



## TEN POINTS FROM EXTINCTION

By

Dr. T. I. Mudder

While lamenting to a colleague about the “dumbing down” of America and demise of our educational system, he categorically stated we were a mere ten IQ points from extinction. I seriously contemplated if such an event could occur in the absence of some unforeseen catastrophic disease? The publishing of *The Bell Curve* many years ago and more recently *IQ and the Wealth of Nations* stirred deep emotions. These books suggest inherent differences exist within the intelligence of humans and that success of a nation is tied directly to its societal IQ. The immediate condemnation of these books came in a volley of racist overtures. In *IQ and the Wealth of Nations* researchers concluded the GDP of a nation could be largely correlated to three basic factors including the vastness of its internal natural resources, its degree of governmental control, and its overall intelligence.

In America the average IQ has been set arbitrarily at 100 primarily for comparative purposes. The overall global IQ ranges from about 70 to 105 depending on sources with Asians at the upper end above Americans. It has been postulated the IQ within America could be declining by one or two points per decade. In a half a century the worst case envisions an overall 10 point decline in our societal IQ.

So is that enough to obliterate us. Well, maybe not physically like the dinosaurs. Nonetheless, it has been postulated for a society to advance technologically, it must have an average IQ of 90 or greater in order the upper end of intelligence distribution reaches well above 115. Based upon measured and estimated intelligence throughout history, most of the greatest contributions to art, engineering, medicine, music, and science arose from individuals with an IQ at or above this level.

It has also been shown through broadening the education and life experiences of those characterized as having below average intelligence can raise their individual IQ by 10 or so points indicating environmental and societal circumstances are at play. However, there is no strong evidence that those of already average intelligence can raise their IQ to the same extent. Nonetheless, a decrease in intelligence is inevitable if the knowledge base of a nation declines.

There is an attempt to mask this decline by modifying performance tests, creating multiple high school degree categories, and inflating grades. This noticeable decline in our scholastic IQ coupled with creeping socialism and the environmental movement against resource development could transform us into a new category of country termed the *submerging nation*.

It is often said with time the woes of the world will be resolved by “science” through technological advancements like more fuel efficient engines or a cure for cancer. For this to happen, the higher IQ outliers must be there and encouraged to aid the Greater Good. However, such has not always been the case as we have seen the repercussions of evil repeatedly in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. My personal favorite is Einstein providing mere mortals the ability to unleash the power of the atom and us not knowing what to do with it. We wanted Einstein when we needed Edison. Aside from complete annihilation, there are equally disturbing consequences for failing to compete intellectually in the world today. America is experiencing it first hand as globalization and the Internet narrow the gap and erode our Middle Class.

So where are we in the so called Human Race or is it really a Rat Race? Compared with the emerging Chinese economic juggernaut and their industriousness we may already be trailing in the race.

No one will be sympathetic to us. No one outside America will weep at our failing. Everyone loves us when we are not heard but maintain our handouts. So is it theirs or our operating system we want in all of the world's computers or airplanes we want the world's population to fly in. Americans have never had to be second. Get used to the idea as the path we are taking will lead us there. Although it is fashionable for foreigners to bash America, does anyone really want another country as the lone global Superpower?

A recent global survey by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OCED) stated American high school students trailed 14 countries including France in reading, math, and science despite spending up to three times more on education. America spends over \$20,000 per student in public schools and colleges, more than tuition in many private educational institutions.

Overall nearly three-quarters of students receive high school diplomas although only about half of black and Hispanic children graduate. We are in serious trouble as the manufacturing and skilled labor jobs disappear and are replaced by high tech jobs demanding much higher levels of education.

I have told my children an A and F are the only grades earned. So one might ask where the long term decline in societal intelligence and moral values takes us if not to extinction. Ponder that for a few moments in between channel surfing, idling in the drive-up at a fast food restaurant, or waiting on hold for a real person. Equally tragic is the squandering or flaunting of precious intelligence. We have seen too much of that in political leadership and other organizations both in the United States and in other countries. The bonfires of the vanities will burn bright fueled by the condescending elite.

Although what happens to us as a species will happen and regardless of our feelings about it, we can reduce our risk of failure and increase our chances for becoming a better one. We lost our sense of personal responsibility to our collective Greater Good. For too long in this country we have catered to the lowest common denominator. Teaching young people they are not capable of achieving on their own fosters hopelessness and dependence, which leads inevitably to nothing to lose. We must again cherish success and nurture it in our homes and in the classroom.

Implementing drug awareness indoctrination in grade school, handing out condoms during high school, and bashing America at college does not promote quality education. Being successful and becoming wealthy is considered evil. Our cultural diversity has been redefined as disparity with an ultimate goal of dependence.

When relocation becomes necessary, nearly the most important factor to parents is the condition of public schools. We can raise the IQ of the ignorant through education and encourage those in society lucky to be born smart to seek solutions to societal problems like disease and the energy crises. It seems as though we are slipping into a modern day version of the Dark Ages with fear and ignorance being more marketable than knowledge.

We need a Renaissance in our thinking so our traditions do not evaporate in a breeze of mediocrity. A change in aptitude must be accompanied by one in attitude. So at the dinner table tonight ask your children what they learned in school today not what they were taught. Their answers may astound you.