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Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Environmental Change and Security Program

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How Demographics and Migration Are Changing the Global Map

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The Rapid Change in Demographics



World Population Growth, 1750-2150

Population (in billions)



Source: United Nations, *World Population Prospects, The 1998 Revision*; and estimates by the Population Reference Bureau.

World's Most Populous Countries 2005, With Projections for 2050



The 10/40 window consists of 57 nation-states with at least 50 percent of their land mass falling within 10 to 40 degrees north latitude. These states have the greatest socioeconomic challenges on the planet, two-third's of the world's population and 82 percent of the world's poor.



- **"Entangled**" (Long-term) Vulnerability Issues
 > Disproportionate population growth—youth bulges
 - > disease
 - climate change
 - water and other natural resource scarcities
 - > decline in food production, access, and availability
 - soil erosion and desertification
 - Urbanization, pollution, and infrastructure in "megacities"
 - > the lack of viable warning systems to recognize and act on All these vulnerabilities are interwoven complex linkages, interdependent, system chaotic

The Consequence of Rapid Urbanization in Struggling States

One Example and Some Images

Nigeria Population *(in millions)* and % Urbanized





Oil Fields





As recently as 1990 was NOT among world's 30 largest cities

2005 was 15th largest city in the world

In nine years, it will be 11th or by some estimates the 3rd largest

Population density estimated at more than 20,000 per km² (twice as dense as NYC; Manhattan density is 26,000)

A Lagos Slum

Police rarely enter

Life expectancy <40

No doctors, no clinics

No sewage – yet fishing is the main "industry"





"We are entering a bifurcated world. Part of the globe is inhabited by Hegel's and Fukuyama's Last Man, healthy, well fed, and pampered by technology. The other, larger, part is inhabited by Hobbes's First Man, condemned to a life that is 'poor, nasty, brutish, and short.' Although both parts will be threatened by environmental stress, the Last Man will be able to master it; the First Man will not." —Robert D. Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy"

> "Some cities are littered with garbage. Lagos is littered with corpses." — Harry Goldstein "How Not to Build a Megacity"

The Urban Century

How Is Urbanization Going to Change Us?*

- In 1905, only 10 percent of the world's population lived in cities
- > Today, over 50 percent live in cities
- > In 2030, over 60 percent will live in cities
- > 90 percent of population growth will occur in "majority" world cities
- Today, one in six lives in cities with unhealthy air quality; one in 15 has inadequate sanitation; one in 30 does not have access to safe drinking water



Figure 2 A Snapshot of Global Demographic Trends





The United States is the world's most prosperous nation . . . with the largest population explosion in history:

growing from 4 million in 1790 to 300 million in 2006 —growing by a factor of 75. Men and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted all the other alternatives. Abba Eban Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Environmental Change and Security Program

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