




**Population Geography defined**



**Demography vs. population  
geography**



**Trends in Population Geography**



**The growing population literature**



**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)

# 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

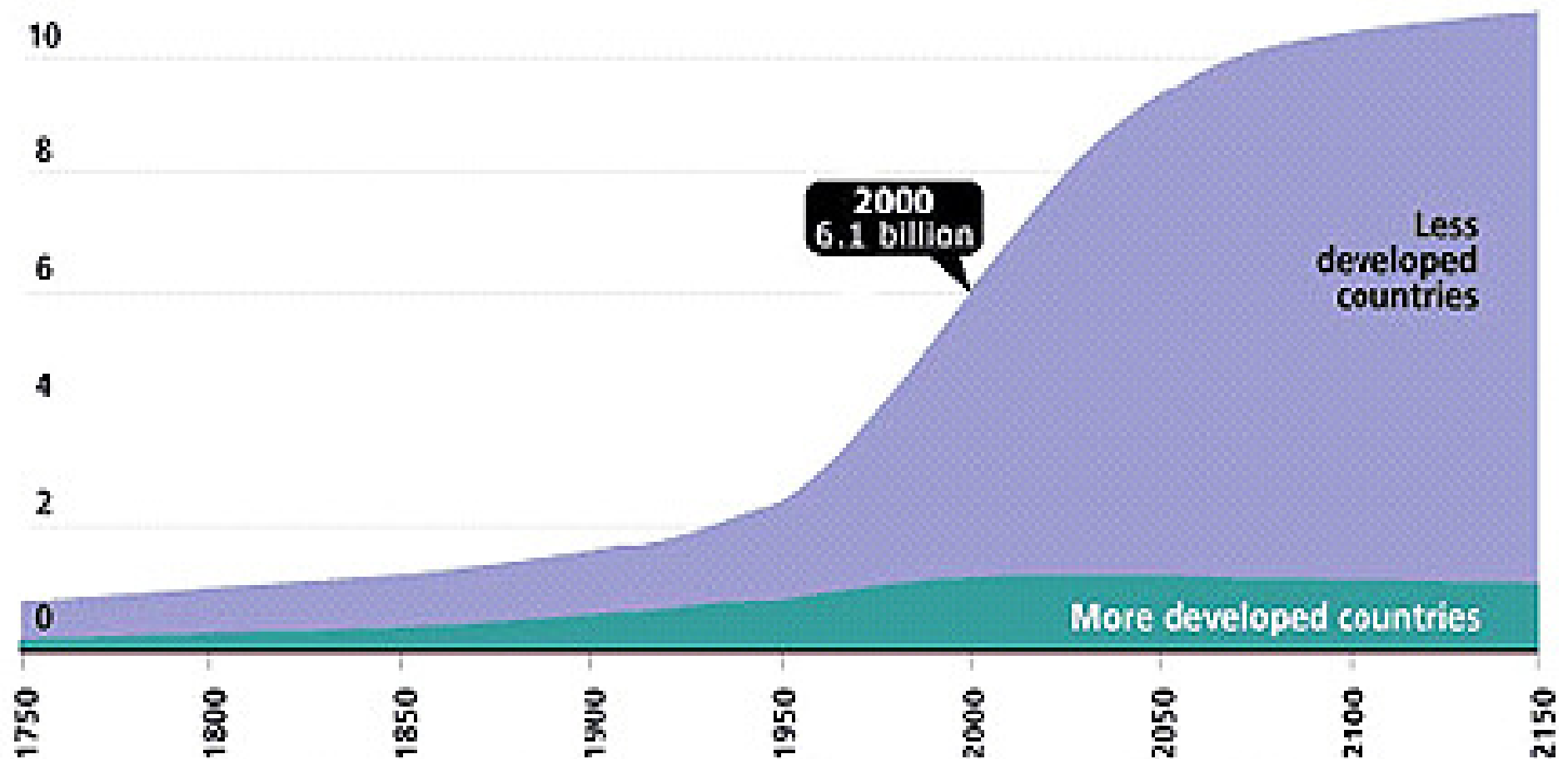
**Demography** is the statistical and mathematical study of a population, its composition, pattern of distribution and vital elements, as well as the nature and determinants of changes in these elements over time.

# The Growing Population Literature

Visit the “Web links” page.

## World Population Growth, 1750–2150

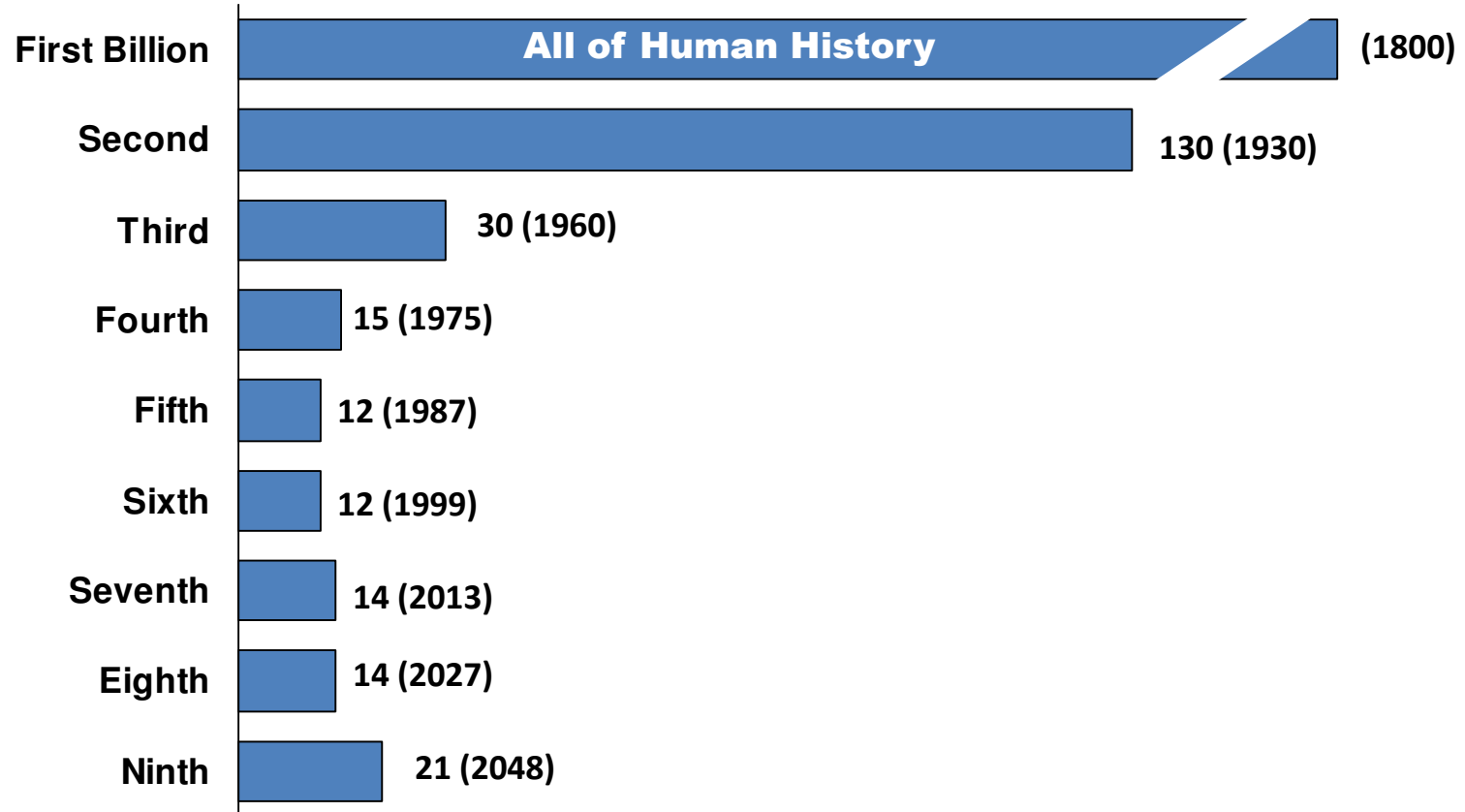
Population (in billions)



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

# World Population Growth, in Billions

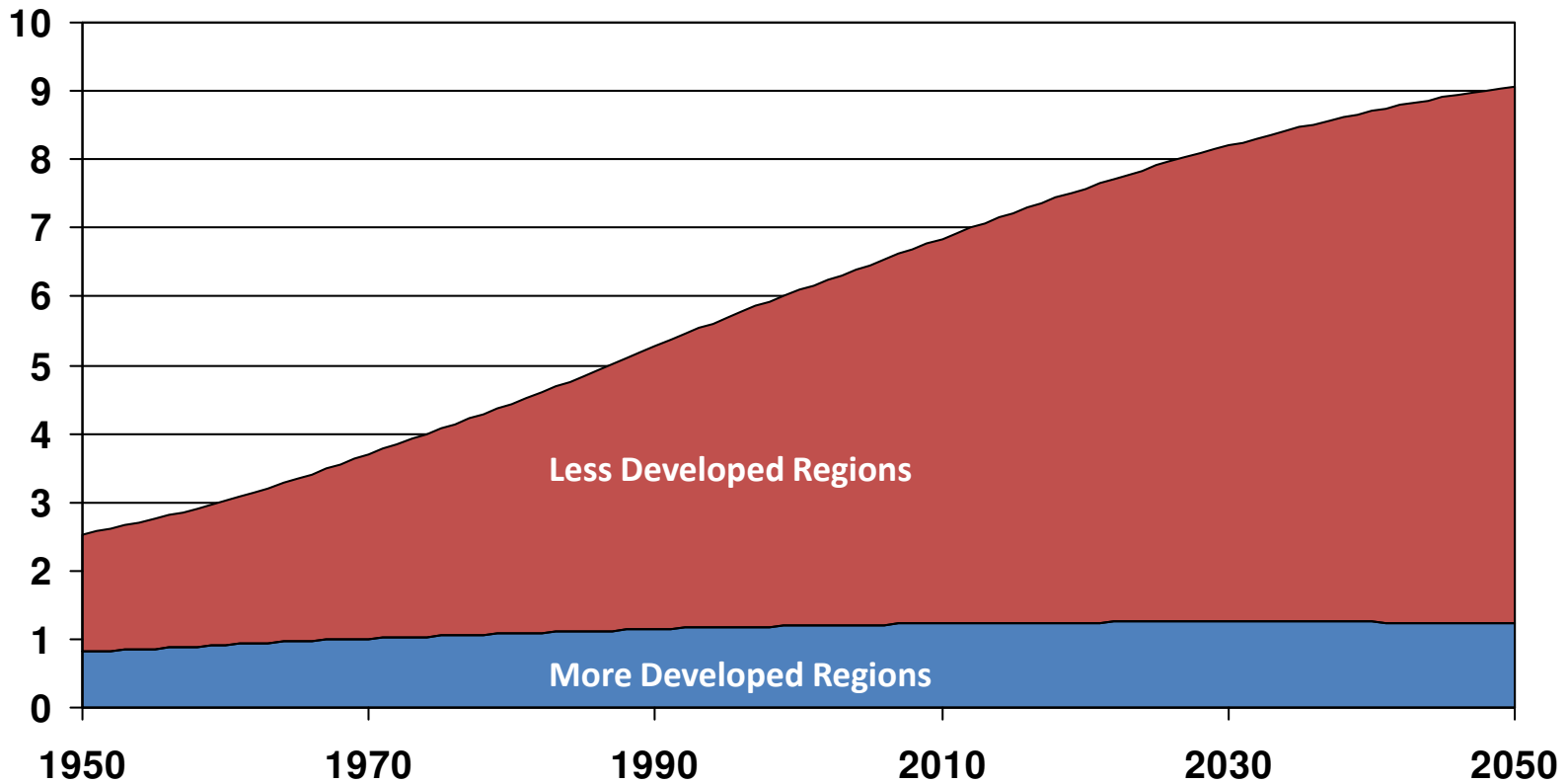
Number of years to add each billion (year)



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

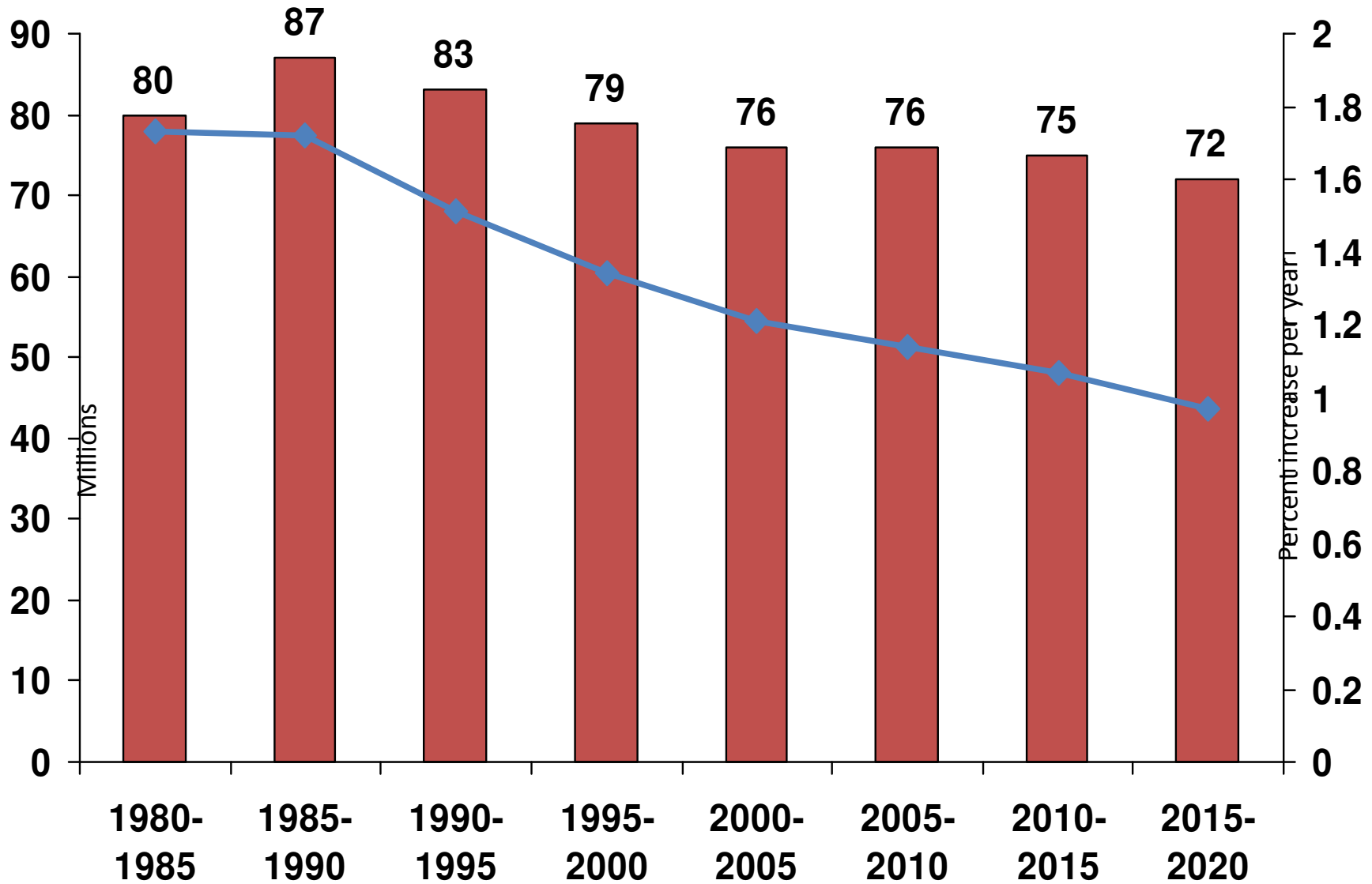
Billions



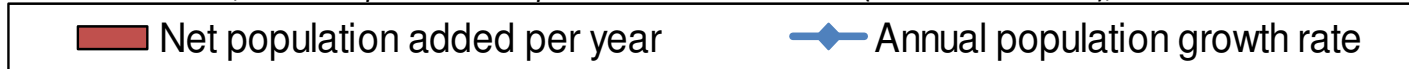
Source: United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision* (medium scenario), 2005.



# Trends in Population Growth Worldwide

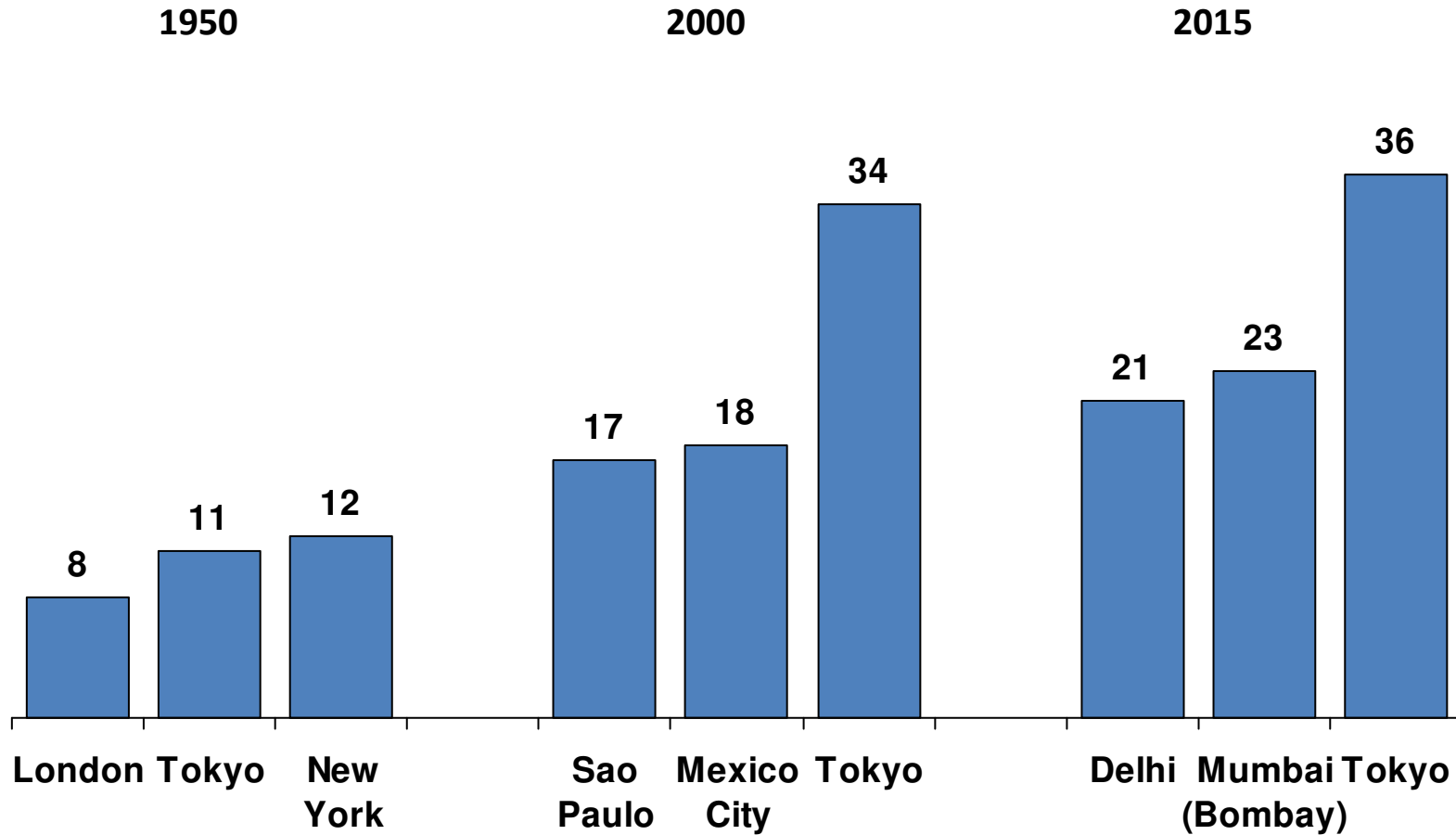


Source: United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision (medium scenario)*, 2005.



# Largest Cities, Worldwide

Millions

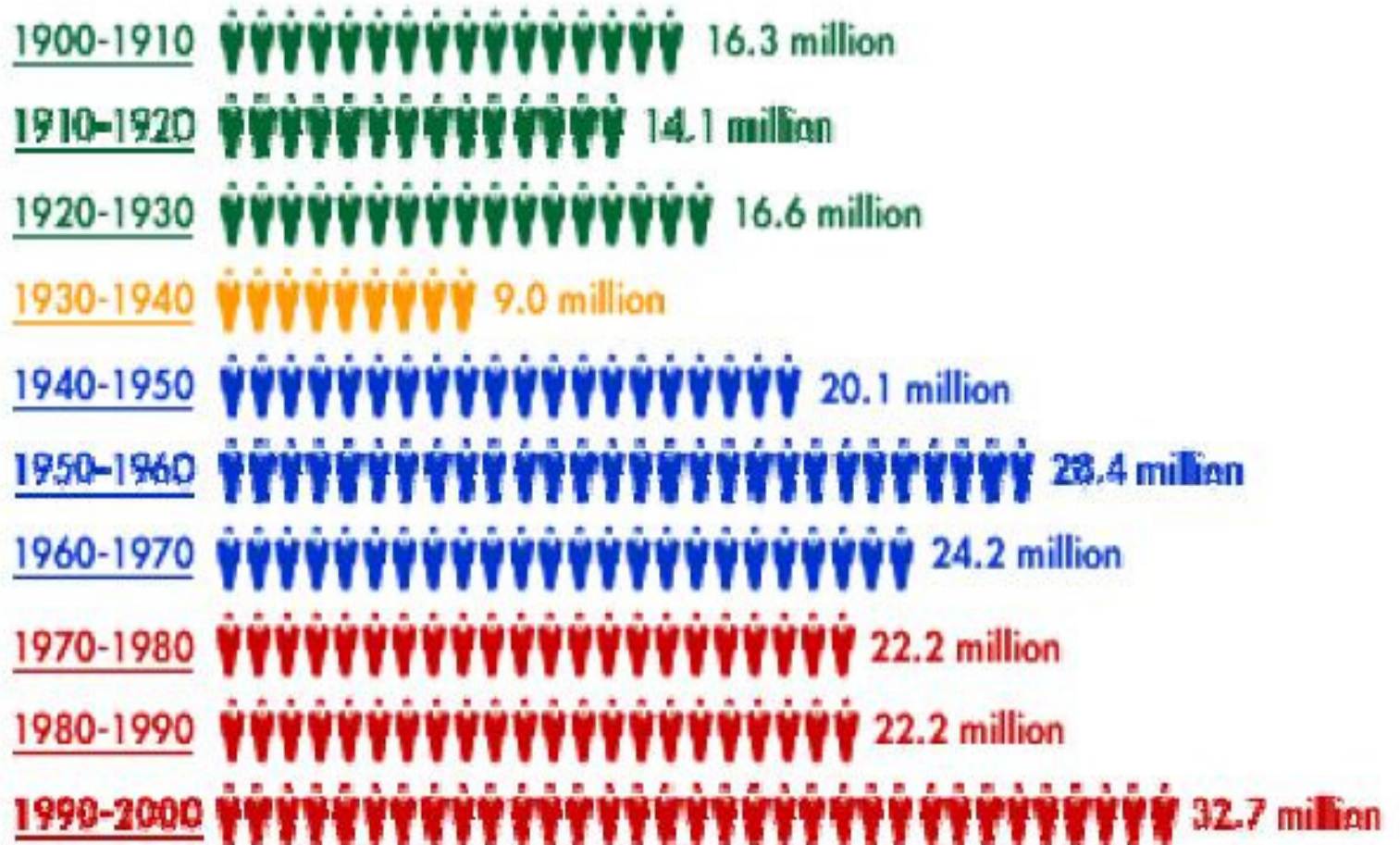


Source: United Nations, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2003 Revision* (medium scenario), 2004.

## 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.

## 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**