



2.2

# Consequences of Population Distribution

## Objective and Essential Learning


2.2 Explain how population distribution and density affect society and the environment.





- Population distribution and density affect political, economic, and social processes, including the provision of services such as medical care.
- Population distribution and density affect the environment and natural resources; this is known as carrying capacity.



# How does population distribution and density affect society and the environment?

LEARN

 How does population distribution and density affect society and the environment?

<p><b>economic</b></p> <p>trade - level of development - wealth - poverty - employment - economic sectors - economic policies - infrastructure</p> 	<p><b>social</b></p> <p>language - religion - ethnicity - race - culture - gender - education - health - demographics - family &amp; children - beliefs</p> 
<p><b>political</b></p>  <p>types of government - laws &amp; policies - international relations &amp; organizations - conflict - war - boundaries - alliances</p>	<p><b>natural</b></p>  <p>physical environment - climate - plants - animals - pollution - natural resources - energy - possibilism - environmental determinism</p>

## How does population distribution and density affect society and the environment?



### ECONOMIC

- Competition for jobs.
- Urbanization due to manufacturing and industrialization.
  - Today, more tertiary activities are located in cities.
- Uneven population distribution results in uneven development.
  - Scattered/dispersed populations
    - Lower wages -> Less access to services-> Overall, less developed



## How does population distribution and density affect society and the environment?



### ECONOMIC / POLITICAL / SOCIAL



- **Social Services & Infrastructure:** High population density impacts access to housing, jobs, water, and services like sanitation, medical care, fire, police, public transportation and waste collection.
  - Actually easier and cheaper to provide support to clustered populations - less distance & travel. Rural areas have a dispersed population, but fewer facilities.
  - Yet, it is still extensive to provide services for large amounts of people.



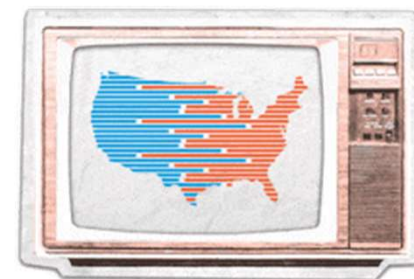
## How does population distribution and density affect society and the environment?



### POLITICAL

- Representation in Government
  - Electoral Districts which have to be roughly equal in population size.
  - Determines how many representatives in Congress.
  - Redistricting -> process of redrawing electoral district boundaries after the Census every 10 years.

VOTE!



## How does population distribution and density affect society and the environment?



### NATURAL / ENVIRONMENTAL / PHYSICAL

- Carrying Capacity: The maximum population size an environment can sustain.
  - High population density = pressures on the arable land, water, resources, and food supply.
  - Air and water pollution, depletion of natural resources, use of large amounts of energy, excessive waste



Economist.com

The slide features a central dark blue horizontal band containing the title. Above and below this band are large orange rectangular areas. On the left side, there are white vertical bars of varying heights. On the right side, there are several decorative elements: a vertical stack of four orange horizontal bars, a grid of small black squares, and a grid of small orange squares at the bottom right.

## 2.6 Malthusian Theory



## Objective and Essential Learning

### 2.6 Explain theories of population growth & decline.

- Malthusian theory and its critiques are used to analyze population change and its consequences.



# POPULATION

AND A MALTHUSIAN DILEMMA



# Malthusian Theory

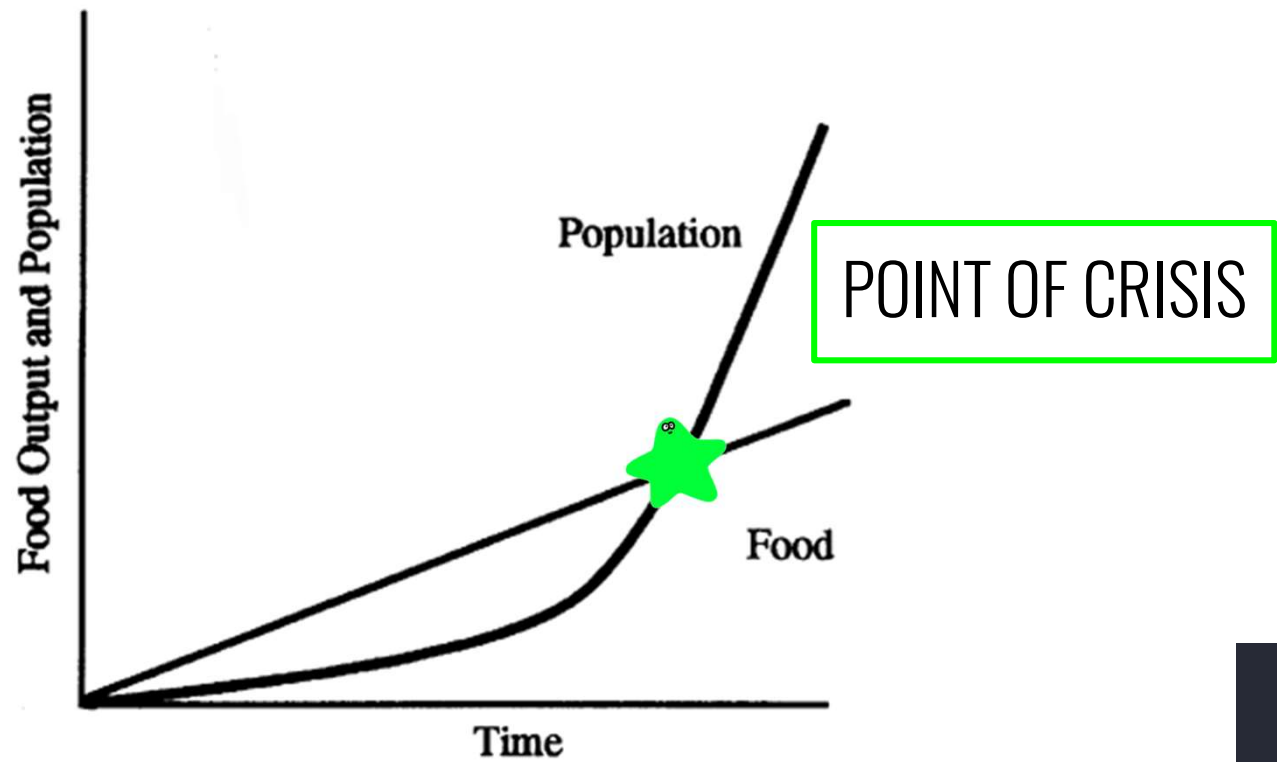
## Malthus' Claim:

- Population grows exponentially while food output only grow arithmetically. This would result in a food shortage and famine due to overpopulation.
  - Exponentially: 2, 4, 8, 16
  - Arithmetically: 1, 2, 3, 4

A population boom: exists  
Thomas Malthus:



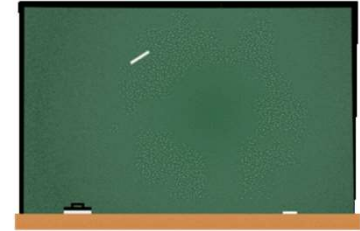
# Malthusian Theory



# Criticisms of Malthusian Theory

## 1. Factors that have slowed population growth:

- Contraceptives
- Education and advancement of women



## 2. Factors that have increased the efficiency of farming:

- Mechanized Farming
- Hybrid Seeds
- Chemical Fertilizers



## Criticisms of Malthusian Theory

### 3. New Technologies and Inventions:

- More efficient travel to deliver food to a wider range of consumers without spoiling.
- Refrigeration in trucks and railcars as well as homes to preserve food.
- Tin Cans to preserve food for longer time periods.



# Neo-Malthusians

Neo = new

- Concerns about sustainable use of the environment - the earth's resources cannot only sustain a finite (limited) population.
  - Decreasing birth rates in developed countries
  - Strain on natural resources
    - Water insecurity, Desertification, pollution of air and water, etc.
  - Overconsumption
  - Famine & Starvation

