Basic Guide to the World

Population Trends
1950 to 2050

A report from **The Global Social Change Research Project**

Copyright January 2010

This report was prepared by **The Global Social Change Research Project**

The project began in 2000, as a way to help understand how society works. This project includes presenting reports about how the world has changed recently, for example population and economic changes.

We hope that our reports can be used to help the public come to a better understanding of society today.

We also hope that the reports and data used to prepare these reports will be useful for researchers, students and teachers.

Gene Shackman, Ph.D.
Applied Sociologist
Founder and Director
The Global Social Change Research Project
http://gsociology.icaap.org

Ya-Lin Liu, Ph.D.
The Global Social Change Research Project
http://gsociology.icaap.org

George Xun Wang, Ph.D.
The University of Wisconsin, Parkside
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
http://www.uwp.edu/departments/sociology
and
The Global Social Change Research Project
http://gsociology.icaap.org

This report was created using OpenOffice.
http://www.openoffice.org/

Population Trends
1950 to 2050

Population trends:

In this report, we use graphs and tables to show how the world population has changed, and is expected to change, in the hundred years between 1950 and 2050.

More developed versus less developed countries:

- The majority of the world population is in the less developed countries

    Currently around 82% of the world population is in the less developed countries. By 2050, it is expected to be 86%.

- Population growth is higher among the less developing countries, but is slowing down for both more and less developed countries.

    Shortly after 2030, it is expected that the population among the more developed countries will stop growing or will decline.

Regions:

- The majority (over 50%) of the world population is in Asia.

- The next largest regions are sub-Saharan Africa and Latin American and the Caribbean.

- The fastest growing region is sub-Saharan Africa.

    Between 2010 and 2050, it is expected that the population in sub-Saharan Africa will grow from 12.4% to 20.2% of the worlds population.

- The slowest growing regions are Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Northern America and Latin America and the Caribbean.

    Between 2010 and 2050, it is expected that the population of Europe and Northern America will decline from 12.7% to 10.5% of the world population.

- Population growth has slowed, and is expected to continue to slow, within all regions.

    By 2050, it is expected that the populations of Europe and the CIS will shrink.

Population trends (continued):

World's Largest Countries:

- The countries with the largest populations throughout this time period are China, India and the United States.

   China and India are each more than twice the size of the United States

    By 2025, India will have a larger population than will China.

- In 1950, the largest 15 countries included these seven "Western" countries: United States, Russia, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy and France. By 2050, only one (United States) will be in the top 15.

- By 2050, it is expected that the largest 15 countries will include these seven, which were not among the top 15 in 1950: Ethiopia, Congo (Kinshasa), the Philippines, Mexico, Egypt, Uganda and Vietnam.

Figures and Tables

Figure 1
World Population

1950 to 2050
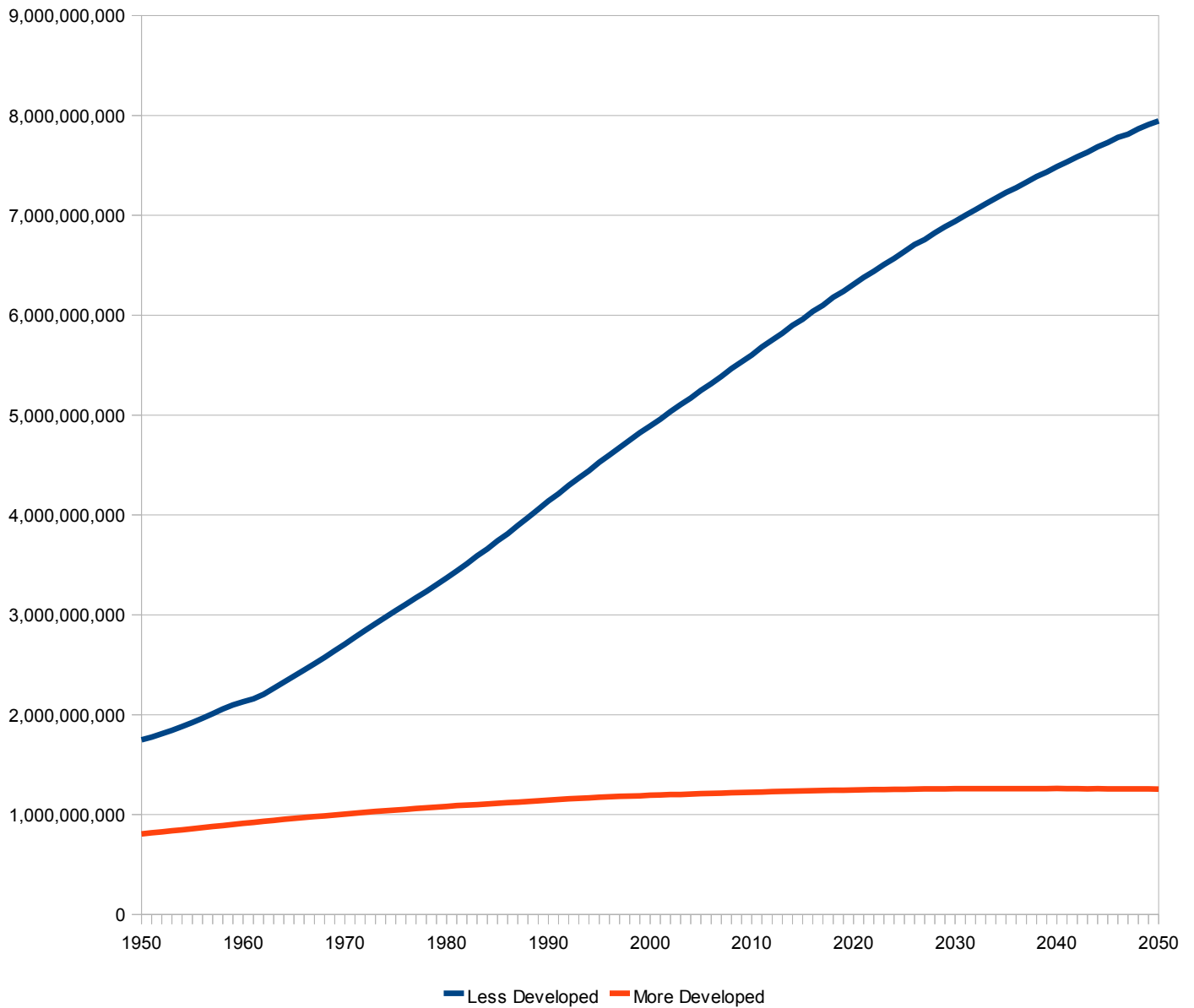
Less Developed — More Developed

Population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Data Base
retreived 12/20/09 from http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/

Chart 2
Population by region
1950 to 2050
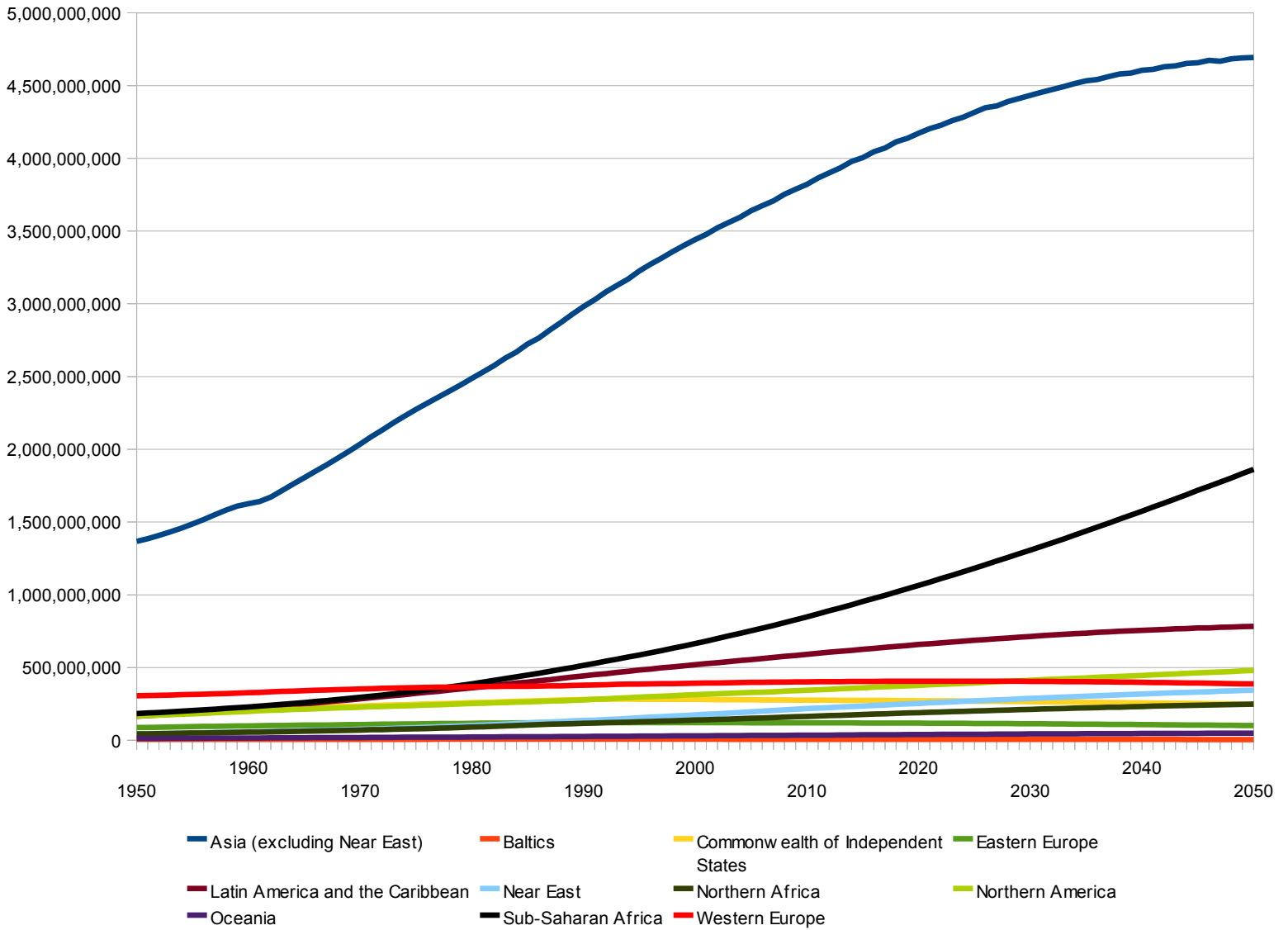
Legend:
- Asia (excluding Near East)
- Baltics
- Commonwealth of Independent States
- Eastern Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Near East
- Northern Africa
- Northern America
- Oceania
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Western Europe

Prepared and copyright by Gene Shackman
The Global Social Change Research Project
http://gsociology.icaap.org
Charts may be used freely

Population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Data Base
retreived 12/20/09 from http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/

Chart 3
Population by region
Excluding Asia
1950 to 2050
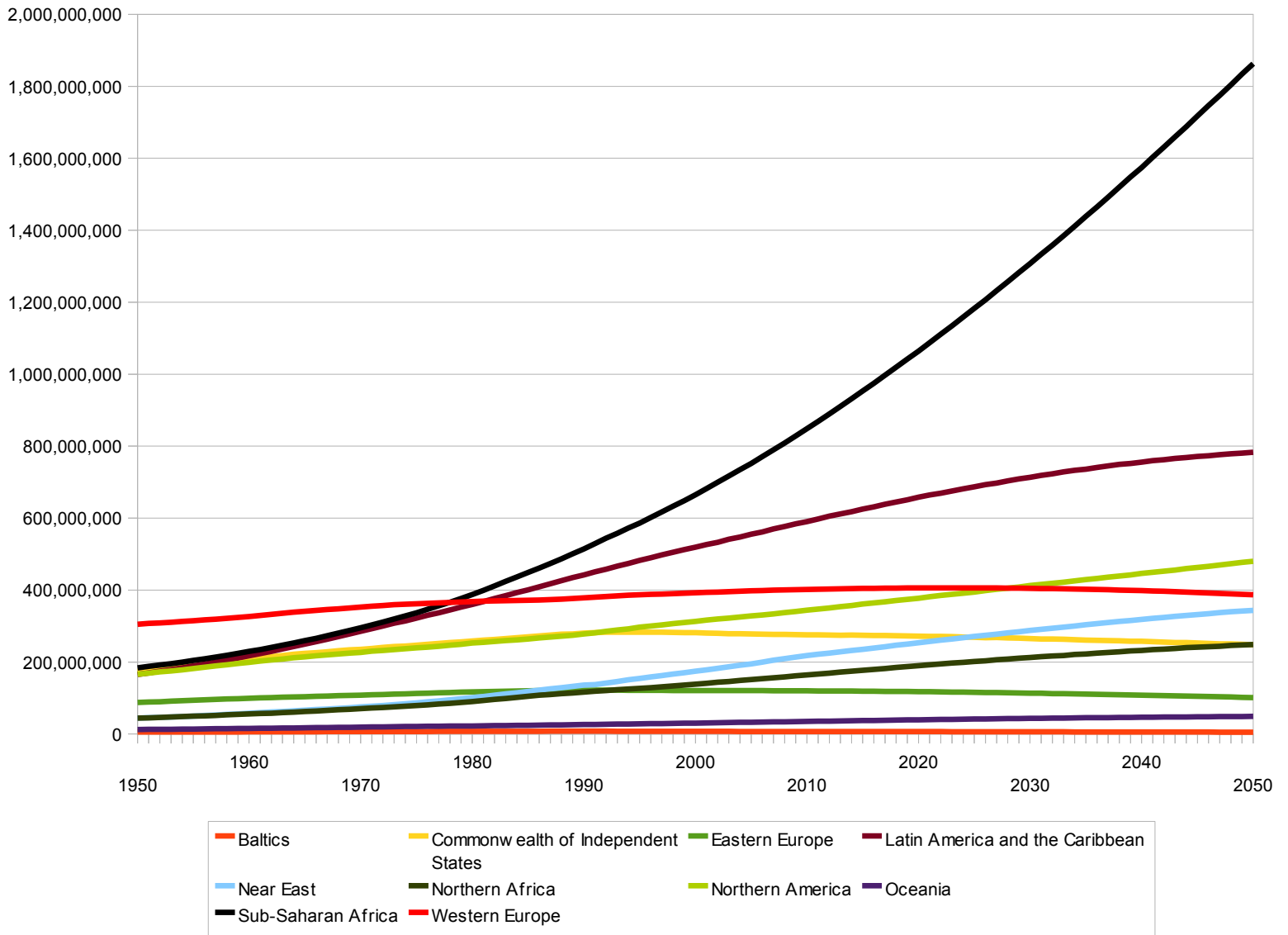
Chart 4
Population, 10 countries with largest population in 1950

1950 to 2050
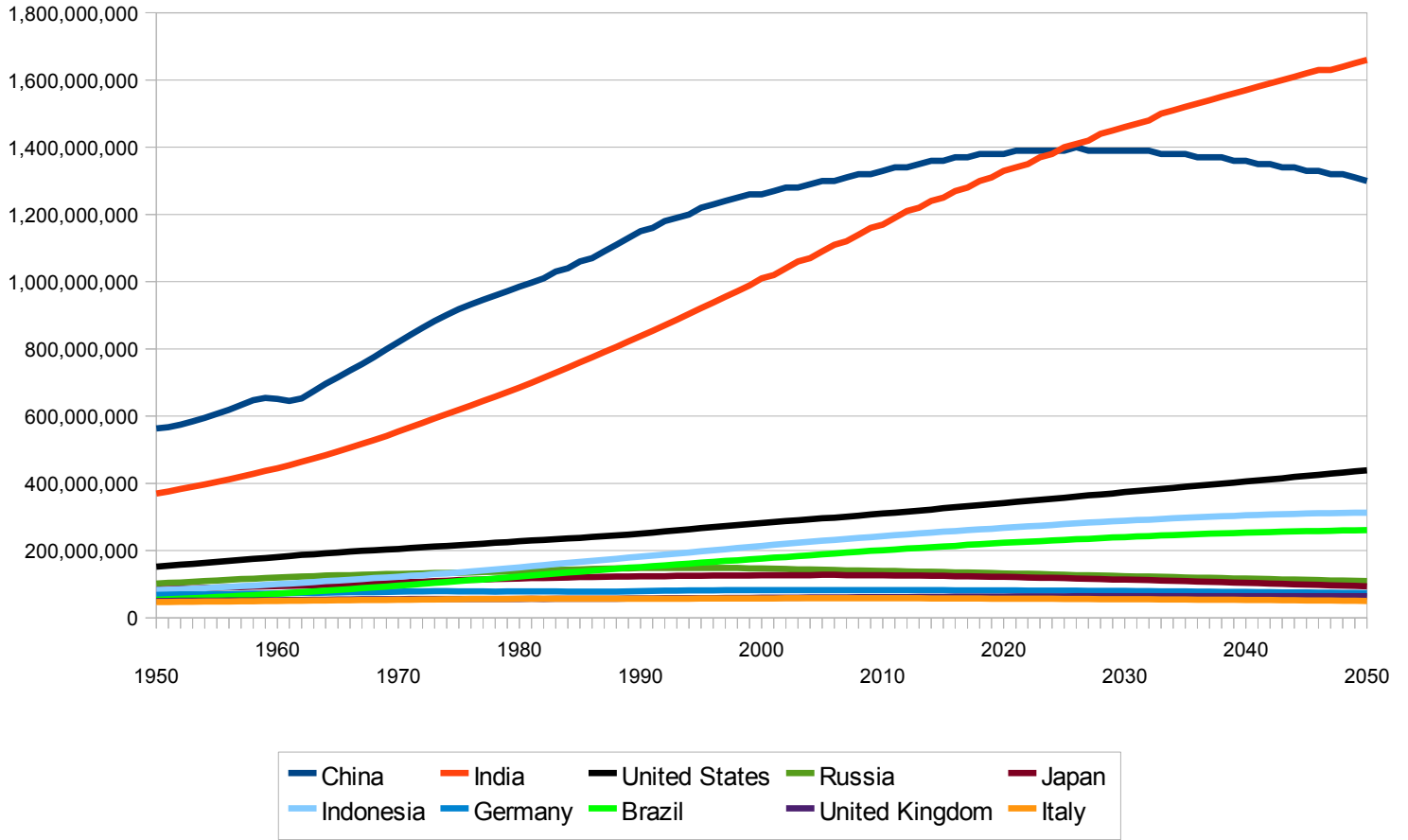
China | India | United States | Russia | Japan
Indonesia | Germany | Brazil | United Kingdom | Italy

Chart 5
Population, 10 countries with largest population in 1950
Excluding China and India
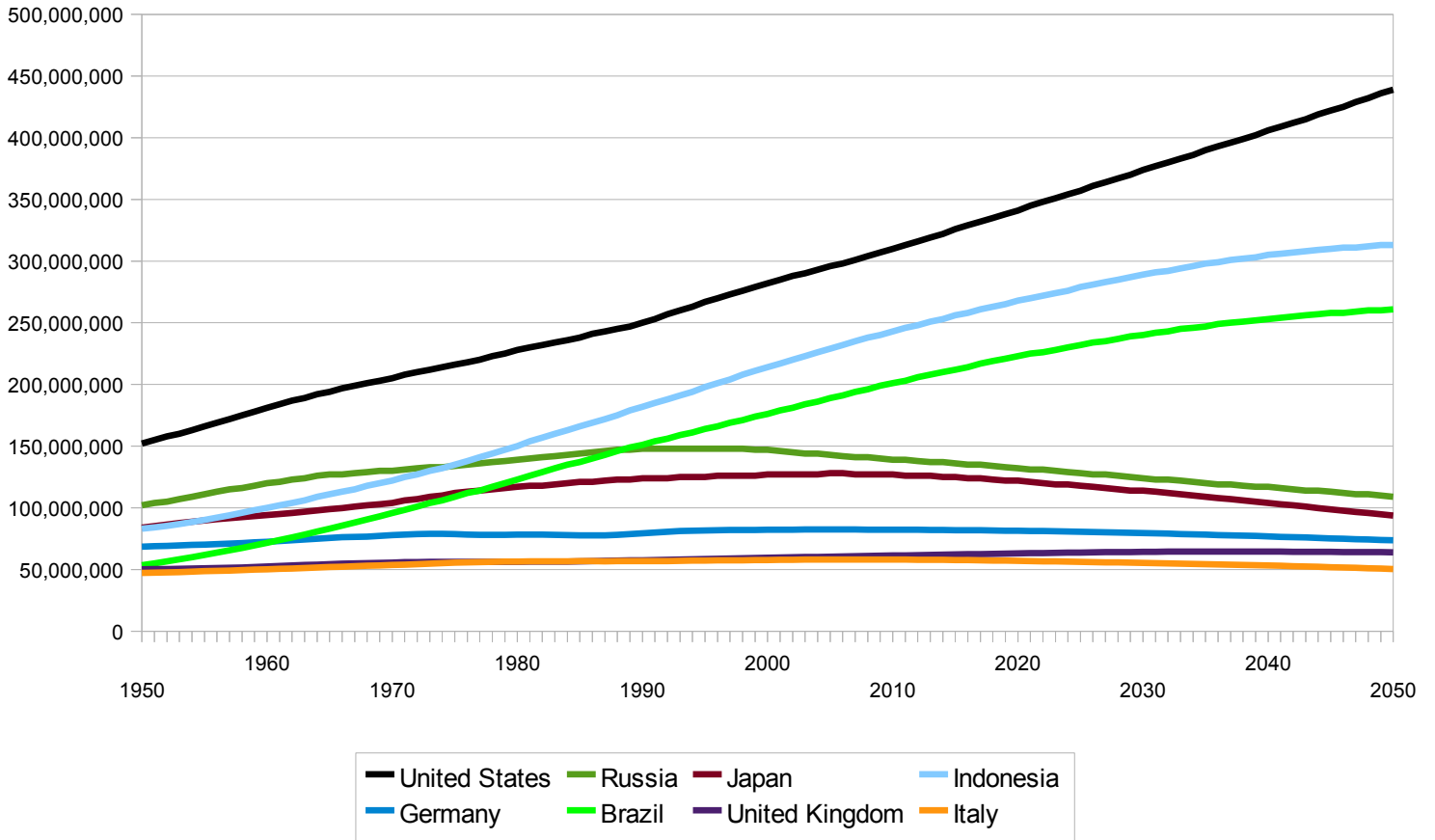
1950 to 2050

Legend: United States, Russia, Japan, Indonesia, Germany, Brazil, United Kingdom, Italy

Population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Data Base
retreived 12/20/09 from http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/

Chart 6
Population, 10 countries with largest population in 2000

1950 to 2050
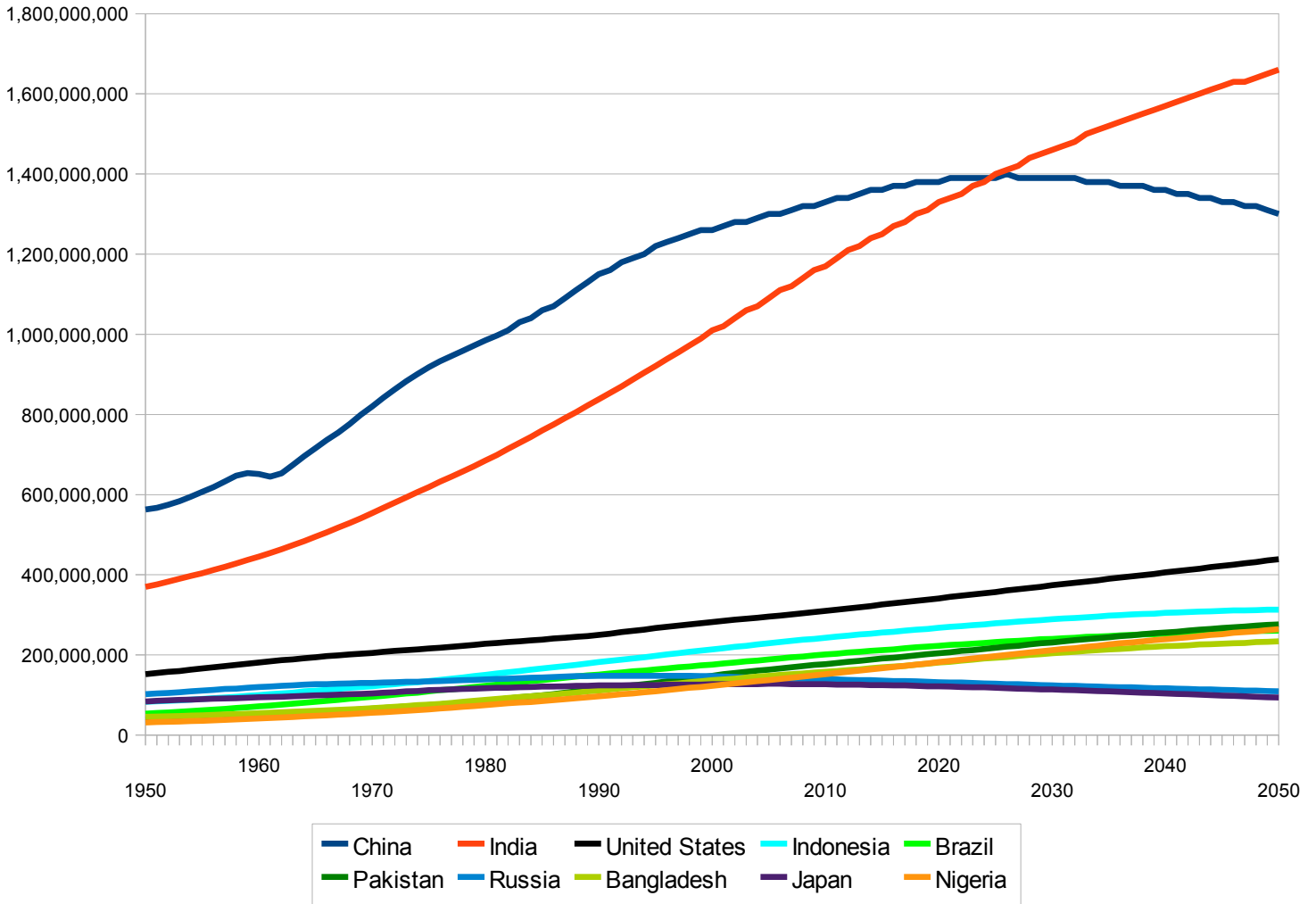
Legend: China, India, United States, Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Russia, Bangladesh, Japan, Nigeria

Prepared and copyright by Gene Shackman
The Global Social Change Research Project
http://gsociology.icaap.org
Charts may be used freely

Population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Data Base
retrieved 12/20/09 from http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/

Chart 7
Population, 10 countries with largest population in 2000
Excluding China and India
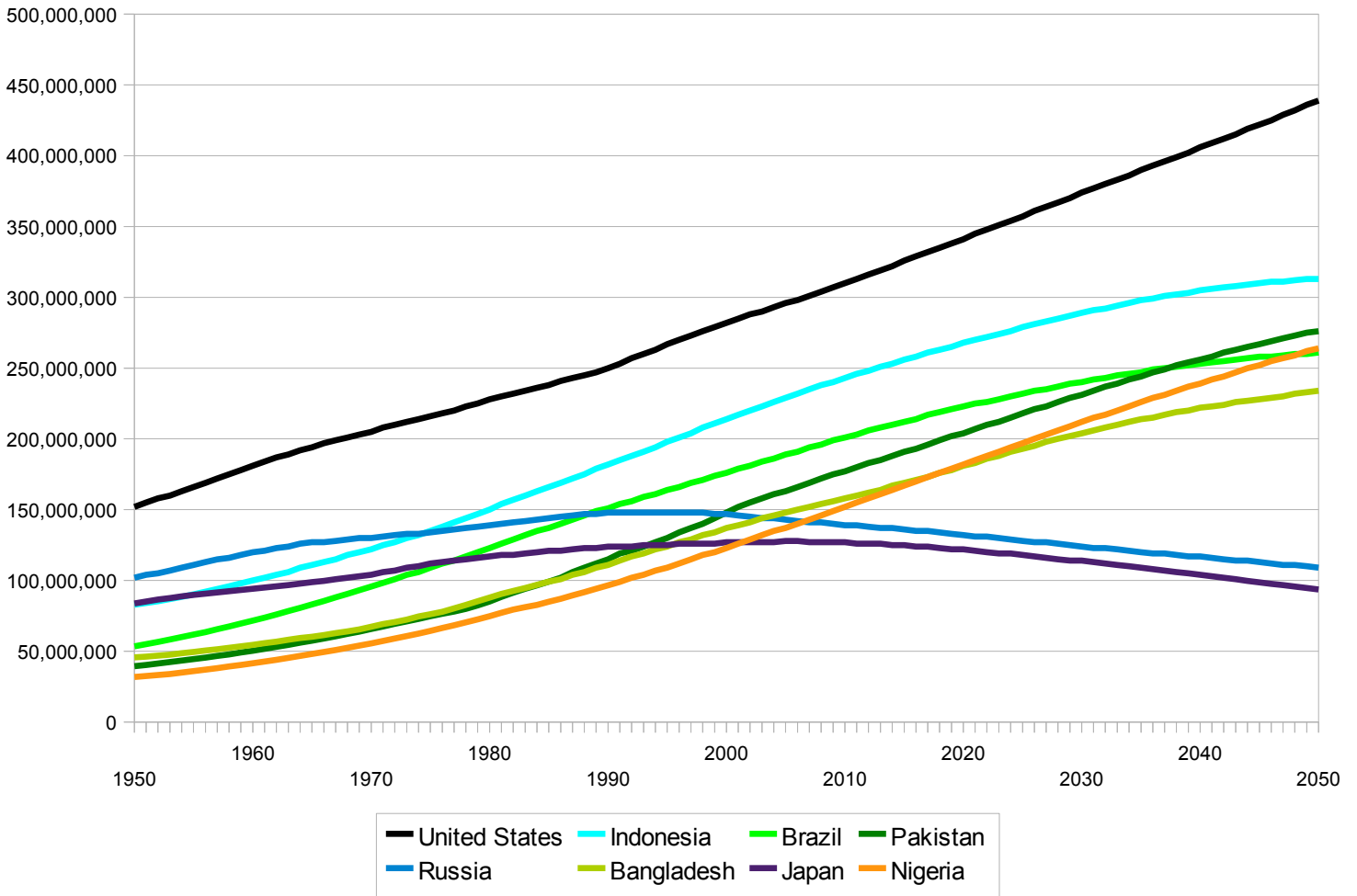
1950 to 2050

Legend:
- United States
- Indonesia
- Brazil
- Pakistan
- Russia
- Bangladesh
- Japan
- Nigeria

Prepared and copyright by Gene Shackman
The Global Social Change Research Project
http://gsociology.icaap.org
Charts may be used freely

Population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Data Base
retrieved 12/20/09 from http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/

Chart 8
Population, 10 countries with largest population in 2050

1950 to 2050
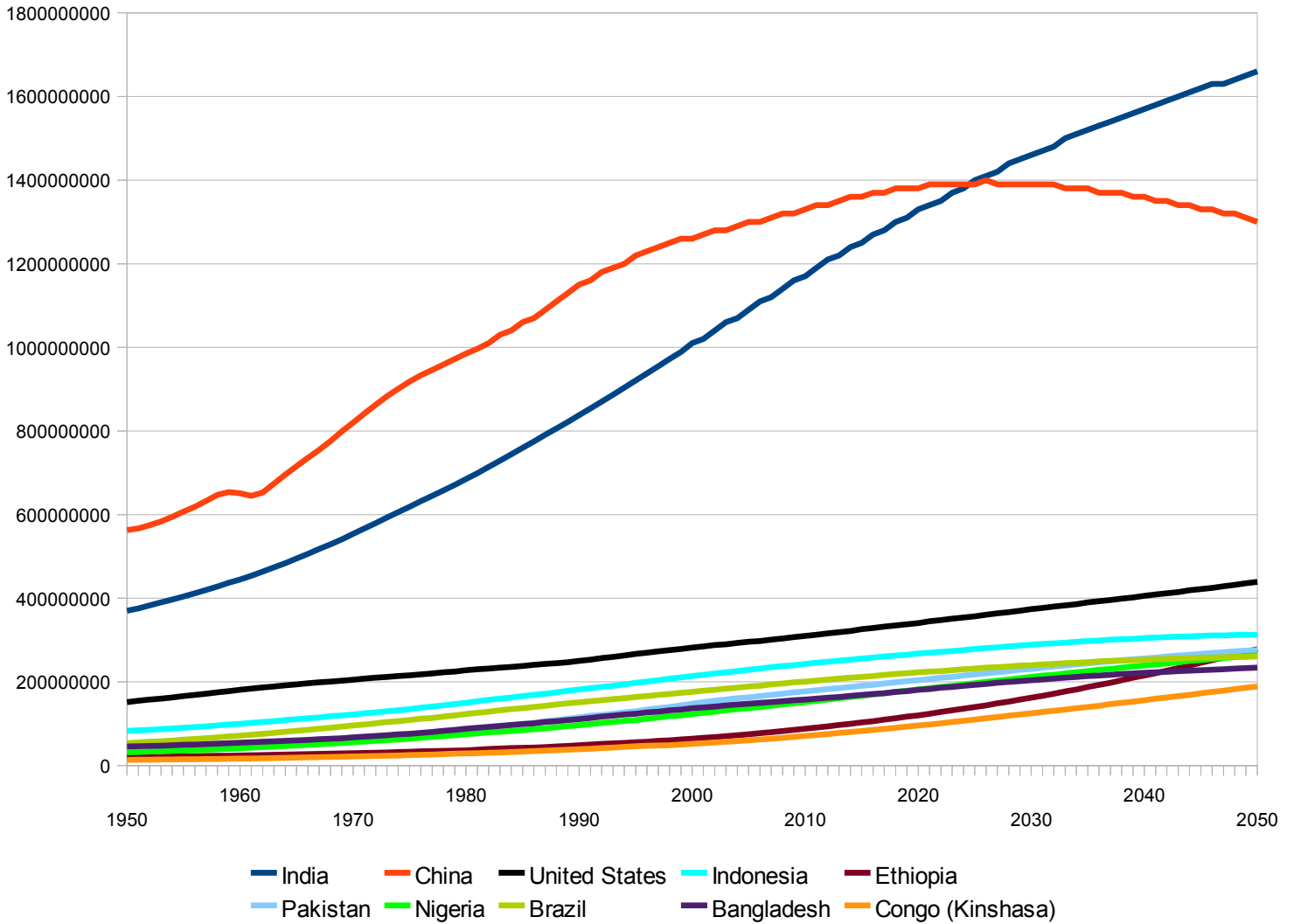
Legend: India, China, United States, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Brazil, Bangladesh, Congo (Kinshasa)

Population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Data Base
retreived 12/20/09 from http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/

Chart 9
Population, 10 countries with largest population in 2050
Excluding China and India
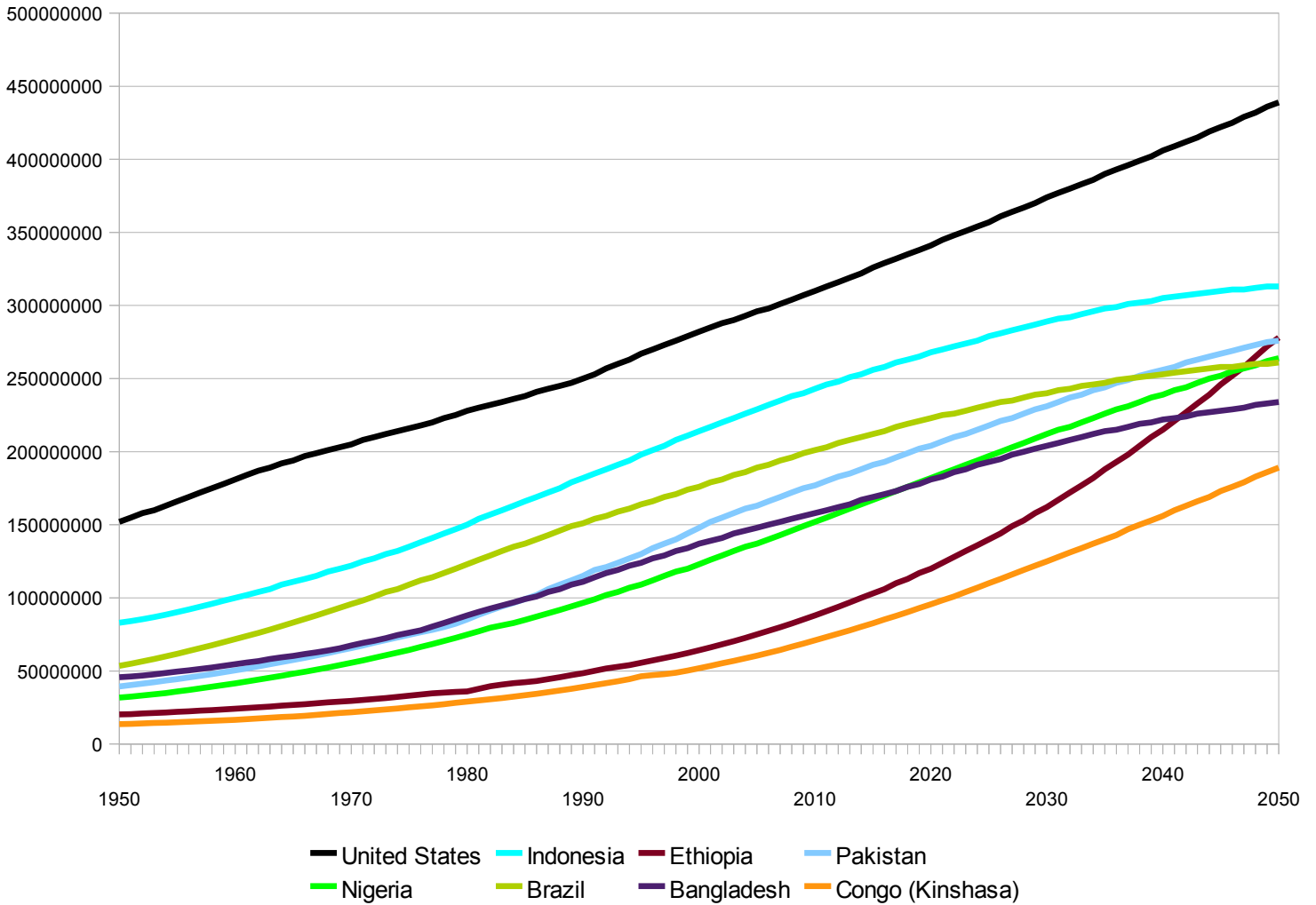
1950 to 2050

Legend: United States, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Brazil, Bangladesh, Congo (Kinshasa)

Population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Data Base
retreived 12/20/09 from http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/

Table 1.
Average percent change in population
By more/less developed

	1950 to 1970	1970 to 1990	1990 to 2010	2010 to 2030	2030 to 2050
Total	2.26%	2.12%	1.46%	1.01%	0.61%
Less Developed	2.74%	2.65%	1.77%	1.20%	0.72%
More Developed	1.22%	0.70%	0.34%	0.14%	-0.01%

Table 2.
Average percent change in population
By region

	1950 to 1970	1970 to 1990	1990 to 2010	2010 to 2030	2030 to 2050
Asia (excluding Near East)	2.44%	2.33%	1.41%	0.80%	0.29%
Baltics	1.14%	0.78%	-0.55%	-0.57%	-0.85%
Commonwealth of Independent States	1.76%	0.96%	-0.09%	-0.19%	-0.33%
Eastern Europe	1.17%	0.64%	-0.08%	-0.27%	-0.54%
Latin America and the Caribbean	3.62%	2.75%	1.68%	1.04%	0.49%
Near East	3.55%	4.06%	2.99%	1.60%	0.98%
Northern Africa	3.04%	3.26%	2.04%	1.47%	0.85%
Northern America	1.83%	1.13%	1.19%	1.00%	0.82%
Oceania	2.71%	1.87%	1.64%	1.19%	0.65%
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.02%	3.71%	3.25%	2.70%	2.12%
Western Europe	0.78%	0.37%	0.31%	0.04%	-0.22%

Table 3.
Average percent change in population
Fifteen countries with largest population in 1950

	1950 to 1970	1970 to 1990	1990 to 2010	2010 to 2030	2030 to 2050
China	2.3%	2.0%	0.8%	0.2%	-0.3%
India	2.5%	2.6%	2.0%	1.2%	0.7%
United States	1.7%	1.1%	1.2%	1.0%	0.9%
Russia	1.4%	0.7%	-0.3%	-0.5%	-0.6%
Japan	1.2%	1.0%	0.1%	-0.5%	-0.9%
Indonesia	2.4%	2.5%	1.7%	0.9%	0.4%
Germany	0.7%	0.1%	0.2%	-0.2%	-0.4%
Brazil	4.0%	2.9%	1.7%	1.0%	0.4%
United Kingdom	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%
Italy	0.7%	0.3%	0.1%	-0.2%	-0.4%
Bangladesh	2.4%	3.2%	2.1%	1.5%	0.7%
France	1.1%	0.6%	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%
Pakistan	3.3%	3.8%	2.7%	1.5%	1.0%
Ukraine	1.4%	0.5%	-0.6%	-0.7%	-0.7%
Nigeria	3.7%	3.7%	2.9%	2.0%	1.2%

Table 4.
Average percent change in population
Fifteen countries with largest population in 2000

	1950 to 1970	1970 to 1990	1990 to 2010	2010 to 2030	2030 to 2050
China	2.3%	2.0%	0.8%	0.2%	-0.3%
India	2.5%	2.6%	2.0%	1.2%	0.7%
United States	1.7%	1.1%	1.2%	1.0%	0.9%
Indonesia	2.4%	2.5%	1.7%	0.9%	0.4%
Brazil	4.0%	2.9%	1.7%	1.0%	0.4%
Pakistan	3.3%	3.8%	2.7%	1.5%	1.0%
Russia	1.4%	0.7%	-0.3%	-0.5%	-0.6%
Bangladesh	2.4%	3.2%	2.1%	1.5%	0.7%
Japan	1.2%	1.0%	0.1%	-0.5%	-0.9%
Nigeria	3.7%	3.7%	2.9%	2.0%	1.2%
Mexico	4.3%	3.0%	1.6%	1.0%	0.5%
Germany	0.7%	0.1%	0.2%	-0.2%	-0.4%
Philippines	4.1%	3.4%	2.7%	1.9%	1.2%
Vietnam	3.4%	2.9%	1.7%	0.9%	0.3%
Turkey	3.5%	2.9%	1.9%	1.0%	0.4%

Table 5.
Average percent change in population
Fifteen countries with largest population in 2050

	1950 to 1970	1970 to 1990	1990 to 2010	2010 to 2030	2030 to 2050
India	2.5%	2.6%	2.0%	1.2%	0.7%
China	2.3%	2.0%	0.8%	0.2%	-0.3%
United States	1.7%	1.1%	1.2%	1.0%	0.9%
Indonesia	2.4%	2.5%	1.7%	0.9%	0.4%
Ethiopia	2.3%	3.2%	4.1%	4.2%	3.6%
Pakistan	3.3%	3.8%	2.7%	1.5%	1.0%
Nigeria	3.7%	3.7%	2.9%	2.0%	1.2%
Brazil	4.0%	2.9%	1.7%	1.0%	0.4%
Bangladesh	2.4%	3.2%	2.1%	1.5%	0.7%
Congo (Kinshasa)	3.0%	4.0%	4.1%	3.8%	2.6%
Philippines	4.1%	3.4%	2.7%	1.9%	1.2%
Mexico	4.3%	3.0%	1.6%	1.0%	0.5%
Egypt	2.9%	3.2%	2.3%	1.9%	1.2%
Uganda	3.8%	4.0%	4.6%	5.1%	4.5%
Vietnam	3.4%	2.9%	1.7%	0.9%	0.3%

Additional Information

These web sites also have reports on world population growth.

UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund
State of the World Population
http://www.unfpa.org/swp/

The Population Reference Bureau
http://www.prb.org/
See their World Population Data Sheets

The Global Social Change Research Project, research page
http://gsociology.icaap.org/research.html
links to many sources of demographic reports and papers.

Notes:

All of the data used in this report are from the US Census Bureau's International Data Base
http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/

and are compiled into a data set
poptrendgraphs19502050.ods
available here
http://gsociology.icaap.org/dataupload.html