

MOST STORIES ABOUT  
THE DESTRUCTION OF  
THE PLANET INVOLVE A  
VILLAIN WITH AN EVIL PLOT.

BUT THIS IS THE  
STORY OF HOW  
THE EARTH COULD  
BE DESTROYED

BY WELL-MEANING PEOPLE WHO FAIL TO  
SOLVE A PROBLEM SIMPLY BECAUSE THEIR  
CALCULATIONS ARE WRONG.

MOST OF THE FISH WE  
COMMONLY EAT, MOST  
OF THE FISH WE KNOW,  
COULD BE GONE IN THE  
NEXT FIFTY YEARS.

THIS INCLUDES SALMON, TUNA, COD, SWORDFISH, and anchovies.

If this happens, many other fish that depend on these fish will also be in trouble. So will seabirds that eat fish, such as seagulls and cormorants. So will mammals that eat fish, such as whales, porpoises, and seals. And insects that depend on seabirds, such as beetles and lizards. And mammals that depend on beetles and lizards. Slowly—or maybe not so slowly—in less time than the several billion years it took to create it—life on planet Earth could completely unravel.

People who are in school today are lucky to have been born at a special moment in history. The Industrial Revolution, beginning in the mid-eighteenth century and continuing for the next 120 years shifted production from handcrafts

to machine-made factory goods and in so doing completely changed the relationship of people to nature, the relationship of people to each other, politics, art, and architecture—the look and thought of the world. In the next fifty years, much of your working life, there will be as much change in less than half the time. The future of the world, perhaps even

**THE SURVIVAL OF THE PLANET, WILL DEPEND ON HOW WELL THESE CHANGES ARE HANDLED. AND SO YOU HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES AND MORE RESPONSIBILITIES THAN ANY OTHER GENERATION IN HISTORY.**



CHARLES DARWIN  
(February 12, 1809–  
April 19 1882)

Darwin was born, coincidentally, on the same day as Abraham Lincoln, another great thinker of his age.

ONE OF THE GREAT THINKERS of the Industrial Revolution was an Englishman named Charles Darwin. In 1859, he had published one of the most important books ever written: *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*, more commonly known by its shortened title: *On the Origin of Species*.

In his book, Darwin explained the order