

Population

- Demography = science that studies population in many aspects:
 - *Distribution*
 - *Density*
 - *Structure* (composition)
 - *Movements*
 - Natural – birth rate, death rate, etc.
 - Mechanical – migration between/within countries

Population distribution Where do people live?

- Favourable locations
 - *Moderate climate*
 - i.e. not too extreme climate vs. polar areas
 - *Fertile river valleys*
 - e.g. Ganges lowland, Yangtze and Nile river
 - *Good communications*
 - e.g. Western Europe, NE USA, Japan
 - *Raw material reserves*
 - e.g. Middle East, copper belt in Africa
- Disadvantaged regions
 - *Deserts*
 - too dry climate
 - *Mountains*
 - too steep to provide agriculture
 - *Rainforests*
 - infertile soils – not suitable for agriculture
 - *High latitude regions*
 - too cold climate

Population density

- = the number of people living in a given area (inh./km²)
- 3 major regions of high population density (>200 inh./km²):
 - SE Asia

- NE USA
- W Europe
- Smaller areas = California, Mexican plateau, SE Brazil, Nile valley, Java

Population growth

- = country's annual population increase or decrease => part of a *natural movement* of a population (birth rate vs. death rate)
- 95% of population growth = economically LDCs => *overpopulation* => increased risk of famine and malnutrition
- Differences between richer and poorer countries => demographic time bomb

Will the natural resources of the planet be able to feed all the population?

Population structure

- = population composition
- = by many criteria:
 - gender
 - age
 - race
 - nationality
 - language
 - education
 - religion
- **Structure by gender**
 - *Developing countries* – men prevail
 - *Developed countries* – women prevail

- **Structure by race**
 - *Europoid* (European, American, White)
 - *Mongoloid* (Asian, Yellow)
 - *Negroid* (Afro-American, Black)
 - + mixture (miscegenation) between races:
 - *Mulatto* – Europeans and Africans
 - *Mestizo* – Europeans and South-American Indians
- **Structure by nationality**
 - >2,000 different nations live all around the world
 - the most numerous nations = Chinese, Hindus, Russians, Americans
 - What about Slovakia?
- **Structure by language**
 - the most numerous *language family* = Indo-European
 - *language groups* of Indo-European language family: Slavic, Baltic, Germanic, Romanic, Celtic and Indo-Iranic
- **Structure by education**
 - = literacy rate: number (share) of people that can read, write and count (compute)
 - nowadays the *number of illiterate people* is about **1 billion** (2/3 are women)
- **Structure by religion**
 - *Christianity* – America, Europe + Russia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Australia and part of Oceania
 - *Buddhism* – SE Asia, China, Japan
 - *Islam* – N Africa, SW Asia, Albania, former Yugoslavia, Central Asia
 - *Hinduism* – India + Nepal and SE Asia
 - *Chinese religions* – China
 - *Shintoism* – Japan
- = population pyramids – share (%) of men/women of total population →
 - *progressive type* (high share of young age groups: 0-15 yrs.)
 - *stationary type* (stagnation of population)
 - *regressive type* (small share of young age groups)
- There is a relation between age structure and socio-economic development of a population.
- Young, economically LDCs have typical progressive type of a population's structure by age.
- Later, with increasing development of a country this type is continuously replaced by stationary and regressive type of age structure

Keywords

- population distribution, density, growth, structure, demography, natural/mechanical movement
- favourable/diadvantaged regions for living, birth/death rate, overpopulation
- population structure, mulatto, mestizo, language family/group, literacy rate, religious structure
- progressive/stationary/regressive type of population