

POPULATION

AN INTRODUCTION TO CONCEPTS AND ISSUES SIXTH EDITION



The background of the cover is a stylized world map. Landmasses are represented by large, irregular shapes in various colors: a large maroon shape on the left (North America), a large yellow shape at the top (Europe and Africa), and several orange and red shapes on the right and bottom (Asia, Australia, and South America). The oceans are a solid blue. There are some dark, wavy lines in the blue areas, possibly representing currents or just artistic flourishes. A small dark blue cross-like shape is visible in the lower left, and a green cross-like shape is in the bottom right corner.

JOHN R. WEEKS

POPULATION

An Introduction to Concepts and Issues
Sixth Edition

John R. Weeks
San Diego State University



Wadsworth Publishing Company

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Editor: Eve Howard
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Production: Spectrum Publisher Services, Inc.
Print Buyer: Karen Hunt
Permissions Editor: Jeanne Bosschart
Manuscript Editor: Deanna Weeks
Cover Design: Vargas/Williams/Design
Composition: Bi-Comp, Inc.
Printer: Quebecor Printing Book Group/Fairfield

The cover illustration shows countries in proportion to population. Adapted by the author from Population Reference Bureau data.

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Printed in the United States of America 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

For more information, contact Wadsworth Publishing Company:

Wadsworth Publishing Company
10 Davis Drive
Belmont, California 94002, USA

International Thomson Editores
Campos Eliseos 385, Piso 7
Col. Polanco
11560 México D.F. México

International Thomson Publishing Europe
Berkshire House 168-173
High Holborn
London, WC1V 7AA, England

International Thomson Publishing GmbH
Königswinterer Strasse 418
53227 Bonn, Germany

Thomas Nelson Australia
102 Dodds Street
South Melbourne 3205
Victoria, Australia

International Thomson Publishing Asia
221 Henderson Road
#05-10 Henderson Building
Singapore 0315

Nelson Canada
1120 Birchmount Road
Scarborough, Ontario
Canada M1K 5G4

International Thomson Publishing Japan
Hirakawacho Kyowa Building, 3F
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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Weeks, John Robert, 1944—

Population: an introduction to concepts and issues/John R.
Weeks.—6th ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references (p.) and index.

ISBN 0-534-26460-3 (acid-free paper)

1. Population. I. Title.

HB871.W43 1996

304.6—dc20

95-21581

PREFACE

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.

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.

ORGANIZATION AND FEATURES OF THIS BOOK

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

Part One “A Demographic Perspective” (Chapters 1–3) introduces you to some major sources of information about population studies and to some major facts and perspectives about population growth. These chapters have all been updated for this edition. Throughout this edition, I have drawn upon as much demographic information as is currently available in the 1990s.

Part Two “Population Processes” (Chapters 4–7) follows the introductory overview and discusses the three basic demographic processes: fertility, mortality, and migration. For this edition, each of these chapters has been updated to reflect current advances in theory and research. 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 In “Population Structure and Characteristics” (Chapters 8 and 9), I discuss the interaction of the population processes and the number of people in a society according to demographic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic level, and religion. Chapters 8 and 9 have been updated. The first nine chapters set the stage for the last seven.

Part Four In “Population and Contemporary Social Issues” (Chapters 10–14), I explore with you the demographic underpinnings of several major issues confronting the world—women and household structure, aging, urbanization, economic development, and the environment. Each of these chapters has been substantially updated and revised for this edition. The focus of Chapter 10 reflects a growing body of research on the demography of families and households. Chapter 11 emphasizes the latest research in the aging of the population. Chapter 12 looks at the process of urbanization throughout the globe. Chapter 13 reviews the latest thinking on the complex, but extremely important relationship between population and economic development. Chapter 14 has been completely rewritten to take account of new research on the interaction between population and the environment.

Part Five I conclude with two chapters that make up the section on “Using the Demographic Perspective.” In Chapter 15 I discuss various ways to alter the course of demographic events, and this chapter includes an extensive discussion of the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

held in Cairo in 1994. Chapter 16, "Demographics," is a chapter in which I review the ways in which demographic information is used in business, social policy, and political planning.

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 the reader better understand current demographic issues.

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.

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.

PERSONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Like most authors, I have an intellectual lineage that I feel is worth tracing. In particular I would like to acknowledge Kingsley Davis, whose standards as a teacher and scholar will always keep me reaching, the late Judith Blake, Thomas Burch, Carlo Cipolla, Murray Gendell, Nathan Keyfitz, and Samuel Preston. In small and large ways, they have helped me to unravel the mysteries of how the world operates demographically. Thanks is due also to Steve Rutter, formerly of Wadsworth Publishing Company, whose idea this book was in the beginning. Eve Howard at Wadsworth has provided key insights for the updating of this sixth edition. Hal Humphrey at Wadsworth and Kelly Ricci at Spectrum Publisher Services provided important help in the production process. I would also like to thank the users of the earlier editions, including professors and their students from various parts of the country and my own students, for their comments and suggestions. Special thanks go to John, Gregory, Jennifer, and Suzanne 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 gifts that a daughter-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 edition, and now the sixth edition 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 like to express my gratitude to James Palmore and Robert Gardner, of the East-West Population Institute, for allowing me to use material from *Measuring Mortality, Fertility, and Natural Increase* (Honolulu: East-West Center), 1983, in the Appendix.

For their helpful comments and suggestions, I would also like to thank the following: John L. Anderson, University of Louisville; Phillips Cartright, Indiana University; Lillian Rogers Daughaday, Murray State University; Thomas Espen-shade, Princeton University; Saad Gadalla, University of the United Arab Emirates; Larry J. Halford, Washburn University of Topeka; Roberto Ham-Chande, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Mexico); Nan Johnson, Michigan State University; Jerry N. Judy, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania; J. William Leasure, San Diego State University; Tim Futing Liao, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Jerome McKibben, Indiana University; Gail McMillen, Arizona State University; Glenna Spitze, State University of New York, Albany; Teresa Sullivan, University of Texas, Austin; Russell Thornton, University of California, Berkeley; and John Wardwell, Washington State University.

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