

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

This chapter consists of the conclusion from the whole analysis in the previous chapter. According to the analysis of Thanos' motivation using Malthusian theory, both Malthus and Thanos believe that our resources (particularly food) is finite or growing slowly in fixed number while population number are growing exponentially. Therefore, Malthus and Thanos agree that there will be an overpopulation crisis in the future that leads toward famine.

In the analysis of Thanos' action using Social Darwinism, Thanos' action is on wiping half of the population is based on the natural necessity of the survival of the fittest. The researcher finds out that Thanos as a god-like being who wants to control population has similarities with the era of Great Famine in Ireland during 1840's, The Second Industrial Revolution during 1840's, and China's one-child policy during 1940's until present day as a tool for survival of the fittest. All of these cases have similarities on how the government create a coercive policy to be forced to use on society.

In the last analysis, the researcher uses the theory of Habermas of Rational Action to assess Thanos' action based on morality. Habermas divide his theory into three type of illocutionary i.e. constatives, representatives, and regulatives. Based on these analyses, the researcher rise to a conclusion that Thanos' action is cannot be morally justified. As Malthus' theory on proving the exponential crisis of overpopulation still be questioned, UN Population Division disproves Malthus' theory by giving the projection data of population growth rate in 2100 that two centuries of rapid global population growth will come to an end as the human, as science, technology and health qualities are also improved over time.

Thanos overlook the influence of social, political, and economic processes on access to resources that is known as the “distributional” argument for explaining resource scarcity. Average global supply of food exceeds the minimum dietary energy requirement globally, which shows that the world can produce enough food,

but that food isn't reaching everyone who needs it. Uneven access is the problem rather than overpopulation.

When explaining his reasoning, Thanos noted that the "snap" would be "at random, dispassionate, fair to rich and poor alike." However, removing half of population who is rich and poor doesn't address the underlying reasons for wealth inequity. The disparities which created inequitable distribution of food and other resources will persist, and the same patterns of resource use and access are likely to continue. Similarly, a "political ecology" perspective argues that those with the greatest economic and political power often get to control how the environment is used, and how resources are distributed, typically at the expense of disadvantaged groups as the researcher explain in previous chapter about the study case of the great famine in Ireland during 1840's.

Also, to add the conclusion on the morality value, Thanos' notion comes from his own ego, not from mutual agreement, because according to the theory, justification on morality can only be achieved by consensus. As both Gamora and Dr. Strange reject the idea that Thanos propose. Even the notion is based on fact and the truth of the data can be verified.

The researcher finds that Thanos' fear on overpopulation crisis can be justified, but the true issue at the core of the belief that "something must be done about population control" is that denigrates the nobility of the individual. At its core, is the belief that a central planner somewhere, needs to decide on how many human beings should be alive. And who should have the power to decide how many people should live and die.

Even if one could prove that population reduction could lead to improved living standards, what right does one human being have to decide how many other humans is the optimum number. When this mindset is followed to its logical conclusion, you get the great genocidal beliefs of the 20th century, such as Communism and Nazism, where the individuals life is no longer important and only the collectives ambitions are important. As it leads to destruction for both the individual and the collective.

Nowadays, there are plenty of scholars working alternative solutions to resource scarcity, imagining a world that is sustainable for everyone. Instead of halving the population, for example, Thanos could have created a universe built on local food production. Or, he could have made each planet in the universe a series of circular economies, which minimize waste by maintaining, reusing, recycling, and remanufacturing resources. All energy could have instantly been produced by low carbon sources within sustainable energy grids and power infrastructure.

While the technology nowadays is more advance in times, the world could have been reshaped to exist within the safe and just space for humanity, in which human would exert enough pressure on the earth for everyone to live free of poverty while keeping resource use within planetary boundaries to prevent overexploitation of those resources. As the researcher believe that this solution could get us closer to the paradise of what Thanos envisioned rather than a terrified planet with half as many people and just as many issues.

To add the final conclusion, this research also dedicated for students and faculty, as it is expected to be able to contribute to the recent development and research on applied discourse study with different methods in the future.

