

Garrett Hardin

Quotes

Population, Environmental, Morality, Believe, Thinking, Ecology, World, Mean, Men, Coercion, Action, Ruins, Numbers, Technology, Growth, Atheism, Real, Earth, Taken, Religious

But it is no good using the tongs of reason to pull the Fundamentalists' chestnuts out of the fire of contradiction. Their real troubles lie elsewhere.

~Garrett Hardin

You cannot do only one thing.

~Garrett Hardin

(Technology reliability) x (Human reliability) = (System reliability)

~Garrett Hardin

No one should be able to enter a wilderness by mechanical means.

~Garrett Hardin

In a competitive world of limited resources, total freedom of individual action is intolerable

~Garrett Hardin

People are the quintessential element in all technology... Once we recognize the inescapable human nexus of all technology our attitude toward the reliability problem is fundamentally changed.

~Garrett Hardin

Ruin is the destination toward which all men rush, each pursuing his own best interest in a society that believes in the freedom of the commons.

~Garrett Hardin

Freedom in a commons brings ruin to all.

~Garrett Hardin

The only thing we can really count on in this uncertain world is human unreliability itself.

~Garrett Hardin

Why are ecologists and environmentalists so feared and hated? This is because in part what they have to say is new to the general public, and the new is always alarming.

~Garrett Hardin

Indeed, our particular concept of private property, which deters us from exhausting the positive resources of the earth, favors pollution.

~Garrett Hardin

There is nothing more dangerous than a shallow thinking
compassionate person

~Garrett Hardin

A finite world can support only a finite population; therefore, population growth must eventually equal zero.

~Garrett Hardin

It takes five years for a willing person's mind to change. Have patience with yourself and others when treading in an area protected by a taboo.

~Garrett Hardin

But as population became denser, the natural chemical and biological recycling processes became overloaded, calling for a redefinition of property rights.

~Garrett Hardin

Education can counteract the natural tendency to do the wrong thing, but the inexorable succession of generations requires that the basis for this knowledge be constantly refreshed.

~Garrett Hardin

A technical solution may be defined as one that requires a change only in the techniques of the natural sciences, demanding little or nothing in

the way of change in human values or ideas of morality.

~Garrett Hardin

The essence of dramatic tragedy is not unhappiness. It resides in the solemnity of the remorseless working of things.

~Garrett Hardin

In a finite world this means that the per capita share of the world's goods must steadily decrease.

~Garrett Hardin

The three filters [against folly] operate through these particular questions: Literacy: What are the words? Numeracy: What are the numbers? Ecology: And then what?

~Garrett Hardin

In an approximate way, the logic of commons has been understood for a long time, perhaps since the discovery of agriculture or the invention of private property in real estate.

~Garrett Hardin

It is a mistake to think that we can control the breeding of mankind in the long run by an appeal to conscience.

~Garrett Hardin

The optimum population is, then, less than the maximum.

~Garrett Hardin

However, I think the major opposition to ecology has deeper roots than mere economics; ecology threatens widely held values so fundamental that they must be called religious.

~Garrett Hardin

Continuity is at the heart of conservatism: ecology serves that heart.

~Garrett Hardin

Ecology is the overall science of which economics is a minor speciality.

~Garrett Hardin

A coldly rationalist individualist can deny that he has any obligation to make sacrifices for the future.

~Garrett Hardin

Using the commons as a cesspool does not harm the general public under frontier conditions, because there is no public, the same behavior in a metropolis is unbearable.

~Garrett Hardin

The rational man finds that his share of the cost of the wastes he discharges into the commons is less than the cost of purifying his wastes before releasing them.

~Garrett Hardin

To say that we mutually agree to coercion is not to say that we are required to enjoy it, or even to pretend we enjoy it.

~Garrett Hardin

An attack on values is inevitably seen as an act of subversion.

~Garrett Hardin

The social arrangements that produce responsibility are arrangements that create coercion, of some sort.

~Garrett Hardin

Of course, a positive growth rate might be taken as evidence that a population is below its optimum.

~Garrett Hardin

We see only what we have names for.

~Garrett Hardin

The population problem has no technical solution; it requires a fundamental extension in morality.

~Garrett Hardin

The only kind of coercion I recommend is mutual coercion, mutually agreed upon by the majority of the people affected.

~Garrett Hardin

Ecological differentiation is the necessary condition for coexistence.

~Garrett Hardin

Every measured thing is part of a web of variables more richly interconnected than we know.

~Garrett Hardin

Incommensurables cannot be compared.

~Garrett Hardin

Thou shalt not transgress the carrying capacity

~Garrett Hardin

The morality of an act is a function of the state of the system at the time it is performed.

~Garrett Hardin

Throughout history, human exploitation of the earth has produced this progression: colonize-destroy-move on.

~Garrett Hardin

We can't cure a shortage by increasing the supply.

~Garrett Hardin

Economists (and others) who are satisfied with nature-free equations develop a dangerous hubris about the potency of our species

~Garrett Hardin

What features of your daily life do you expect to be improved by a further increase in population?

~Garrett Hardin

Every plausible policy must be followed by the question 'And then what?'

~Garrett Hardin

Never globalize a problem if it can possibly be dealt with locally.

~Garrett Hardin

The greatest folly is to accept expert statements uncritically. At the very least, we should always seek another opinion.

~Garrett Hardin

Value is a relative concept: the value of each action is determined by comparing it with other possible actions.

~Garrett Hardin

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