Theme 2. POPULATION AND DEVELOPEMENT AT STAKE

Lesson 1:

The world demographics and its challenges

INTRODUCTION

The world population currently **peaks at (reaches a climax at)** 8 billion people and should reach 9,8/10 by 2050 (for the most optimistic).
This demographic growth is not due to all the countries but mainly to developing countries.

WHAT IS THE WORLD DEMOGRAPHICS LIKE? WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE?

First, It’s important to point out the unequal distribution of the world population.

This is going to be helpful to understand the **trend** of demographic dynamism in the world and its reasons

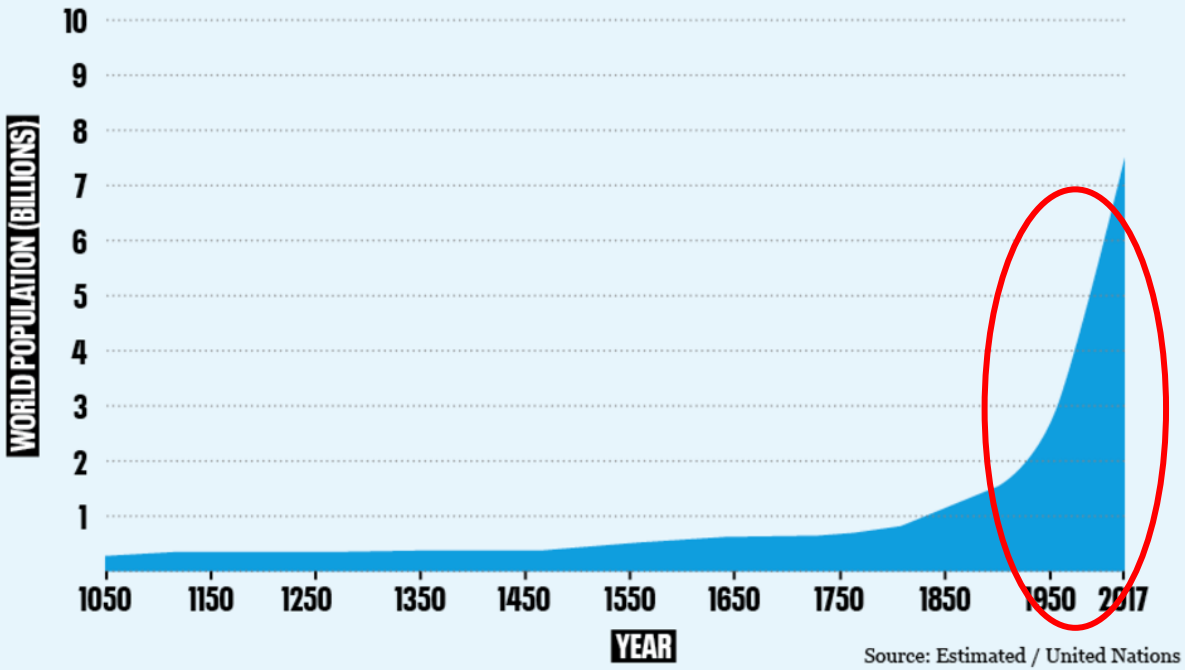
To finish, we’ll see the impact of all these demographic contrasts

I/AN INCREASING WORLD POPULATION

A/ Demographic growth has speeded up in the 20th century

In 2024 there were 8.062 billion people on Earth

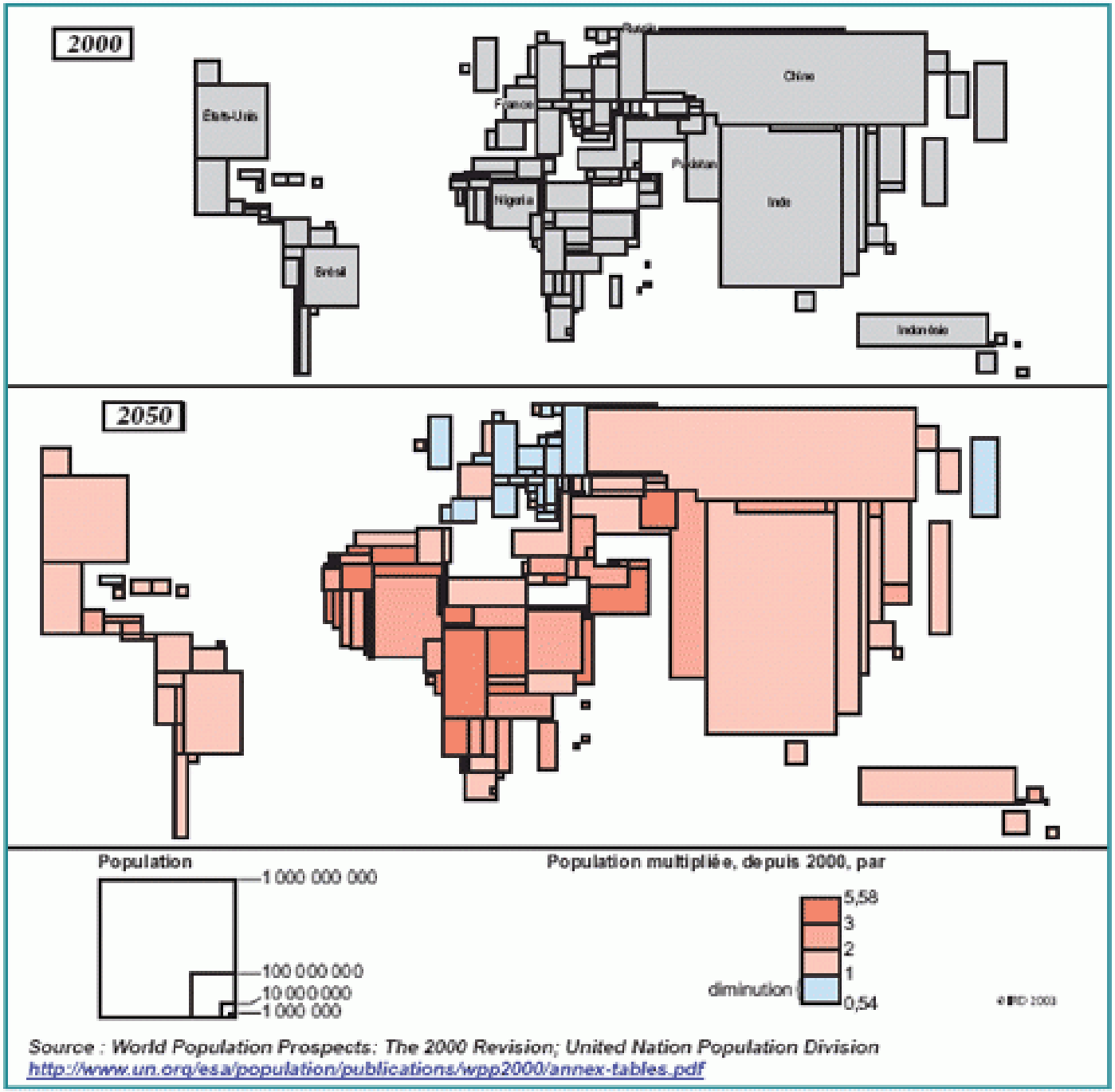
It’s 5 times more than in 1900



-Urbanization gave better living conditions

-Medical progress

It speeded up in the mid 19 th century
= in the middle of the 19 th c



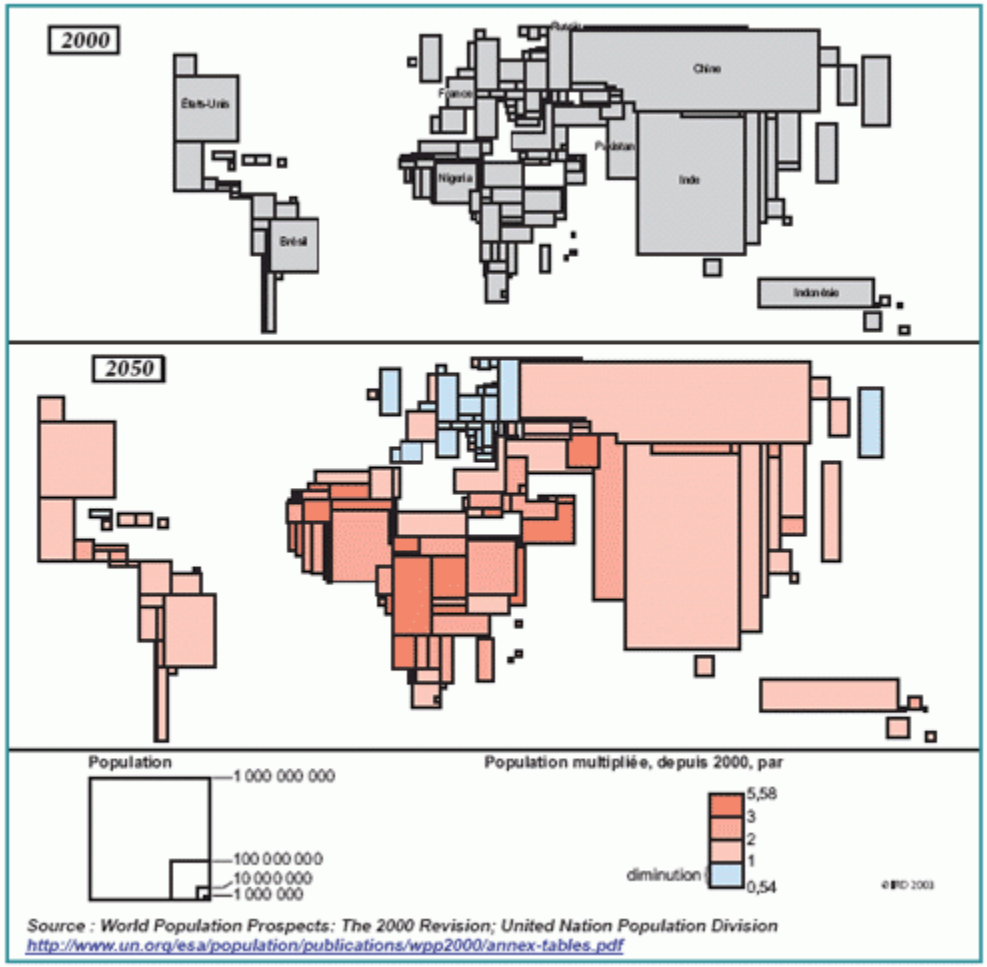
Source : World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision; United Nation Population Division
http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wpp2000/annex-tables.pdf

B/The world is unevenly/unequally populated.

« Biggest » Continents in 2000
Asia 59.7% world population
Africa16.6%
America 13.4%
(Europe 9.8%)

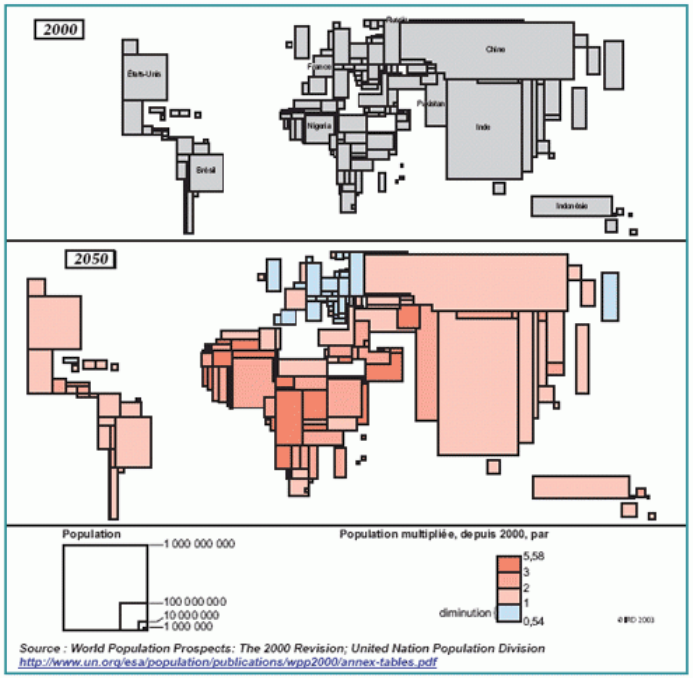
Continents which are expected to grow bigger are:

Asia and Africa



When dealing with states= countries

The most populated today
and in the future are:
India 1.55 billions
China 1.5 billions
Both together represent
35% world population(one third)
EVERY SECOND/OTHER HUMAN BEING IS AN ASIAN



C/ The world population becomes more and more urban

In 2025, 58% of the world population lived in a city

This increase is called the **URBAN TRANSITION**

The increasing number of **MEGAPOLISES** witnesses this phenomena (cities with over 10 million people)

In south Asia (India :Mumbai 26 millions)
In China: 10 megapolises
In Africa(Nigeria :Lagos 21 millions)

In developing countries, the urban population has doubled in the past 50 years because of the **DRIFT FROM THE LAND**

This increasing but unequally distributed world population, can be explained by the demographic growth.

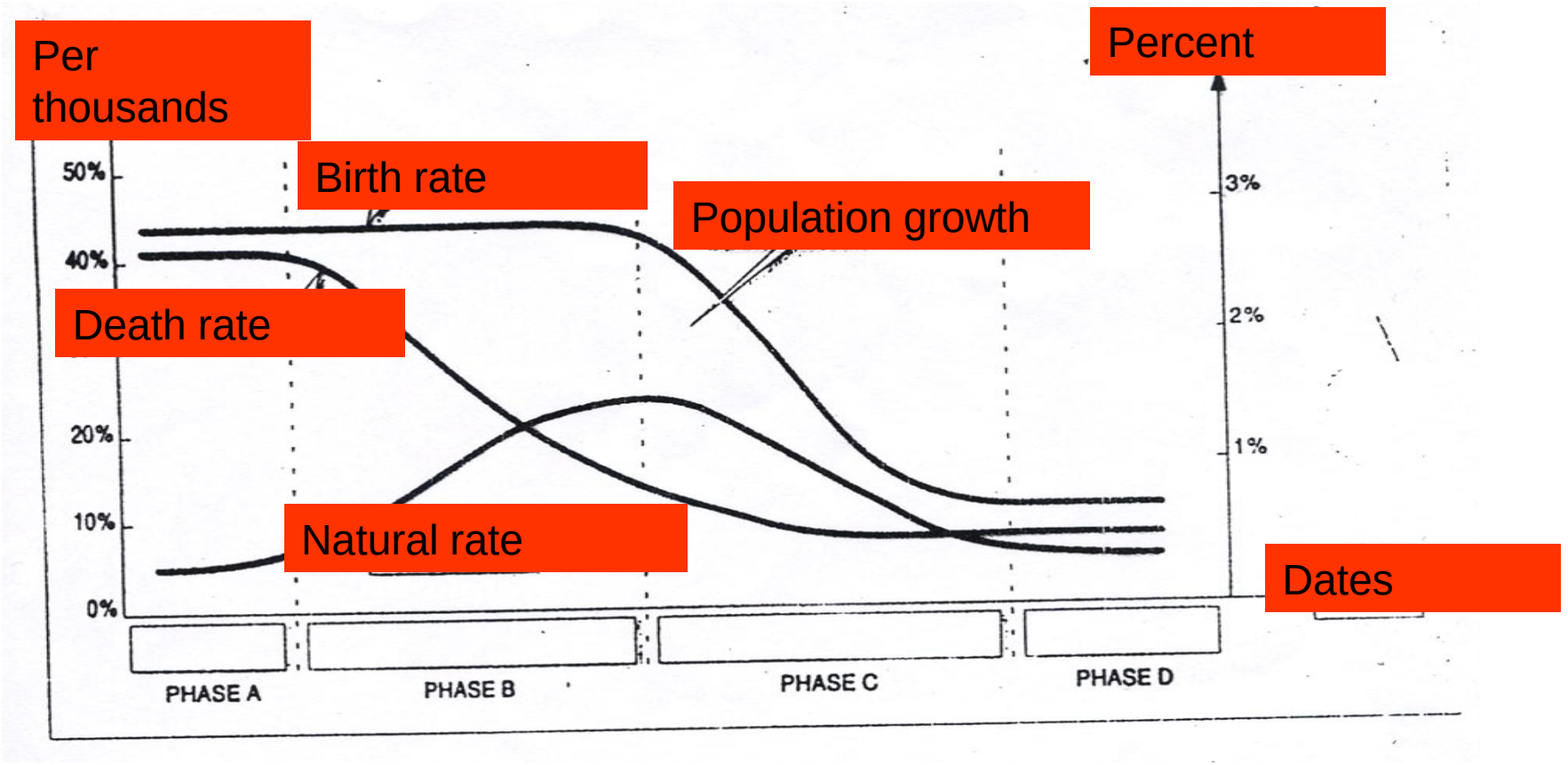
II/ Population evolution varies from a country to another

A/ The demographic transition model

Population evolves in different steps.

They can be represented on a graph called the **DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION SCHEMA**

The demographic transition model



The demographic transition represents the evolution of a population from:

-a high birth rate

-a high death rate

-a low natural growth

To:

-a low birth rate

-a low death rate

-a low natural growth

KEY BOX

BIRTH RATE: Number of live births for 1000 inhabitants

DEATH RATE: Number of deaths for 1000 inhabitants

NATURAL INCREASE: Birth rate –Death rate/ 10: in percent

LIFE EXPECTANCY: number of years someone can expect to live at birth: it changes every year

FERTILITY INDEX: Number of kids per woman aged between 15-45. It must be above 2.1 to renew generation

INFANT MORTALITY: in percent or per thousand , deaths of kids under one year old.

Let's build a table to comment on each step/ phase/stage

	Step A	**Step B**	**Step C**	**Step D**
Birth rate in per thousand				
Death rate in per thousand				
Natural growth in percent				
Reasons				

	Step A	**Step B**	**Step C**	**Step D**
Birth rate in per thousand	40-50	40-50	20-15	15-10
Death rate in per thousand				
Natural growth in percent				
Reasons				

	Step A	**Step B**	**Step C**	**Step D**
Birth rate in per thousand	40-50	40-50	20-15	15-10
Death rate in per thousand	40-35	20-15	15-10	10-8
Natural growth in percent				
Reasons				

	Step A	**Step B**	**Step C**	**Step D**
Birth rate in per thousand	40-50	40-50	20-15	15-10
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Natural growth in percent	Under 1	3-4	Around 1	Under 1
Reasons				

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B/ All the countries don't have the same evolution

Developed countries or MEDC's (Most Economically Developed Countries) have finished their transition whereas **developing countries or LEDC's (Least Economically…)** are still into it.

It's easy to guess where a country stands in the transition by looking at

its birth rate and death rate (Sometimes infant mortality can help as well)

Source: www.ined.fr

COUNTRY	BIRTH	DEATH	GROWTH in %	Infant mortality in per thousand	STEP
France	9,4	9,4	0	3,5	
Poland	9.3	9.4	- 0,01	3,8	
Japan	8	10	-0,2	1,9	
Egypt	27	7	2	15	
Brazil	13,5	7	0,55	11,4	
India	21	7	1,4	30	

Estimations 2025

Countries	Total population (billion)	Birth rate	Mortality rate	Life expectancy	Infant mortality rate
AFRICA	1.46	31	8	63	43
ASIA	4,75	14	7	75	21
EUROPE	0.74	9.131	11	80	3
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	0.66	14	6	75	12
NORTHERN AMERICA	0.37	11	8.5	80	4
OCEANIA	0.45	15	6.7	80	15

Institut national d'études démographiques -www.ined.fr

These contrasts in the demographic evolution have impacts in each country.

Indeed, a growing population has more needs.

But needs are not always easy to meet

III/ DEMOGRAPHICS IMPACT NEEDS

A/ New needs

The UNO considers that **basic needs** are:
Food
Water
Housing
Education (?)
When they are met, the country is developed

1) In Developed countries /MEDC's where the transition is over, there are two important needs:

-to face increased medical needs of the aging population

-to **keep up with** the funding of the pension system like in France

Many options can be chosen to save a pension system:

-pushing the retirement age further (64)

-work longer: It's now 42 years to have full pension but It will go up to 43

-creating new taxes to get money to finance pensions but it will be taken from workers'wages

-Encouraging private savings

2) In developing countries/MEDC's where the transition keeps going

There are some emergency needs:

More food, more housing, education, health care system, employment…

The increasing population puts sometimes a stress on some resources like water

B/ The counrtries' current situation is not only negative

1) In MEDC's

Seniors are actors of the economy.

The have sometimes a high purchasing power

They represent an attractive market (travels, cars)

2) In LEDC's

A young and numerous population can be a great asset:

-It helps having a cheap labour force

-This attracts foreign investments

CONCLUSION

WHAT IS THE WORLD DEMOGRAPHY LIKE? WHAT ARE THE IMAPCTS?

The world population keeps increasing but mainly in developing countries.
This is a challenge to meet because these countries usually lack money.
On the opposite, wealthier countries have an aging population which is also a challenge

Demography is a key to understand many other issues like the lack of developement and also the access to vital resources.