

Chapter 3 Notes Earth's Human and Cultural Geography

Section 1: World Population

Geographers study how people and physical features are distributed on Earth's surface. Although the world's population is increasing, people still live on only a small part of the Earth's surface.

Population Growth

The world's population has increased rapidly in the past two centuries, creating many new challenges.

- The population on Earth today is more than 6 billion—up from 1 billion around 1800.
- One reason the population has grown so fast in the last 200 years is that the death rate has gone down.
- The **death rate** is the number of deaths per year for every 1,000 people.
- Better health care and living conditions as well as more plentiful food supplies have decreased the death rate.
- Another reason the population has grown is high birthrates in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- The **birthrate** is the number of children born each year for every 1,000 people.
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- The **birthrate** is the number of children born each year for every 1,000 people.
- Advances in technology, such as improved irrigation systems and the creation of hardier plants, help increase food production for the increasing population, even though warfare and crop failures can lead to **famine**, or a severe lack of food.

Where People Live

The Earth's population is not evenly distributed.

- Land covers only about 30 percent of the Earth's surface, and only half of this amount is usable by humans.
- The other half is deserts, mountains, and ice-covered lands that cannot support large numbers of people.
- On the usable land, population is not distributed, or spread, evenly.
- People naturally prefer to live in places that have fertile soil, mild climates, natural resources, and water resources.
- Two-thirds of the world's people are clustered into five regions with good resources—East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe, and eastern North America.
- In most regions, more people live in cities than in rural areas because of the jobs and resources found there.
- Geographers find out how crowded a country or region is by measuring **population density**, or the average number of people living in a square mile or square kilometer.
- This figure is calculated by dividing the total population by the total land area.

Population Movement

Large numbers of people migrate from one place to another.

- Moving from place to place in the same country is known as internal migration.
- An example is the movement of people from farms and villages to cities. Such migrants are often in search of jobs.
- **Urbanization** is the growth of cities due to internal migration. Urbanization has occurred rapidly in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- Movement between countries is called international migration.
- Some people **emigrate**, or leave the country where they were born and move to another.
- They are emigrants in their homeland and immigrants in their new country.
- Immigration has increased greatly in the past 200 years, partly due to better transportation.
- “Push” factors, such as a shortage of farmland or few jobs in a region, may convince, or push, residents to emigrate.
- “Pull” factors, such as the lure of jobs, attract many immigrants to the United States.
- People who are forced to flee to another country to escape wars, persecution, or natural disasters are called **refugees**.

Section 2: Global Cultures

Culture influences people’s perceptions about places and regions. The world’s population is made up of different cultures, each of which is based on common beliefs, customs, and traits.

What Is Culture?

Culture refers to the many shared characteristics that define a group of people.

- **Culture** is the way of life of a group of people who share similar beliefs and customs.
- Geographers, anthropologists, and archaeologists study culture by examining people’s daily lives, the history they share, and the art forms they have created.
- They also study religion, types of government, economies, and social groups.
- Most social groups have rules of behavior that group members learn.
- Socialization is the process by which people adjust their behavior to meet these rules.
- In all cultures, the family is the most important social group, and most of us first learn how to behave from our families.
- An **ethnic group** shares a language, history, religion, and some physical traits.

- Countries that have many ethnic groups, such as the United States, also have a national culture that all their people share.
- Ethnocentrism is when people come to believe that their own culture is superior to, or better than, other cultures.
- Sharing a language is one of the strongest unifying forces for a culture.
- A **dialect** is a local form of a language that may have a distinct vocabulary and pronunciations.
- Another important cultural element is religion.
- The five major religions are Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism.
- History shapes how a culture views itself and the world.
- Stories about the challenges and successes of a culture support certain values and help people develop a cultural pride.
- Food, clothing, and style of home also reflect one's culture.
- The music, paintings, sculptures, and other arts in a culture tell what the people think is beautiful and meaningful.
- Governments can be limited, or place restrictions on leaders' powers.
- In a **democracy**, power is held by the people.
- Most democracies today are called representative democracies because the people choose leaders to represent them and make decisions.
- Governments can also be unlimited, where the leaders are all-powerful.
- In a **dictatorship**, the leader, or dictator, rules by force. Dictators often limit citizens' freedoms.
- A **monarchy** is a government led by a king or queen who inherits power by being born into the ruling family.
- For much of history, monarchies held unlimited power.
- Today most monarchies are constitutional monarchies in which elected legislatures hold most of the power.
- Geographers study economic activities to see how a culture uses its resources and trades with other places.
- An economy's success is seen in the people's quality of life—how well they eat and what kind of health care they receive.

Cultural Change

Cultures are constantly changing and influencing each other.

- After 8000 B.C. humans changed from being wandering hunters and gatherers to being farmers who stayed in one place.
- Historians call this change the Agricultural Revolution.

- The Agricultural Revolution led people to create **civilizations**, or highly developed cultures.
- The first civilizations developed in river valleys in what is today Iraq, Egypt, India, and China.
- People in these civilizations made important advancements such as building cities, forming governments, founding religions, and developing writing systems.
- Around the A.D.1700s, some countries began to industrialize, or use machines to make goods.
- The widespread use of machines allowed industrial nations to produce more food, goods, and wealth, which caused sweeping cultural changes.
- The process of spreading ideas, languages, or customs from one culture to another is called **cultural diffusion**.
- In the past, diffusion took place through trade, migration, and conquest.
- In recent years, new methods of communication also have led to cultural diffusion.
- Historically, trade began with the exchange of goods, often over great distances.
- Soon it brought new ideas, practices, and religions to an area.
- The movement of people from one place to another also leads to cultural diffusion.
- An example is the introduction of the horse to people of North America by the European settlers.
- The conquest of one group by another is a third way culture can spread.
- In turn, the conquered peoples can influence the culture of the conquerors.
- Today television, movies, and the Internet contribute to cultural diffusion.
- Movies made in one country are seen around the world, and the Internet allows people to have contact with other cultures.

Regional and Global Cultures

As countries and regions share cultural traits, a global culture is emerging.

- The term region describes areas that share common physical characteristics.
- A **culture region** is an area that includes different countries that share similar cultural traits.
- The countries in a culture region also have unique traits that set them apart.
- Recent advances in communications and technology have helped break down barriers between culture regions.
- The result is **globalization**, or the development of a worldwide culture with an interdependent economy.
- With globalization, individual economies rely greatly upon one another for resources and markets.
- Some people believe that as the global culture grows, local cultures will become less important.

Section 3: Resources, Technology, and World Trade

Patterns of economic activities result in global interdependence. Because resources are unevenly distributed, the nations of the world must trade with each other. New technologies make the economies of nations more dependent on one another.

Natural Resources

Earth's resources are not evenly distributed, nor do they all exist in endless supply.

- **Natural resources** are materials from the Earth—such as soil, trees, wind, and oil—that people use to meet their needs.
- Such resources can provide food, shelter, goods, and energy.
- **Renewable resources** are natural resources that cannot be used up or that can be replaced or grown again.
- Most natural resources are finite, or limited in supply.
- They are called **nonrenewable resources**. Once humans use up these resources, the resources are gone forever.

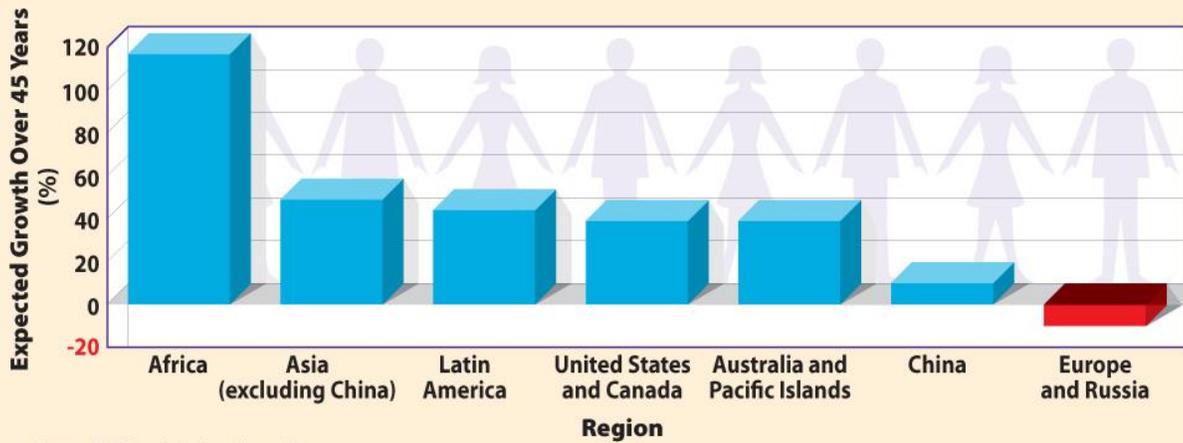
Economics and Trade

An economy is the way people use and manage resources.

- An **economic system** is the method used to answer three key questions:
 - what goods and services to produce
 - how to produce them and
 - who will receive them
- There are four kinds of economic systems.
- In a traditional economy, individuals decide what to produce and how to produce it.
 - These choices are based on custom or habit, and people often do the same work as their parents and grandparents.
 - Technology is often limited.
- In a command economy, the government makes the key economic decisions about resources.
- It decides the costs of products and the wages workers earn, and individuals have little economic freedom.
- In a market economy, individuals make their own economic decisions.
- People have the right to own property or businesses. Businesses make (supply) what they think customers want.
- Consumers have choices about which goods and services to buy (demand).
- Prices are determined by the interaction of supply and demand.
- Most nations have mixed economies.

- China, for example has a mostly command economy, but the government allows some features of a market economy.
- A **developed country** has a mix of agriculture, manufacturing, and service industries.
- Developed countries also tend to rely on new technologies, and workers have relatively high incomes.
- Countries with economies that are not as advanced are called **developing countries**.
- These countries have little industry, so agriculture remains important. Incomes per person are generally low.
- **Newly industrialized countries** are becoming more industrial and are moving toward economies like those in developed countries.
- Resources are not distributed evenly around the world.
- Trade is important because it allows nations to **export**, or sell to other countries, the resources they have in abundance or the products made from those resources.
- Countries also **import**, or buy from other countries, the resources they do not have or the products they cannot make.
- Trade allows developed nations to import what they need to maintain their successful economies.
- Trade also provides a means for developing nations to sell their products and resources to further industrialize and build their economies.
- A **tariff**, or a tax added to the price of imported goods, is a trade barrier used by nations to influence their people to buy less expensive items that are made in their own country.
- A **quota** is another trade barrier that limits how many items of a particular product can be imported from a certain nation.
- The removal of trade barriers so that goods flow freely among countries is called **free trade**.
- Growing trade among countries has resulted in the globalization of the world's economies and **interdependence**, or countries relying on each other for ideas, goods, services, and markets, or places to sell their goods.
- Interdependence has come about in part because of new technologies, such as those in transportation and communications.

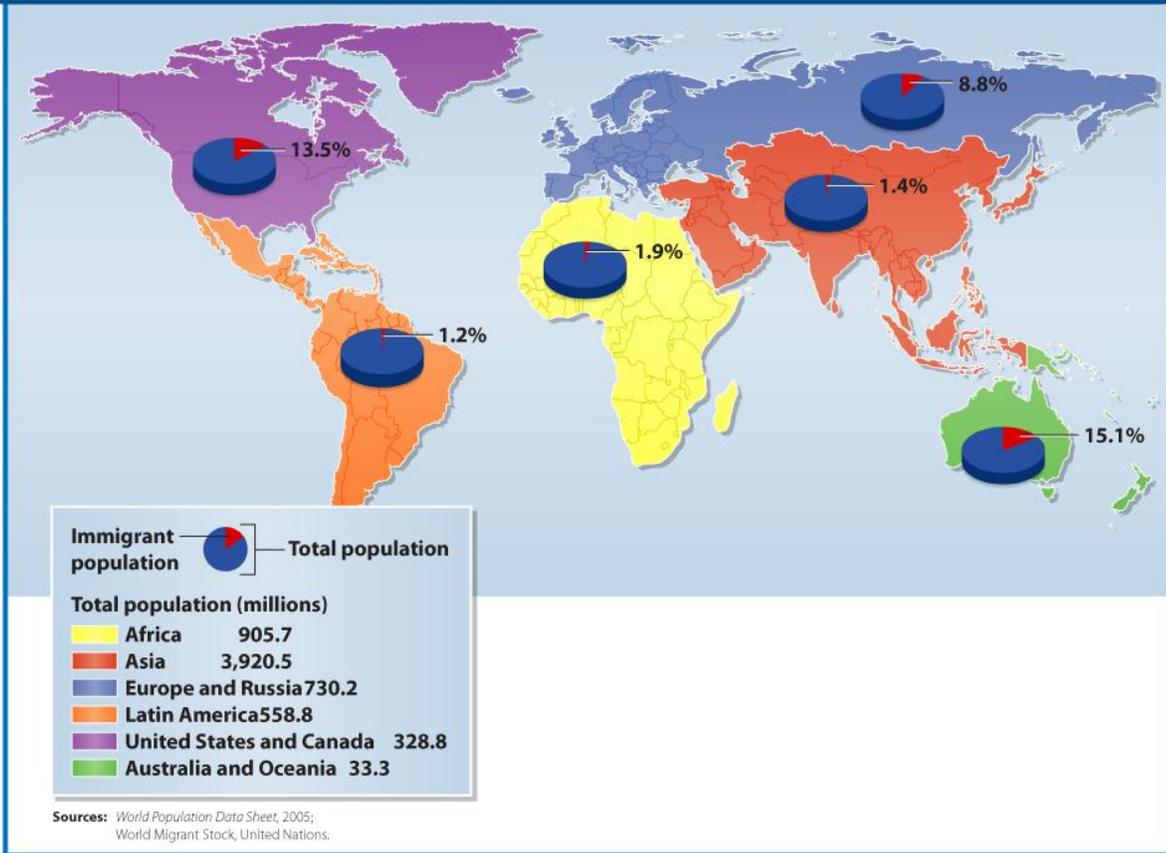
Expected Population Growth Rates, 2005–2050



Source: World Population Data Sheet, 2005.

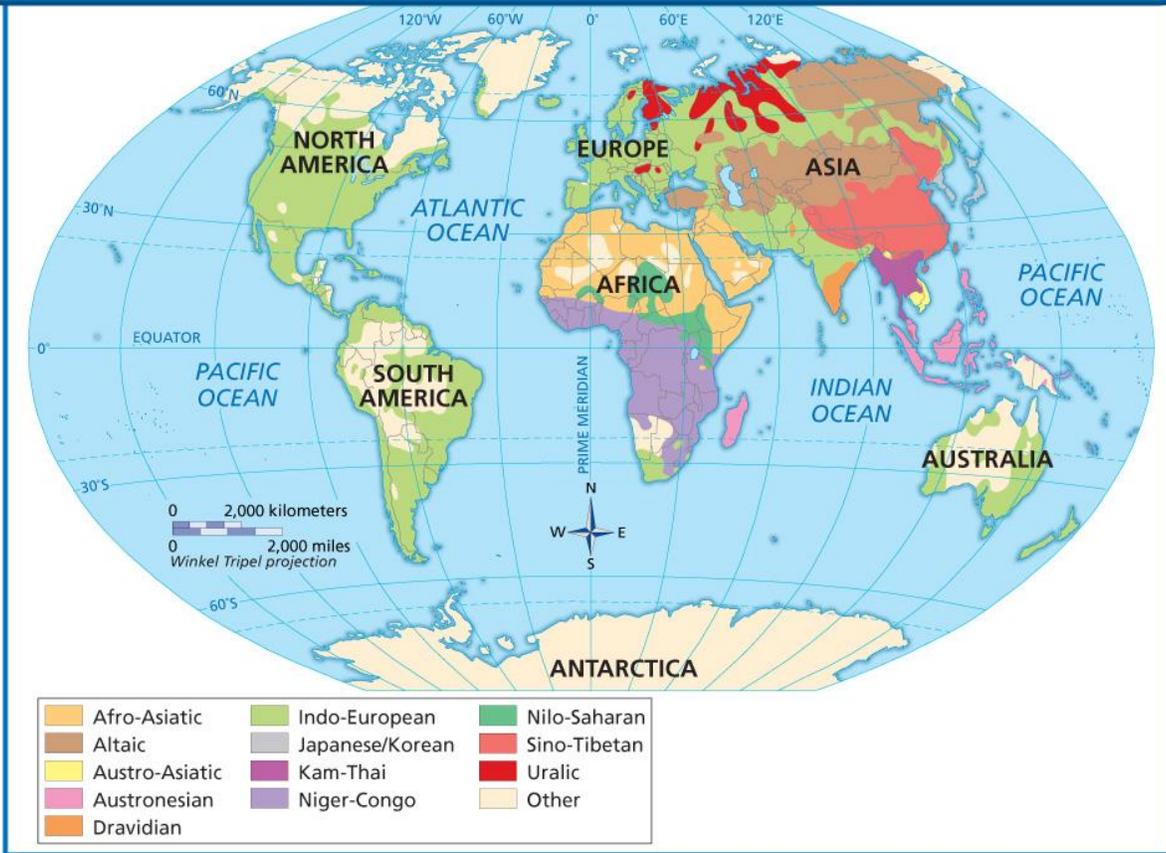


Figure 1 World Immigrant Populations



Sources: World Population Data Sheet, 2005; World Migrant Stock, United Nations.

Figure 2 World Language Families



Major World Religions

| Religion | Major Leader | Followers | Beliefs |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
|  Buddhism | Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha | 378.8 million | Buddhism is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, known as the Buddha. The Buddha taught that the goal of life is to escape the cycle of birth and death by achieving a state of spiritual understanding called nirvana. Buddhists believe that they must follow an eight-step path to achieve nirvana. |
|  Christianity | Jesus Christ | 2.1 billion | Christianity is based on the belief in one God and the teachings and life of Jesus as described in the New Testament of the Bible. Christians believe that Jesus was the Son of God and was sent to Earth to save people from their sins. |
|  Hinduism | Unknown | 860.1 million | Hinduism is based on the belief in a supreme spiritual force known as Brahman as recorded in sacred texts, including the Upanishads. Hindus believe that to unite with Brahman, they must first pass through many lives, being reborn into new forms. To move closer to Brahman they must make improvements in each of their lives. |
|  Islam | Muhammad | 1.3 billion | Islam is based on the belief in one God, Allah, as revealed through the prophet Muhammad. The Muslim sacred text is the Quran. Muslims follow five major acts of worship known as the Five Pillars of Islam. |
|  Judaism | Abraham | 15.1 million | Judaism is based on the belief in one God and the spiritual and ethical principles handed down by God. These principles, including the Ten Commandments, are presented in Jewish sacred texts collected in the Hebrew Bible. |

Source: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2005.

Figure 3 World Culture Regions

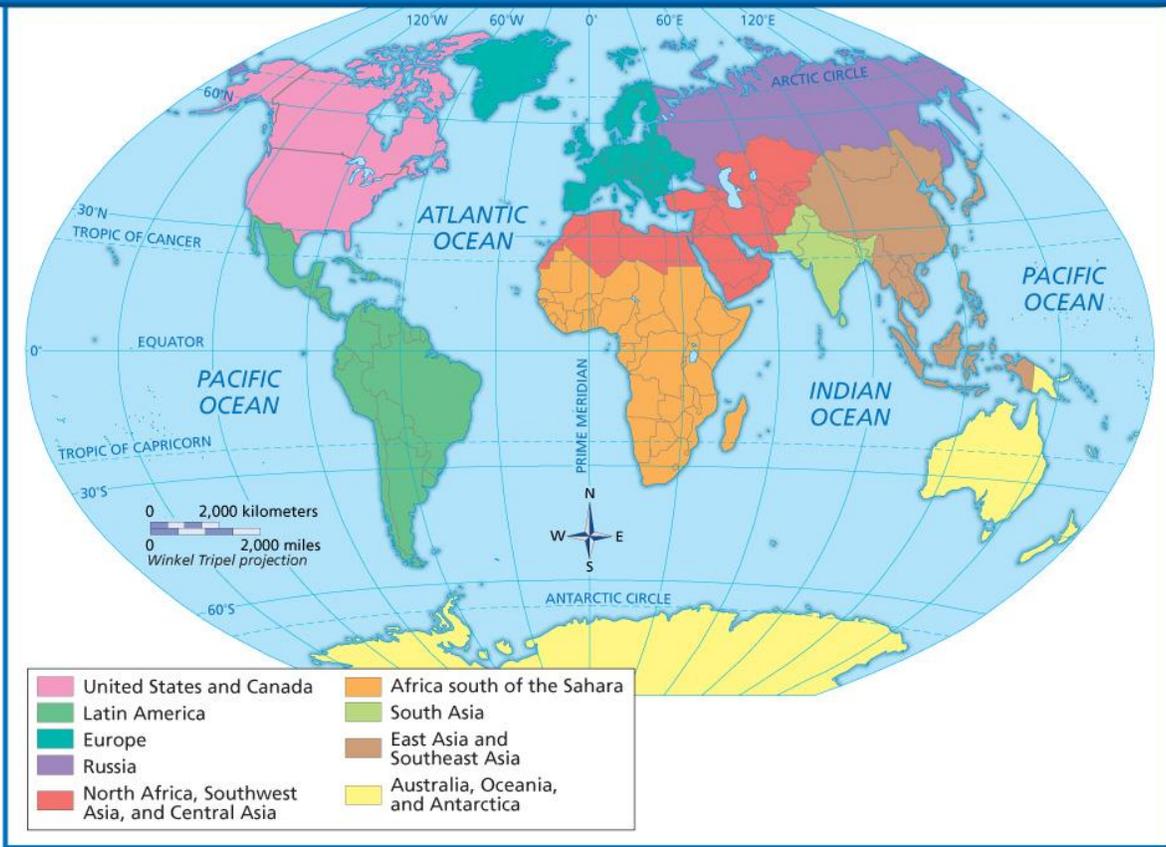
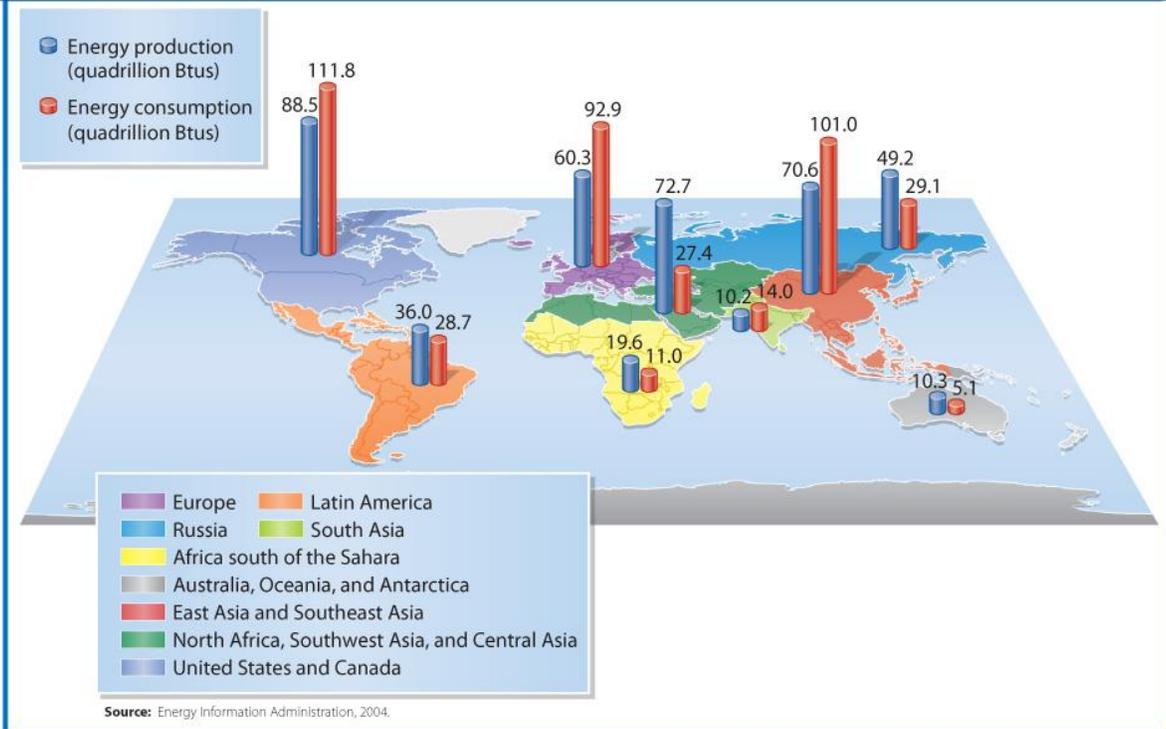


Figure 4 World Energy Production and Consumption



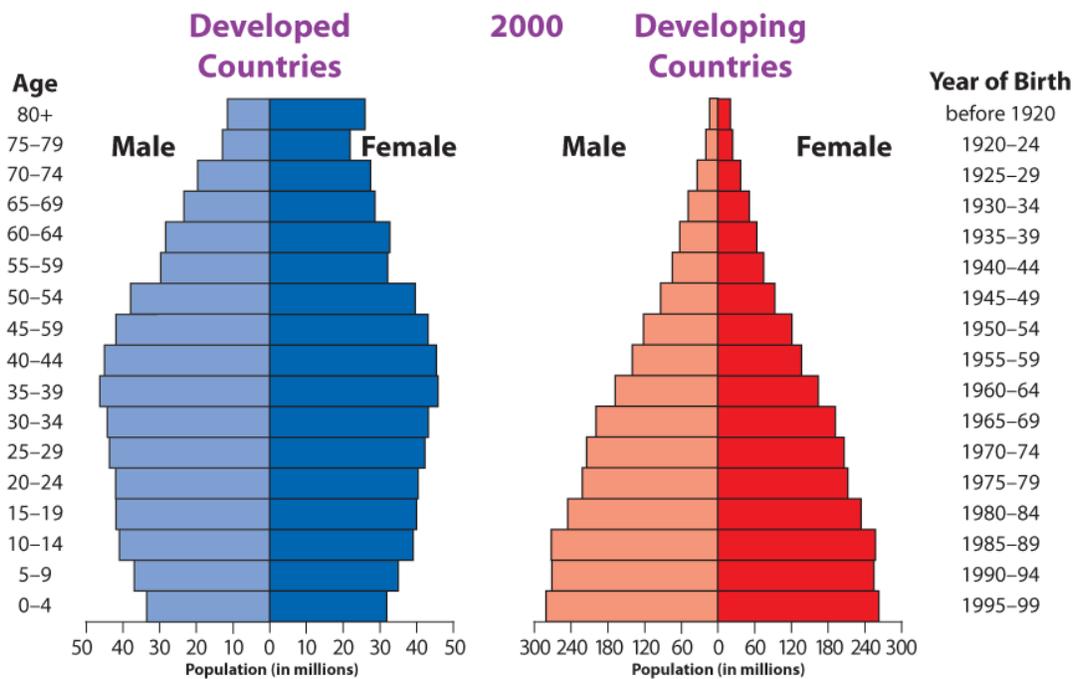
Economic Divisions

| Country | Agriculture | Industry | Services |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| United States | 1% | 20.4% | 78.7% |
| Sierra Leone | 49% | 31% | 21% |
| Thailand | 9.9% | 44.1% | 46% |

Source: World Factbook, 2006.

POPULATION PYRAMID

The World



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base.