PART THREE

Case Studies of Scarcity and Mass Death
Introduction

The tragic violence we have witnessed recently in Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti, and Rwanda have some common roots. Resource scarcity is a necessary precondition that apparently activates group conflict and transforms it into the virulent ethnonationalist violence we are seeing with greater frequency. It may be a precursor of genocidal incidents and tendencies that will only be more pronounced as resource-scarcity problems and population pressures continue to intensify in the coming decades. If current trends continue apace, including a combination of environmental damage, loss of agricultural lands, dwindling fuel resources, and a doubling of population to between 8.5 billion and 9.5 billion by 2025, this will lead to conditions of extreme hardship, even disaster, in many parts of the world. These areas, as Roger Smith, David Smith, and Waltraud Morales point out, are the very places where much of genocide since 1945 has taken place. To forestall what may be likely, if not inevitable, we need major paradigm shifts in values, psychology, politics, and economic organization. The authors in this final section begin to address the threat of proliferating genocides and offer some possible solutions.