (if we are lucky) or several decades (if we are unlucky), is the most likely best-case scenario. There are other more likely scenarios, but they actually suck more, not less (see nuclear war scenario above).

So here are the numbers, for the best-case most likely scenario:

1. Currently, the U.S. population is 320 million (approx.).
2. About 80% of all Americans live in cities (that's 256 million).
3. I would expect 75% of all city dwellers to die, in the first 5 years, from disease, dehydration, starvation, and violence. So that's a minus 192 million.
4. The other 25% of the cities populations will be reduced to thug armies and refugees; the refugees

will flee the cities looking for food, water, and other primary resources, and the "thugs" will be forming groups/armies ... becoming like the highwaymen of old (except armed with whatever guns, artillery, rockets, tanks, they can scrounge up - maybe even some airplanes and helicopters).

5. Of the 64 million Americans in "rural" areas; they will have to figure out how to survive locally - without modern farming techniques, without the technology and likely without a steady supply of fuel or fossil fuel derived fertilizers/pesticides. Since much of our topsoil has been obliterated by the "green revolution", we will have to learn sustainable farming again, and work animals (like horses) will be at a premium. I would expect 50% of these rural Americans to die in the first 5 years, due to the same forces that ravage the cities, but with the added joy of fending off roving thug armies from the cities.

6. $320 - 192 - 32 = 96$ million ... and that's assuming no nuclear reactors cook off (which seems unlikely) OR no world power decides to lob some nukes about out of the desperation and madness of dying paradigms (not that humans are capable of "crazy recklessness" and shit ...).

7. So, in fairness, take the 96 million and subtract 20% for "too much optimism".

What's the grand total of Americans left after 5 years, for the "best case scenario" that is most likely? -> 76.8 million.

Of course, this is all guess work on my part - I can't prove it, so pretend it is "science fiction" (that will make you feel better). The real question is how many will be left after 20 years? 50?

The population of the U.S.A., about 100 years ago or so, was approx. 76 million ...

But back then we hadn't destroyed the top soil, abused the fresh water sources with toxins, over-drawn from the ancient aquifers ... in general WE HADN'T FUCKING-ABUSED OUR NATURAL SYSTEMS AS BADLY!

So, if 100 years ago we were 76 million, and knowing we don't get to jump in a time machine and go back to that time? - I would say the population of the U.S.A. in 50 years will be closer to 50 million Americans (50/50) ... (wow) that worked out nicely - in numerological terms.

(GREAT NEWS! - you have about a 23% chance of survival in the next 5-7 years)

(... and this is optimism folks)

(be safe)

(... and pray)