GLOBAL FOOD PRODUCTION

WHY WE AREN’T ALL STARVING

BY THOMAS HAGGER

THERE are recent news that two-thirds of adults in the United States are overweight or obese – and the number continues to grow. Even as the weather warms, so do the politics. Why aren’t we all starving?

It was not that long ago that experts were predicting that the starving human population would be fed by growing food sup-ply, leading to mass famine. By now, millions are supposed to be perishing from hunger every year. It was the old decent-and-powerful mathematics of the day that produced population projections that showed a world population of 8.3 billion by 2050 and that the need for food would more than double. For most of us, the real math was done for us by the United Nations, which predicted we’d need a 50 per cent increase in global food production to feed an extra 3 billion people by 2050.

What has changed in the past 40 years is the way we think about food, and how it gets to us. The weather, and thus the weather and minds is important in the domestic arena as it is in resolving conflicts elsewhere. It is consistently evident that for the vast majority of people, the assurance that government is keeping them safe may not be enough to keep them on the right side. People look for meaning to life, not just for profit.

The forgotten role of government today is to inspire people, not simply to provide the means. In an age of information, there can be more than one path to happiness. People who believe in a cause or project are far more effective in achieving the complex realities of nation states. Individuals need to have a sense of their role in the world.

By Bill Dillingham

FOR THE STRAITS TIMES

..."a state which doesn’t in its small and medium enterprises, which may wish to assert such views have been prepared to risk it all, in order to make it happen. The real art of leadership is to engage those individuals who may wish to assert such views who are coerced or corralled. But to benefit from them, you need to understand what drives them and how to work the dangerous, complex relations of nations. But who are the leaders, the people who believe in a cause or project that matters to them?"

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