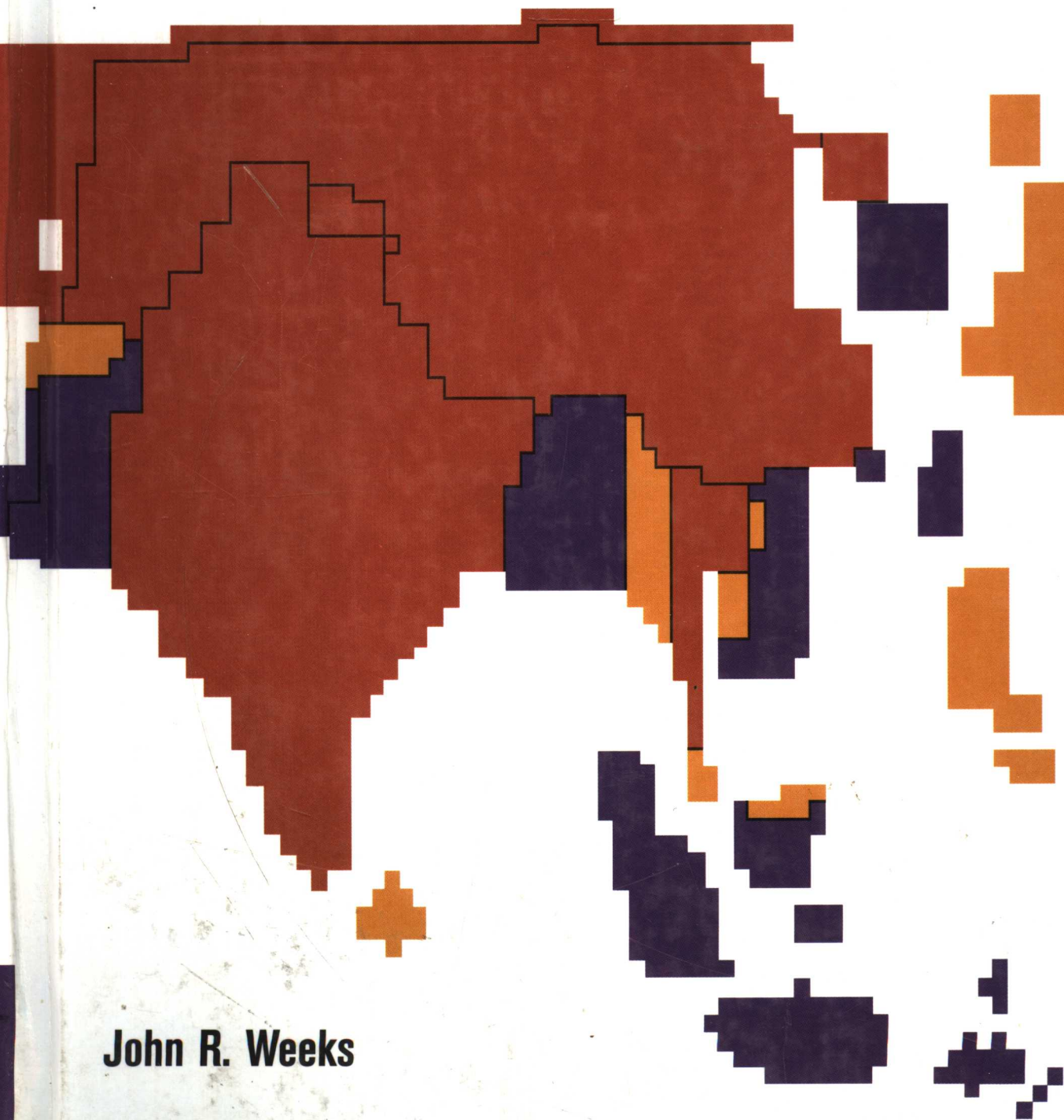


POPULATION

An Introduction to Concepts and Issues **Eighth Edition**



John R. Weeks

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Eighth Edition

John R. Weeks
San Diego State University

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PREFACE

Growth and transition. These are the key demographic trends as we move through the twenty-first century, and they both will have a huge impact on your life. When I think about population growth in the world, I conjure up an image of a bus hurtling down the highway toward what appears to be a cliff. The bus is semi-automatic and has no driver who is really in charge of its progress. Some of the passengers on the bus are ignorant of what seems to lie ahead and are more worried about whether or not the air conditioning is turned up high enough or wondering how many snacks they have left for the journey. Other more alert passengers are looking down the road, but some of them think that what seems like a cliff is really just an optical illusion and is nothing to worry about; some think it may just be a dip, not really a cliff. Those who think it is a cliff are trying to figure out how to apply the brakes, knowing that a big bus takes a long time to slow down even after the brakes are put on. Are we headed toward a disastrous scenario? We don't really know for sure, but we simply can't afford the luxury of hoping for the best. The population bus is causing damage and creating vortexes of change as it charges down the highway, whether or not we are on the cliff route; and the better we understand its speed and direction, the better we will be at steering it and managing it successfully. No matter how many stories you have heard about the rate of population growth coming down or about the end of the population explosion, the world *will* continue to add billions more to the current 6 billion before it ever stops growing. There are huge implications for the future in that growth in numbers.

The transition that I mentioned is closely related to the population growth, but leads to its own set of complications. The world's population is growing because death rates have declined over the past several decades at a much faster pace than have birth rates, and as we go from the historical pattern of high birth and death rates to the increasingly common pattern of low birth and death rates, we pass through the demographic transition. This is actually a whole set of transitions relating to changes in mortality, fertility, migration, age structure, urbanization, and family and household structure. Each of these separate, but interrelated, changes has serious consequences for changes in the way societies and economies work, and for that reason they have big implications for you personally.

The growth in numbers (the bus hurtling toward what we hope is *not* a cliff) and the transitions created in the process (the vortex created by the passing bus) have to be dealt with simultaneously. Our success as a human civilization depends upon how we do in this project. There is a lot at stake here and my goal in this book

is to provide you with as much insight as possible into the ways in which these demographic trends of growth and transition affect your life in small and large ways.

Over the years I have found that most people are either blissfully unaware of the enormous impact that population growth and change have on their lives, or else they have heard so many horror stories about impending doom that they are nearly overwhelmed whenever they think of population growth. My purpose in this book is to shake you out of your lethargy (if you are one of those types), without necessarily scaring you in the process. I will introduce you to the basic concepts of population studies and help you develop your own demographic perspective, enabling you to understand some of the most important issues confronting the world. My intention is to sharpen your perception of population growth and change, to increase your awareness of what is happening and why, and to help prepare you to cope with (and help shape) a future that will be shared with billions more people than there are today.

I wrote this book with a wide audience in mind because I find that students in my classes come from a wide range of academic disciplines and bring with them an incredible variety of viewpoints and backgrounds. No matter who you are, demographic events are influencing your life, and the more you know about them, the better off you will be.

What Is New in this Eighth Edition

This edition represents a significant revision from the seventh edition. Users of previous editions will immediately notice that the book is back down to 14 chapters, which I know from my own experience, as well as from comments of users of previous editions, is a more manageable size. In the process of revision, major sections of every chapter have been rewritten in order to more clearly tell the story of population growth and change. And, of course, I have scoured the literature and data to incorporate the latest trends and thinking in the field of population studies.

Chapter-by-Chapter Changes

Chapter 1, “Introduction to the World’s Population,” introduces the field of population by providing an overview of global population trends, giving students an introduction to what is going on in the world and thus why they should care. The chapter has been updated with new data, including information on Census 2000 in the United States, the 2000 Census in Mexico and, where available, the 2001 Census in Canada, not to mention the recent censuses in China and India, new surveys, and other sources of information. The chapter includes an essay on why students should want to study demography.

Chapter 2, “Demographic Data,” has been slightly renamed, but is still the chapter dealing with demographic sources—where did all of that information in the first chapter come from? This chapter includes a discussion of Census 2000 in the United States, the 2000 Census in Mexico and the 2001 Census in Canada. The essay on adjusting the 2000 census in the United States has been updated to reflect post-censal activity in that regard.

Chapter 3, "Demographic Perspectives," has been updated, and includes a new summary table to serve as a guide for students to the various perspectives discussed in the chapter, as well as discussions of new contributions in the literature, especially the increasing emphasis on the several transitions that we now recognize as comprising the demographic transition.

Chapter 4, "Mortality," has been restructured to include more discussion about its impact at the older ages, all numbers and the literature have been updated, and the chapter includes a new essay examining the way in which declining mortality negatively impacts the natural environment.

Chapter 5, "Fertility Concepts and Measurements," is substantially the same, although of course everything has been updated, including the essay on the impact of contraception on fertility.

Chapter 6, "Fertility Transition," has been renamed to reflect its restructuring more clearly around the theme of the global transition in fertility patterns, which is reflected in the new essay on reproductive rights, reproductive health, and the fertility transition.

Chapter 7, "Migration," has been slightly reorganized, thoroughly updated, and includes a new essay asking the question "Is migration a crime?" which looks at "illegal" migration in a global context.

Chapter 8, "Age and Sex," has been slightly renamed, yet completely rewritten, emphasizing how we measure and understand the consequences of the age transitions taking place all over the world. The chapter looks at the pivotal role that age structures and transitions play in global social change. The essay on the baby boom, oil boom, and social change in Saudi Arabia picks up on that theme.

Chapter 9, "Aging and the Life Course," continues the discussion of the age transition with a focus on the older ages. It has been rewritten and updated, including new information in the essay about the demographic impact on the social security system in the United States.

Chapter 10, "Family Demography and Life Chances," has been restructured and rewritten to more effectively discuss the concepts of the family and household transitions occurring in societies in the midst of changing life chances for individuals.

Chapter 11, "The Urban Transition," has been revised and updated with new data and perspectives on how the urban transition fits into the overall demographic transition, along with a new essay on urban sprawl.

Chapter 12, "Population and the Environment," combines the two chapters from the previous editions that covered population growth and development and food and the environment. The new single chapter provides more efficient and integrated coverage of this topic, retaining the popular essay "How big is your ecological footprint?"

Chapter 13, "Population Policy," has been updated to reflect policy changes taking place in the twenty-first century, especially the emphasis on reproductive health that was reinforced at the Cairo +5 meeting in The Hague. The essay on "What is the population policy in the United States?" brings in new survey data about American attitudes that should serve as a good starting point for class discussion.

Chapter 14, "Demographics," has been completely reorganized and updated, including a new section on corporate demography and a new essay on the demographics of grand juries illustrating how demographic analysis helped to change the way courts in Los Angeles do business.

The Appendix has been updated with all new numbers, and of course the Glossary has been revised in concert with changes in each chapter. At the end of each chapter the Suggested Readings have been revised as appropriate, and the Internet websites have been updated as well.

Organization of the Book

The book is organized into four parts, each building on the previous one.

Part One “A Demographic Perspective” (Chapters 1 to 3) begins with an introduction to world population trends, so that you have a good idea of what population studies are all about. The second chapter reviews the sources of the data that we use to understand demographic trends, and the third chapter in this section introduces you to the major perspectives or ways of thinking about population growth and change.

Part Two “Population Processes” (Chapters 4 to 7) discusses the three basic demographic processes of mortality (Chapter 4), fertility (Chapters 5 and 6), and migration (Chapter 7). Knowledge of the three population processes provides you with the foundation you need to understand why changes occur and what might be done about them.

Part Three “Population Structure and Characteristics” (Chapters 8 to 11) is devoted to studying the interaction of the population processes and societal change according to demographic characteristics such as age and sex (Chapter 8); aging and the life course more specifically (Chapter 9); family and household structure, as well as sociodemographic characteristics including marital status, race, ethnicity, education, labor force participation, occupation, and religion (Chapter 10); and the urban transition—the shift of the world’s population out of rural and into urban places (Chapter 11).

Part Four “Using the Demographic Perspective” (Chapters 12 to 14) is the final section. Chapter 12 explores the relationship between population and the environment—can economic growth and development be sustained in the face of continued population growth? In Chapter 13 I discuss various ways to use your new-found demographic perspective to try to alter the course of demographic events in order to achieve the kinds of social and economic goals that you might have in mind for yourself and the world. Finally, in Chapter 14, I review the useful and potentially profitable applications of demographic information to business decision-making, social policy implementation, and political planning.

Special Features of the Book

To help increase your understanding of the basic concepts and issues of population studies, the book contains the following special features.

Short Essays Each chapter contains a short essay on a particular population concept, designed to help you better understand current demographic issues, such

as the one in Chapter 8 on “Oil boom, baby boom, and social change in Saudi Arabia,” or the one in Chapter 11 on “NIMBY and BNANA—the politics of urban sprawl in America.”

Main Points A list of main points appears at the end of each chapter, following the summary, to aid in your review of chapter highlights.

Suggested Readings At the end of each chapter I have listed five of the most important and more readable references for additional review of the topics covered in that chapter.

Websites of Interest The Internet has become a useful supplement to published reading material, and there is a great deal of information available on the World Wide Web that is of relevance to population studies. At the end of each chapter I list and annotate five websites that I have found to be particularly interesting and helpful to students. These suggested Internet resources are tied to classroom and homework exercises that I have prepared and are available to readers at the book’s companion website, reached through the Wadsworth sociology home page: <http://www.sociology.wadsworth.com>.

Glossary A glossary in the back of the book defines key population terms. These terms are in boldface type when introduced in the text to signal their appearance in the glossary.

Complete Bibliography This is a fully referenced book and all of the publications and data sources that I have utilized are included in the bibliography at the end of the text.

Thorough Indexes To help you find what you need in the book, we have built three different indexes for you—a subject index, a geographic index, and a name index.

Personal Acknowledgments

Like most authors, I have an intellectual lineage that I feel is worth tracing. In particular I would like to acknowledge the late Kingsley Davis, whose standards as a teacher and scholar will always keep me reaching, Eduardo Arriaga, the late Judith Blake, Thomas Burch, Carlo Cipolla, Murray Gendell, Nathan Keyfitz, and Samuel Preston. Individually and collectively, they have helped me unravel the mysteries of how the world operates demographically. Thanks are due also to Steve Rutter, formerly of Wadsworth Publishing Company, whose idea this book was in the beginning. Eve Howard and Lin Marshall at Wadsworth have provided key insights for the updating of this eighth edition, and I am grateful once again for the terrific production work of Marcia Craig at Graphic World Publishing Services.

Special thanks go to John, Gregory, Jennifer, Suzanne, and Amy for teaching me the costs and benefits of children. They have instructed me, respectively, in the advantages of being first-born, in the coziness of the middle child, in the joys that immigration can bring to a family, and in the wonderful gifts (including Andrew and Sophie) that daughters-in-law can bring to a family.

However, the one person who is directly responsible for the fact that the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, the updated fifth, sixth, seventh, and now the eighth edi-

tion were written, and who deserves credit for the book's strengths, is my wife Deanna. Her creativity, good judgment, and hard work in editing the manuscript benefited virtually every page, and I have dedicated the book to her.

Other Acknowledgments

I would also like to thank the users of the earlier editions, including professors and their students and my own students, for their comments and suggestions. In particular, for the eighth edition, I appreciate the important input and advice from Dennis Conway, Indiana University, Bloomington; Theodore Fuller, Virginia Tech; Kavita Pandit, University of Georgia; Gillian Stevens, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Etienne van de Walle, University of Pennsylvania; Lynn White, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; and Esther I. Wilder, University of Oklahoma.

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BRIEF TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART ONE	A DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE	1
CHAPTER 1	Introduction to the World's Population	3
CHAPTER 2	Demographic Data	41
CHAPTER 3	Demographic Perspectives	78
PART TWO	POPULATION PROCESSES	115
CHAPTER 4	Mortality	117
CHAPTER 5	Fertility Concepts and Measurements	166
CHAPTER 6	The Fertility Transition	203
CHAPTER 7	Migration	246
PART THREE	POPULATION STRUCTURE AND CHARACTERISTICS	291
CHAPTER 8	Age and Sex	293
CHAPTER 9	Population Aging and the Life Course	336
CHAPTER 10	Family Demography and Life Chances	371
CHAPTER 11	The Urban Transition	423
PART FOUR	USING THE DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE	461
CHAPTER 12	Population and the Environment	463
CHAPTER 13	Population Policy	513
CHAPTER 14	Demographics	558
APPENDIX	The Life Table, Net Reproduction Rate, and Mean Length of Generation	587
GLOSSARY		597
BIBLIOGRAPHY		611
INDEXES		651

DETAILED TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART ONE

A DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE 1

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD'S POPULATION 3

DEMOGRAPHY: THE SCIENCE OF POPULATION 4

ESSAY: *Why Study Demography?* 6

WORLD POPULATION GROWTH 7

A Brief History 7

How Fast Is the World's Population Growing Now? 10

The Power of Doubling—How Fast Can Populations Grow? 12

Why Was Early Growth So Slow? 13

Why Are Recent Increases So Rapid? 14

Are We Headed for a Population “Implosion”? 15

How Many Humans Have Ever Lived? 16

Redistribution of the World's Population Through Migration 17

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION 19

DIFFERENCES IN GROWTH RATES 21

GLOBAL VARIATION IN POPULATION SIZE AND GROWTH 25

North America 26

Mexico and Central America 28

South America 29

Europe 30

North Africa and Western Asia 31

Sub-Saharan Africa 32

East Asia 33

South and Southeast Asia 35

Oceania 36

GLOBAL DEMOGRAPHIC CONTRASTS 37

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 37

MAIN POINTS 38

SUGGESTED READINGS 39

WEBSITES OF INTEREST 39

CHAPTER 2

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA 41

SOURCES OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA 42

POPULATION CENSUSES 42

The Census of the United States 46

ESSAY: *To Adjust or Not to Adjust—That Was the Question; Or Was It Much Ado About Nothing?* 56

The Census of Canada 61

The Census of Mexico 62

REGISTRATION OF VITAL EVENTS 63

COMBINING THE CENSUS AND VITAL STATISTICS 67

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA 67

SAMPLE SURVEYS 68

HISTORICAL SOURCES 69

DEMOGRAPHIC USES OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS 70

WHERE CAN YOU GO FOR INFORMATION? 72

WHO USES POPULATION DATA? 73

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 74

MAIN POINTS 75

SUGGESTED READINGS 76

WEBSITES OF INTEREST 77

CHAPTER 3

DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES 78

PREMODERN POPULATION DOCTRINES 81

THE PRELUDE TO MALTHUS 85

THE MALTHUSIAN PERSPECTIVE 86

Causes of Population Growth 87

Consequences of Population Growth 88

Avoiding the Consequences 89

Critique of Malthus 90

Neo-Malthusians 91

ESSAY: *Who Are the Neo-Malthusians?* 92

THE MARXIAN PERSPECTIVE 92

Causes of Population Growth 94

Consequences of Population Growth 94

Critique of Marx 95

THE PRELUDE TO THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION THEORY 96

Mill 96

Dumont 98

Durkheim 98

THE THEORY OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION 99

Critique of the Demographic Transition Theory 102

Reformulation of the Demographic Transition Theory 103

The Demographic Transition Is a Set of Transitions 105

THE THEORY OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND RESPONSE 106

THE EASTERLIN RELATIVE COHORT SIZE HYPOTHESIS 107

THEORIES ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF POPULATION
GROWTH 109

THERE ARE MANY OTHER THEORIES 110

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 110

MAIN POINTS 111

SUGGESTED READINGS 113

WEBSITES OF INTEREST 113

PART TWO

POPULATION PROCESSES 115

CHAPTER 4

MORTALITY 117

COMPONENTS OF MORTALITY 118

Lifespan 118

Longevity 119

CAUSES OF DEATH 124

Infectious and Parasitic Diseases 124

Degeneration from Chronic Diseases 130

Products of the Social and Economic Environment 131

ESSAY: *Mortality Control and the Environment* 132

The "Real" Causes of Death 135

MEASURING MORTALITY	138
Crude Death Rate	138
Age/Sex-Specific Death Rates	139
Life Tables	139
THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL TRANSITION	140
Premodern Mortality	140
The Roman Era to the Industrial Revolution	141
Industrial Revolution to the Twentieth Century	142
World War II as a Modern Turning Point	145
URBAN AND RURAL DIFFERENTIALS IN MORTALITY	148
SOCIAL STATUS DIFFERENTIALS IN MORTALITY	149
Occupation	149
Income and Education	151
Race and Ethnicity	151
Marital Status	154
GENDER DIFFERENTIALS IN MORTALITY	154
IMPORTANT AGE DIFFERENTIALS IN MORTALITY	156
Infant Mortality	156
Maternal Mortality	159
Mortality at Older Ages	160
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	162
MAIN POINTS	163
SUGGESTED READINGS	164
WEBSITES OF INTEREST	165
CHAPTER 5	
FERTILITY CONCEPTS AND MEASUREMENTS	166
WHAT IS FERTILITY?	167
The Biological Component	167
The Social Component	170
HOW CAN FERTILITY BE CONTROLLED?	172
Intercourse Variables	174
Conception Variables	178
ESSAY: <i>The Impact of Contraception on Fertility</i>	182
Gestation Variables: Abortion	191
MEASURING FERTILITY	193
Period Versus Cohort Data	193
Period Measures of Fertility	194
Cohort Measures of Fertility	199

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 200

MAIN POINTS 200

SUGGESTED READINGS 201

WEBSITES OF INTEREST 202

CHAPTER 6

THE FERTILITY TRANSITION 203

EXPLANATIONS FOR HIGH FERTILITY 204

Need to Replenish Society 205

Children as Security and Labor 207

Desire for Sons 208

Family Control and Fertility Control 209

EXPLANATIONS FOR THE FERTILITY TRANSITION 211

The Supply-Demand Framework 211

The Innovation/Diffusion and "Cultural" Perspective 214

Three Preconditions for a Fertility Decline 216

The Role of Public Policy 219

How Is Lower Fertility Accomplished? 219

ESSAY: Reproductive Rights, Reproductive Health, and the Fertility Transition 220

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM HIGHER-FERTILITY COUNTRIES 224

Jordan 224

India 226

Mexico 228

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM LOWER FERTILITY COUNTRIES 229

England 229

Japan 233

Canada 235

The United States 236

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 242

MAIN POINTS 243

SUGGESTED READINGS 244

WEBSITES OF INTEREST 245

CHAPTER 7

MIGRATION 246

DEFINING MIGRATION 248

MEASURING MIGRATION 250

WHY DO PEOPLE CHOOSE TO MIGRATE?	253
The Push–Pull Theory	253
Migration Selectivity	255
Conceptualizing the Migration Process	257
Differences Between Internal and International Migration	260
Theories of International Migration	261
Consequences of Migration	263
FORCED MIGRATION	266
Slavery	266
Refugees	267
WHERE DO PEOPLE MIGRATE?	269
Global Patterns of Migration	269
Labor Migration	271
ESSAY: <i>Is Migration a Crime? Illegal Immigration in Global Context</i>	272
Remittances as a Factor in International Migration	275
Migration into the United States	276
Migration out of the United States	282
Migration within the United States	282
Migration into Canada	285
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	286
MAIN POINTS	287
SUGGESTED READINGS	288
WEBSITES OF INTEREST	289
PART THREE	
POPULATION STRUCTURE AND CHARACTERISTICS	291
CHAPTER 8	
AGE AND SEX	293
THE CONCEPTS OF AGE AND AGE COHORTS	294
THE CONCEPTS OF SEX AND GENDER	300
MEASURING THE DYNAMICS OF THE AGE TRANSITION	303
Population Pyramids	303
Average Age and Dependency Ratio	303
Growth Rates by Age	305
Stable and Stationary Populations	307
Population Projections	308
THE AGE TRANSITION	313
The Dynamics of the Age Transition	314
The Impact of Declining Mortality	314

The Impact of Declining Fertility	318
ESSAY: <i>Baby Boom, Oil Boom, and Social Change in Saudi Arabia</i>	320
Where Does Migration Fit In?	322
AGE TRANSITIONS AT WORK	327
The Impact of Age Structure on Population Processes	327
Population Momentum	327
Reading an Age Structure	328
The Progression from a Young to an Old Age Structure	332
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	333
MAIN POINTS	333
SUGGESTED READINGS	334
WEBSITES OF INTEREST	335
CHAPTER 9	
POPULATION AGING AND THE LIFE COURSE	336
WHAT IS OLD?	337
POPULATION AGING	339
How Many Older People Are There?	339
Where Are the Older Populations?	342
The Effect of Declining Mortality	343
The Effect of Declining Fertility	345
The Effect of Migration	346
INDIVIDUAL AGING	347
Biological Aspects of Aging	347
Social Aspects of Aging	349
THE SOCIAL CONTEXT OF AGING AND THE LIFE COURSE	354
THE SEX AND AGE STRUCTURE OF THE OLDER POPULATION	355
The Feminization of Old Age	356
The Third Age (The Young-Old)	357
ESSAY: <i>Who Will Pay for Baby Boomers to Retire?</i>	360
The Fourth Age (The Old-Old)	365
Centenarians and Rectangularization—Is This the End of the Age Transition?	366
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	367
MAIN POINTS	368
SUGGESTED READINGS	369
WEBSITES OF INTEREST	370