MATERIAL WORLD
A GLOBAL FAMILY PORTRAIT

Peter Menzel & Faith D’Aluisio
Books & Research Projects by Menzel and D’Aluisio


Menzel’s CENTRAL Research Questions???:

1. What are our connections (emotional, identity, family, sacred, etc.) to our MATERIAL OBJECTS & Possessions on a GLOBAL SCALE?

2. What are the SIMILARITIES/DIFFERENCES in terms of the things/materials we collect and connect to?

3. How can we OVERCOME CULTURAL STEREOTYPES to achieve a more nuanced “big picture” understanding of the “other.”?

4. Can all 6+ Billion HUMANS on EARTH have all of the things we want and still sustain a HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT for all human cultures and other animal/biological cultures?

5. HOW can you use PHOTOGRAPHY to gain a more bigger, more intelligent, perspective of our world and the important issues we face?
Menzel & D’Aluisio’s Focus and Approach

**Focus and Approach** -- An examination of Family and Material Consumption for the 21st Century

- 16 documentary photographers
- Traveled to 30 nations around the globe
- Lived for a week with families which were statistically average for that country
- At the end of each visit, photographed a portrait of the family outside of its home with all of its possessions.

**Underlying Premise:** We have NO vision of the “**other**” and little understanding of our common connections as human beings.

**Funding** -- Supported in part by the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Program AND Menzel’s own $$
The Project: 30 Countries
Mali

Dirt Poor

The Natomo Family

6:30 A.M., MARCH 27, 1993
KOULAKOULOU, MALI

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER MENZEL

KEY TO BIG PICTURE

1. Soumaoro Natomo, father, 39
2. Pama Ronko, 1st wife, 28
3. Fatumata Nangoga, 2nd wife, 26
1st wife's household:
4. Pia Natomo, 2nd daughter, 18
5. Eme Natomo, 1st son, 9
6. Mana Natomo, 2nd son, 6
7. Manadou Natomo, 3rd son, 3

Not pictured: Fatta Natomo, 1st daughter, 13
2nd wife's household:
8. Toure Natomo, 5th daughter, 5
9. Fatumata Natomo, 2nd daughter, 3
10. Mama Natomo, 2nd son, 1
11. Cia Niente, wife of father's brother in law with children — not part of household

OBJECTS IN PHOTO

(Rooftop, left to right)
- Mortar and pestle (3, for pounding grain)
- Sieves for sifting grain (2)
- Ritual cane (at roof edge)
- Musket (broken, inherited from father's father)
- Mosquito netting (screev's bed)
- Bicycle
- Broken pot
- Basket (with clothes)
- Dashing tubs (5, plastic and aluminum)
- Broken bark basket (with rags, scraps)
- Cooking pot (with lid)
- Plastic water container (2)
- Water jetties (2)
- Watering can (2, one broken)
- Rectangular adobe brick made (with sample bricks)
- Battery-powered radio/cassette recorder/player
- Folded blanket (between father and 1st wife)
- Sweet rice mix (near children, in cookpot filled with firepot)
- Wooden condiment container
- Outbuilding: implements (wax, shawl, knife, bread pan)
- Lower wall and open kitchen
- Fishing net
- Wooden rack for shade, drying clothes
- Cooking fire
- Water (in big clay pot)
Ethiopia

Constant Struggle

The Getu Family

8:30 A.M., February 11, 1994
Moulo, Ethiopia

Photographs by Shawn G. Henry

KEY TO BIG PICTURE

Key (foreground, left to right):

1. Getu Maleta, father, 30
2. Zerewto Tutu, mother, 25
3. Teshome Getu, 1st son, 10
4. Like Getu, 1st daughter, 8
5. Manoosh Getu, 2nd son, 7
6. Mulu Getu, 2nd daughter, 3
7. Abebebe Getu, 3rd son, 8 months

KEY TO BIG PICTURE

Object in Photo

Basket
Mortar and pestle (for pounding grain)
Frying pan (2, one on ground next to house)
Plastic containers (one for coffee beans, one for water)
Iron frying (cold)
Salt (in can)
Plastic bowl and plate
Clay cooking pot
Wooden storage box (with clothes)
Gourd (for milk and other liquids)
1 box (2, one with yoked oxen)
Basket (on low table, full of herbs)
Shallow basket (leaning on table, for serving)
Clay pot

Halter (for horse)
Bad (with wool blanket)
Basket with lid
Chicken (1 or 8 owned by family)
Coffee set
Tea kettle
Serving tray
Partially completed basket
Clay water jar
Sheep and lamb
Keres (1 of 3)
Cowhide (used as cushion)
Umbrella (hanging from building)

Background, left to right:

Corral with cattle
House of father's brother
Brother's cook house
Family house
Father's parents' house
Ethiopia

A home to humanoids for at least 3.5 million years, Ethiopia is the only African nation never ruled by foreigners (except for a brief, chaotic incursion by Italy, 1935–41). Its history made it into a proud emblem of African independence, with the Organization of African Unity having its headquarters in Addis Ababa, the capital. In recent years, though, Ethiopia has become a symbol of civil strife and ecological degradation. A famine from 1972 to 1974 led to a crop that ended the almost 50-year reign of Emperor Hailu Selassie. The new dictator, Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, waged war for years on many fronts within Ethiopia, against rebel groups in the south, against Somaliland, and especially in Eritrea, a northern area annexed illegally in 1992. Economically, he followed the Soviet model. In the 1980s, his government forcibly resettled 300,000 farmers and used food as a weapon against areas with rebels. A belt of homes, these policies led to famines that consumed a million lives. The collapse of Communism coincided with the victory of rebels in Eritrea and within Ethiopia. Mengistu was overthrown in 1991. A coalition government took the reins, letting Ethiopians return to their homes and trying to restart the economy. Many troubles remain. Use of wood as fuel and the nation’s abundance of livestock have caused some of the world’s worst deforestation and erosion. As a result, this ancient place will simultaneously have to become more prosperous and transform its relationship to the environment — a daunting prospect.

IN A SITUATION with few resources, the Oromo depend heavily on cattle dung. Every morning, men collect fresh dung before the cows are milked, spread it with water, and then roll it into a paste. Some of the paste is used to plaster the walls of the houses. A mixture printed with a mixture of wood ash and olive oil, the flour is used in the preparation of pastries that are baked into cakes, and used for fuel. At other times the men harvest the fields and bring home dried dung (C). Working with dung takes up much of the women’s time. Other duties include attending to the children (B) and ensuring that the family’s basic needs are met. The latter may mean going to the market. Three times a day, relatives congregate at each other’s houses, having a cup of coffee in a customary Oromo gesture (D). Coffee, grown on Ethiopia’s fertile western zone, is the national drink. With few resources, the nation’s abundance of livestock has caused some of the world’s worst deforestation and erosion. As a result, this ancient place will simultaneously have to become more prosperous and transform its relationship to the environment — a daunting prospect.

STATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stat</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>1,108,749 sq km (425,166 sq mi)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>98.0 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total fertility rate</td>
<td>7.0 children per woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of couples using contraception</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population doubling time</td>
<td>23.1 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage urban/rural</td>
<td>12% urban, 88% rural</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government debt as percentage of GDP</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of people to automobiles</td>
<td>494 to 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of people to cattle</td>
<td>2.1 to 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>Female: 55, Male: 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of rural population without safe drinking water</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank of people per physician among the 183 U.N. members</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank of affluence among the 183 U.N. members</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bhutan

Resisting Cultural Change

The Namgay Family

4 P.M., June 7, 1993
Shinka, Bhutan

Photographs by Peter Menzel

Key to Big Picture

1. Namgay, father, 50
2. Namgay, mother, 47
3. Khey, 1st son, 17
4. Baling, 2nd daughter, 14
5. Jekom, 3rd daughter
6. Sangay, 19, 1st daughter
7. Sangay Khundu, 15, her husband (their children listed on photo
8. Choide, 9, their 1st daughter

9. Chato Namgay, 1, their 1st son
10. Sangay Zam, 8, 2nd daughter (on porch, near steps)
11. Chato Gyalshen, 1, 2nd son
12. Tandi Gyalshen, 2, 3rd son
13. Pemay Debi, 61, mother's brother (unnamed)
14. Kado, 27, father's cousin, (visiting monk, on ground)

Key to Objects

(Foreground, left to right)
- Bumtse, with peacock feathers, hold water in purification rituals
- Jele (2, double-ended ceremonial cancellers)
- Chhups (14, metal bowls for water offerings)
- Book of Buddhist teachings
- Chhom (table used by visiting religious functionaries)
- Trongten (on chhod, cast bronze ceremonial vessel)
- Statue of Paintore, god of wealth (on chhod)
- Lamp (on chhod, uses butter as fuel)
- Shakayam Buddha statue with silk robe (on chhod)

(Ledger on house, left to right)
- Basket and bag of rice (2)
- Ladder to attic, vines from trees
- Clay pot for water
- Pantry cabinet (left of door)
- Windsocks for temple decoration (3, hanging from rope)
- Storage chest (1, for clothes)
- Blankets (3, folded)
- Sewing machine (thread type)
- Pig tied under steps

Porch (behind family, left to right)
- Rug (5, for altar room)
- Wheat (for making bread and alcohol)
- Pitch fork (wooden)
- Butter churn and cooking pots (by 1st daughter)
- Storage baskets (10)
- Wood (being hewn with adze)
- Yoke (for bulls)
- Pumpten
Husband and wife,

Sangay Khandu and Sangay, spend much of their day with the family cattle. One of Sangay’s morning duties is milking the cows into a wooden bucket. Sangay Khandu uses the bells to plow the field, teaching it for rice planting. A: He moves gingerly around the heads, which are notoriously bad tempered. The Namgay household owns 5 acres (2 ha) of land, scattered intermixed steps through the hills, each strip being devoted to one crop: wheat, rice, clover or potatoes. The wheat harvest (C) now in full swing, is assigned to the women. They take long, dented like sticks, push a handful of wheat heads between them, and then pull up, snapping off the heads. For long-term storage, they cut the whole stalk, bind it into elegant sheaves, and store the result in the attic, from where it is threshed little by little, as the family needs it.
Iceland

Fire and Ice

The Thoroddson Family

4:00 P.M., DECEMBER 15, 1993
HAFNARFJÖRDUR, ICELAND
BIG PICTURE BY PETER MENZEL
DAILY LIFE PHOTOGRAPHS
BY MIGUEL LUIS FAIRBANKS

KEY TO BIG PICTURE

1. Björn Thoroddson, father, 57
2. Margret Guðnýnlodottir, mother, 42
3. Ólafur, daughter born of mother's 1st marriage, 18

OBJECTS IN PHOTO

(I. front left)
- Icelandic-bred horses (2, & 4 owned by mother)
- Rug (donated by horse)
- 15-year-old desk
- Loveseat, chair, and sofa (matching set)
- bambooo-style table
- Samuel chairs (2, one by corner of house)
- 2nd sofa (behind 1st sofa)
- Cars (BMW and Citroen, lights on)
- 2nd desk (for children)
- Toy airplane and helicopter (for 2nd desk)
- 3rd shelves with nicknacks
- Parents' bed (queen-size)
- Stroller (not currently in use)
- Cellos (2, with music stand and sheet music)
- 2nd rug (beneath cellos)
- Antique chair (beneath box)
- Music stool (beneath girl)
- Chest of drawers filled with toys, stuffed animals
- Portable cassette tape player, pink plastic doll house
- Children's beds (3, around chest of drawers)
- Doll, doll bed, big black toy truck (leaning on foot of nearest bed)
- Toy gun (2, Tony the Tiger bedroom slippers (leaning on head of nearest bed)
- Washing machine, dryer, refrigerator, mixer, toaster, food processor
- Stove/oven, pots and pans
- Dishwasher, storage bins
- Storage cabinet
- Eating table (2, one with lamp and crockery)
- Kitchen chairs (3)
- Tool chest (bed)
- Televisions (2, on TV stands)
- VCR and stereo (under right TV)
- Christmas tree
- Shovel (behind tree)
- Bicycles (1, at rear)
- Oblashine with clothes
Iceland

STATS

A

Iceland meets almost all of its energy needs by tapping the heat of its volcanic core and the flow of the ocean under its slope. Parks are a small part of people's lives, only one of the world's highest standards of living while breathing some of the cleanest air. Historically, the state of affairs is a change. Norway and Denmark occupied Iceland for two years and kept it as a protectorate. Only in the 20th century could it create a real fishing industry, which became the majority of its economy. Independence occurred in 1944, followed by a relatively stable coalition government. Recently, a national newspaper has been protecting the interests. The majority of men want to be called rubbish, which has caused several diplomatic relations. Although Iceland is small, it has a large heart and a strong economy. The country is known worldwide for its beautiful landscapes, including volcanoes, geysers, and glaciers. The capital, Reykjavik, is a vibrant city with a rich cultural and arts scene.

B

THE COCKPIT of an Icelandair 737, Böðn (A) takes a trip to Orlando, Florida. Because he spends so much time either in the cockpit or on the ground, in other nations, the majority of the housework and child care is done by his wife, Sigríður Ingibjörg. She balances the chores with a thriving business in a small town.

C

In the cockpit, a young pilot named Bjarni Arnason (A) works on the flight to Orlando, Florida. The trip takes him away from his family for a few days, but he enjoys the experience and looks forward to his next flight. 

D

Afterward, Gestur, her 11-year-old son, flies in time with his Super Mario Brothers video game (C). He sits in the window seat, watching the snowy landscape below. The view from the window is breathtaking, and the fish market is right below the airplane's altitude.
Mongolia

Reconstruction

The Regzen Family

MONGOLIA

ULANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

DAILY LIFE PHOTOGRAPHS
BY LEONG KA TAI

KEY TO BIG PICTURE

1. Regzen Batsaury, father, 37
2. Lkhansurein Chantsetse, mother, 31
3. Batsaury Khorloo, daughter, 9
4. Batsaury Batbileg, son, 5
5. Gyurangal, father’s sister, 33
6. Yeneltuul, her daughter, 12
7. Mother’s sister with husband and son (located on bed, next to their ger)

OBJECTS IN PHOTO

(clockwise from left)

- China cabinet with stickers of Chip ‘n Dale Rescue Rangers cartoon characters
- Family portraits (2), ceramic horses (2), ceramic Buddha (alto cabinet)
- Tea sets (2), small bronze Buddha (in cabinet)
- Poles used to form structure of ger, family dwelling
- Dresser with alarm clock and vanity mirror
- Twin bed with waven coverlet, extra bedding (folded)
- Dining table
- Tomatoes, hard cheese, lepaut, jar of preserves, figues (2), soft drinks & bottles, bowls of cookies, condiments, and candy (7)
- Electric hot plate, electric kettle, rice & potato, rice in cooker
- Fluorescent light fixture, incandescent bulb (hanging from peak of ger)
- 2nd china cabinet
- Trays (2), teapots (2), china statuary (in cabinet)
- Wastebins white, on wooden box
- Photograph
- 2nd twin bed with coverlet
- Television black and white, with Chip ‘n Dale Rescue Rangers sticker
- Incense holder, carved wooden Buddha in glass case (relative)

(Otse side)

- Sheep (tethered to right)
- Ger and bed of mother’s sister’s family
- Leperon, barrel, water containers
- Outside felt of 8 tent dividers

DAILY LIFE PHOTOGRAPHS

BY LEONG KA TAI

ULANBAATAR, MONGOLIA
Argentina

Stability — At a Price

The Cardillo Family

2:30 P.M., NOVEMBER 25, 1993
SALTA, ARGENTINA

BIG PICTURE: BY PETER GINTER

DAILY LIFE PHOTOGRAPHIES: BY DIEGO GOLDBERG

KEY TO BIG PICTURE

1. Juan Carlos Carillo, father, 42
2. Maria Elizabeth, mother, 31
3. Nohuel Carillo, son, 9
4. Maria Elena Carillo, daughter, 4
5. Mario Pio Carillo, daughter, 6

OBJECTS IN PHOTO

(Foreground, left to right)

- Houseplants
- Most portraits behind family
- Dining tables (2, 2nd far left)
- Silver tray (1st dining table)
- Miscellaneous chairs (3, around table)
- Sheets (20 pairs)
- Sewing machine and table

(Background, left to right)

- Office-style desk (far left)
- Stereo speakers (right of desk)
- Piano
- Toilet (behind desk)
- Floor lamp
- Tableware (1st, dining table)
- Chairs (4, around 2nd dining table)
- Cane sheets
- Amoire and clothes
- Dresser
- Stereo and TV (also dresser)

- Fridge
- Washing machine (on cabinet)
- Stereo speakers (right of washing machine)
- Pianos
- Bookcase (left)
- Dining chairs
- Dishes and cutlery (on table)
- Bear in center is youngest daughter’s favorite possession
- End table (in front of chair)
- Rug under end table
- Home (yellow building, family occupies some separate apartment)
- Sideboard (on side of building)
- Couch (against building)
- Cabinet for glasses (against building)
- Room
- Catholic church (adjacent to family residence)
Germany

GERMANY

STATS

Area 137,408 sq. mi. (356,918 sq. km.)
Population 81.3 million
Population density 569.5 per sq. mi. (227.7 per sq. km.)
Total fertility rate 1.5 children per woman
Population doubling time 153 years
Percentage urban/rural 67% urban, 33% rural
Population per television 2.7 persons per set
Average per capita consumption of beer 152 quarts (144 liters)
Percentage of native freshwater fish that are extinct or threatened 72%
Percentage of trees with more than 1/4 of leaves lost to acid rain and pollution 25.2%
Number of people seeking asylum in Germany 536,000 (1993)
Life expectancy (male, female) 73
Infant mortality 7 per 1,000 births
Rank of affluence (OECD) 1

Europe's biggest, most powerful nation, Germany has been at the uncomfortable center of European politics since Otto von Bismarck oversaw its unification in 1871. Seemingly overnight, city-states that had squabbled for centuries became a powerful force — technologically, commercially, and industrially. Tensions led to the almost accidental blow-up of World War I. When Germany lost, the vengeful Allies imposed a humiliating peace treaty that led to vast inflation and social turmoil. Capitalizing on popular anger, a delayed rise in German nationalism managed to seize power, launch a war, and reverse the extermination of Germany's Jews. When Germany lost again, the vengeful Allies divided it. Moscow controlled the smaller eastern part; the bigger western part was tied to its western neighbors. West Germany rebuilt its war-torn cities and became an economic behemoth. Indeed, it became so rich that when Communism fell most "western" believed that they could easily absorb the "eastern." Instead the eastern economy collapsed, and the west couldn't prop it up — leading to the kind of nationalist discontent that Germany's neighbors have learned to fear. At the same time, the country faces ecological limits. The east has some of the world's worst pollution, and the west has acid rain and water contamination. As a result, Germany finds itself once again in the uncomfortable center of European politics.

KEY TO BIG PICTURE

1. Bernhard Pfizner, father, 38
2. Brigitte Klose-Pfizner, mother, 36
3. Manuel Pfizner, son, 7
4. Christian Pfizner, son, 4

OBJECTS IN PHOTO

(Clockwise from center left)
- Bookshelf for picture books
- Video-cassette recorder (above bookshelf)
- Stereo and tape recorder (above bookshelf)
- Television, turntable, speakers (behind bookshelf)
- Dining table with chairs and 4-piece settings
- Tripod with video camera loopholed up to TV, live image is of photographer from Material World
- Bookshelf with books
- Antique cupboard for china and glassesware
- Painting (through window of Pfizner's apartment)
- Armchair (with clothes for parents and children)
- Corner sofa
- Kitchen cupboard (for china, spices, utensils)
- Poster about (4. on entry to 1969)
- Ceramic statuette (on shelf)
- Desk (for boys, with land clock, pencil jar, etc.)
- Toy shelves (with toys)
- Kitchen table and chair behind desk
- Plastic castle, little truck, miniature dinosaurs (on table)
- Loft beds (2, for boys)
- Bookshelf (between beds)
- Station wagon behind bed
- Shoe/oven with pots
- Dishwasher (full of dishes)
- Microwave (on dishwasher)
- Refrigerator (with stickers)
- Cabinet
- Dresser
- 2nd toy castle (on dresser)
- Parent's bed
- Bicycles (4, one behind bookshelf)
- Father's motorcycle
- Basket filled with items from family's history
- Shelves and millstones
JAPAN

Paradoxical Affluence

The Ukita Family

10 P.M., DECEMBER 19, 1992
TOKYO, JAPAN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER MENZEL

BIG PICTURE

3. Shoyo Ukita, mother, 43
4. Maya Ukita, daughter, 6

3. Father, 45
4. Daughter, 8

3. Books, dolls, popo, miscellaneous
4. Basket for toys

3. Rocks (2) with back
4. Rocks (3) with books

3. Chairs (1) hanging on carport
4. Chair (with stuffed

3. Piano (2)
4. Player (on small

3. Ornaments (2), on
4. Sign (2), ball, pool

3. Ball, pool
4. Chairs (2)

3. Pool, ice chest
4. Ice chest

3. Vegetables (with thermos, tomatoes)
4. Vegetables (with thermos, tomatoes)

4. Pots and pans (on end table)
5. China cabinet (with china, microwave oven, toaster, oven, liquor bottles)
6. Paper maché animal (on cabinet, school project)
7. Bed (behind cabinet)
8. Dressing table with mirror (behind bed)
9. Umbrellas (by dressing table)
10. Dining table with family
11. Fire extinguisher (on wall)
12. Dog house (on steps)
13. Dog kennel (small)
14. Sink beds (with blankets, video cassettes, toys)
15. Clothes rack (with woman's suit)
16. Entrance gate (right half, black metal, with mail slot)
17. Butcher block table (with cooking utensils)
18. Food storage unit (by washer)
19. Electric washer/dryer
20. Cleaning supplies (in basket, on plastic shelf unit)
21. Tub toys (by bathroom)
22. Skateboards (2, leaning on shelf)
23. Asbestos box (on right wall)
Kuwait

Oil Rich, Worker Poor

The Abdalla Family

5:30 P.M., DECEMBER 15, 1993

KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT

DAILY LIFE PHOTOGRAPHS

BY PETER MENZEL

KEY TO BIG PICTURE

1. Saf Abdalla, father, 52
2. Zana Abdalla, mother, 46
3. Lubka Abdalla, daughter, 26
4. Lail Abdalla, daughter, 24
5. Ayo Abdalla, daughter, 16
6. Ali Abdalla, son, 2
7. Agnes Fernandez, servant, 25
8. Zuan Fernandez, servant, 30
9. Family home (with refrigerator in entry, satellite dish)

OBJECTS IN PHOTO

(Selected items clockwise from left)

- 45-foot-long sofa (from base-
- mant)
- Glass-topped coffee table
- Carpet (with magazines)
- Chest (beneath sofa)
- Gas barbecue grill
- Low table (with fishing poles,
vases, sporting equipment)
- Kitchen table (with
micro-wave oven, toaster
oven, high chair, & chairs)
- Bedroom set
- Router & dryer
- Refrigerator
- Home office furniture
- (includes telephone, fax
machine, computer, printer,
2 keyboards, 2 lamps)
- Oil paintings, stained-glass
windows, iron wall of music
al performers station
- Desk clock (3)
- Antique clocks (5)
- Ironing board, iron, end
- table, radio, charts (7), twin
- bed, canopied roof of
- pumping station, used by
+ servants)
- Sofa, chairs (6), coffee
- table, jumbo gel bicycle (on
- roof, rear tamga)
- Lecters, carpets (2), cush-
- ions, coffee pot collection
+ family tree)
- Living room sets (3, two with
color televisions)
- Bedroom sets (3, one with
- vanity, one with cab, one
- with long basketball trophy
- ribbons and gorget)
- Cars (4), 1993 Mazda, 1989
- Mercedes Benz, 1993
- Honda, 1992 Mitsubishi
- Antique Chinese urns (2)
- Dining room table with chairs
- (6)
- Tiffany lamp, collection of
- antique coffee pots (on table)
- China tea set (on tea cart)
- End table with statues
United States
The Cavin family of American Canyon, Calif.,
Toilets of the World

Kuwait
Thailand
Japan
South Africa

Mexico
Germany
Ethiopia
Cuba

Guatemala
Albania
Vietnam

Mali
Western Samoa
Great Britain

Bhutan
Uzbekistan
Mongolia
Televisions of the World
A Hungry Planet: What the World Eats

- In 2000, photographer Peter Menzel and writer Faith D’Aluisio read a fact that changed their lives: the same number of people in the world were overfed as underfed.

- Over the next 5 years, the couple visited families in 24 countries, investigating what kind of food, and how much, a typical clan consumes. They photographed each family with an entire week’s supply, collecting the images in their book Hungry Planet: What the World Eats.

- **Initial findings:**
  - More people on the planet are **overfed** than underfed
  - As a society’s wealth grows, its citizens do too, thanks to diets higher in protein, sugar, and fat.
  - China is on the cusp of this phenomenon. It’s possible to **eat themselves to death,**” D’Aluisio says. She also singles out
  - Mexico, which she says has all the bad eating habits of the United States, “without access to the good ones,”
  - Kuwait, which has **higher obesity and diabetes rates** than any Western country.
  - Eating habits are formed at an early age, so “you eat what your parents eat.”
  - Highly processed foods vs. natural/organic foods
More than 1.6 billion people in the world are either overweight or obese, according to a recent study by the World Health Organization.

Top 20 countries with the highest percent of overweight adults (people age 15 and over). People are considered overweight if their body mass index (BMI) is 25 or higher and obese with a BMI or 30 or higher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% Overweight or obese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>94.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Federated States of Micronesia</td>
<td>91.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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PALERMO, ITALY — THE MANZO FAMILY:
Giuseppe, 31, Piera Marretta, 30, Maurizio, 2, Pietro, 9, and Domenico, 7

Giuseppe is a fishmonger, and the Manzos live above the Capo Market in Sicily, where some of the world’s tastiest fresh fish can be found. But Piera Marretta doesn’t like fresh fish, so the seafood of choice in the household is frozen fish sticks. Pietro’s favourite food is hot dogs.

EXPENDITURE: $295
WEITAIWU, CHINA — THE CUI FAMILY: Haiwang, 33, Jinxian, 31, and (from left) Haiwang’s father, Lianyou, 59, mother, Xianglian, 61, and grandmother, Wu, 79, and the couple’s son, Yuqi, 6

The Cui family has a small plot of land outside their village, and they also grow tomatoes, cabbage, squash, and cucumbers in their courtyard. Because the government has granted them smaller plots of land in recent years, the family needs to purchase 90 percent of the food they eat.

EXPENDITURE: $65
KOUAKOUROU, MALI — THE NATOMO FAMILY: Soumana, 46 (in blue), with his two wives, Pama, 35 (immediate left), and Fatoumata, 33 (immediate right), their children, and members of the extended family

Asked about their favourite foods, the family says that they don’t think in terms of favourites. All of their meals centre on a millet porridge called tô, which is eaten with various soups and sauces.

EXPENDITURE: $30
CAIRO, EGYPT — THE AHMED FAMILY: Mamdouh, 35 (wearing glasses), and Nadia, 36 (with dark-brown head scarf), their three children (far left), six members of Nadia’s extended family, and a family friend

The Ahmed home is often crowded for meals because many members of the extended family live either in or near the Ahmeds’ apartment building. Generally the women in the families cook together. A favourite Ahmed family recipe is Nadia’s tajine, a slow-cooked stew with okra and mutton.

EXPENDITURE: $78
Bhutan

- **BHUTAN**: The Namgay family of Shingkhey Village
- **FAMILY RECIPE**: Mushroom, cheese and pork
- **FOOD EXPENDITURE FOR ONE WEEK**: 224.93 ngultrum or $5.03
HAVANA, CUBA — THE COSTA FAMILY: Lisandra, 16, Ramón Costa Allouis, 39, Sandra Raymond Mundi, 38, and Fabio, 6

In the early 1990s, the Costas, like many Cuban families, raised pigs in their courtyard, but nowadays meat is more readily available in Havana. Government food rations vary according to availability — a pound or two of protein and often coffee, sugar, salt, bread, beans, rice, and oil.

EXPENDITURE: $64
BARGTHEIDE, GERMANY — THE MELANDER FAMILY: Kjell, 10, Susanne, 43, Jörg, 45, and Finn, 14

Susanne tries to ensure that the Melanders eat nutritious foods and take supplements, though Jörg notes that his favourite dish is fried potatoes with onions, bacon, and herring. Susanne would like to buy only organic food, but it’s simply too expensive.

EXPENDITURE: $568
Indian food and cooking practices are deeply rooted in cultural traditions and religious beliefs. The Patkar family, based in Ujjain, India, exemplifies this by following the vegetarian lifestyle as devout Hindus. A typical breakfast includes thinly sliced potatoes, onions, and chili peppers fried in vegetable oil and mustard seed, served with rice and chopped cilantro. Sangeeta notes that the Patkars are more flexible about their vegetarianism than her family was when she was growing up. Akshay, for one, says that he has eaten chicken and likes it.

EXPENDITURE: $45
Mexico

- **MEXICO**: The Casales family of Cuernavaca
- **FAVORITE FOODS**: pizza, crab, pasta, chicken
- **FOOD EXPENDITURE FOR ONE WEEK**: 1,862.78 Mexican Pesos or **$189.09**
Mongolia

- MONGOLIA: The Batsuuri family of Ulaanbaatar
- FAMILY RECIPE: Mutton dumplings
- FOOD EXPENDITURE FOR ONE WEEK: 41,985.85 togrog or $40.02
TINGO, ECUADOR-THE AYME FAMILY: Orlando, 35, and Ermelinda, 37 (at right), with seven of their eight children (not shown is the couple’s five-year-old daughter, who lives with their grandparents)

The Ayme family live for most of the year on food that they grow themselves. If they can afford it, on market days Orlando and Ermelinda indulge the family’s sweet tooth by buying some brown cane sugar for everyone to nibble on during the week. Orlando’s favorite food is pea-flour porridge with potatoes.

EXPENDITURE: $36
KODAIRA CITY, JAPAN — THE UKITA FAMILY: Maya, 14, Sayo, 51, Kazuo, 53, and Mio, 17

In any given week, the Ukita family will eat at least a dozen types of fish and shellfish and three varieties of seaweed. Like many families in urban Japan, they eat out often. Kazuo’s favourite food is sashimi; Maya’s is potato chips. Only 2 percent of Japanese adults are obese.

EXPENDITURE: $361
What the World Eats

United States

China

Mali

England
The Caven family of California

FOOD EXPENDITURE FOR ONE WEEK: $159.18

FAVORITE FOODS: beef stew, berry yogurt sundae, clam chowder, ice cream
KUWAIT CITY - KUWAIT - THE AL-HAGGAN FAMILY: Wafaa Abdul Aziz, 37 (with beige head scarf), Saleh Hamad 42 (at right), the couple’s four children, and the family’s two Nepali servants

A typical breakfast for the family consists of olives, tomatoes, cucumbers, eggs, feta, Kraft and Laughing Cow cheeses, and flatbread. Because of poor soil and lack of water, most food in Kuwait is imported. Forty nine percent of Kuwaiti women and thirty percent of Kuwaiti men are obese.

EXPENDITURE: $252
POLAND: The Sobczynscy family of Konstancin-Jeziorna

FAMILY RECIPE: Pig's knuckles with carrots, celery and parsnips

FOOD EXPENDITURE FOR ONE WEEK: 582.48 Zlotys or $151.27
CHAD: The Aboubakar family of Breidjing Camp

FAVORITE FOODS: soup with fresh sheep meat

FOOD EXPENDITURE FOR ONE WEEK: 685 CFA Francs or $1.23
Great Britain

- **GREAT BRITAIN**: The Bainton family of Cllingbourne Ducis
- **FOOD EXPENDITURE FOR ONE WEEK**: 155.54 British Pounds or $253.15
- **FAVORITE FOODS**: avocado, mayonnaise sandwich, prawn cocktail, chocolate fudge cake with cream
RALEIGH, USA — THE REVIS FAMILY: Brandon, 16, Tyrone, 14, Rosemary, 40, and Ronald, 39

The Revis family has struggled to lose weight at times, and Brandon and Tyrone, Rosemary’s sons from a previous marriage, expressed shock at seeing the amount of food that everyone had consumed in a week. The family has since begun a new exercise program.

EXPENDITURE: $389
Despite Ensada's busy schedule, she does not rely on prepackaged foods. A typical dinner for the Dudos might consist of chicken stew served with ajvar (a preserved eggplant and red pepper spread) on slices of crusty bread. The children love to finish the meal with one of Ensada's homemade desserts, although they are just as happy with a store bought Kinder Surprise Egg.
GATINEAU, CANADA — THE FINKEN FAMILY: Kirk, 43, Danielle, 50, Anna, 11, and Coco Simone, 16

The Finkens try to eat locally produced organic fruit and vegetables and also grow vegetables in their front yard. The children are particularly fond of Indian food—Anna lists her favourite food as matar paneer, and Coco, who recently became a vegetarian, likes spiced lentils and chapatis.

EXPENDITURE: $158
What I Eat Daily? (Link)

20-year-old US Army soldier, 6 feet 5 inches tall, 195 lbs, typical daily caloric intake: 4,000 calories. Food staples: Mostly instant ready-to-eat meals.
Other Books/Works

- Material Worlds: A Global Family Portrait
- Hungry Planet: What the World Eats
- Women in the Material World.
- Man Eating Bugs: The Art and Science of Eating Insects and
- Robo Sapiens: Evolution of a New Species.