DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY
A GLOBAL FAMILY PORTRAITS –
THE FOOD & STUFF OF OUR LIVES

Peter Menzel & Faith D’Aluisio
Using Documentary Photography + Cross-National Interactions ➔ Global “BIG PICTURE” UNDERSTANDING

Photography-Based Research Projects by Peter Menzel and Faith D’Aluisio

2. Women in the Material World [1996]
4. Robo Sapiens: Evolution of a New Species [2001]
Material World: A Global Family Portrait

By Peter Menzel & Faith D’Aluisio

Menzel & D’Aluisio’s CENTRAL Research Questions in Material World:

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? Those objects/spaces we make SACRED?

3. Globalized Material Items (Stuff)

4. How can we OVERCOME cultural stereotypes and FEAR to achieve a more nuanced “big picture” understanding of “FOREIGN CULTURES” and the “OTHER.”

5. Can all 7 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 creatures?

6. HOW can you use the medium of PHOTOGRAPHY + writing to gain a LARGER, more intelligent, and more LAYERED set of perspectives of our world and the important issues we face?
Menzel & D’Aluisio’s Focus and Approaches for Material World

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

**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.

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

Dirt Poor

The Natomo Family

6:30 A.M., MARCH 27, 1983
KOUAKOUDOU, MALI

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER MENZEL

KEY TO BIG PICTURE

1. Soumana Natomo, father, 39
2. Parra Korou, 1st wife, 28
3. Fatouma Ndiaye Touré, 2nd wife, 26
4. Pa Natomo, 2nd daughter, 11
5. Korri Natofo, 1st son, 9
6. Mama Natomo, 2nd son, 6
7. Mamadou Natomo, 3rd son, 3
8. Toima Natomo, mother of father's first wife, 60
9. Fatou Natomo, 2nd daughter, 11
10. Mama Natomo, son, 1
11. Couante, wife of father's brother in blue with children — not part of household

OBJECTS IN PHOTO

(Rotated left to right)

- Mortars and pestles (3), for pounding grains
- Sieves for sifting grain (2)
- Visual cane (at roof edge)
- Bucket (broken, inherited from father's father)
- Mosquito netting (covers bed)
- Bicycle
- Broken pot
- Basket with clothes
- Washing tubs (5, plastic and aluminum)
- Broken bark basket (with rags, school)
- Cooking pot with lid (aluminum)
- Plastic water containers (2)
- Water kettles (2)
- Watering cans (2, one broken)
- Rectangular adobe brick mold (with sample brick)
- Battery-powered radio/ cassette tape player
- Folded blanket (between father and 1st wife)
- Sweet rice mush (near children, in cool pot filled with fireplace)
- Wooden condiment container
- Cultivating implements (shoes, shovel, knife, broad ax)

(Lower wall and open kitchen)

- Fishing net
- Wooden rack (for shade, drying clothes)
- Cooking fire
- Water (in big clay pot)
Mali - 2

**Natomo Family**

- Size of household: 7 (1st house, including father) 4 (2nd house)
- Size of dwelling: 540 sq. ft, 650 sq. m; 1st house: 450 sq. ft, 442 sq. m; 2nd house
- Workweek: 112 hours (Father) 112 hours (Both mothers — all inside home)
- Number of: Radios: 1, Telephones: 0, Televisions: 0, VCRs: 0, Bicycles: 1, Automobiles: 0
- Most valued possessions: Bicycle (Father)
- Per capita income (SUS): $201

**Wishes for future**
- Irrigation system, motorcycle, enclosed garden

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**On Market Day** In Kouakourou village, Soumana Natomo goes to purchase rice, which he buys in bulk and later resells. After haggling with the female wholesalers (B), he returns with two sacks of rice to store in the house that he shares with his first wife, Pama. The second, Patouma, is two years younger than Pama and lives in a small one-bedroom apartment up an alley 250 feet (80 m) away. Returning from the market, Soumana hears the muffled thumping of women pounding grain to make flour (A). Because it is Ramadan, the month when Muslims fast during the daylight hours, everyone is working at a slower pace than usual. Indeed, some men use the occasion to lounge about for hours, dazzling passersby with their most elegant outfits (D). The Natomos dress up, too, expending their yearly clothing budget at this time. Part of the reason is that after the fast ends at sunset, Kouakourou fills with food and music — Ramadan is also the month for weddings, dances (C) and other social activities.

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**Stats**

- Area: 478,801 sq. mi (1,240,109 sq. km)
- Population: 12.1 million
- Total fertility rate: 7.1 children per woman
- Population doubling time: 22.2 years
- Percentage urban: 18%
- Percentage rural: 82%
- Percentage of forest lost between 1981-90: 0.83
- Life expectancy: Male: 57, Female: 60
- Infant mortality rate: 159 per 1,000 births
- Population per physician: 15,450
- Literacy rate: Male: 44%, Female: 24%
- Rank of affluence among the 187 U.N. members: 162
Ethiopia

Constant Struggle

The Getu Family

8:30 A.M., FEBRUARY 11, 1994
MULO, ETHIOPIA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHAWN G. HENRY

KEY TO BIG PICTURE

1. Getu Maleta, father, 30
2. Zerembu Tulo, mother, 25
3. Teshome Getu, 1st son, 10
4. Like Getu, 1st daughter, 8
5. Marnosch Getu, 2nd son, 7
6. Mula Getu, 2nd daughter, 3
7. Abelebe Getu, 3rd son & 8 months

OBJECTS IN PHOTO

- Basket
- Mortar and pestle (for pounding grain)
- Fringe pans (2, one on ground next to house)
- Plastic containers (one for coffee beans, one for water)
- Iron frying pan
- Salt in can
- Music bowl and plate
- Clay cooking pot
- Wooden storage box (with clothes)
- Gojide (rich's butter)
- Baskets (3, for milk and other food)
- In cans (2, for drinking)
- Oxen (2, one with yoke)
- Basket (on low table, full of endochi)
- Shallow basket (leaning on table, for serving)
- Clay pot

- Halter (for horse)
- Bed with wool blanket
- Basket with lid
- Chicken (1 of 2) owned by family
- Coffee set
- Tea kettle
- Serving tray
- Partially completed basket
- Clay water jar
- Sheep and lamb
- Gojide (used as cushion)
- Umbrella (hanging from building)

Background, left to right
- Corral with cattle (5)
- House of father's brother
- Brother's cook house
- Family house
- Father's parents house
Ethiopia

IN A SITUATION with few resources, the family depends heavily on cattle dung. Every morning, the children feed the dung to the cow and store it in a pit. Some of the paste is used to plaster the walls of the house. The children help to carry the dung to the house and use it for cooking.

A house is considered for at least 500,000 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 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 devastation. A famine from 1972 to 1974 led to a crop that ended the great royal era of Emperor Hail Selassie. The new dictator, Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, waged war on 70,000 people in many regions within Ethiopia, against rebel groups: in the south, against Sierra; and especially in Eritrea, a northern area annexed illegally in 1962. Economically, he followed the Soviet model. In the early 1980s, his government forcibly resented 300,000 farmers and used food as a weapon against areas with rebels. A series of droughts, these policies led to famines that consumed millions of 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.

STATS

- **Area**: 1,125,181 sq. mi. (2,916,618 sq. km)
- **Population**: 58.0 million
- **Total fertility rate**: 7.0 children per woman
- **Percentage of couples using contraception**: 3.0%
- **Population doubling time**: 22.3 years
- **Percentage urban/rural**: 12% urban, 87% rural
- **Government debt as percentage of GDP**: 25%
- **Ratio of people to automobiles**: 1 in 200
- **Ratio of people to cattle**: 2 to 1
- **Life expectancy**: Female: 55, Male: 47
- **Percentage of rural population without safe drinking water**: 80%
- **Rank of people per physician among the 183 U.N. members**: 171
- **Rank of affluence among the 183 U.N. members**: 125
Bhutan

Resisting Cultural Change
The Nangay Family
4:30 P.M., JUNE 7, 1993
SHINKA, BHUTAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER MENZEL

KEY TO BIG PICTURE

1. Nangay, father, 50
2. Naim, mother, 47
3. Kirley, 1st son, 17
4. Sambay, 2nd son, 14
5. Jokka, 2nd daughter
6. Sambay, 29, 1st daughter
7. Sambay Khampa, 15, her husband (their children listed next)
8. Choesa, 9, their 1st daughter
9. Choto Nangay, 7, their 1st son
10. Samay Zur, 5, 2nd daughter (in pouch, near steps)
11. Chota Gyaltsen, 3, 2nd son
12. Tandin Gyaltsen, 2, 3rd son
13. Kirley Dep, 61, mother’s brother (unmarried)
14. Kado, 21, father’s cause, (visiting monk, on ground)

OBJECTS IN PHOTO

(Ledge on house, left to right)
- Basket and bag of rice
- Ladder to attic (beams from tree)
- Clay pot for water
- Pastry cabinet (left of door)
- Wind socks (or temple decoration)
- Storage chests (or clothes)
- Blankets (3, folded)
- Sewing machine (treadle type)
- Pig tied under steps

Porch behind family, left to right
- Rugs (5, for altar room)
- Wheat (for making bread and alcohol)
- Pitch fork (wooden)
- Butter churn and cooking pots (by 1st daughter)
- Wood (being heaved with axle into yoke for bull)

(Legend on house, left to right)
- Buckets of water
- Loaves of bread
- Frying pan (on top of stove)
- Tea cups
- Bowls (for rice)

(Legend on house, left to right)
- Corn plants
- Hors and cultivators (9)
- Basket for wheat grain

(Foreground, left to right)
- Bumpas (2, with peacock feathers, hold water in purification rituals)
- Jets (2, double-decker ceremonial vessels)
- Choepo (14, metal bowls for water offerings)
- Book of Buddhist teachings
- Choem (table used for writing religious functions)
- Tree (on chodom, cast bronze ceremonial vessel)
- Statue of Namo, god of wealth (on chodom)
- Lamp (on chodom, uses butter as fuel)
- Shakayamuni Buddha statue with silk robe (on chodom)

(Left of family)
- Corn plants
- Hors and cultivators (9)
- Basket for wheat grain
Husband and wife, Sangay Khando 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. (B) Sangay Khando uses the bell to plow the field, marking it for rice planting. (A) He moves gingerly around the heifers, which are notoriously bad tempered. The Namgja household owns 5 acres (2 ha) of land, scattered in terraced strips through the hills, each strip being devoted to one crop—wheat, rice, pulses, or potatoes. The wheat harvest (C), now in full swing, is assigned to the women. They take two long, dewel-like sticks, pinch 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 sheaf in the attic, from where it is threshed little by little, as the family needs it.
Iceland

Fire and Ice
The Thordssen Family

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

KEY TO BIG PICTURE
1. Björn Thordssen, father, 57
2. Margret Gumna, mother, 42
3. Ólafur, daughter from mother’s 1st marriage, 18

OBJECTS IN PHOTO
(Left to right)
- Icelandic-bred horses (2 of 4 owned by father)
- Rug (covered by horse)
- 15-year-old desk
- Loveseat, chair, and sofa (matching set)
- Danish-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 (on 2nd desk)
- Tall shelves with knickknacks
- Parents’ bed (queen-size)
- Stroller (not currently in use)
- Cellos (2, with music stand and sheet music)
- 2nd rug (beneath cello)
- Antique chair (beneath boy)
- Music stool (beneath girl)
- Chest of drawers filled with toys, stuffed animals

- Portable cassette tape player
- Pink plastic doll house (on chest)
- 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 (in cabinet)
- 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
- Sheel (behind tree)
- Bicycles (1, at rear)
- Outhouse with clothes
Iceland

STATS

Area
39,758 sq. mi. (103,025 sq. km)

Population
0.36 million

Population density
5.9 per sq. mi. (2.3 per sq. km)

Total fertility rate
2.2 children per woman

Population doubling time
67 years

Percentage urban/rural
80% urban, 20% rural

Rank of per capita electricity use among world nations
1

Rank of fish consumption among world nations
1

Rank of per capita health-care spending among world nations
5

Rank of life expectancy among world nations

Rank of affluence among
the 183 U.N. member

Iceland uses almost all of its energy needs by tapping the heat of its 700 vul-
canes and the flow of the rivers on their slopes. Partly as a result, its people enjoy
one of the world's highest standards of living, while breathing some of the clean-
est air. Historically, the state of affairs is a change. Norway and Denmark accu-
pated Iceland for 400 years and kept it in
poverty. Only in the 19th century could it create a real fishing industry, which
became the mainstay of its economy. Independence occurred in 1944, fol-
lowed by a relatively stable coalition gov-
ernment. Recently a national pro-
cession has been protecting the fisheries.
Consumption of fish was at a two-deca-
der low in 1973, in which Britain received diplomatic rela-
tions. Although relations reached
the dispute, Iceland and its neighbors will
now have to face a large increase in fish-
ning. The same fisheries technology that
accounts for one-seventh of Iceland's gross national product is a mainstay of the
harvest, and the nation faces a sharp con-

THE COCKPIT of an Icelandic J-35, Bjarni (A) flies for take-
off in Olafsvik, Florida. Because he spends so much time either in
the cockpit or on the ground in other nations, the majority of the housework and
the chores are Margit's, who balances the chores with a thriving business
in the millinery. In winter, Margit, like many of her neighbors, seldom
carries outside without her furs (D, at a null store: 35 minutes from their
house) if a grazing number of boutiques that take her hats on consignment).

A magnificent exhibition takes place during a weekend expedition to the
family's farm in Hafnarfird. the family's town, which is 5 miles (8
km) from Reykjavik. Scampering in the snow at the water's edge, 7-
old Thordur goes for a dip (B). Afterward, Gestur, her 11-year-old
son, sat in one of his Super Mario Brothers video game (C).

push through the windows is the briny cluster of the boats and the fish
pooping plant about 150 feet away.
Mongolia

Reconstruction

The Regzen Family

6:00 P.M., SEPTEMBER 28, 1993
ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

BIG PICTURE BY LEONG KA TAI
AND PETER MENZEL

DAILY LIFE PHOTOGRAPHS
BY LEONG KA TAI

KEY TO BIG PICTURE
1. Regzen Batsuart, father, 37
2. Lhamsuren Dukhdirkhi, mother, 31
3. Batsuart Khurloo, daughter, 3
4. Batsuart Batsen, son, 5
5. Gyunsang, father’s sister, 33
6. Yenjirul, her daughter, 12
7. Mother’s sister with husband and son (sitting on bed, next to their ger)

OBJECTS IN PICTURE
(Clockwise from left)
- China cabinet with stickers of Chip ’n Dale Rescue Rangers cartoon characters
- Family portraits (2), ceramic horses (2), ceramic Buddha (laptop 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 woven coverlet, extra bedding (folded)
- Dining table
- Tomatoes, hard cheese, leapt, jar of preserves, figs (2), soft drinks 6 bottles, bowls of cookies, condiments, and candy (7)
- Electric hot plate, electric kettle (in cabinet)
- Fluorescent light fixture, incandescent bulb (hanging from peak of ger)
- 2nd china cabinet
- Trays (2), teapots (2), china stationary (in cabinet)
- Washbasin (white, on wood- en 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 (television)

(Outside ger)
- Sheep (tethered to right)
- Ger and bed of mother’s sister’s family
- Kestox, barrel, water containers
- Ovshuur felt of mother’s sister’s family

DAILY LIFE PHOTOGRAPHS
BY LEONG KA TAI
Vietnam

Communist Free Market

The Nguyen Family

2:30 P.M., NOVEMBER 10, 1993
VIET DOAN, VIETNAM
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEONG KAI TAI

KEY TO BIG PICTURE
1. Nguyen Duy Ha, father, 33
2. Nguyen Thi Cam, mother, 31
3. Nguyen Thi Huong, daughter, 9
4. Nguyen Duy Hung, son, 7
5. Nguyen Thi Hai, daughter, 3
6. Extended family (4 aunts, 4 uncles, grandparents, various children

OBJECTS IN PHOTO
Clockwise from bottom left:
Bicycles (2), 1 Vietnamese, 1 Czech
Pth helmer (on low wall)
Electric pump sprayer
Kettle (on wall by sprayer)
Beds (3)
Pigs (2), chicken, rooster
Haystack behind left bed
Bedding (on left bed)
Sippers (2), pan, below bed
Wheels for cart
Earthenware urn
Tall metal pot
Chair partly obscured by fan blade
House built by grandparents, land still owned by them
Desk with Huang and Hung’s books (along house)

- Hoes, rakes, other farm implements
- Attached kitchen (directly behind the Nguyen family)
- Bamboo bench (family sitting on it)
- Sideboard with china behind glass doors
- Thermos (on sideboard, Chinensman)
- Tea set (on sideboard)
- Electric fan (on sideboard, base wrapped in plastic)
- Ceiling fan (on sideboard, Chinensman)
- Basket of miscellaneous china (behind fan)
- Serving tray leaning against sideboard
- Basket of pots, pans, and bowls
- Stools (2, one behind tray)
Germany

Germany

STATS
- Area: 137,808 sq. mi. (357,021 sq. km)
- Population: 81.3 million
- Population density: 599.6 per sq. mi. (232.7 per sq. km)
- Total fertility rate: 1.5 children per woman
- Population doubling time: 156 years
- Percentage urban/rural: 67% urban, 33% rural
- Annual per capita consumption of beer: 152 liters (414 liters)
- Percentage of native freshwater fish that are extinct or threatened: 72%
- Percentage of trees lost to acid rain and pollution: 25.2%
- Number of people seeking asylum in Germany: 536,000 (1993)
- Life expectancy: Female: 79, Male: 73
- Infant mortality: 7 per 1,000 births
- Rank of affluence: 11

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 struggled for centuries became a powerful force — technologically, commercially, and militarily. Tensions led to the almost accidental flare-up of World War I. When Germany lost, the victorious Allies imposed a humiliating peace treaty that led to vast inflation and social turmoil. Capitalizing on popular anger, a demagogue, Adolf Hitler, managed to seize power, launch a war, and reverse the extermination of Germany's Jews. When Germany lost again, the victorious Allies divided it. Moscow controlled the smaller eastern part; the 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 "westerns" 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 middle of a great question. — John F. Kennedy, 1963

KEY TO BIG PICTURE
1. Bernd Pfitzner, father, 38
2. Brigitte Kloes-Pfitzner, mother, 36
3. Manuel Pfitzner, son, 7
4. Christian Pfitzner, son, 4

OBJECTS IN PHOTO
(Clockwise from center left)
- Bookshelf for picture books
- Video-cassette recorder (below bookshelf)
- Stereo and tape recorder (bookshelf)
- Television, turntable, speakers (behind bookshelf)
- Dining table with chairs and 4 place settings
- Tripod with video camera hooked up to TV, live image is of photographer from Material World
- Bookshelf with books
- Antique cupboard for china and glassware
- Painting (through window of Pfitzners' apartment)
- Armchair (with clothes for parents and children)
- Corner sofa
- Kitchen cupboard (for china, spices, utensils)
- Plateful of cakes (on entry to apartment)
- Ceramic statuaries (on shelf)
- Desk (for boys, with land clock, pencil jar, etc.)
- Toy shelves with toys
- Kitchen table and chair (behind desk)
- Plastic castle, little trucks, miniature dinosaurs (on table)
- Loft beds (2, for boys)
- Bookshelf (between beds)
- Station wagon behind bed
- Shoe/corner with pots
- Dishwasher (full of dishes)
- Microwave (on dishwasher)
- Refrigerator (with stickers)
- Cabinet
- Dresser
- 2nd toy castle (on dresser)
- Parents' bed
- Bicycles (4, one behind 3rd bookshelf)
- Father's motorcycle
- Basket filled with items for family's history
- Sheepskin and pillows
Japan

Paradoxical Affluence

The Ukita Family

10 P.M., DECEMBER 15, 1992
TOKYO, JAPAN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER MENZEL

BIG PICTURE

1. Father, 45
2. Daughter, 8
3. Son, 6

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Chairs, desks, etc.
- Toys
- Books
- Clothes
- Furniture
- Appliances

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

3. Toy box
4. Closet

3. TV
4. Radio

3. Car
4. Bicycle

3. Bike
4. Motorcycle

3. Deck
4. Balcony

3. Garden
4. Backyard

3. Living room
4. Kitchen

3. Bedroom
4. Bathroom

3. Den
4. Office

3. Dining room
4. Laundry room

3. Garage
4. Storage

3. Attic
4. Basement

3. Roof
4. Roof garden

3. Outdoor furniture
4. Barbecue

3. Grills
4. Fire pit

3. Parasols
4. Umbrellas

3. Fans
4. Air conditioners

3. Fire extinguisher
4. Smoke detector

3. Doghouse
4. Cat tree

3. Dog toys
4. Cat toys

3. Books
4. Magazines

3. Pots and pans
4. Utensils

3. China cabinet
4. China

3. Dining table
4. Table

3. Dresser
4. Dresser

3. Bed
4. Bed

3. Toilet
4. Toilet

3. Sink
4. Sink

3. Shower
4. Shower

3. Stove
4. Stove

3. Refrigerator
4. Refrigerator

3. Oven
4. Oven

3. Microwave
4. Microwave

3. Coffee maker
4. Coffee maker

3. Toaster
4. Toaster

3. Rice cooker
4. Rice cooker

3. Dishwasher
4. Dishwasher

3. Laundry machine
4. Laundry machine

3. Dryer
4. Dryer

3. Vacuum cleaner
4. Vacuum cleaner

3. Iron
4. Iron

3. Ironing board
4. Ironing board

3. Ironing table
4. Ironing table

3. Laundry hamper
4. Laundry hamper

3. Laundry basket
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4. Laundry bag
Kuwait

Oil Rich, Worker Poor

The Abdulla Family

5:30 P.M., DECEMBER 1991
KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT

BIG PICTURE BY PETER MENZEL
DAILY LIFE PHOTOGRAPHS
BY PETER ESSICK

KEY TO BIG PICTURE

1. Saf Abdulla, father, 52
2. Zainab Abdulla, mother, 44
3. Lukta Abdulla, daughter, 26
4. Ali Abdulla, son, 2
5. Aboi Abdulla, daughter, 15
6. Ali Abdulla, son, 7
7. Agnes Fernandez, servant, 25
8. Zawer Fernandez, servant, 30
9. Family home (with refrigerator in entry, satellite dish)

OBJECTS IN PHOTO
(Selected items clockedwise from left)

- 45-foot-long sofa (from base ment)
- Glass-topped coffee tables (3, with magazines)
- Carpets (4, beneath sofa, chest)
- Gas barbecue grill
- Low table (with fishing poles, various sporting equipment)
- Kitchen table (with microwave oven, toaster oven, high chair, & chairs)
- Bedroom set
- Rocker and chair
- Refrigerator
- Homedine furniture
  (includes telephone, fax machine, computer, printer, 2 king-size beds, 2 lamps)
- Oil paintings, stained-glass windows, iron wall of musical instrument
- Desk (3)
- Amour clocks (2)
- Ironing board, iron, end table, radio, chairs (2), twin bed, canopied bed of pumping station, used by security
- Sofa, chairs (6), coffee table, jumbo gel tricycle (on roof, rear tarp)
- Lecturers, carpets (2), cushions, coffee pot collection (in family room)
- Living room sets (3, two with color television)
- Bedroom sets (3, one with vanity, one with cab, one with long basketball trophy ribbons and patch)
- Antique Chinese urns (2)
- Dining room table with chairs (6)
- Night lamp, collection of antique coffee pots (on table)
- Silver tea set (on tea cart)
- End table with statue
United States
The Cavin family of American Canyon, Calif.,
Update for 2015?
Toilets of the World
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

1. Eating habits are formed at an early age 1-6. Generally you eat what your parents eat.

2. World food expenditures are radically unequal as a % of household expenditures.

3. As a society’s wealth grows, its citizen’s waist lines do too, thanks to diets higher in protein, sugar, and fat.

4. GLOBAL OBESITY EPIDEMIC \( \rightarrow \) is DIRECTLY connected to our food AND our lack of movement

5. Additional findings:
   1. South Pacific Nations (Samoa, Tonga, Micronesia) along with Kuwait have higher obesity and diabetes rates than any Western country.
   2. Cross-border Habits and Food industries: Mexico is typical. It has all the bad eating habits of the United States, “without access to the good ones.”
Global Hunger Index - Severity

FIGURE 2.4 2014 GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX BY SEVERITY

Not for the 2014 GHI, data are on the proportion of undernourished and for 2006-2010, data are on child underweight are for the latest year in the period 2006-2010 for which data are available, and data are on child mortality prior to 2005. GHI scores are not calculated for countries for which data were not available for at least two countries with large populations.

The 2014 GHI score could not be calculated for Yemen, Sudan or the Democratic People’s Republic of Kazakhstan. The 2014 GHI score could not be calculated for 2011-2013 for South Sudan, which became independent in 2011, and Guinea-Bissau.
Food spending as a percentage of household expenditures.
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 of 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>
<td>90.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>90.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>81.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>80.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Palau</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>74.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>74.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>73.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>71.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>69.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>69.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>69.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>68.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>68.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>68.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>68.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>68.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>67.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
World Obesity

Prevalence of obesity in adults (BMI ≥30) in the population of the country

Source: WHO (2011), data for the year 2008
Women: Overweight/Obesity 2010→2025

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. © WHO 2014. All rights reserved.
County-level Estimates of Obesity among Adults aged ≥ 20 years:
United States 2009

Age-adjusted percent
- 0 - 19.4
- 19.5 - 23.8
- 23.9 - 27.0
- 27.1 - 30.7
- ≥ 30.8

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
Mali

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

As asked about their favourite foods, the family says that they don't think in terms of favorites. All of their meals center on a millet porridge called tô, which is eaten with various soups and sauces.

EXPENDITURE: $30
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
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
The Dudo Family: Ensada, 32, Ibrahim, 8, Emina, 3, Amila, 6, and Rasim, 36

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.

EXPENDITURE: $90
HAVABA, 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
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
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/wk
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
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
India

UJJAIN, INDIA -- THE PATKAR FAMILY: Neha, 19, Akshay, 15, Jayant, 48, and Sangeeta, 42

Like most devout Hindus, the Patkars are vegetarians. 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
Mongolia

- **MONGOLIA**: The Batsuuri family of Ulaanbaatar
- **FAMILY RECIPE**: Mutton dumplings
- **FOOD EXPENDITURE FOR ONE WEEK**: 41,985.85 togrogs or $40.02
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
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
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
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
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 the World Eats

United States

China

Mali

England
**UNITED STATES**: The Caven family of California

**FOOD EXPENDITURE FOR ONE WEEK**: $159.18

**FAVORITE FOODS**: beef stew, berry yogurt sundae, clam chowder, ice cream
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
What I Eat Daily?

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.