

**World Food Problems
Fall 2009**

The World Food Problem: Toward Ending Undernutrition in the Third World.
Leathers and Foster, 2009 (4th Edition)

Questions to Think About

Part 2. Causes of Undernutrition

7. Economics: Supply and Demand

1. Why or how does economics come into a discussion of undernutrition?
2. Why does a demand curve slope downward? P 92
3. Why does a supply curve slope upward? P 93-96
4. Why does demand increase when income increases? As income increases, what increases more: demand for meat or for grains? P 99
5. How do price changes affect the demand for food and the supply of food? P 111-114
6. Reread Box 2.4 (p. 19-20) on relief efforts after the 1976 earthquake in Guatemala and, using the points made in this chapter, describe the reasons behind the response requested by local field staff in contrast to the response chosen by others. Why do you think there was a difference? What do you think could be done to improve the quality and appropriateness of the response in future situations?

8. It's Not Food vs. Population

1. Who was Robert Malthus, what did he write and when did he write it?
2. What is the theory of demographic transition and it's four (or five) stages?
3. Why does population grow faster in countries with lower per capita incomes?
4. What is the human 'replacement level'?
5. Has food production continued to grow faster than population? Why or why not?
6. Has the worldwide food supply grown faster than food demand? Why or why not?
7. If the world's food supply were evenly divided among all people, would there be enough food for everybody? What is the worldwide calories per capita today versus 40 years ago?