

36. Population – reasons for growth

60-80 billion people have lived on the Earth since the beginning of our civilization. Nowadays, approx. 6.3 billion inhabitants live in the world.

There were many factors concerning with *population growth*, e.g.

- natural sources
- exploitation of mineral wealth
- new inventions
- economic growth

On the other hand there were many negative factors influencing *population to decline*, e.g.

- diseases
- war conflicts and persecutions
- starvation
- natural catastrophes

The first tremendous change in population evolution was **Neolithic revolution** = first cities founded, hunting and gathering changed to organized and more systematic agriculture (rearing of animals, growing of plants).

But rapidly growing population has emerged really since 1600s ⇔ **industrial revolution**. Many factors contribute to rapid population growth:

- ❖ *agricultural* improvements since 1700s
- ❖ spread of *education* since 1800s
- ❖ *medicine* and health care improvements since 1800s
- ❖ *transport* improvements since 1850s

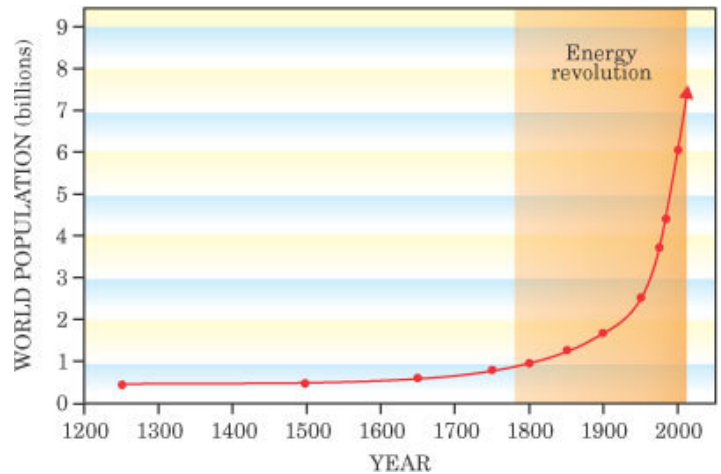
1850 = 1 billion inhabitants

1930 = 2 billion inhabitants

1976 = 4 billion inhabitants

1999 = 6 billion inhabitants

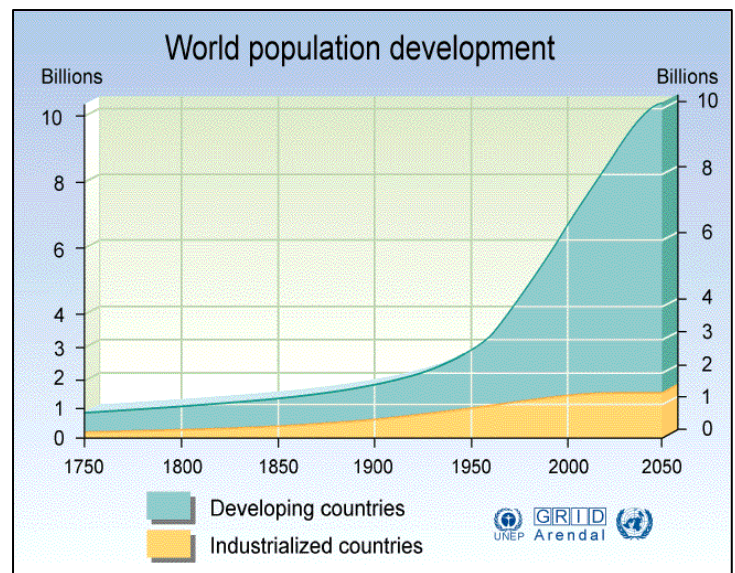
2100 = 10-11 billion inhabitants ???



The highest population growth we can see in the poorest countries (ELDCs). In these countries we can expect the worst problems concerning with:

- energy problems*
- water shortage*
- food shortage*
- lack of arable land*
- environmental problems*
- health care*
- unemployment*

Life expectancy also grows, i.e. it contributes to faster population growth.



Keywords

civilization, population growth, Neolithic/industrial revolution, life expectancy,