

Malthus

☐ Overpopulation



Malthus

☐ Thomas Malthus

- 1766-1834
 - English
 - Economist
 - Wrote *Essay on the Principle of Population*
 - Influential today
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1798 Theory

- Population increasing faster than the food supply.

- Population increases geometrically

- $1*2*4*8*16*32*$ etc.

- Food supply grows arithmetically

- $1*2*3*4*5*6*$ etc



Malthus Theory

- Conclusions based on England
 - First country to reach stage 2
 - Decades into stage 2 demographic transition
 - In industrial revolution
 - Population growth would push above resources in all countries and lead to widespread starvation
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Malthus Theory

- ☐ People must use moral restraint
 - Produce a lower crude birth rate

 - ☐ Disease, famine, war, other disasters
 - Produce a higher crude death rate
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Neo-Malthusians

- ☐ New look at Malthus
 - ☐ Unprecedented natural growth rate
 - ☐ Two new population characteristics
 - Poor countries rapid population growth because of the MDC aid in medical knowledge and technology, but not wealth
 - Population outstripping other resources besides food
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Neo-Malthusians

- Example; East Africa
 - Income rose by 2%
 - Population rose by 3%
 - Found income used to support added population
 - People on the whole worse off than before
 - Resources untapped because of poor population
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Neo-Malthusians

- ☐ Robert Kaplan

- ☐ Thomas Frasier Homer-Dixon

- People will be engaged in desperate struggle to gain needed resources
 - Not only food, but clean air, fuel, farmland will be scarce
 - Increase of warfare and civil violence
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Neo-Malthusians Critics

- ☐ Possibilism is not a part of Malthus theory
 - ☐ Based on the idea that the world supply of resources is fixed
 - ☐ Does not take into account the steady rise of technology that improves food production and use of other resources
 - ☐ Does not allow for the will of people to decide actions
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Neo-Malthusians Critics

- ☐ Esther Boserup

- ☐ Simon Kuznets

- Larger population create economic growth that would lead to more food production
 - More customers and more ideas for technology improvement
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Neo-Malthusians Critics

☐ Julian Simon

- Population growth stimulates economic growth
 - More people, more brains, better technology
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Neo-Malthusians Critics

☐ Marxists

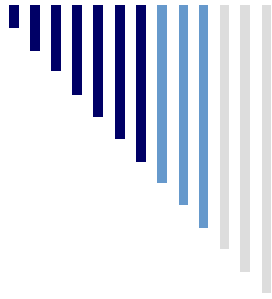
- No cause and effect relationship
 - Problems normally associated with economy are really caused by unjust social and economic institutions
 - Friedrich Engels
 - ☐ There is enough resources if shared equally
 - ☐ Capitalism causes the problem because workers do not control the food supply
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Neo-Malthusians Critics

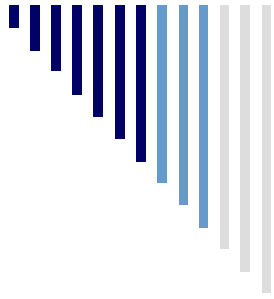
☐ Political leaders

- More people= more power
 - More people=more demand for goods
 - More people=more jobs
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Truth

- ☐ Some areas of the world do have a shortage of food
 - ☐ People in parts of the world are dying of starvation
 - ☐ For the most part the food supply is growing faster than the population
 - ☐ Malthus model expected the population to be at 10 billion instead of 6 billion
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Truth

- Cultural, economic, and technology have pushed countries into stage 3 and 4 of the demographic transition faster than expected.



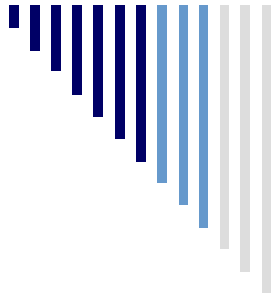
Declining birthrates

- Declining natural increase rate
 - Lower birth rate
 - In many areas stage 3-4
 - Higher death rate
 - Some areas such as sub-Saharan Africa
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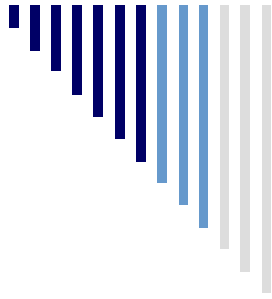
Declining birthrates

- ☐ Two strategies for reducing the birth rate
 - ☐ Reliance on economic development
 - Women better educated,
 - Delay having children
 - ☐ Distribution of contraceptives
 - Cheap and quick supplies for population
 - Family planning methods free
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Declining birthrates

- ☐ High contraceptive use:
- ☐ Bangladesh
- ☐ Columbia
- ☐ Morocco
- ☐ Thailand



High Birthrates

- ☐ Some countries of Africa
- ☐ Southwest Asia
 - Low status of women
 - Less educated
 - Moral or religious preferences
 - Women less legal rights
 - Children status symbols