

# 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./km<sup>2</sup>)
- 3 major regions of high population density (>200 inh./km<sup>2</sup>):
  - 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