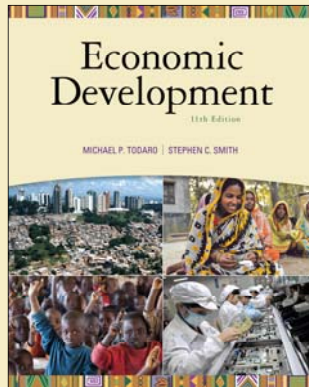


## Chapter 6

### Population Growth and Economic Development: Causes, Consequences, and Controversies



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### 6.1 The Basic Issue: Population Growth and Quality of Life

- Six major issues:
  - Will developing countries be able to improve levels of living given anticipated population growth?
  - How will developing countries deal with the vast increases in their labor forces?
  - How will higher population growth rates affect poverty?

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### 6.1 The Basic Issue: Population Growth and Quality of Life

- Six major issues (cont'd):
  - Will developing countries be able to extend the coverage and improve the quality of health care and education in the face of rapid population growth?
  - Is there a relationship between poverty and family size?
  - How does affluence in the developed world affect the ability of developing countries to provide for their people?

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## 6.2 Population Growth: Past, Present, and Future

- World population growth through history

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**Table 6.1** Estimated World Population Growth

Year	Estimated Population (millions)	Estimated Annual Increase in the Intervening Period (%)	Doubling time (years)
10,000 B.C.E.	5		
1 c.e.	250	0.04	1,733
1650	545	0.04	1,733
1750	728	0.29	239
1800	906	0.45	154
1850	1,171	0.53	130
1900	1,608	0.65	106
1950	2,576	0.91	76
1970	3,698	2.09	33
1980	4,448	1.76	39
1990	5,292	1.73	40
2000	6,090	1.48	47
2010	6,892	1.22	57
2050 (projected)	9,200	0.675	103

Source: Population Reference Bureau, *World Population Data Sheet* (Washington, D.C.: Population Reference Bureau, 2010 and previous annuals); Warren S. Thompson and David F. Lewis, *Population Problems*, 9th ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1965), p. 304; United Nations, *Demographic Yearbook for 1973* (New York: United Nations, 1973); United Nations, *Report on the World Social Situation, 1987* (New York: United Nations, 1987), p. 14, and authors' calculations. An alternate system of broadly comparable and earlier estimates is found in Michael Romer, "Population Growth and Technological Change: One Million B.C. to 1980," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 100 (1989): 463-75.

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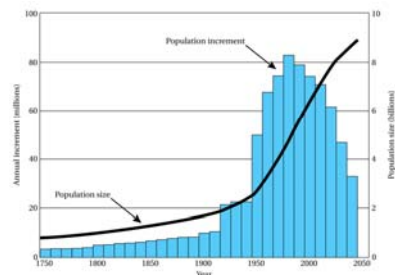
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**Figure 6.1** World Population Growth, 1750-2050



Source: United Nations Population Division, *The World at Six Billion*, p. 7. Copyright © 2000 by the United Nations. Used with permission.

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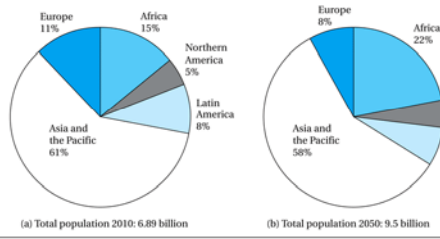
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**Figure 6.2** World Population Distribution by Region, 2010 and 2050



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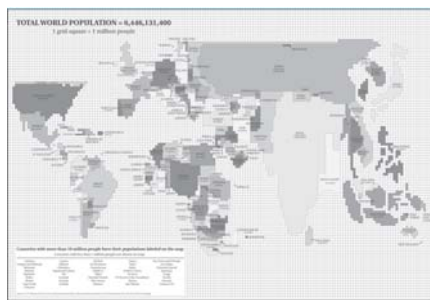
## 6.2 Population Growth: Past, Present, and Future

- Structure of the world's population
  - Geographic region
  - Fertility and Mortality Trends
  - Rate of population increase
  - Birth rates, death rates, Total fertility rates
  - Age Structure and dependency burdens

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**Figure 6.3** The Population Map: World Map with Country Sizes Proportional to Population, 2005



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**Table 6.3** Fertility Rate for Selected Countries, 1970 and 2009

Country	Total Fertility Rate <sup>a</sup>	
	1970	2009
Bangladesh	7.0	2.3
Colombia	5.3	2.5
Indonesia	5.5	2.4
Jamaica	5.3	2.4
Mexico	4.9	2.3
Thailand	5.5	1.8
Zimbabwe	7.7	3.9

Sources: World Bank, *World Development Report*, 1994 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994), tab. 2b; Population Reference Bureau, *World Population Data Sheet* (Washington, D.C.: Population Reference Bureau, 2009).

<sup>a</sup>Average number of children born to women who live beyond age 49.

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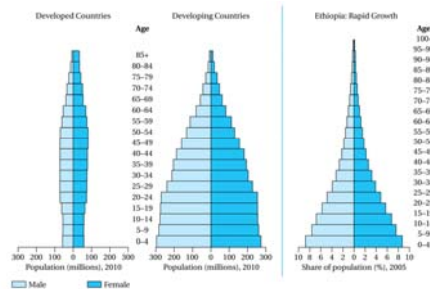
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## 6.2 Population Growth: Past, Present, and Future

- The Hidden Momentum of Population Growth
  - High birth rates cannot be altered overnight
  - Age structure of developing country populations

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**Figure 6.4** Population Pyramids: All Developed and Developing Countries and Case of Ethiopia

Sources: Graphs detailing Developed Countries from *World Population Data Sheet* of the Population Reference Bureau, Inc. by Population Reference Bureau. Copyright 2010 by Population Reference Bureau, Inc. Reproduced with permission of Population Reference Bureau, Inc. via Copyright Clearance Center. Graph detailing Ethiopia from *Population Bulletin* #2 (2007), p. 6. Reproduced with permission from Population Reference Bureau, Inc.

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### 6.3 The Demographic Transition

- Stage I: High birthrates and death rates
- Stage II: Continued high birthrates, declining death rates
- Stage III: Falling birthrates and death rates, eventually stabilizing

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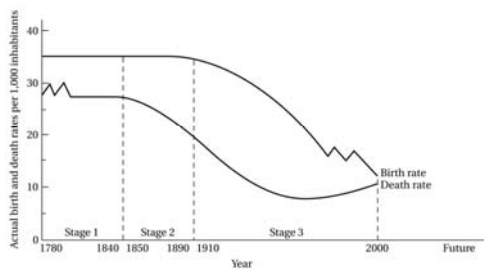
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**Figure 6.5** The Demographic Transition in Western Europe



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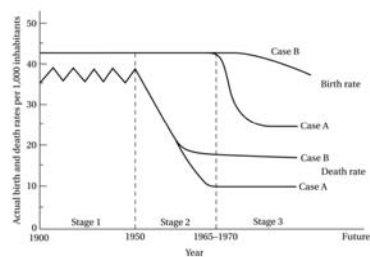
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**Figure 6.6** The Demographic Transition in Developing Countries



Source: Adapted from National Academy of Sciences, *The Growth of World Population* (Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Sciences, 1963), p. 15.

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#### 6.4 The Causes of High Fertility in Developing Countries: The Malthusian and Household Models

- The Malthusian Population Trap
  - The idea that rising population and diminishing returns to fixed factors result in a low levels of living (population trap)

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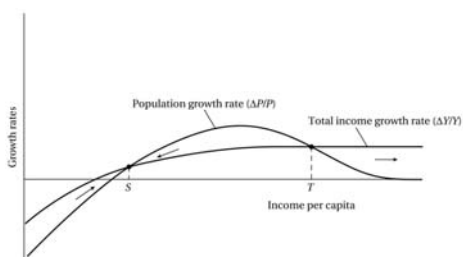
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**Figure 6.7** The Malthusian Population Trap



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#### 6.4 The Causes of High Fertility in Developing Countries: The Malthusian and Household Models (cont'd)

- Criticisms of the Malthusian Model
  - Impact of technological progress
  - Currently no positive correlation between population growth and levels of per capita income in the data
  - Microeconomics of family size; individual and not aggregate variables

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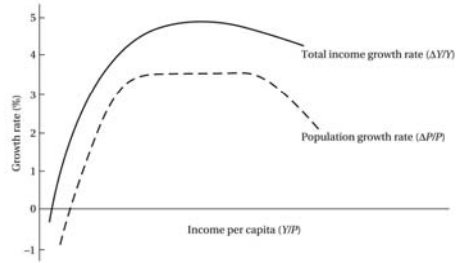
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**Figure 6.8** How Technological and Social Progress Allows Nations to Avoid the Population Trap



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#### 6.4 The Causes of High Fertility in Developing Countries: The Malthusian and Household Models (cont'd)

- The Microeconomic Household Theory of Fertility
- The Demand for Children in Developing Countries
  - First two or three as “consumer goods”
  - Additional children as “investment goods”:
  - Work on family farm, microenterprise
  - Old age security motivation

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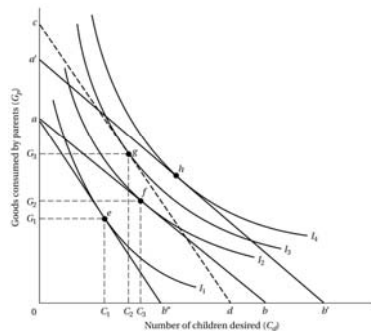
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**Figure 6.9** Microeconomic Theory of Fertility: An Illustration



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#### 6.4 The Causes of High Fertility in Developing Countries: The Malthusian and Household Models (cont'd)

##### Demand for Children Equation

$$C_d = f(Y, P_c, P_x, t_x), x = 1, \dots, n$$

Where

$C_d$  is the demand for surviving children

$Y$  is the level of household income

$P_c$  is the "net" price of children

$P_x$  is price of all other goods

$t_x$  is the tastes for goods relative to children

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#### 6.4 The Causes of High Fertility in Developing Countries: The Malthusian and Household Models (cont'd)

##### Demand for Children Equation

$$C_d = f(Y, P_c, P_x, t_x), x = 1, \dots, n$$

Under neoclassical conditions, we would expect:

$$\frac{\partial C_d}{\partial Y} > 0 \quad \frac{\partial C_d}{\partial P_x} > 0$$

$$\frac{\partial C_d}{\partial P_c} < 0 \quad \frac{\partial C_d}{\partial t_x} < 0$$

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#### 6.4 The Causes of High Fertility in Developing Countries: The Malthusian and Household Models (cont'd)

- Some empirical evidence
- Implications. Fertility lower if
  - Raise women's education, role, and status
  - More female nonagricultural wage employment
  - Rise in family income levels
  - Reduction in infant mortality
  - Development of old-age and social security
  - Expanded schooling opportunities

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### 6.5 The Consequences of High Fertility: Some Conflicting Perspectives

- Population growth: "It's Not a Real Problem":
  - The real problem is not population growth but the following,
    - Underdevelopment
    - World resource depletion and environmental destruction
    - Population Distribution
    - Subordination of women
- Overpopulation is a Deliberately Contrived False Issue
- Population Growth is a Desirable Phenomenon

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### 6.5 The Consequences of High Fertility: Some Conflicting Perspectives

- "Population Growth *Is* a Real Problem"
  - Extremist arguments
  - Theoretical arguments
  - Empirical arguments
    - Lower economic growth
    - Poverty
    - Adverse impact on education
    - Adverse impact on health
    - Food issues
    - Impact on the environment
    - Frictions over international migration

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### Goals and Objectives: Toward a Consensus

- Despite the conflicting opinions, there is some common ground on the following:
  - Population is not the primary cause of lower living levels, but may be one factor
  - Population growth is more a consequence than a cause of underdevelopment
  - It's not numbers but quality of life
  - Market failures: potential negative social externalities
  - Voluntary decreases in fertility is generally desirable for most developing countries with still-expanding populations

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### Goals and Objectives: Toward a Consensus

- Some Policy Approaches
  - Attend to underlying socioeconomic conditions that impact development
  - Family planning programs should provide education and technological means to regulate fertility
  - Developed countries have responsibilities too

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### 6.6 Some Policy Approaches

- What Developing Countries Can Do
  - Persuasion through education
  - Family planning programs
  - Address incentives and disincentives for having children through the principal variables influencing the demand for children
  - Coercion is not a good option
  - Raise the socioeconomic status of women
  - Increase employment opportunities for women (increases opportunity cost of having more children, as in microeconomic household theory)

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### 6.6 Some Policy Approaches

- What the Developed Countries Can Do Generally
  - Address resources use inequities
  - More open migration policies
- How Developed Countries Can Help Developing Countries with Their Population Programs
  - Research into technology of fertility control
  - Financial assistance for family planning programs

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## Concepts for Review

- Birth rate
- Death rate
- Demographic transition
- Doubling time
- Family-planning programs
- Fertility rate
- Hidden momentum of population growth
- Life expectancy at birth
- Malthusian population trap
- Microeconomic theory of fertility
- Mortality rate
- Natural increase
- Net international migration
- Population-poverty cycle
- Population pyramid
- Rate of population increase

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## Concepts for Review (cont'd)

- Reproductive choice
- Total fertility rate (TFR)
- Under-5 mortality rate
- Youth dependency ratio

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