



*An ongoing research effort to identify and analyze the most important trends shaping our world out to the year 2030.*



### **Revolution 1: Population**

**How many people can our planet handle?**

## **RESOURCES**

### **Sample discussion questions**

- What difficulties—from retiring baby boomers in the United States to a graying China, to the massive overhang of Europe's elderly—can private corporations, governments, and other sectors expect as the aging revolution unfolds across the globe? How will changing demographics affect workforce composition? Retirement age? Pension outlays? Taxation? Immigration? Economic growth? How can governments, corporations, and nongovernmental organizations work together to address these issues?
- Immigration already accounts for over 60% of population growth in developed countries. Do you believe that governments in developed countries are ready to deal with the massive immigration that will accompany, in many cases, a sharply decreasing number of citizens? What recent world events encourage pessimism or optimism in this regard?
- According to the United Nations Population Division, by 2050 the four most-populous countries will be India, China, the United States, and Pakistan. What will this mean for the geopolitical balance of power? Pakistan is a prime example of the overarching global trend of the highest population growth occurring in countries with the lowest prospects for economic development, the most dire resource scarcities, the most daunting public health challenges, and the least transparent and effective systems of governance. What will be the impact of this population growth in terms of global stability and security?

\* From, [Educating Globally Competent Citizens A Tool Kit for Teaching Seven Revolutions](#)

## Web Resources

[The United Nations Population Division](#) remains the standard of reference for global population figures, as well as analysis of trends.

[The Population Reference Bureau](#) (PRB) provides detailed articles, datasheets, and reports on key population issues including mortality rates, gender, race/ethnicity, and fertility. PRB also offers specific country data.

[CSIS Global Aging Initiative](#) provides information about the international economic, financial, political, and security implications of aging and depopulation.

[CIA: World FactBook](#) and [CIA regional maps](#): great country-by-country statistics and maps.

[World Health Organization](#)

[Worldmapper](#): provides images of the globe based on statistical information.

## Videos

[Population Growth](#)

[Hans Rosling shows the best stats you've ever seen](#)

[Hans Rosling on global population growth](#)

[Hans Rosling: Let my dataset change your mindset](#)

[Minature-Earth](#)

[Global Aging Preparedness with Richard Jackson](#)

## Further Reading

Carl Haub. [Tracking Trends in Low-Fertility Countries: An Uptick for Europe](#). Population Reference Bureau. September 2008.

Richard Cincotta, Robert Engelman, and Daniele Anastasi. [The Security Demographic: Population and Civil Conflict After the Cold War](#). Population Action International. August 2003.

Richard Jackson and Rebecca Strauss. [The Geopolitics of World Population Change](#). CSIS Commentary. July 2007.

[United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\) publications](#)