BIRTH COHORTS/DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS
Dec. 10, 2008

Final Exam:
1210 LeBaron Hall
Monday, 2:15 p.m.

BIRTH COHORTS

- Birth cohort: set of people who were born during the same era and who face similar societal circumstances brought about by their shared position in the overall age structure of the population (p. 406)
- Birth cohorts effect everyday lives in two ways:
  - Cohort effect: phenomenon in which members of a birth cohort tend to experience a particular life event or rite of passage—puberty, marriage, childbearing, graduation, entry into the workforce, death—at roughly the same time (p. 407)
  - Period effect: phenomenon in which a historical event or major social trend contributes to the unique shape and outlook of a birth cohort (p. 407)

U.S. POPULATION & GROWTH RATES, 1900-98

TOTAL BIRTHS & BIRTH RATES IN U.S., 1910-95
SOME GENERATIONAL LABELS

- GI Generation (“Greatest Generation”): 1910-1924
- Silent Generation: 1925-1945
- Baby Boomers: 1946-1964
  - Generation Jones (1954-1964)
- Baby Busters (Gen X): 1965-1981
- Echo Boomers (Millennials, Gen Y): 1982-1994
- Generation Z (1995-)

MALTHUSIAN THEORY

- Thomas Malthus (1766-1834) claimed that population increases geometrically (2, 4, 8, 16...), but food production increases arithmetically (2, 3, 4, 5...)
  - The result will be worldwide starvation
  - Malthus’ predictions proved wrong
  - Population growth rates don’t always increase
  - Food production has kept pace with population increase

DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION THEORY

- Demographic transition: stage of societal development in unindustrialized countries marked by growing life expectancy and high birthrates; concept used to explain why populations in less-developed countries grow faster than those in more developed countries
- Three stages
  - Stage 1 (preindustrial): slow growth because of very high birth and death rates
  - Stage 2 (early industrial): Rapid growth because death rate drops, but birth rate remains high
  - Stage 3 (later industrial): Slow growth because birth rate drops to approach death rate

CONSEQUENCES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION

- Most worldwide population growth happened in past 200 years
  - First billion reached in 1804, sixth billion in 1999, 6.5 billion in 2005
  - UN estimated range is 7.6-10.6 billion by 2050
  - World population growth is stabilizing
    - Highest growth rate (2.04%) in late 1960s; now at 1.21%
    - U.N. projects rate of 0.37% by 2045-50
    - U.N. projects total fertility rate of 2.05 by 2045-50
  - Growth rates vary among nations
    - Most growth is in developing nations (1.4% annual growth)
    - Most developed nations approach or are below zero population growth (ZPG)
  - Age structures and sex ratios vary among nations
BIRTH RATES/DEATH RATES OF SIX NATIONS, 1998

- Niger (2.9%) - Afghanistan (5.8%) - U.S. (1.0%) - Canada (1.2%) - Sweden (0.4%) - Spain (0.1%)

- Birth rates per 1,000 people: 53.0 (Niger), 42.4 (Afghanistan), 23.4 (U.S.), 11.7 (Sweden), 10.8 (Canada), 9.7 (Spain)
- Death rates per 1,000 people: 23.4 (Niger), 17.4 (Afghanistan), 14.1 (U.S.), 10.8 (Sweden), 12.1 (Canada), 9.7 (Spain)

TOTAL FERTILITY RATES OF SELECTED NATIONS, 2000-05

- **At or approaching ZPG**: Hong Kong (0.94), Ukraine (1.12), Czech (1.17), South Korea (1.23), Bulgaria (1.24), Italy (1.28), Germany (1.32), Canada (1.51), United Kingdom (1.66), Australia (1.75), Russia (2.03), United States (2.04)
- **Higher TFR**: Niger (7.91), Afghanistan (7.48), D.R. of Congo (6.70), Yemen (6.20), Zambia (5.65), Kenya (5.00), Sudan (4.45), Haiti (3.98), Egypt (3.39), India (3.07), South Africa (2.80), Mexico (2.40)

AGE STRUCTURES IN SIX NATIONS, 2005

- **Uganda (14.8)**: 0-14 (3.8%), 15-59 (45.7%), 60+ (50.5%)
- **India (24.3)**: 0-14 (7.9%), 15-59 (46.0%), 60+ (46.1%)
- **U.S. (36.1)**: 0-14 (15.7%), 15-59 (57.0%), 60+ (27.3%)
- **Canada (38.6)**: 0-14 (7.7%), 15-59 (58.7%), 60+ (33.6%)
- **Japan (42.9)**: 0-14 (14.0%), 15-59 (44.0%), 60+ (42.0%)
- **Italy (42.3)**: 0-14 (14.0%), 15-59 (42.6%), 60+ (43.4%)

SEX RATIOS

- Sex ratio at birth: 105 males to 100 females
- Sex ratio for world population: 101
- Nations with older populations have fewer men than women because women live longer
  - E.g., Italy 94 sex ratio, Spain 95, Japan 96, U.S. 97
- Other nations have more men than women because women are selectively aborted, neglected or killed
  - China (106 sex ratio) has one-child policy
  - India (105) has dowry tradition
  - Afghanistan (107) limited women’s medical care under Taliban
- Highest ratios are on Arabian Peninsula, including UAE (214), Qatar (206), Oman (128), and Saudi Arabia (117)