

Basic Guide to the World

Population

1960 to 2003

Changes and trends

A report from **The Global Social Change Research Project**

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The project began in 2000, as a way to help understand how society works. This project includes presenting reports about how the world has changed recently, for example population and economic changes.

We hope that our reports can be used to help the public come to a better understanding of society today.

We also hope that the reports and data used to prepare these reports will be useful for researchers, students and teachers.

All reports and data sets used to create these reports are available through the project web site and are freely available for teaching and research use.

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## Population Trends

### **Population trends:**

In this report, we use graphs and tables to show how the world population has changed in the last 40 years. We show where most people live, which areas have grown the most, which are the largest countries, and how they have changed.

The graphs and tables in this report show that:

#### **More developed versus less developed countries:**

- The majority of the world population is in the less developed countries.
- Population growth is faster among the less developed countries.
- Population growth is slowing down for both more and less developed countries.

#### **Regions:**

- The majority of the world population is in Asia.
- The next largest regions are sub-Saharan Africa and Latin American Caribbean.
- The fastest growing regions are sub-Saharan Africa, the Near East and Northern Africa.
- Population growth has declined among all regions.

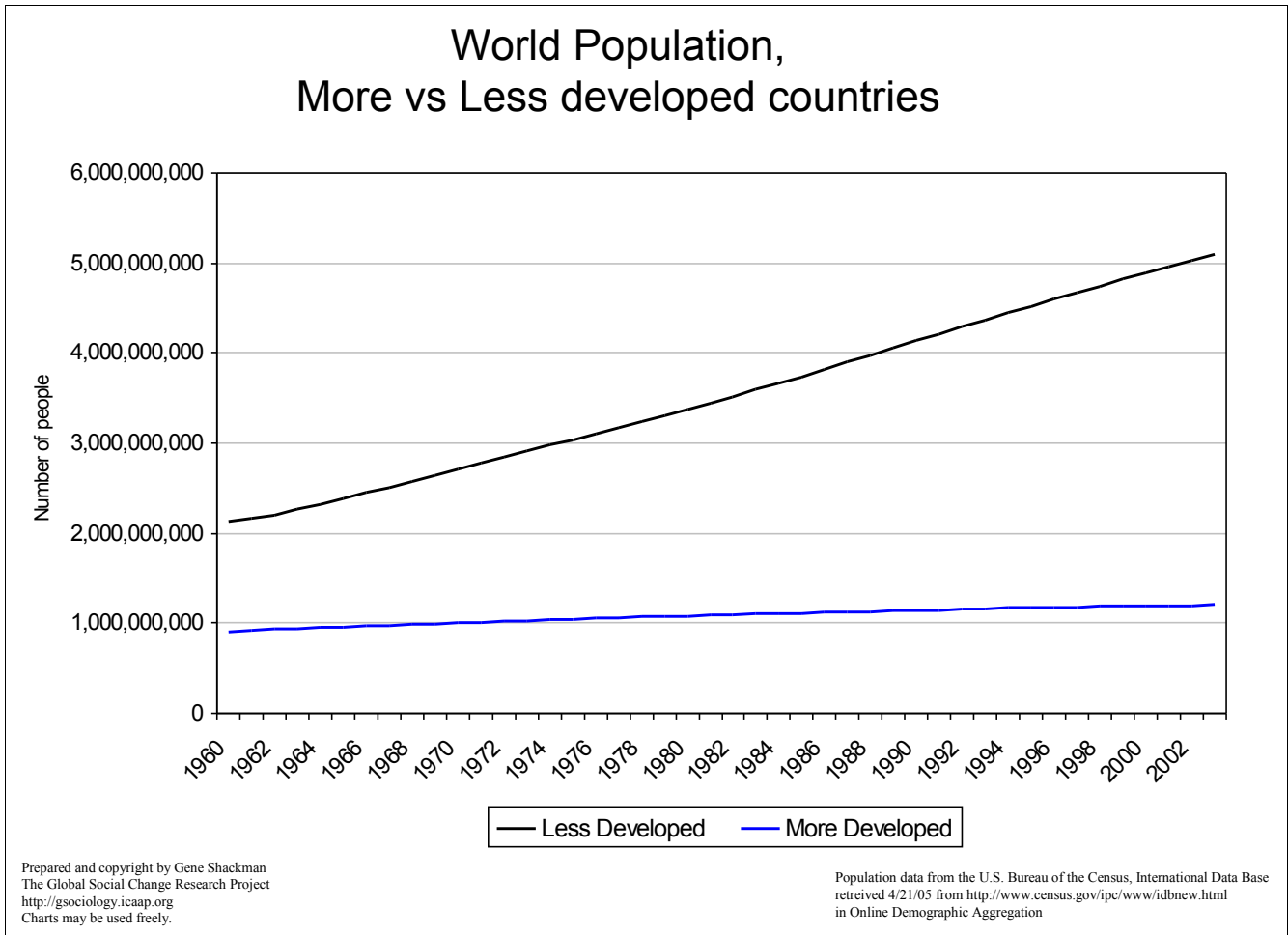
#### **World's Largest Countries:**

- The countries with the largest populations, by far, are China and India.
- United States is the distant third largest country.
- In general, population growth has declined among the largest countries, except possibly Bangladesh and the United States.

## Figures and Tables

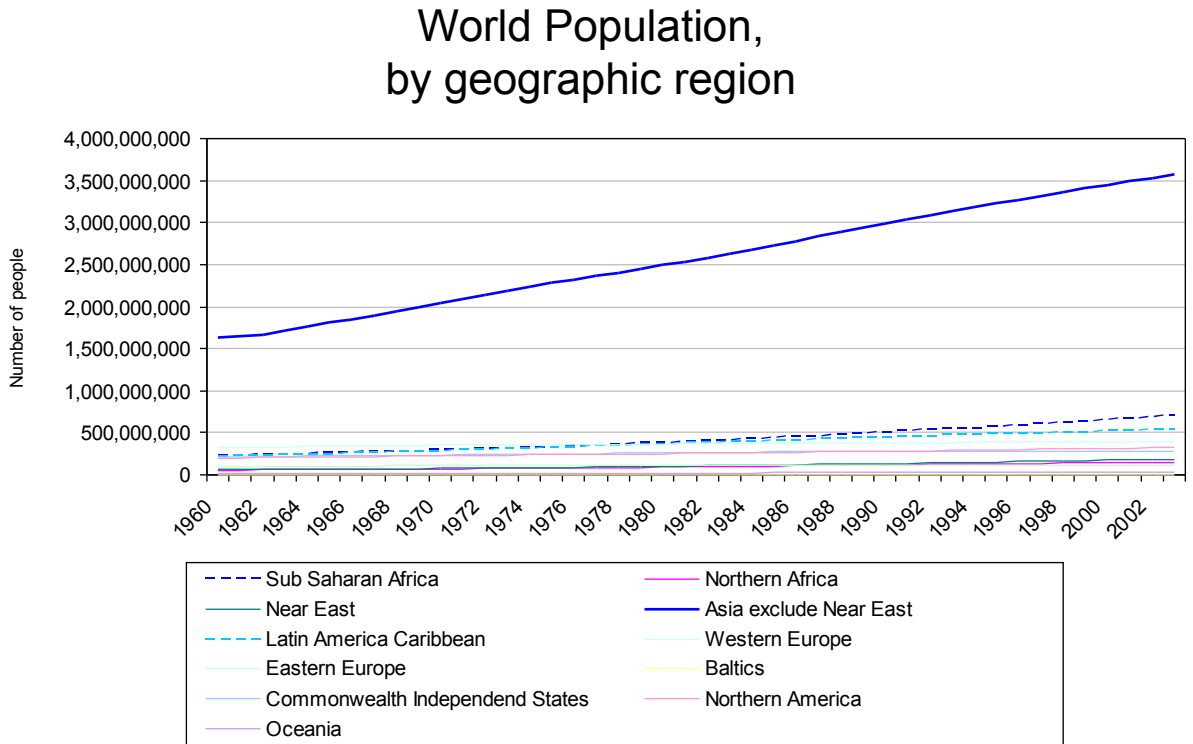
# World Population

## Figure 1



# World Population

## Figure 2



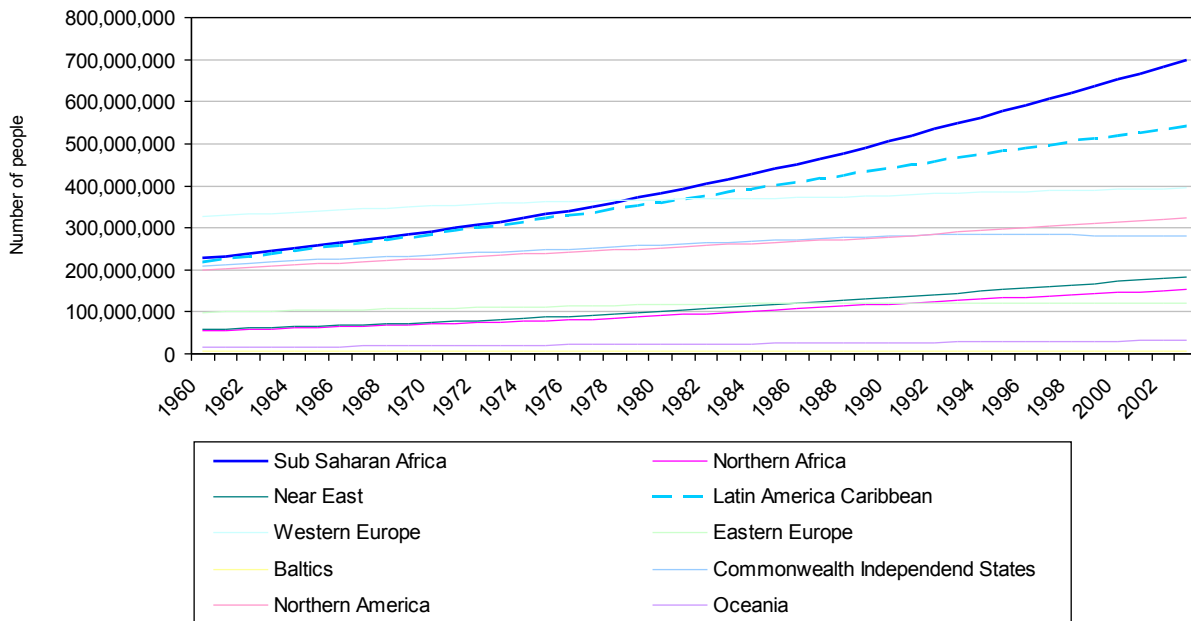
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retrieved 4/21/05 from <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html>  
in Online Demographic Aggregation

# World Population

## Figure 3

### World Population, by geographic region, excluding Asia



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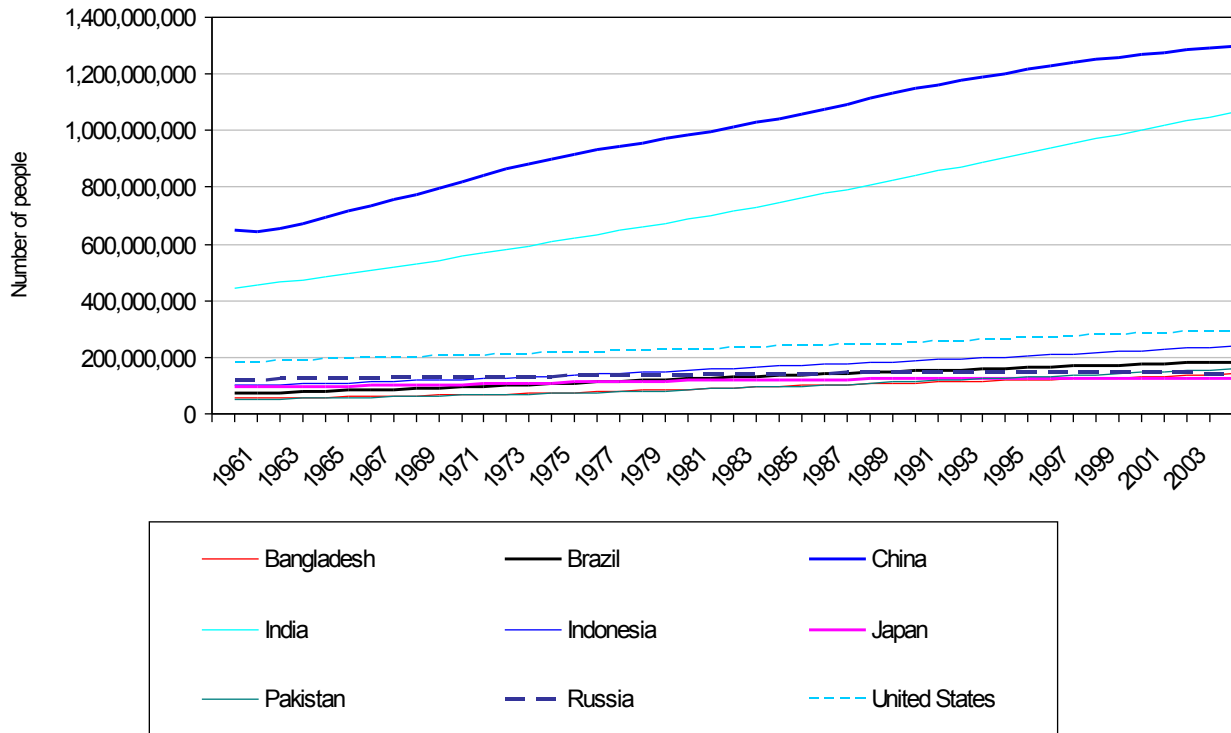
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# World Population

## Figure 4

### World Population, 9 largest countries



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Population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Data Base  
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## World Population

**Table 1.**  
**Average percent change in population**  
**By region**

	World	Less Developed	More Developed									
	Sub Saharan Africa	Northern Africa	Near East	Asia exclude Near East	Latin America Caribbean	Western Europe	Eastern Europe	Baltics	Commonwealth of Independent States	Northern America	Oceania	
1960s	2.5%	2.4%	2.7%	2.3%	2.8%	0.8%	0.9%	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	2.1%	
1970s	2.7%	2.5%	3.0%	2.1%	2.4%	0.5%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	1.1%	1.7%	
1980s	2.9%	2.8%	3.0%	1.8%	2.1%	0.3%	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%	1.0%	1.6%	
1990s	2.6%	2.1%	2.4%	1.5%	1.7%	0.4%	0.0%	-0.6%	0.1%	1.2%	1.5%	
2000s	2.4%	1.8%	2.2%	1.2%	1.4%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.5%	-0.2%	1.0%	1.3%	

**Table 2**  
**Average percent change in population**  
**By Country**

	Bangladesh	Brazil	China	India	Indonesia	Japan	Pakistan	Russia	United States
1960s	2.0%	2.9%	2.3%	2.2%	2.0%	1.0%	2.7%	0.9%	1.3%
1970s	2.7%	2.6%	2.0%	2.2%	2.3%	1.2%	2.6%	0.6%	1.1%
1980s	2.3%	2.2%	1.5%	2.1%	2.0%	0.6%	3.1%	0.6%	0.9%
1990s	1.7%	1.6%	1.1%	1.8%	1.8%	0.3%	2.5%	0.0%	1.2%
2000s	2.0%	1.2%	0.6%	1.5%	1.6%	0.1%	2.2%	-0.5%	1.0%

## Additional Information

These web sites have basic guides to world population growth.

The Global Social Change Research Project Research page  
<http://gsociology.icaap.org/research.html>

Links to many sources.

The US Census's **Global Population Profile: 2002**

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/wp02.html>

Also see the Census Bureau's **International Data Base** for data

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html>

United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Population Division

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm>

Especially see the report: **Population Estimates and Projections**

Population Reference Bureau

<http://www.prb.org/>

Especially see the **World Population Data Sheets**

<http://www.prb.org/wpds>

and the **Population Handbook**, in the PRB library.

[http://www.prb.org/pdf/PopHandbook\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.prb.org/pdf/PopHandbook_Eng.pdf)