



Encyclopedia of Population

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Editors in Chief

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PREFACE

Population as a field of study is concerned with the membership of human groups and categories in all their variety and with the processes of change in membership. Interest in populations and population change can be found across a wide array of disciplines in the social and biological sciences—from history and economics to epidemiology and genetics. In addition, population issues have numerous political and ethical ramifications.

The Study of Population

The study of population has a history as old as the study of society itself. Its origin as a distinct field, however, is usually traced to the classical era of political economy and in particular to the writings of Thomas Robert Malthus (usually T. R. Malthus, sometimes Robert) in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Malthus's prominent place does not derive from his popular (largely unfounded) reputation as an anti-populationist but rests on his acute and wide-ranging empirical investigations of comparative demographic regimes, exploring how economic, social, and cultural circumstances influence demographic behavior and outcomes. Separate precursors of the modern-day subject lie in the “political arithmetic” of John Graunt and other scholars a century before Malthus, out of which came the systematic treatment of mortality through life tables and actuarial analysis, and in the mathematics of population change and renewal, dating from the eighteenth century. Additional, later, factors shaping the field came from the domain of public policy: social Darwinism and eugenics (an influence later to be regretted); hygiene and public health; measures toward women's emancipation; and the discourse of human rights.

The core of population studies is the subject (to many practitioners, the discipline) of demography or demographic analysis, focusing on the quantitative dimensions of population change and its explanation—a subject that can readily extend beyond human populations to other animate and even inanimate collectivities. Demographic analysis makes substantial use of applied mathematics and statistical theory. The numbers that make up its feedstock derive from longstanding government concerns with recording “vital” events (births, marriages, deaths), from the periodic complete enumeration of a country's inhabitants through censuses of population, and, in recent decades, from a large and elaborate survey-taking industry.

These threads of theory, analysis, and policy, in various combinations, form the modern tapestry of population studies. The emerging shape of the field can be observed in the proceedings of the successive quadrennial conferences of the International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems, an organization set up in the 1920s, and its successor, the present-day International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. Various entries in this encyclopedia, notably those treating the history of demography and population thought, offer a fuller description of the evolution of the subject.

Surveys and Appraisals of the Population Field

The first formal stocktaking of the field of population was the volume *Traité de démographie*, by Adolphe Landry and collaborators (Paris, 1945). This important and pioneering treatise was never translated into English. Alfred Sauvy, one of Landry's co-authors, published his two-volume *Théorie*

générale de la population (Paris: Presses universitaires de France) in 1952 and 1954—a study whose ambition was signified by the Keynesian echoes of its title. (A one-volume English translation, *General Theory of Population*, appeared in 1969.) For an English-speaking readership the first large-scale overview of the field was *The Study of Population: An Inventory and Appraisal*, edited by Philip M. Hauser and Otis Dudley Duncan (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1959)—a large and impressive work that still repays reading. In some 30 chapters, well-known scholars surveyed the elements of demography, the status of demographic research in major countries, and the place of demography in the various more established social science disciplines.

The scope of demography—concepts, the institutional makeup of the field, and a who's who of demographers—was laid out by William Petersen and Renee Petersen in their 1985 *Dictionary of Demography*. Around the same time, the first specialized encyclopedia on the subject, the *International Encyclopedia of Population*, edited by John A. Ross, was issued (New York: The Free Press, 1982). More recently, a number of assessments of the field of population have been occasioned by anniversaries. Special journal issues comprising articles that survey the state of demographic research appeared on the 50th anniversary of *Population* (the journal of the Institut national d'études démographiques, Paris) in November-December 1995, and of *Population Studies* (Population Investigation Committee, London School of Economics) in November 1996; and on the 30th anniversary of *Demography* (the journal of the Population Association of America) in November 1993.

Population matters have some place in each of the three multi-volume encyclopedias of the social sciences—published in 1930–1935, 1968, and 2001—although perhaps limited by demography's uncertain status as a discipline. (The 2001 encyclopedia accepted it as “possessing a kind of disciplinary integrity.”) Various specialized encyclopedias—on aging, bioethics, economics, the environment, and so on—necessarily also give appreciable space to population. In economics, what was once a strong interest in population slowly waned over the course of the twentieth century, typified by the drop from two full chapters on the subject in F. W. Taussig's *Principles of Economics* (1911), the standard university text of the early decades of the century, to a few passing paragraphs in Gregory Mankiw's 1998 *Principles*. Much of the modest population content of *The New*

Palgrave (1987), a current encyclopedic authority on economics, is concerned with the microeconomics of the family.

The Encyclopedia of Population

What is the need for an encyclopedia of population at this time? One answer would be that the world's population growth is far from over, with continuing and far-reaching effects on human society and the natural environment. Even though birth rates have declined quite steeply across much of the world, another two billion people are expected to be added to the existing six billion in the period 2000–2030—almost as many as were added in 1970–2000, the peak period of the “population explosion.” Large regions of the world are still characterized by pervasive poverty, poor health conditions, and intractable problems of development—each with significant demographic dimensions.

But the main reason this encyclopedia is called for is the enlargement of the scope of the subject. In the 1980s, population issues seemed to many people to connote little else but rapid population growth and measures to curtail it. Today, population growth is one concern among many. Even a partial listing suggests the breadth of this expanded range of interest: the entrenchment of very low fertility and the growing problems of old-age support; the retreat from marriage and the diversification of family forms; new medical technologies affecting reproduction and longevity; the AIDS epidemic and the resurgence of a number of other infectious diseases; increased South-North migration and refugee movements; the press for women's equality and fuller reproductive rights; a widened array of environmental effects, notably climate change; and global shifts in the relative population sizes of countries. The evolutionary bases of human development and behavior have received renewed attention, with insights drawn from radical advances in genomic research and from comparisons with other species. Many of these topics have ethical debates associated with them—longstanding, like abortion and asylum-seeking, or newfound, like genetic engineering and animal rights. Along with such contemporary issues, research on population history and prehistory has proceeded apace, settling some controversies and raising others. All this is territory staked out by the *Encyclopedia of Population*.

The *Encyclopedia of Population* is directed both to professionals in the population sciences reading outside their immediate areas of expertise and to

other social scientists, college students, advanced high school students, and the educated lay reader. Catering to this range of readership is challenging. An effort is made to avoid material and jargon that would require prior specialized knowledge, but without losing significant detail through undue simplification. (Characterizations of persons named in the text of articles by their nationality or profession are included for the same reason, even when such information would be well known to many users.) Where a topic requires technical treatment, it receives it, or the reader is referred to appropriate further sources. However, the *Encyclopedia* is not intended to serve as a textbook on its field. If it has an ambition beyond the utilitarian it is to push out the boundaries of the subject—an ambition that stands in contrast to that implicitly set by the Population Association of America, whose journal prominently defines its scope as being “the statistical study of human populations.”

Not a few topics in population studies are contentious, either in terms of research findings or, more basically, in terms of their political and ethical premises or implications. Unsurprisingly, the various authors writing on matters related to such topics may often take differing positions. We have not sought to suppress those differences, but rather to ensure a rough overall degree of balance among the articles.

The *Encyclopedia* contains 336 articles by a total of 278 authors. The contributors are all accomplished scholars, their expertise spanning a wide range of fields: biology, demography, economics, geography, history, law, philosophy, political science, public health, sociology. Many of the articles are short entries of 500–1000 words of text; only a relatively few are longer than 3000 words. Within this range, length is roughly dictated by the scope of the topic; the level of technicality is governed by what is required to explain it.

Among the short entries are 60 biographies of persons selected from those whose work has been important in the development of population studies, whether or not they were seen (or saw themselves) as “population” people. Compiling such a list entails many somewhat arbitrary choices and no two lists would be the same. In the present case, contributors to technical demography will be less in evidence in the encyclopedia than persons whose work has been influential in the development of population thought more broadly. Invidious choice among

presently active scholars has been avoided by including only persons born in or before 1930, or deceased.

A thematic overview of the *Encyclopedia of Population* is given in the Topical Outline, which follows the List of Authors in the frontmatter. The Outline may be particularly helpful to students who wish to find population-related information relevant to their studies in other fields but who do not have in mind a particular topical entry. A student in environmental studies, for example, could narrow his or her search within the sixteen articles listed under the heading Environment and Resources; a political science student might scan the eleven articles listed under Political Demography, and perhaps also the ten under Population Policy.

The Population Tables at the end of the second volume presents four summary tables showing statistics on population size, rates of change, area, and density, by country, for countries of 10 million population and over. (These countries contain over 90% of the world’s population.)

We hope readers of the *Encyclopedia* will find in it much material that is new to them. A test of such a work, in addition to its reference function, is the extent to which it repays browsing and offers the casual serendipitous discovery or insight. Inevitably, occasional gaps in coverage will be found. Some of these may reflect particular editorial decisions; others result from nondelivery of promised articles (the proportion of such defaults, some 7%, is relatively low for enterprises such as this). We would hope, like the editors of *The New Palgrave* (p. x), that “such errors of omission and commission . . . are unbiased, in almost every sense of the word.”

Our main acknowledgment is of the encyclopedia’s contributors, for their work and sometimes for their forbearance of editorial intrusiveness. Assistance from members of the committee of Editorial Advisors is also much appreciated. At Macmillan Reference, Jill Lectka, Monica Hubbard, and Nicole Watkins were efficient and congenial counterparts; to them also should go credit for ensuring that the project kept not too far behind its schedule. At the Population Council, Robert Colasacco provided administrative and secretarial assistance. The overall institutional support of the Population Council was an essential factor in the undertaking.

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TOPICAL OUTLINE

The classification of articles that follows provides a thematic view of the encyclopedia's contents, depicting overall coverage in the various familiar divisions of the field of population studies. It is also intended to assist the user, whether researcher or browser, in locating articles broadly related to a given topic. This purpose would be defeated if articles that clearly belong under more than one category were listed only once. For example, Sex Selection might be sought under either Ethical Issues or Reproduction and Birth Control. To prevent the listing from becoming too large, however, only articles where the case for multiple entry is compelling (about one in six) are so treated. Where two categories are closely related, such as Mortality and Health on the one hand and Disease and Disability on the other, articles appear in only one of them. A more detailed means of finding cognate material is through the list of cross-references shown after each article. For finer-grained access to the encyclopedia's contents, the index should be consulted.

Biographies are not included among the articles listed in the substantive classification. They appear in the subsequent list, ordered by date of birth and grouped by the century in which the subject's main work was done.

- I. THE POPULATION FIELD, POPULATION THEORY, AND POPULATION HISTORY
 - A. THE POPULATION FIELD
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 - Journals, Population
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 - B. POPULATION THEORY
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 - Animal Ecology
 - Demographic Transition
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 - C. APPLIED DEMOGRAPHY
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- Health Transition
- Homeostasis
- Human Ecology
- Migration Models
- Momentum of Population Growth
- Optimum Population
- Organizations, Demography of
- Population Thought, Contemporary
- Population Thought, History of
- Second Demographic Transition
- Sociobiology

- D. POPULATION ORGANIZATIONS
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 - Prehistoric Populations: The Americas
 - F. HISTORICAL DEMOGRAPHY
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 - Black Death
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 - Disease and History
 - Epidemics
 - Family: History
 - Health Transition
 - Historical Demography
 - Household Composition
 - Induced Abortion: History
 - Infanticide
 - Mortality Decline
 - Peopling of the Continents
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 - Slavery, Demography of
 - Trans-Atlantic Migration
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 - Demographic Surveys, History and Methodology of
 - Genealogical Records
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 - Fertility Measurement
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 - Famine in Africa
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- F. DISEASE AND DISABILITY
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 - Ethnic Cleansing
 - Feminist Perspectives on Population Issues
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 - War, Demographic Consequences of
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 - Family Allowances
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Immigration Policies

One-Child Policy

Population Policy

Sex Ratio

Welfare State

VI. BIOGRAPHIES

A. SIXTEENTH CENTURY

Giovanni Botero

B. SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

John Graunt

William Petty

Gregory King

C. EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Richard Cantillon

Leonhard Euler

Johann Süssmilch

Marquis de Condorcet

Jean-Baptiste Moheau

D. EIGHTEENTH-NINETEENTH CENTURY

William Godwin

T. R. Malthus

E. NINETEENTH CENTURY

Benjamin Gompertz

Adolphe Quetelet

Pierre-François Verhulst

John Stuart Mill

William Farr

Charles Darwin

Karl Marx

Francis Galton

József Kőrösi

Vilfredo Pareto

Arsène Dumont

Jacques Bertillon

Knut Wicksell

F. NINETEENTH-TWENTIETH CENTURY

Edwin Cannan

Werner Sombart

G. TWENTIETH CENTURY

Adolphe Landry

R. R. Kuczynski

Raymond Pearl

Alfred J. Lotka

John Maynard Keynes

Margaret Sanger

Corrado Gini

Warren S. Thompson

P. K. Whelpton

Alfred Sauvy

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Simon Kuznets

Frank W. Notestein

August Lösch

Irene B. Taeuber

Kingsley Davis

Ester Boserup

David Glass

Louis Henry

Bernard Berelson

Nathan Keyfitz

Philippe Ariès

Garrett Hardin

Peter Laslett

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