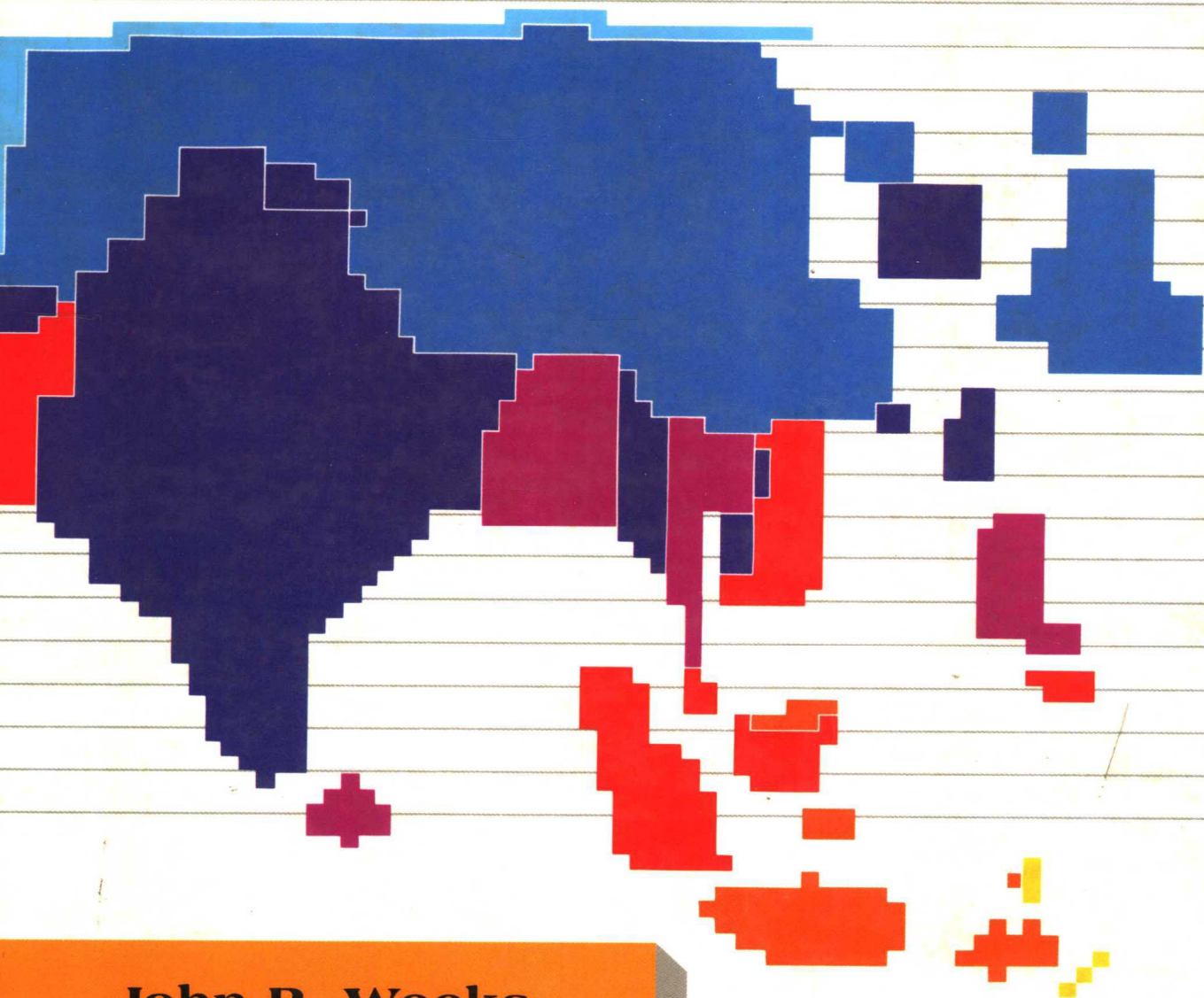


POPULATION

An Introduction to
Concepts and Issues

Third Edition



John R. Weeks

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San Diego State University

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The cover illustration shows countries of the world in proportion to population. Data from United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics 31 (6), June 1977, Table 1.

The quotation on page 276 is from "Sandra" by Barry Manilow and Enoch Anderson, reprinted with permission, © 1974 Kamakazi Music Corp.

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PREFACE

Population growth in the 1950s and 1960s could have been likened to a runaway train without an engineer, veering perilously close to a collision course with shortages of food and resources. That specter was altered somewhat by the events of the 1970s, especially by a few hopeful signs of a downturn in the birth rates of several large developing nations. For the 1980s, the imagery seems to have changed from the collision course to something equally terrifying. We are faced with a situation analogous to an immense locomotive hurtling down the track at a speed faster than the roadbed can tolerate. The engineer is groping for the brakes, but if and when those brakes are fully applied, the train will still cover a huge distance before it comes to a halt. How much havoc will the charging locomotive of population wreak before it stops, and what condition will we be in at that point? These are two of the most important questions that face the world.

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 perspectives and facts about population growth. Chapter 1 has been expanded for this third edition; Chapter 2, “Demographic Perspectives,” has been expanded to give more coverage of the theories of population growth; and Chapter 3 has been updated to reflect the changing demography of the world.

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 research, and Chapter 7 has been extensively revised. The section on explanations of migration has been expanded, as has been the discussion of migration patterns, including migration into and out of the United States, refugee migration, and labor migration elsewhere in the world. Further, the section on migration policy has been consolidated with the other material on population policy in Chapter 15. 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, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic level, and marital status. Chapter 9 has been completely rewritten, and Chapter 8 has been revised and 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 the family, aging, urbanization, economic development, and food and pollution. Each of these chapters has been updated for this edition.

Part Five I conclude with two chapters that make up the section on “Using Your Demographic Perspective.” In Chapter 15 I discuss various ways to alter the course of demographic events, and this chapter has been brought up-to-date to reflect the latest changes in government attitudes and policies toward population growth. Chapter 16, “Demographics,” is a new 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.

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, 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 at Wadsworth Publishing Company, whose idea this book was in the beginning, and whose diligence and perseverance were helpful at all stages of writing. Sheryl Fullerton at Wadsworth provided key insights for the expansion and updating of this third edition. Bob Ryan was an extremely valuable resource for this edition, and I am grateful for his dedication to the research process. I would also like to thank the users of the earlier editions, including professors from various parts of the country and my own students, for their comments and suggestions. Special thanks go to John, Gregory, and Jennifer 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, and in the joys that immigration can bring to a family. However, the one person who is directly responsible for the fact that the first, second, and now the third editions 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 acknowledge the contributions of Marilyn Harrington, who compiled much of the material for the essay in Chapter 6; Herbert Wong, who provided material for the essay in Chapter 7; and John Weeks, Jr., who did the programming for the population projections in Chapter 8. Portions of Chapter 8 were taken directly from John R. Weeks, *Aging: Introduction to Social Concepts and Issues* (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth), 1984. I 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.

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