

Population Geography

Geog 496

www.Ethiojps.org

Aynalem Adugna

Pronunciation help: first name

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Text:

Population Geography:

Problems, Concepts, and Prospects:

By

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Robert P. Larkin

8th Ed. 2005

Population Geography defined

(text P. XiX –XX)

Demography vs. population
geography (text P. XiX –XX)

Trends in Population Geography

(text P. XXii– XXiii)

The growing population literature

(text P. XXV - XXVI)

World Population Growth

US Population Growth

Although geographers have long been interested in population as part of their general enquiries into regional studies with a focus on spatial distribution, population geography as a discipline has a **short history.**

**Glenn Trewartha (1953), a
noted climatologist is credit
to have proposed the idea
of a separate field with a
major focus on
POPULATION**

“In 1953, Glenn Trewartha of the University of Wisconsin delivered the Presidential address at the Association of American Geographers (AAG) annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. The title of his address was “A Case for Population Geography,” and in it he argued that the study of population, long neglected by the discipline, deserved a more prominent position in geography’s agenda”

“After an Embryonic decade or so, two books on population geography appeared in 1966 one by an American geographer Wilbur Zelinsky [*A Prologue to Population Geography*] and the other by French geographer Jacqueline Beaujeu Garneier [*Geography of Population*]”

Text p. xx

**To know what population
geography is, let's first
define the terms**

“population” and

“geography”

POPULATION: Definition

“All of the people inhabiting a specified area.

The total number of such people.”

“The total number of inhabitants constituting a particular race, class, or group in a specified area.”

Ecology. “All the organisms that constitute a specific group or occur in a specified habitat.”

Statistics. “The set of individuals, items, or data from which a statistical sample is taken.

Also called *universe*.”

Various Definitions of Geography:

- * A social science that focuses on the spatial distribution of human and physical phenomena;
- * The study of the physical world, its inhabitants, the interaction between the two, and the patterns and systems involved; the world and all that is in it;
- * The study of pattern and processes associated with the earth;
- * The study of relationships between humans and their environment by emphasizing a spatial and environmental perspective at a variety of scales;
- * A spatial discipline---it is a perspective that seeks to understand patterns on Earth and the processes that created them;
- * The study of humans interacting with their environment including the physical environment, the built environment and socially constructed spaces; and a spatial perspective of all human and physical phenomena.

Source: <http://www2.una.edu/geography/statedepted/definitions.html>

Geography is often described in two parts which make up a whole. That is, geography is dichotomized into:

**Regional Geography, and
Topical, or Systematic, Geography.**

Regional geography focuses on areas of Earth space that have some degree of homogeneity. Regions may be basically physical, human or some combination of both and may vary in size from continents to small ecosystems.

Topical geography considers systematic studies of climate, landforms, economics, [population]and culture among others. Geographers may specialize and call themselves, for example, urban geographers, climatologists, political geographers, biogeographers, and historical geographers. One thing in common to all of them is their focus on the spatial perspective in their studies. They see their subject matter in terms of locational characteristics and seek answers to certain patterns of place or the interactions between places

Source: <http://www2.una.edu/geography/statedepted/definitions.html>

GEOGRAPHY - Five Themes

- **Location**

- Relative Location
- Absolute Location

- **Place**

- Human Characteristics
- Physical Characteristics

- **Human-Environmental Interactions**

- Humans adapt to the environment
- Humans modify the environment
- Humans depend on the environment

- **Movement**

- People
- Goods
- Ideas

- **Regions**

- Formal
- Functional
- Vernacular (perceptual)

LOCATION

"Where are we?" is the question that the theme *Location* answers. Location may be absolute or it may be relative. These locations, whether relative or absolute, may be of people or places.

An absolute location is a latitude and longitude (a global location) or a street address (local location).

Florence, AL is 34°46' North latitude and 87.40' West longitude
Paris, France is 48°51' North latitude and 2.20' East longitude
Marshall Islands are 10°00' North latitude and 165°00' East longitude

Relative locations are described by landmarks, time, direction or distance from one place to another and may associate a particular place with another.

PLACE

What kind of place is it? What do you think of when you imagine China? Japan? Russia? Saudi Arabia?

Places have both human and physical characteristics, as well as images.

Physical characteristics include mountains, rivers, soil, beaches, wildlife, soil. Places have human characteristics also. These characteristics are derived from the ideas and actions of people that result in changes to the environment, such as buildings, roads, clothing, and food habits.

The image people have of a place is based on their experiences, both intellectual and emotional. People's descriptions of a place reveal their values, attitudes, and perceptions.

HUMAN/ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTION

How do humans and the environment affect each other? We change the environment and then sometime Mother Nature changes it back. For example, floods in the mid-West, Hurricane Emily (Hatteras), and earthquakes and mudslides in California.

People depend on the Tennessee River for our water and transportation. People modify our environment by heating and coolings buildings for comfort. People adapt to the environment by wearing clothing that is suitable for summer and winter; rain and shine.

All places on Earth have advantages and disadvantages for human settlement. One person's advantage may be another person's disadvantage. Some like the excitement of large cities whereas others prefer remoteness. Environment is not just trees, spotted owls, and rain forests. Environment is a feeling. What is the environment of a big city? Boston? Los Angeles? Dallas?

MOVEMENT

The movement of people, the import and export of goods, and mass communication have all played major roles in shaping our world. People everywhere interact. They travel from place to place and they communicate. We live in a global village and global economy.

People interact with each other through movement. Humans occupy places unevenly on Earth because of the environment but also because we are social beings. We interact with each other through travel, trade, information flows (E-Mail) and political events.

Not only do humans move but also ideas move; fashions move; fads move. What is an example of an idea that moves? Fashion? Fad? How do we depend on people in other places? How would our lives change if our movement options changed? What would happen if we traveled by camel or horse? How do we move from place to place? How do we actually get food?

REGION

A region is the basic unit of study in geography. A region is an area that displays a coherent unity in terms of the government, language, or possibly the landform or situation. Regions are human constructs that can be mapped and analyzed.

There are three basic types of regions.

Formal regions are those defined by governmental or administrative boundaries (i. e., United States, Birmingham, Brazil). These regional boundaries are not open to dispute, therefore physical regions fall under this category (i. e., The Rockies, the Great Lakes States).

Functional regions are those defined by a function (i. e., TVA, United Airlines Service area or a newspaper service area). If the function ceases to exist, the region no longer exists.

Vernacular regions are those loosely defined by people's perception (i. e., The South, The Middle East).

What region do we live in? What type of region is it? What are its characteristics? South, North Alabama, the Shoals, the University community? What states do you define as the South? The Northeast? The Bible Belt? What characteristics and perceptions go along with these regions?

POPULATION GEOGRAPHY AND DEMOGRAPHY

“Population geography can be defined accurately as the science that deals with the ways in which the geographic character of places is formed by, and in turn reacts upon, a set of population phenomena that vary within through both space and time as they follow their own behavioral laws, interacting one with another and with numerous nondemographic phenomena” **Zelinsky 1966**

Other authors who offered definitions for population geography

 **Preston James**

 **Beaujeu-Gardner**

 **John I. Clarke**

 **Demko, Rose
and Schnell**

Demography is the statistical and mathematical study of a population, its composition, pattern of distribution and vital elements, as well as the nature and determinants of changes in these elements over time.

The Growing Population Literature

Also **Visit the “Web links” page.**

JOURNALS:

DEMOGRAPHY

POPULATION STUDIES

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW

AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

POPULATION BULLETIN

POPULATION RESEARCH AND POLICY REVIEW

FAMILY PLANNING PERSPECTIVES

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF POPULATION

GEOGRAPHY

POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT

POPULATION, SPACE, AND PLACE

Major US Institutions engaged in the collection and dissemination of population data nationally and globally

THE US BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU (PRB)

WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE

STATE STATISTICAL OFFICES

COUNTY STATISTICAL OFFICES

CITY POPULATION DATA BANKS

Some population-related articles in “general purpose” journals such as:

THE GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

ANNALS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

THE PROFESSIONAL GEOGRAPHER

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

THE CANADIAN GEOGRAPHER

TRANSACTIONS OF THE INSTITUTE OF

BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS

GLOBALLY

THE UNITED NATIONS

UNICEF

UNFPA

UNESCO

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD

FEDERATION (IPPF)

ETC.....

WORLD POPULATION GROWTH

1st Billion in 1810

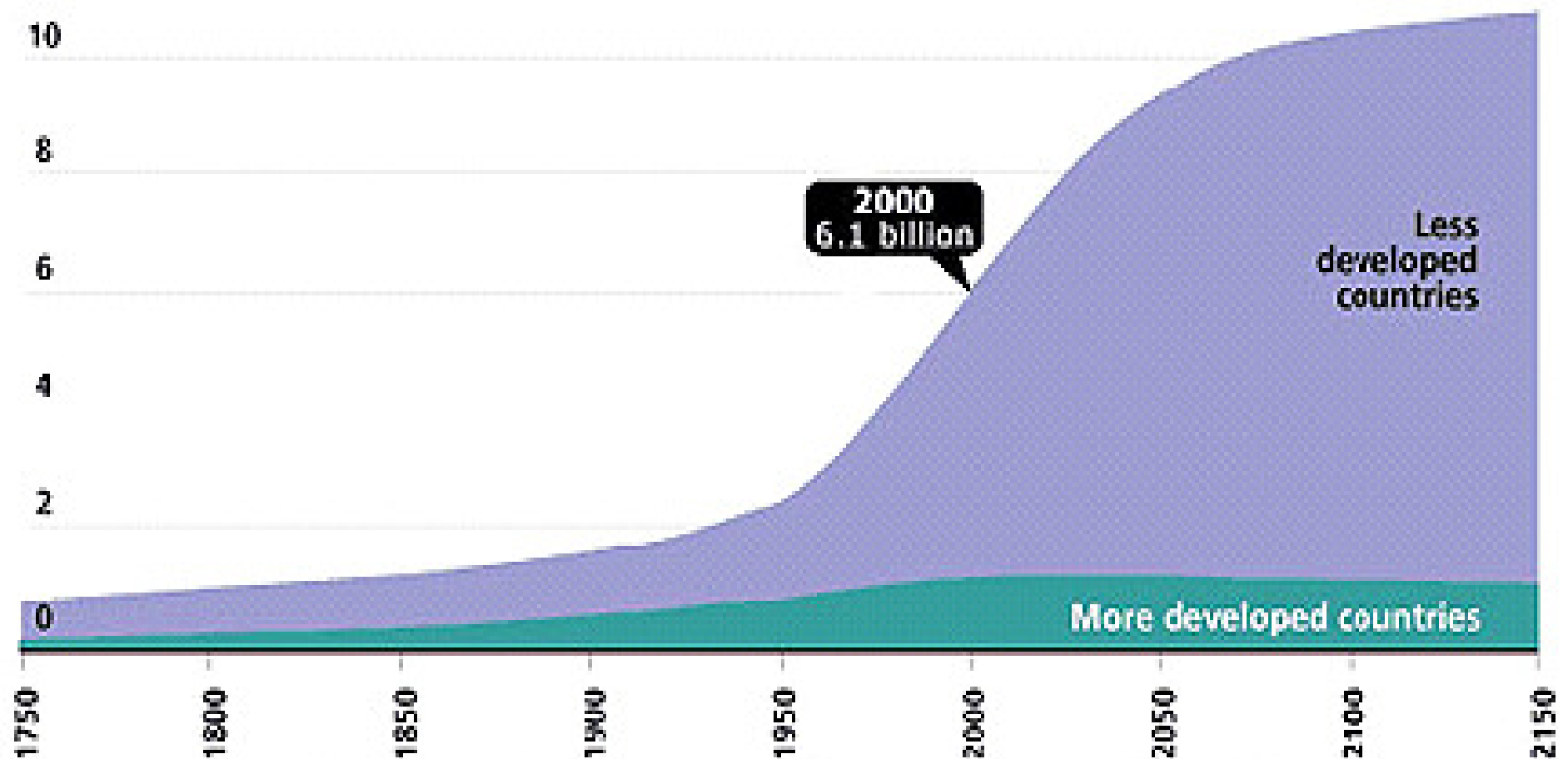
6.6 Billion in 2008

1.6 Billion in 1900

6.1 billion in 2000

World Population Growth, 1750–2150

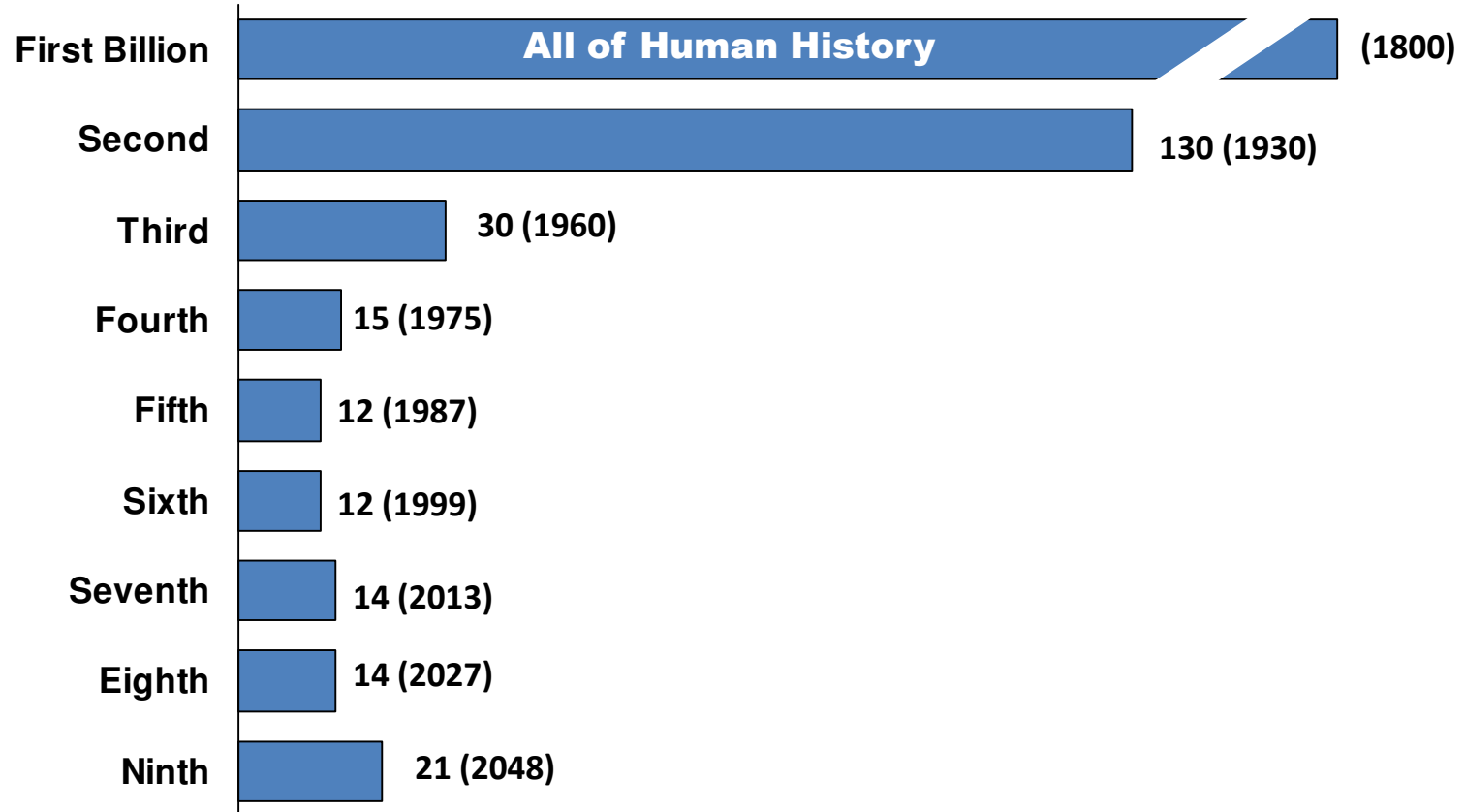
Population (in billions)



Source: United Nations, *World Population Prospects, The 1998 Revision*; and estimates by the Population Reference Bureau.

World Population Growth, in Billions

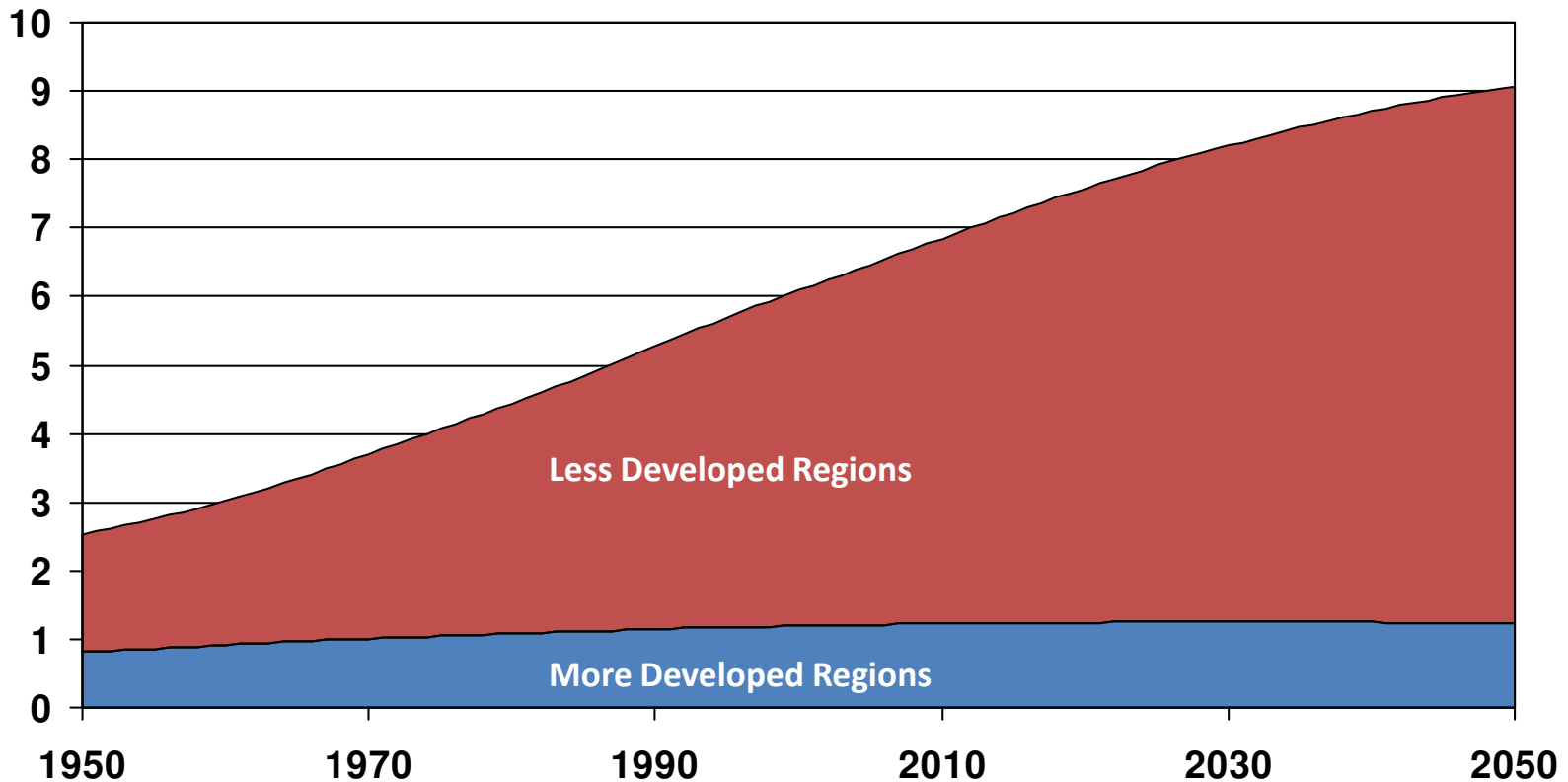
Number of years to add each billion (year)



Sources: First and second billion: Population Reference Bureau. Third through ninth billion: United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision* (medium scenario), 2005.

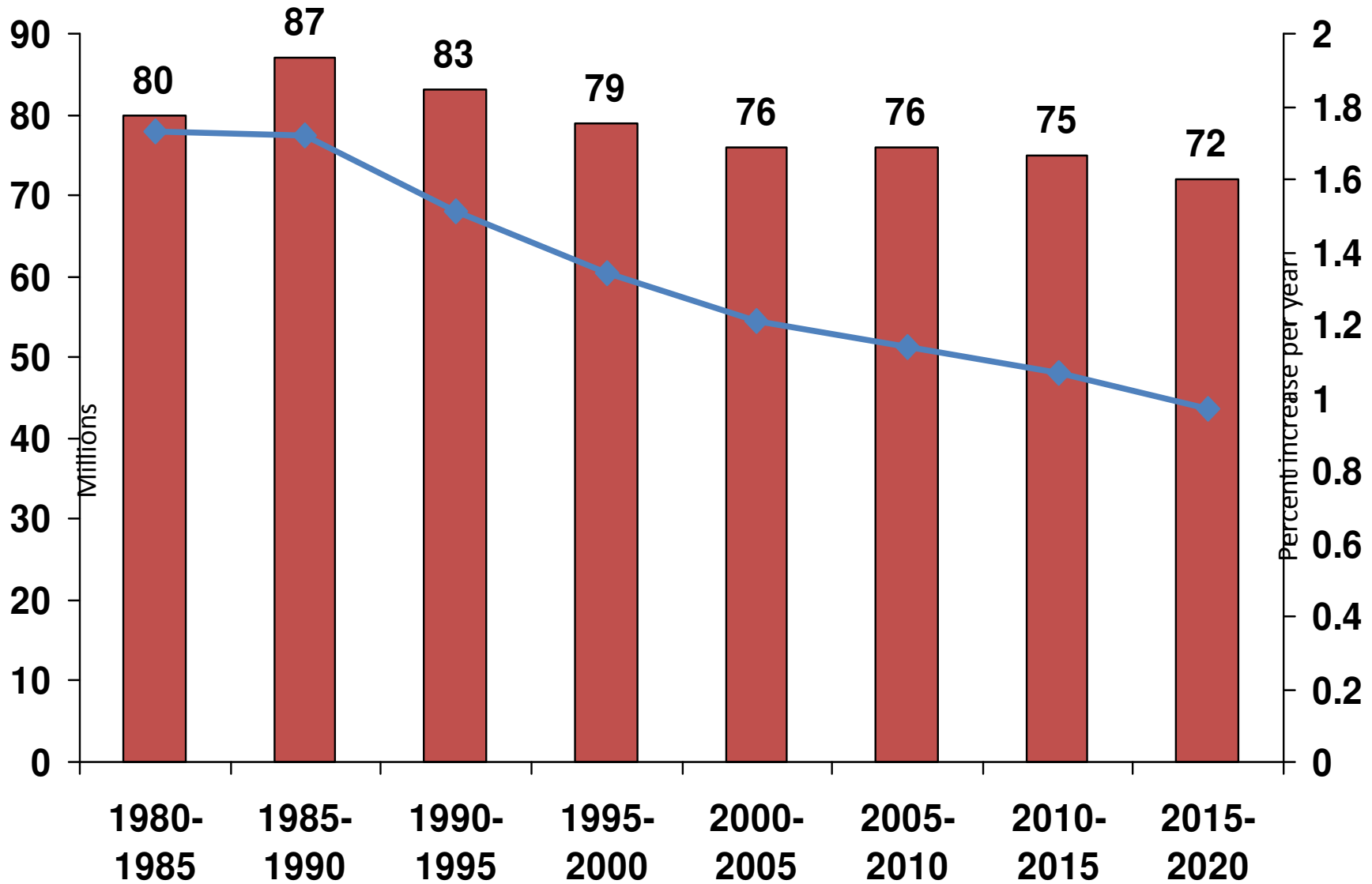
Growth in More, Less Developed Countries

Billions

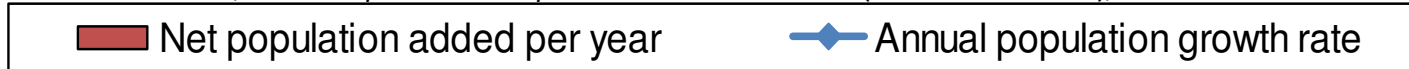


Source: United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision* (medium scenario), 2005.

Trends in Population Growth Worldwide



Source: United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision (medium scenario)*, 2005.

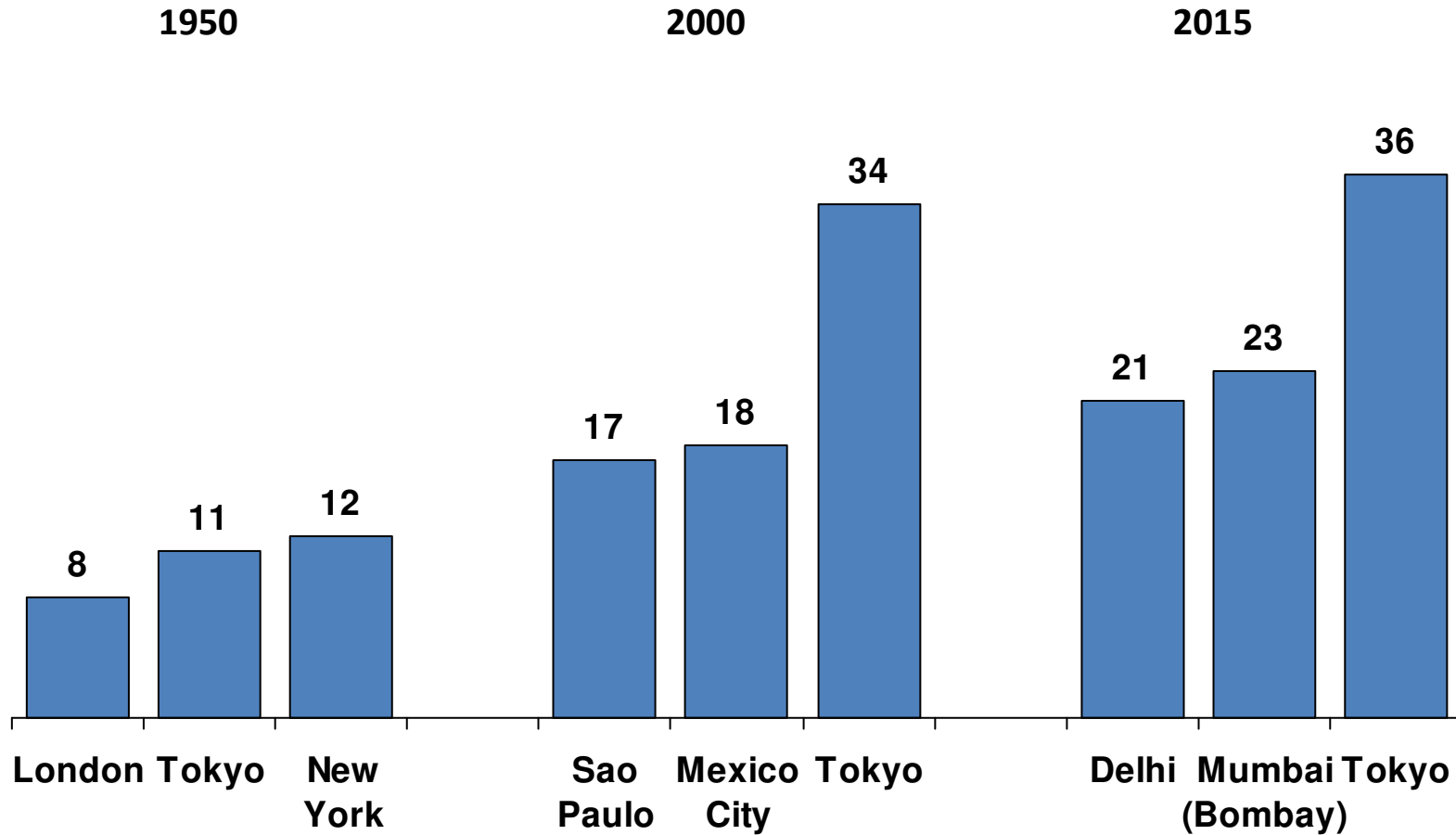


Notes on Trends in Population Growth Worldwide

- This figure illustrates the lag between changes in the rate of growth and the net increase in population per year.
- Over the period 1985-1995, the population growth rate declined (a reflection of declining fertility), yet millions of people were added to the world's population (which peaked around 1985, when 87 million people were added each year).
- From 2000 on, the growth rate will continue to decline. Between 2015 and 2020, we will still be adding 72 million people each year. Why? Because the generation of women now having their children is very large as the result of high fertility in their mothers' and grandmothers' generations.

Largest Cities, Worldwide

Millions



Source: United Nations, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2003 Revision* (medium scenario), 2004.

US Population Main Current Issues:

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

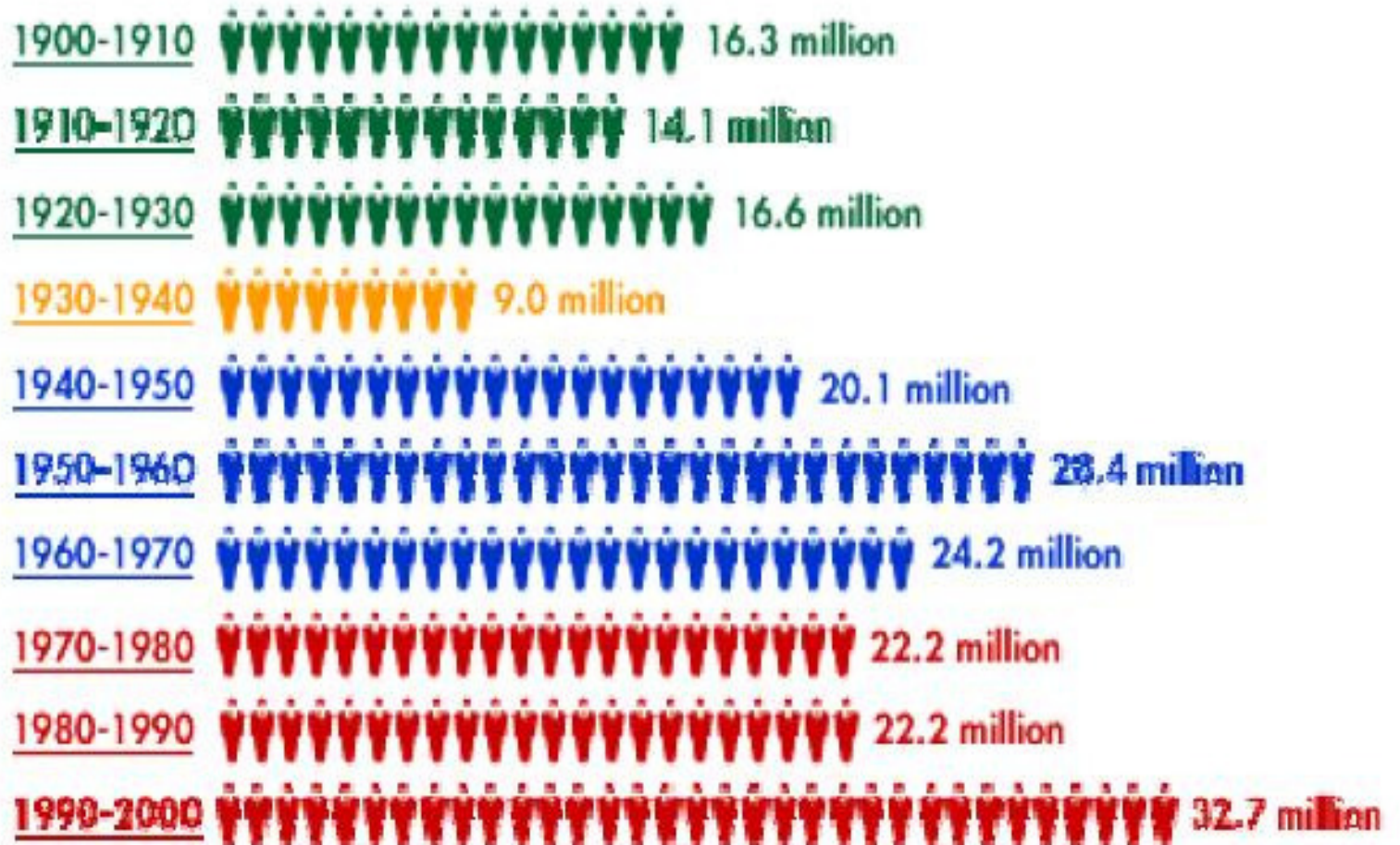
POPULATION AGING

**IMPENDING RETIREMENT OF BABY
BOOMERS**

**POPULATION GROWING AT A HEALTH
PACE**

USA Population Growth in the 20th Century

Comparisons of 20th Century U.S. Population Growth by Decade



The 1990s saw the biggest U.S. population boom in U.S. history.

Discussion:

Today's

Population Issues

Review of today's lesson:

- 1) What have you learned today?**
- 2) What are your comments on this very first lesson on the subject of population from a geographical perspective?**
- 3) Are there other population-related issues you wish to raise before today's lesson is over?**

END of LESSON 1