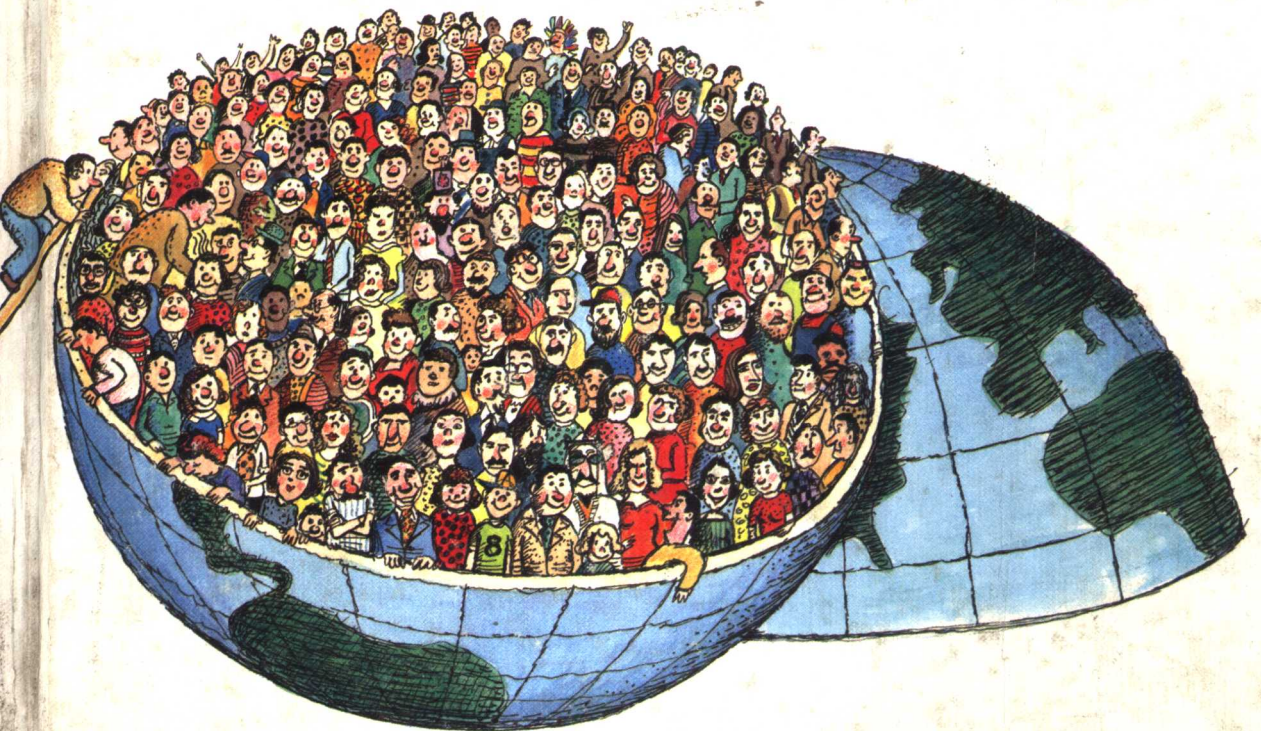


POPULATION

An Introduction to Social Demography

PAUL E. ZOPF, JR.



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Preface

This is a textbook for students taking their first or second course in population studies. Its principal focus is social demography, which is the study of demographic facts in a larger social and cultural context that molds various population realities and is shaped by them. Consequently, while the analysis is strongly concerned with the birth and death rates of populations, their patterns of migration, and their basic characteristics, it is even more involved with their broader setting. Why do some countries have high birth rates and others low ones? Why can people in some societies expect to live only 40 years, while in others they can look forward to 70 or 75 years? Why do people migrate from one country to another or shift around within their own societies? The task of social demography is to attempt answers to these and similar questions.

But the analysis cannot stop with that, for the other large phase of social demography concerns the results of population conditions. Therefore, we need to examine the consequences for social systems of high or low birth rates, death rates that are poorly controlled or close to the minimum, and particular streams of human movement. What happens to a society that has a huge proportion of children as a result of high fertility, or to one with a relatively large elderly population because of low birth and death rates? What are the economic consequences of population growth or decline, and of the numerical balance between men and women, unskilled and skilled workers? How are social relations structured by the proportions of white and black people, natives and immigrants, city dwellers and farm people?

Thus, the book attempts to portray many of these strategic matters in a comprehensive context meant to enrich our understanding of population and social linkages. In this vein, Part One considers population realities and problems, including the population explosion, the goal of zero population growth, the nature of population at the world level and in the United States, and the age-sex profiles of various human groups. In Part Two we study the com-

ponents of population change—fertility, mortality, and migration. Part Three deals with several human systems and their demographic dimensions; there we look at rural and urban systems, races and ethnic groups, marriage and family systems, economic systems, and educational patterns. Finally, Part Four concerns human efforts to manipulate population conditions, especially growth rates, by the use of official policies, both national and international. Altogether, these elements are the principal substance of social demography in its intricate richness.

My debt for the content of this volume is a large one indeed. First and foremost, though, is the late T. Lynn Smith, who was an abiding source of insight into social demography, and whose own work represents major contributions to that field. Teacher, friend, and colleague, Smith blended concern for the human condition with intellectual curiosity and discipline, making social demography a natural part of his life. I hope to have caught the spirit of his major efforts in both realms.

I am grateful also to a large number of demographers, social theorists, methodologists, and other professionals of many persuasions, for the book arises out of their contributions. I have tried to do justice to many of them in my citations but never cease to marvel at how much we really do stand on the shoulders of giants. I hope they will find I have accounted for their work and will forgive whatever errors my endeavors may contain.

I am indebted to the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the demographic data it painstakingly collects and publishes, and especially to Larry Long, at the Center for Demographic Studies, for helping me acquire materials necessary for the research. Thanks are also due the National Center for Health Statistics for providing vital statistics, the United Nations for international data and projections, and other agencies that supply the raw materials and analyses with which many of us work.

Charles Hohm at San Diego State University, Ralph Thomlinson at California State University at Los Angeles, and Bruce Warren at Eastern Michigan University each read the entire manuscript and provided valuable criticisms and suggestions, though any flaws in the book are my responsibility, not theirs. Frank Graham, sponsoring editor at Mayfield Publishing Company, was supportive and patient in guiding the book through its many phases.

Guilford College was, as always, the hospitable setting for my research and writing. I am grateful for the study leave and the faculty research grants that the college provided to help make this project possible. In particular, I appreciate the support of Cyrus Johnson, William Rogers, Sam Schuman, Bruce Stewart, and other friends in academe.

As ever, Evelyn Zopf is my constant inspiration to keep going, for her life reminds me that it is all worthwhile. Eric Zopf also continues to play his significant unfolding role, shaped now by the maturity of adulthood and pursuit of his own professional career.

Paul E. Zopf, Jr.

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