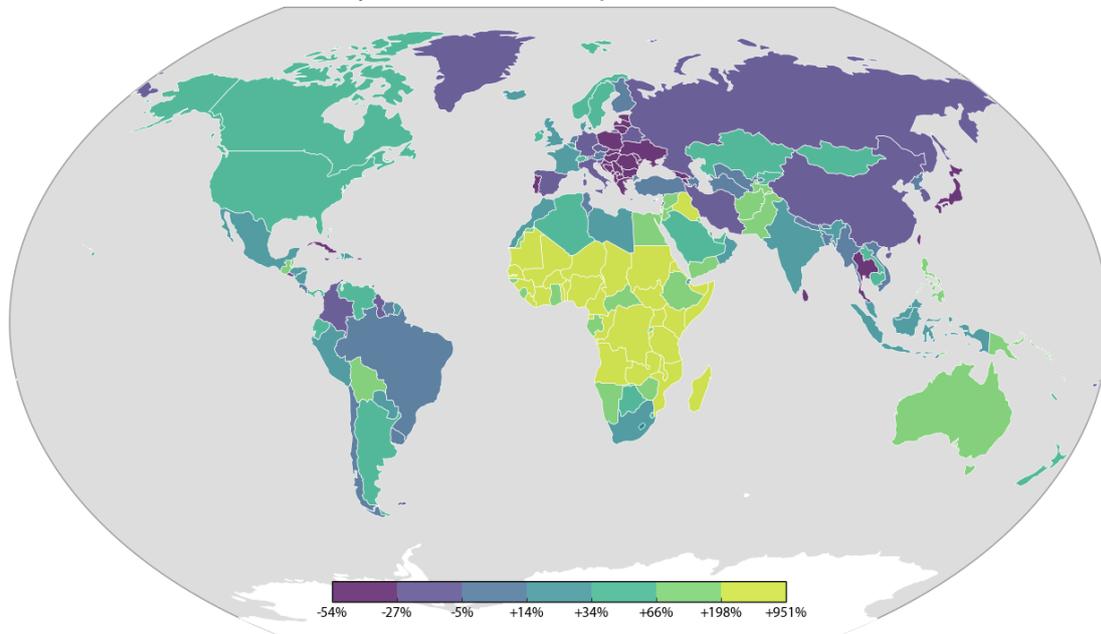


Population: Just another resource:

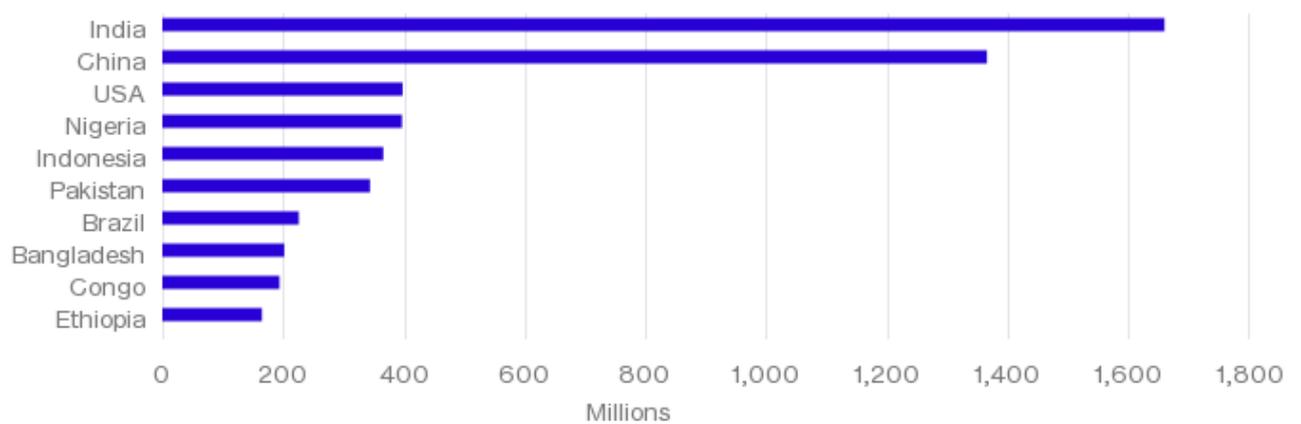
Can/should population be managed as a resource?

UN Population Growth Projections, 2015-2100



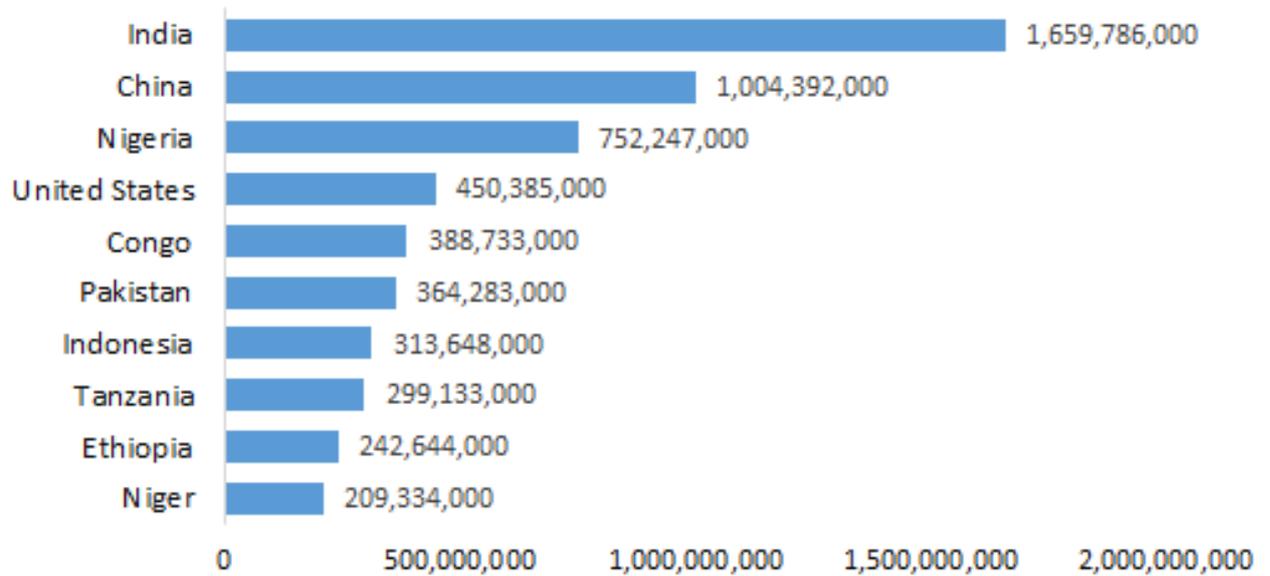
Who's Biggest?

India will have the biggest population in 2050, while three African nations also lead

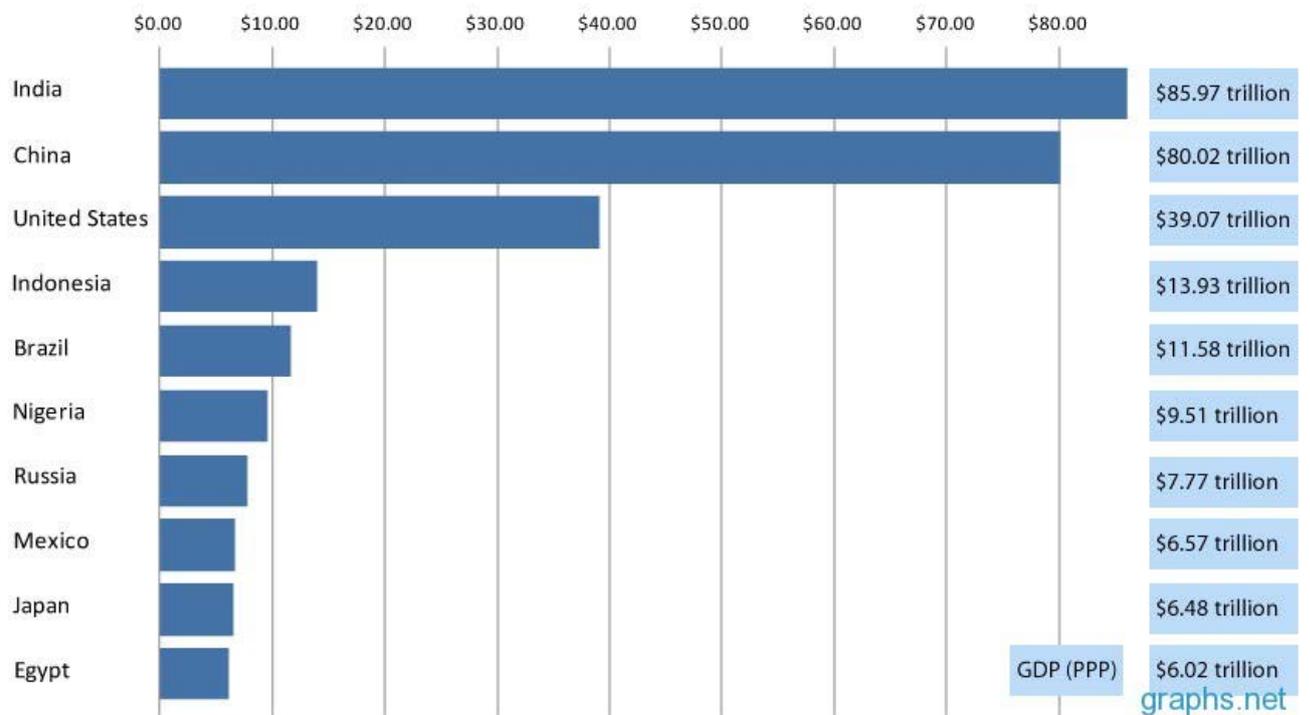


Source: Population Reference Bureau

The 10 Most Populous Countries in the World, 2100



World's Top 10 Economies in 2050



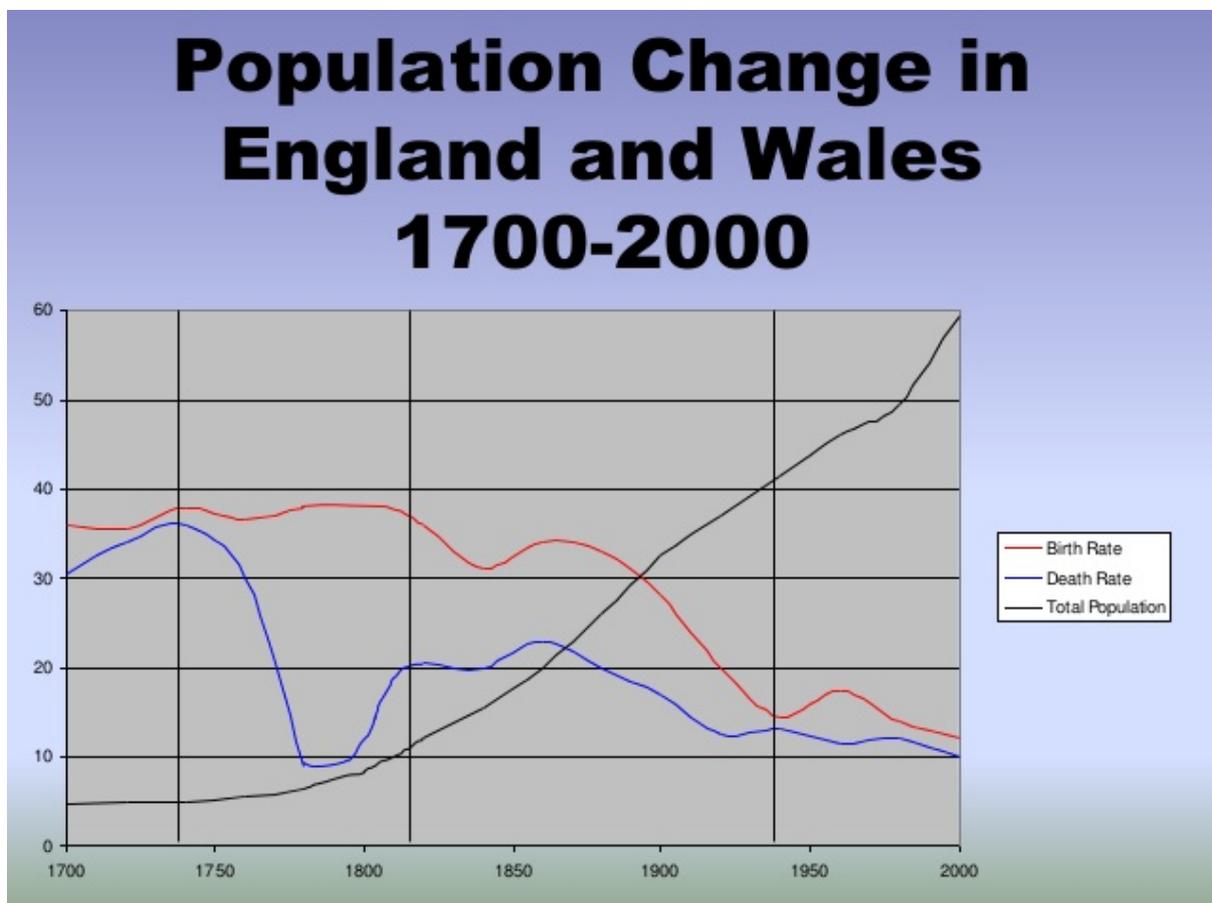
What's 'good' about more people?

Lots of potential tax revenue – multiplier effect. Spend on what? Complex technology. Defence budget = influence/power

Lots of ideas - more people = more start-ups? More business. New resources etc

Harder to conquer? Who's going to take on India/China? Yes, technology/topography/geographic location super important but size still matters...

Better quality of life? UK 200 years ago - 1/5 pop



There are 'obvious' (Malthusian) **negatives**

Greater pressure on resources – yes indeed - there's a logic to this.

More likely to lead to conflict (is this the case? Percentage of people killed in war less now than..ever..)

More waste

More pollution

Less space: greater pressure on prime agricultural land

What's *bad* about a declining population?

Paying for an ageing population – reducing tax base

Less chance of innovation

Less money for defence - Easier to conquer (unless nuclear power) = reliance on others/treaties

World pop set to rise to 9B+ by 2050 but worldwide the situation is very variable but for some countries *declining population* is a serious cause for concern. To name a few:

Japan

Denmark

Norway

China

Russia

Just how worried can states be: 'Do it for Denmark...' check this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLjwdU684>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B00grl3K01g>

Why worry about population decline in an era of global concern over climate change + resource acquisition/control? Surely it's the opposite: we should be actively *pursuing* population control and/or decline?

Logically, yes. Reality: No

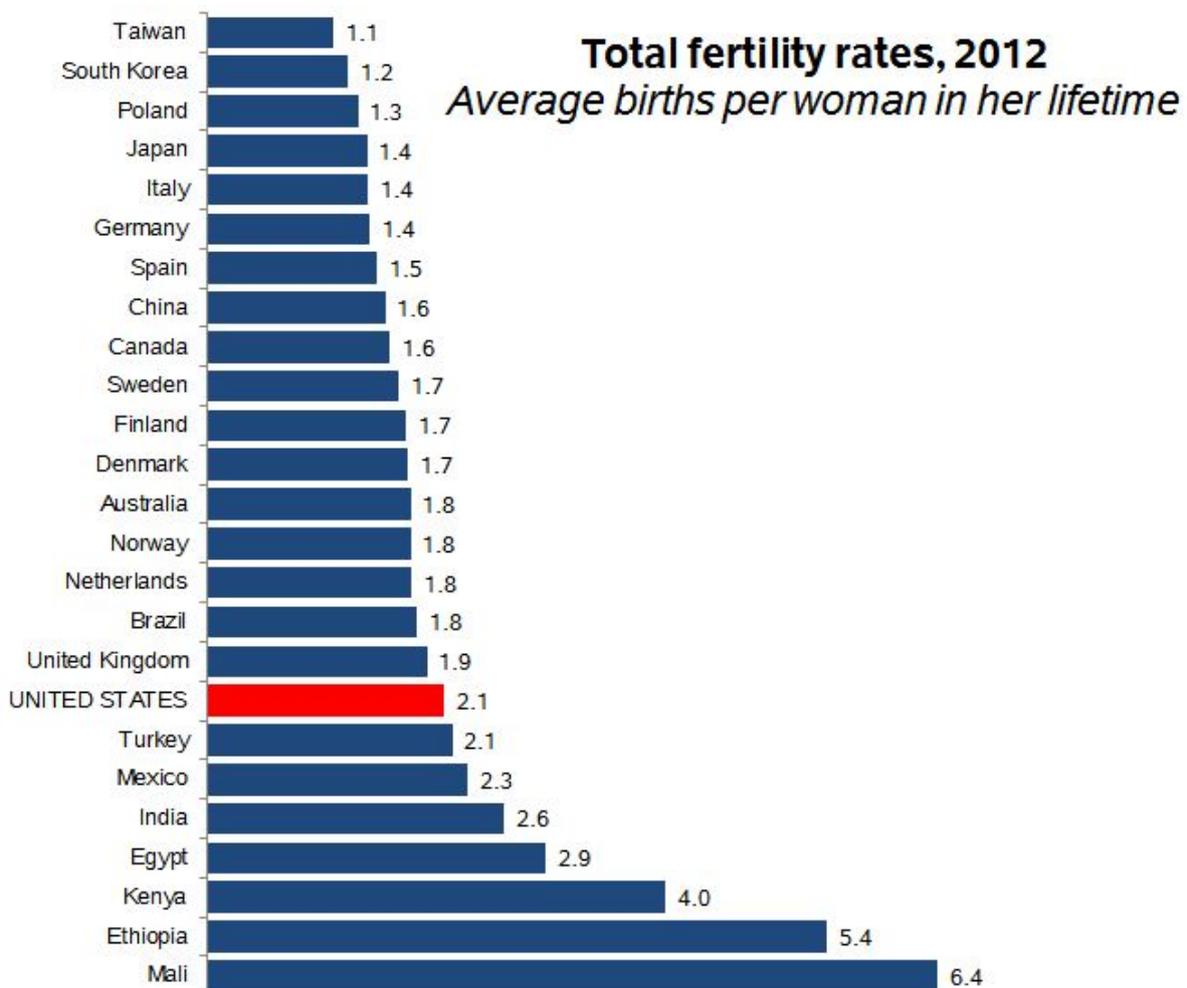
Clearly 11+B is going to be very challenging: The issue is one of competing market places/governments/regimes/ideologies. At the heart of this competition is population size. Let's be blunt: economic power IS power and people are at the heart of that power. Yes corruption/politics reduces this

relationship but a China of say 60m people today would not the global economic power that it now is. Far from it.

This all – perhaps – obvious. If so, then why do successive governments so spectacularly fail to manage this key resource?

Managing populations: carrots ('ethical?') and sticks (unethical?)

Remember you need a fertility rate of 2.1 to keep an even population. Most countries under this rely on immigration to 'top up' their fertility rates.



Positive ways to encourage

Supporting marriage – married allowance

Tax breaks – family allowances.

State benefits – more children = more state benefit

Encourage/limit immigration to predominantly young and skilled

Some more..err..focused ways:

Special benches designed to gently slide couples closer together, all the better for canoodling

Married workers given time off and encouraged to...

Women having babies nine months later, on [“Give Birth to a Patriot on Russia Day,”](#) won fabulous prizes ranging from [TVs to an SUV.](#)

Pay mothers (Russia: \$10,000) for the birth of a second/third child

In Japan they’ve tried to encourage people to have kids by building cute robots. The idea is that it’s so cute and sweet that young couples exposed to it’s charmingly uncanny ways will want a real version of their very own. Hmm.

In Singapore the government sponsored a [“National Night”](#) party in which young Singaporean couples were euphemistically encouraged to “let their patriotism explode” in order to give their country “the population spurt it so desperately needs.”

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/family/2013/04/can_a_country_boost_its_low_birth_rate_examples_from_around_the_world.html

Negative (sticks – Human Rights/Ethics)

Fines

Loss of state support

Social coercion

Forced abortion

Ethics

Human rights – what are they?

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/what-are-human-rights/what-universal-declaration-human-rights>