

European Population Trends

Mid-14th c. Black Death causes Europe to lose 35-70% of its population, depending on the location (one estimate says 25m dead)

By **mid-15th c.** Europe was experiencing a pop. revival

18th c. population explosion!

- due to decline in mortality – Agricultural Revolution, fewer wars, disappearance of the plague
- after period of slow and uneven growth since mid-15th c.
- Russia had HUGE growth

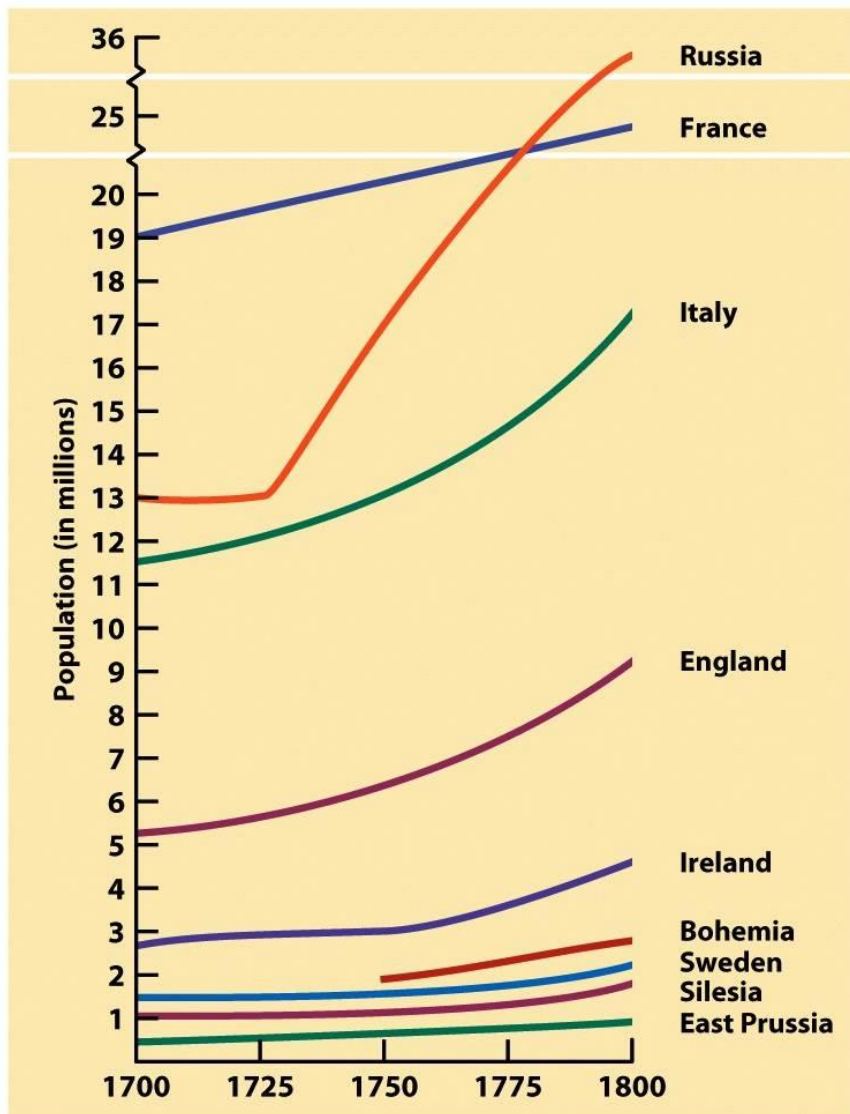
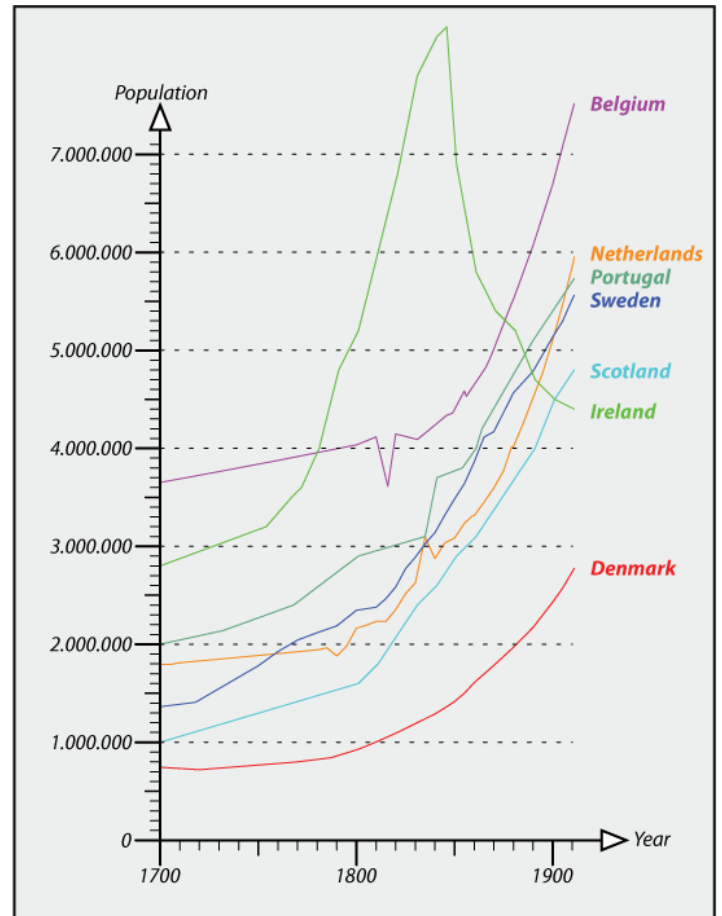
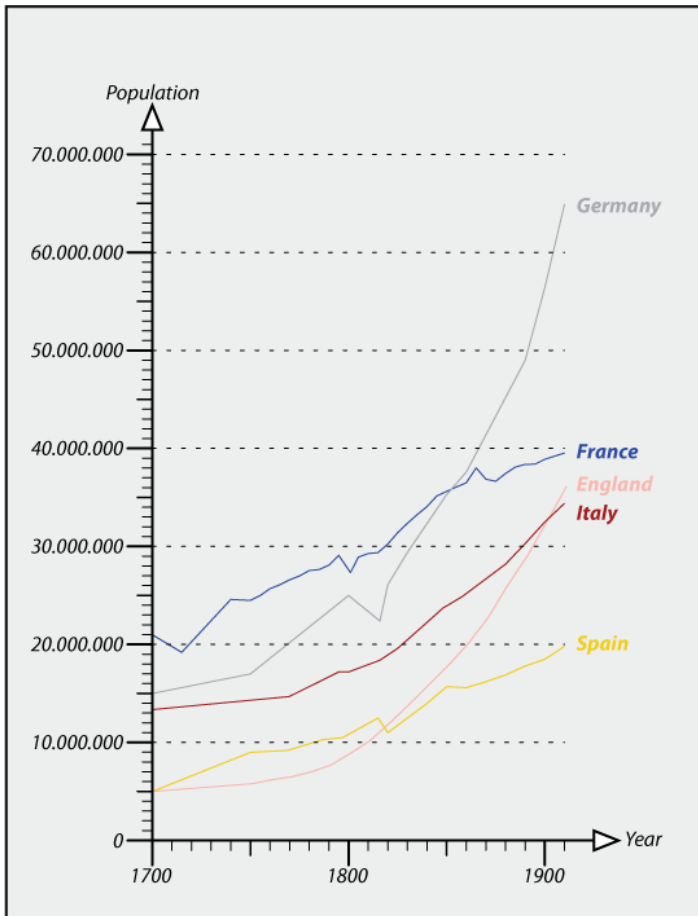


Figure 19.2 The Increase of Population in Europe in the Eighteenth Century
Chapter 19, *Western Society: A Brief History*
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19th c. population growth continued b/c of decline in death rates

- Euro pop doubled b/t 1800 and 1900
- Great Migration: >60m ppl emigrated, 1815-1932



1945-1950s post-WWII baby boom

- exception to the long-term decline in birthrates that began in the 19th c.

1960s birthrates resumed their fall, and in the 21st c. there has been even a bit of a population crisis in some countries, with a decline in population

- reasons for birthrate decline:
 - o uneven, uninspiring economic conditions – ex. recessions in 1970s and 1980s
 - o married women pursuing careers ... they postpone childbearing until later years (ex. first child born in woman's 30s instead of 20's ... leads to fewer children overall)
 - o introduction of "the pill" (contraception) – 1960s
- problem w/ population decline is who will support an ageing population? (Social Security & Medicare in the US, for ex, relies on current worker population paying taxes to the gov't to fund those programs for the elderly; decline of working age pop. also hurts productivity/GDP growth)