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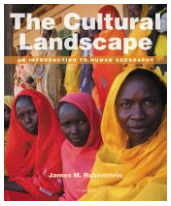
Chapter 2 Lecture

The Cultural Landscape

Eleventh Edition

Key Issue #1
Where is the world population distributed?



Matthew Cartlidge
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Key Issues

- Where is the world population distributed?
- Why is global population increasing?
- Why does population growth vary among regions?
- Why do some regions face health threats?

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Learning Outcomes

- 2.1.1: Describe regions where population is clustered and where it is sparse.
- 2.1.2: Define three types of density used in population geography.

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Where Is the World's Population Distributed?

- Population Concentrations
  - 2/3 of the world's inhabitants are clustered in four regions.
    - East Asia
    - South Asia
    - Southeast Asia
    - Europe
  - Site and Situation of Population Clusters
    - Low-lying areas with fertile soil and temperate climate
    - Near an ocean or near a river with easy access to an ocean.

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FIGURE 2-2 POPULATION CARTOGRAM In a cartogram, countries are displayed by size of population rather than land area.

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FIGURE 2-3 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION People are not distributed uniformly across Earth's surface.

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Where Is the World's Population Distributed?

- Sparsely Populated Regions
  - Humans avoid clustering in certain physical environments.
    - Dry Lands
    - Wet Lands
    - Cold Lands
    - High Lands
  - Places considered too harsh for occupancy have diminished over time.
    - Places of permanent human settlement are termed the *ecumene*.

- Humans tend to avoid places that are unaccommodating for activities, such as agriculture. Among these are places with too much or too little available water, places with exceedingly hot or cold temperatures, and places that have too steep of slopes to plant crops.

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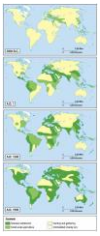

FIGURE 2-4 ECUMENE Seven thousand years ago humans occupied only a small percentage of Earth's land area, primarily in Southwest Asia, Eastern Europe, and East Asia. Even 500 years ago much of North America and Asia lay outside the ecumene. Still, approximately three-fourths of the world's population live on only 5 percent of Earth's surface. The balance of Earth's surface consists of oceans (about 71 percent) and less intensively inhabited land.

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Where Is the World's Population Distributed?

- Population Density
  - Density can be computed in up to three ways for a place.
    1. Arithmetic Density
       - Total number of objects in an area
       - Computation: Divide the population by the land area
    2. Physiological Density
       - Number of people supported by a unit area of arable land
       - Computation: Divide the population by the arable land area
    3. Agricultural Density
       - Ratio of the number of farmers to amount of arable land
       - Computation: Divide the population of farmers by the arable land area

- Physiological density provides insights into the relation between the size of a population and the availability of resources in a region.
- Developed countries have lower agricultural densities, because technology and finance allow a few people to farm extensive land areas and feed many people.

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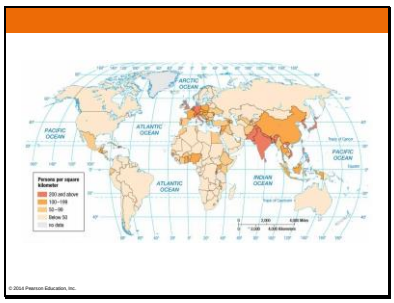

FIGURE 2-5 ARITHMETIC DENSITY Geographers rely on the arithmetic density to compare conditions in different countries because the two pieces of information–total population and total land area–are easy to obtain. The highest arithmetic densities are found in Asia, Europe, and Central America. The lowest are in North and South America and South Pacific.

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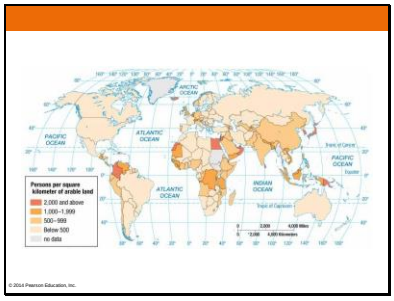

FIGURE 2-6 PHYSIOLOGICAL DENSITY Physiological density provides insights into the relationship between the size of a population and the availability of resources in a region. The relatively large physiological densities of Egypt and the Netherlands demonstrates that crops grown on a hectare of land in these two countries must feed far more people than in the United States or Canada, which have much lower physiological densities. The highest physiological densities are found in Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and South America. The lowest are in North America, Europe, and South Pacific.

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FIGURE 2-7 AGRICULTURAL DENSITY The highest agricultural densities are found in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. The lowest are in North America, Europe, and South Pacific.

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Learning Outcomes

Review your notes and write out your answers to the following prompts:

- Describe regions where population is clustered and where it is sparse.
- Define three types of density used in population geography.