

No. 304 October 2009

## The Man Who Defused the 'Population Bomb'

*One of America's greatest heroes remains little known in his home country.*

**By Gregg Easterbrook**

2 October 2009

*Norman Borlaug arguably the greatest American of the 20th century died late Saturday after 95 richly accomplished years. The very personification of human goodness, Borlaug saved more lives than anyone who has ever lived. He was America's Albert Schweitzer: a brilliant man who forsook privilege and riches in order to help the dispossessed of distant lands. That this great man and benefactor to humanity died little-known in his own country speaks volumes about the superficiality of modern American culture.*

*Born in 1914 in rural Cresco, Iowa, where he was educated in a one-room schoolhouse, Borlaug won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work ending the India-Pakistan food shortage of the mid-1960s. He spent most of his life in impoverished nations, patiently teaching poor farmers in India, Mexico, South America, Africa and elsewhere the Green Revolution agricultural techniques that have prevented the global famines widely predicted when the world population began to skyrocket following World War II.*

*In 1999, the Atlantic Monthly estimated that Borlaug's efforts combined with those of the many developing-world agriculture-extension agents he trained and the crop-research facilities he founded in poor nations saved the lives of one billion human beings.*

[Click here to read article.](#)

This article was first published in [The Wall Street Journal](#) online on 16 September 2009.

Articles in the *Perspectives* series plus a large library of books, studies, speeches, articles and DVDs on a wide range of public policy issues can be found at [www.nzbr.org.nz](http://www.nzbr.org.nz)

## **Related studies and commentary:**

### **Human Progress – and Collapse?**

A paper published by the New Zealand Business Roundtable

September 2005

By Wolfgang Kasper

[\[Full Text\]](#)

### **Lifting Growth and Living Standards**

A speech delivered to the Institute of Financial Professionals of New Zealand Annual Conference in Christchurch

9 September 2004

By Rob McLeod

[\[Full Text\]](#)

### **The Real State of the World**

The Sir Ronald Trotter Lecture

8 October 2003

By Bjorn Lomborg

[\[Full text\]](#)

### **Why Growth Matters**

A speech delivered to the Sales and Marketing Executive International Association in Wellington

20 August 2002

By Roger Kerr

[\[Full text\]](#)

*If you have received this email from a friend or colleague and wish to subscribe, [please click here](#).  
If you wish to unsubscribe from the Roundtable mailing list, [please click here](#).*