

# Five Global Grand Challenges

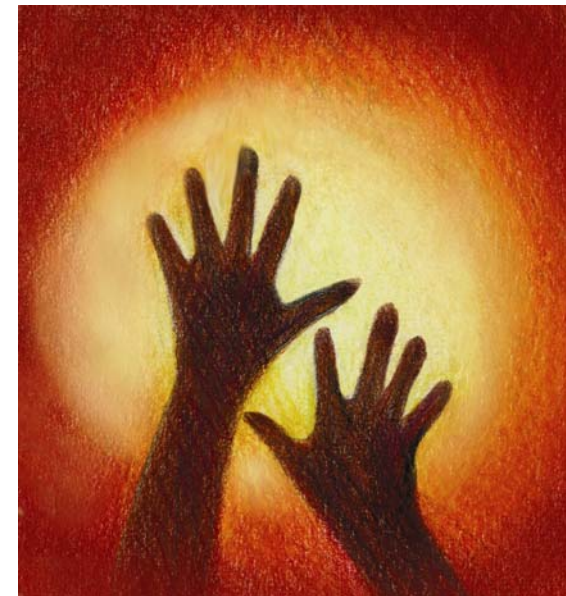
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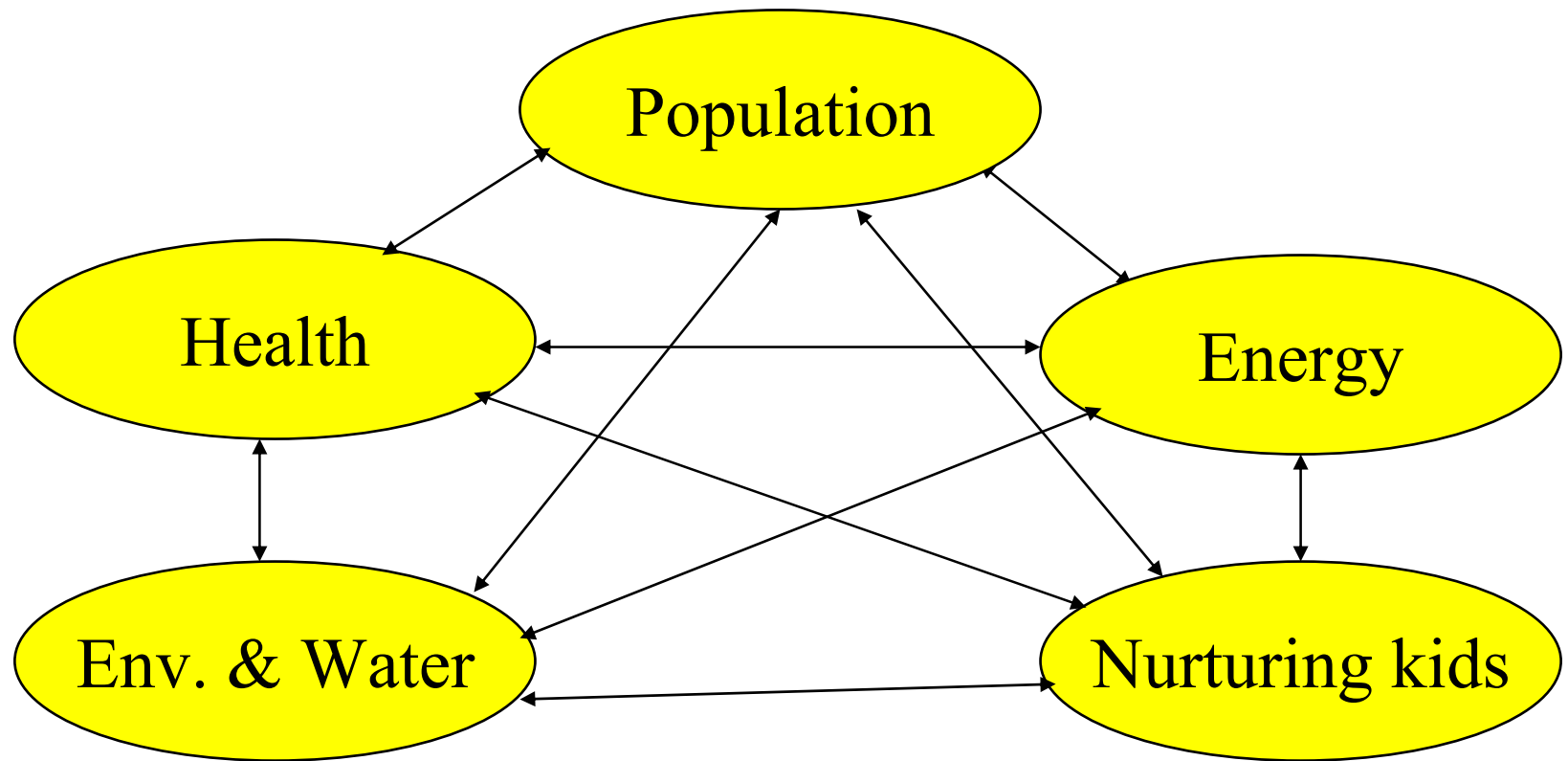
<http://t8web.lanl.gov/people/rajan/>



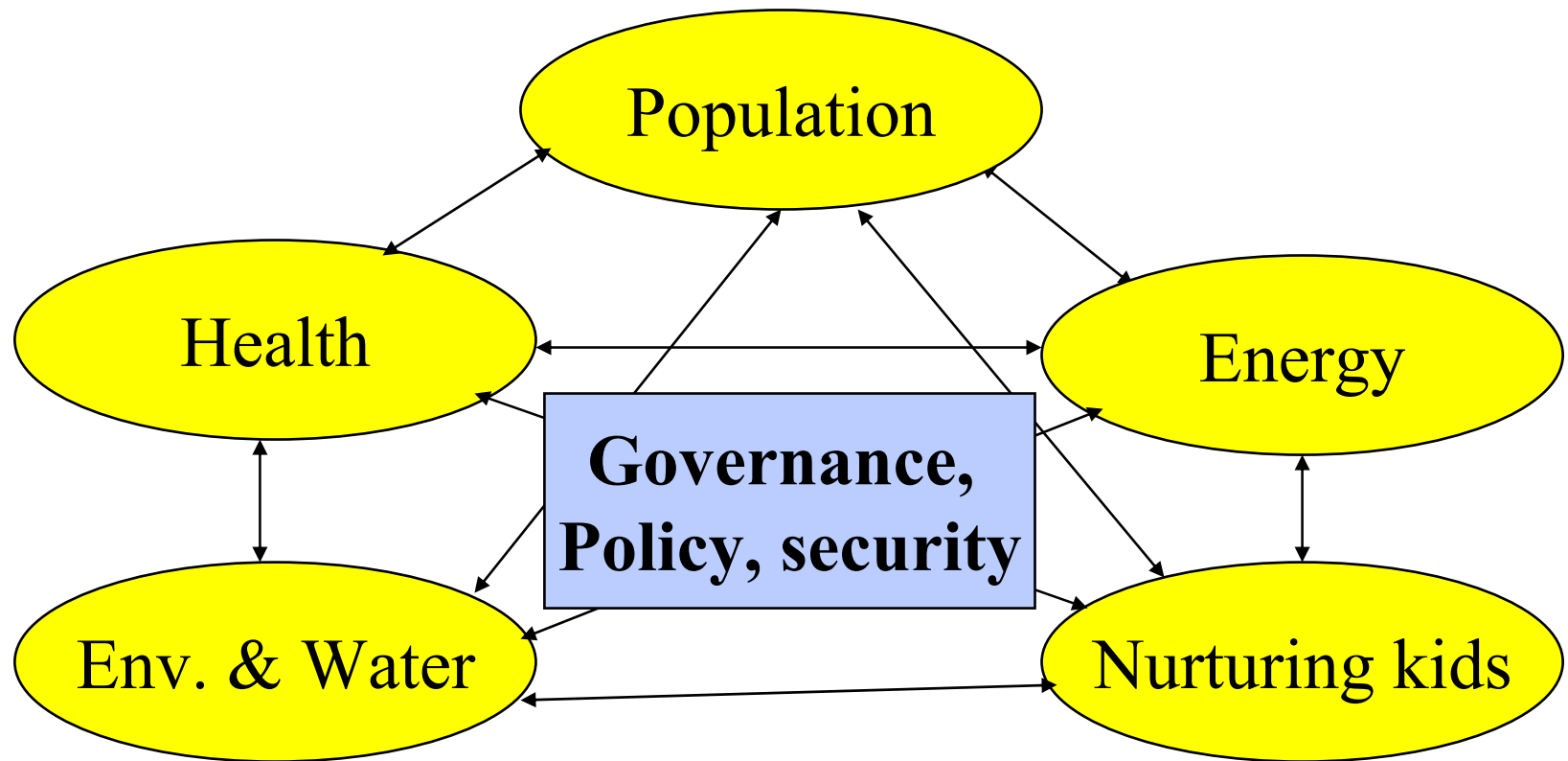
# 5 grand challenges: my perspective

- Population (aging, growth, migration)
- Global public health
  - Essential vaccines, medicines, services for all
- Cheap clean energy for all
- Managing the environment & water resources
- Nurturing and educating kids for 0-22+ years

# System of strongly coupled, complex, non-linear systems & networks under stress



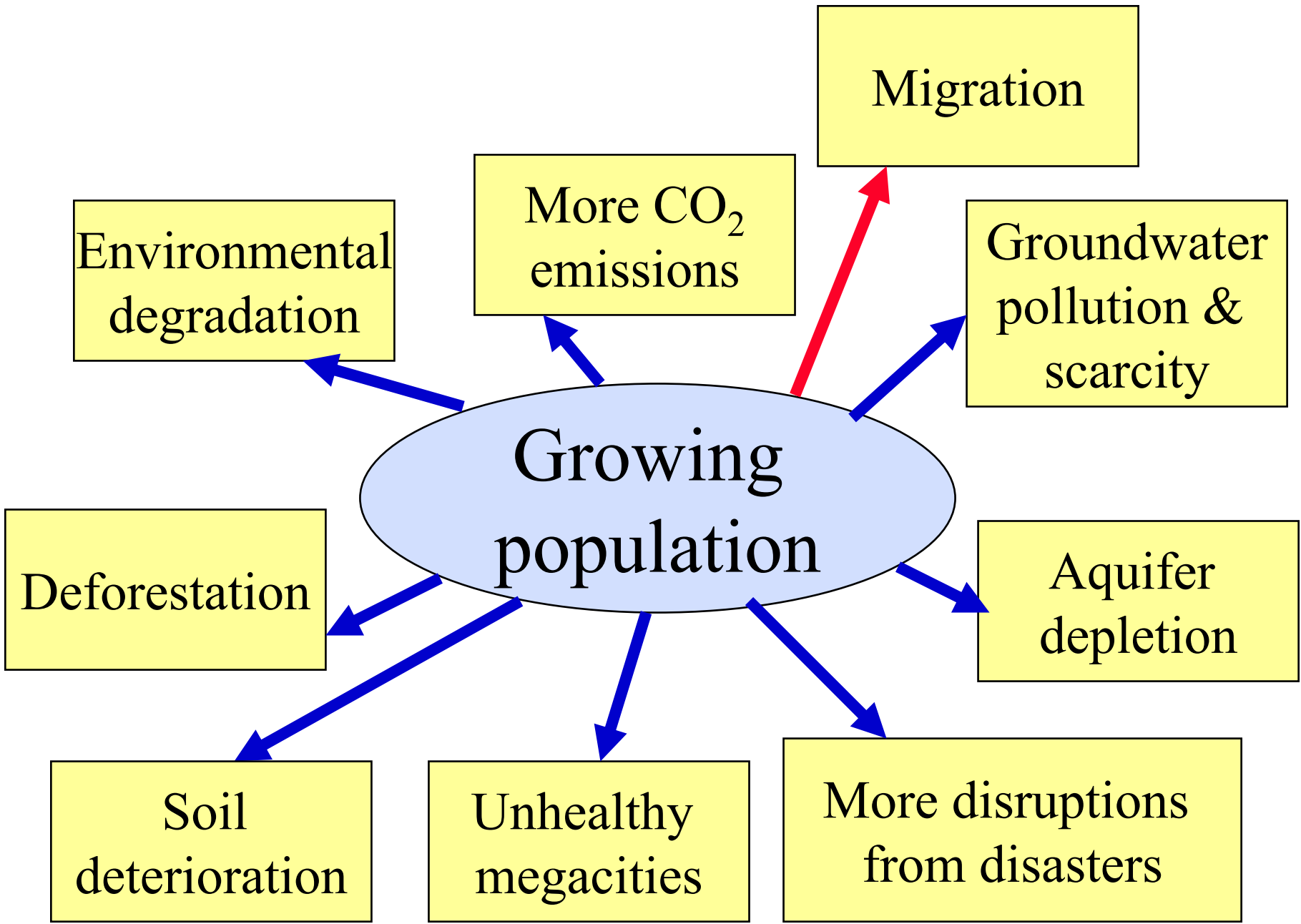
# Need public-private partnership & global vision. Must address all five



# 1) Population

# Aging/Growing/Migrating populations

- Industrialized world faces aging and decline in fertility  
→ less working people (TFR < 2.1)
- Poor and developing countries have growing populations and rapid haphazard urbanization
- Mass migrations and shifts can create tensions
- Demand for resources grows “linearly” with population in each income group, but impact on environment can be highly non-linear
- Geographical distribution, inequalities, nature of urbanization are important determinants of impact



Environmental degradation

More CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Migration

Groundwater pollution & scarcity

Deforestation

Growing population

Aquifer depletion

Soil deterioration

Unhealthy megacities

More disruptions from disasters

# Aging

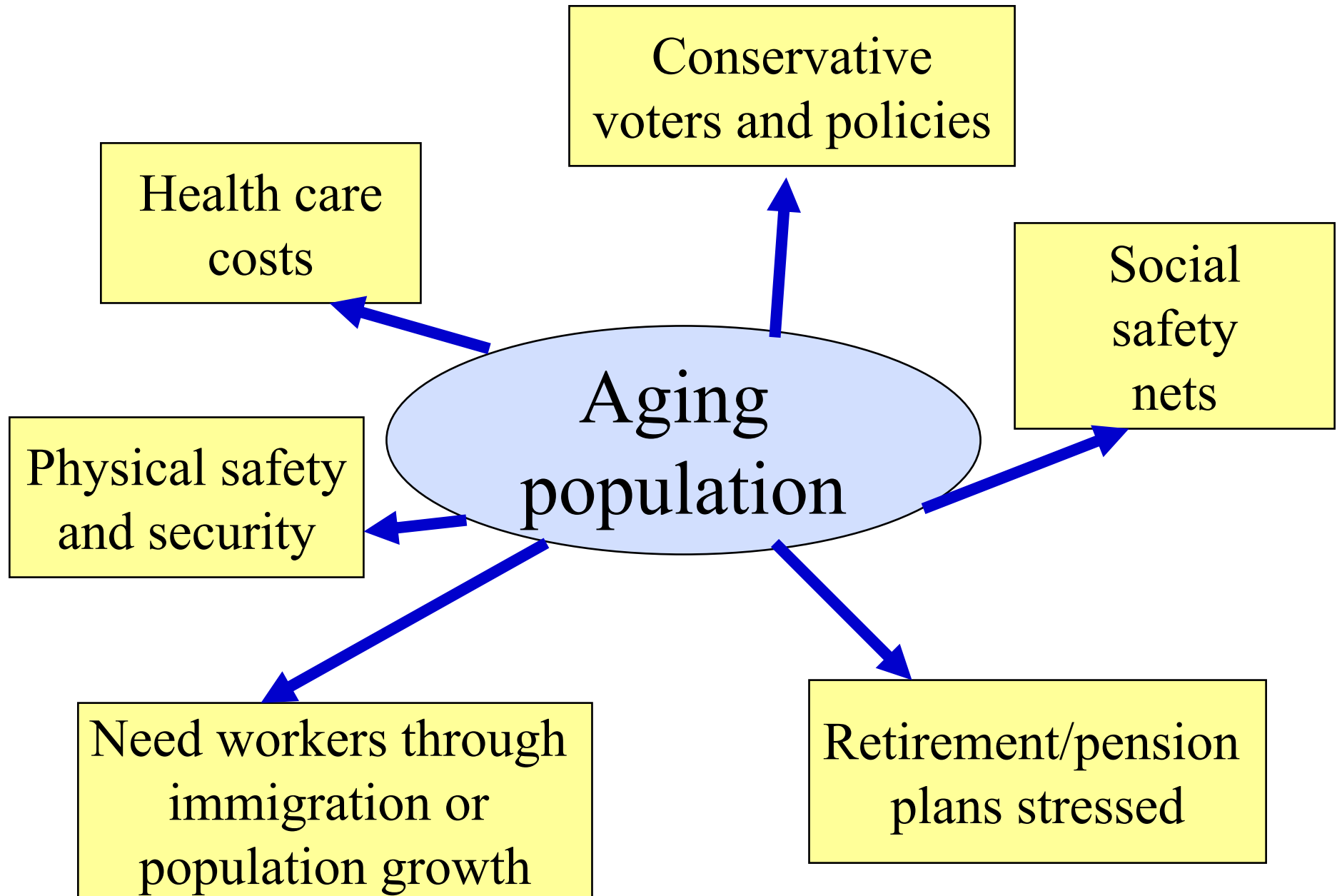
## Senior citizens need

- Emotional and physical support
- Health care with rising costs
- Security (physical, financial, emotional)

Foster lifelong healthy lifestyles to prolong productive life and reduce above burdens

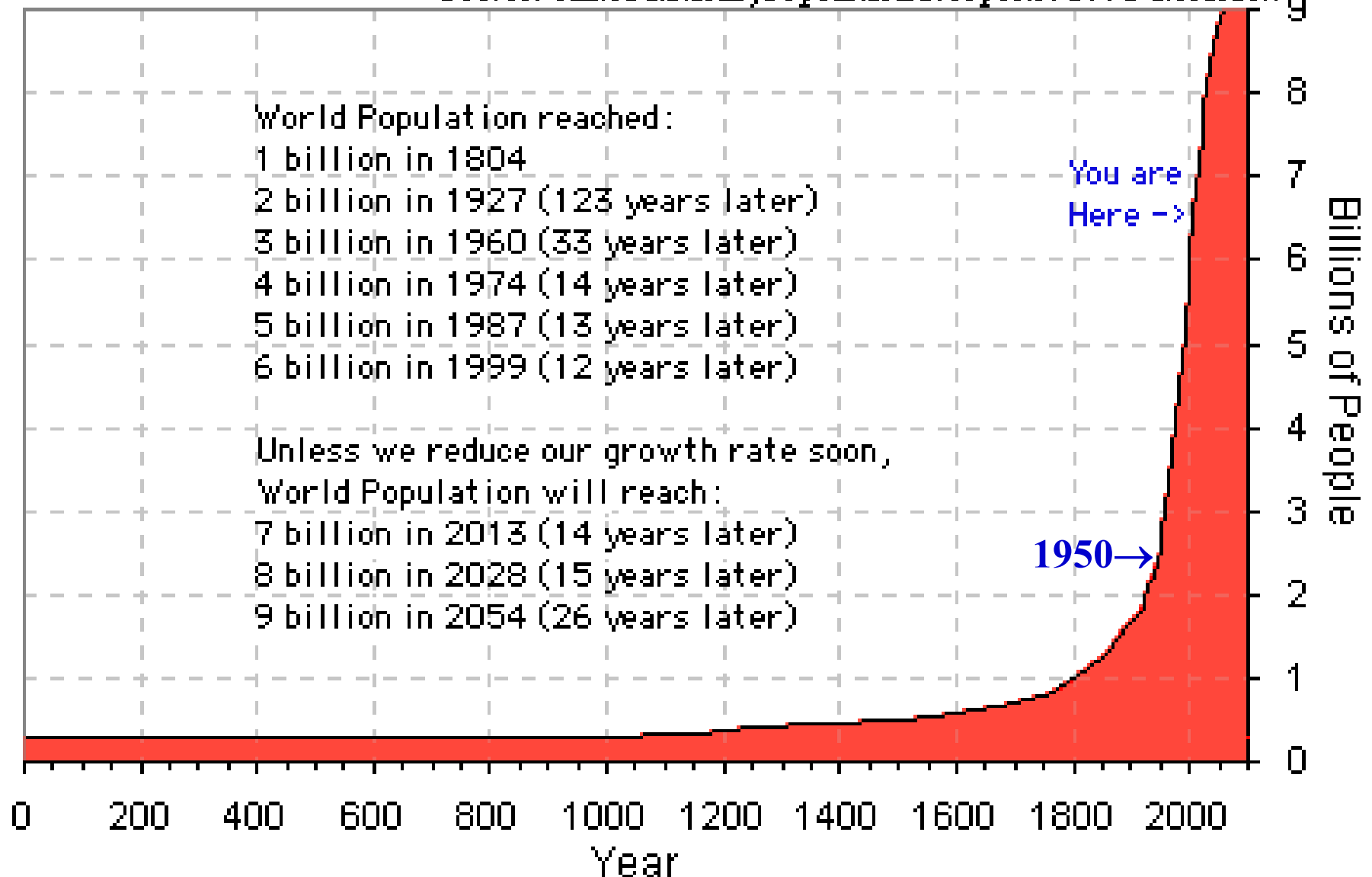
Priorities of this voting block are different



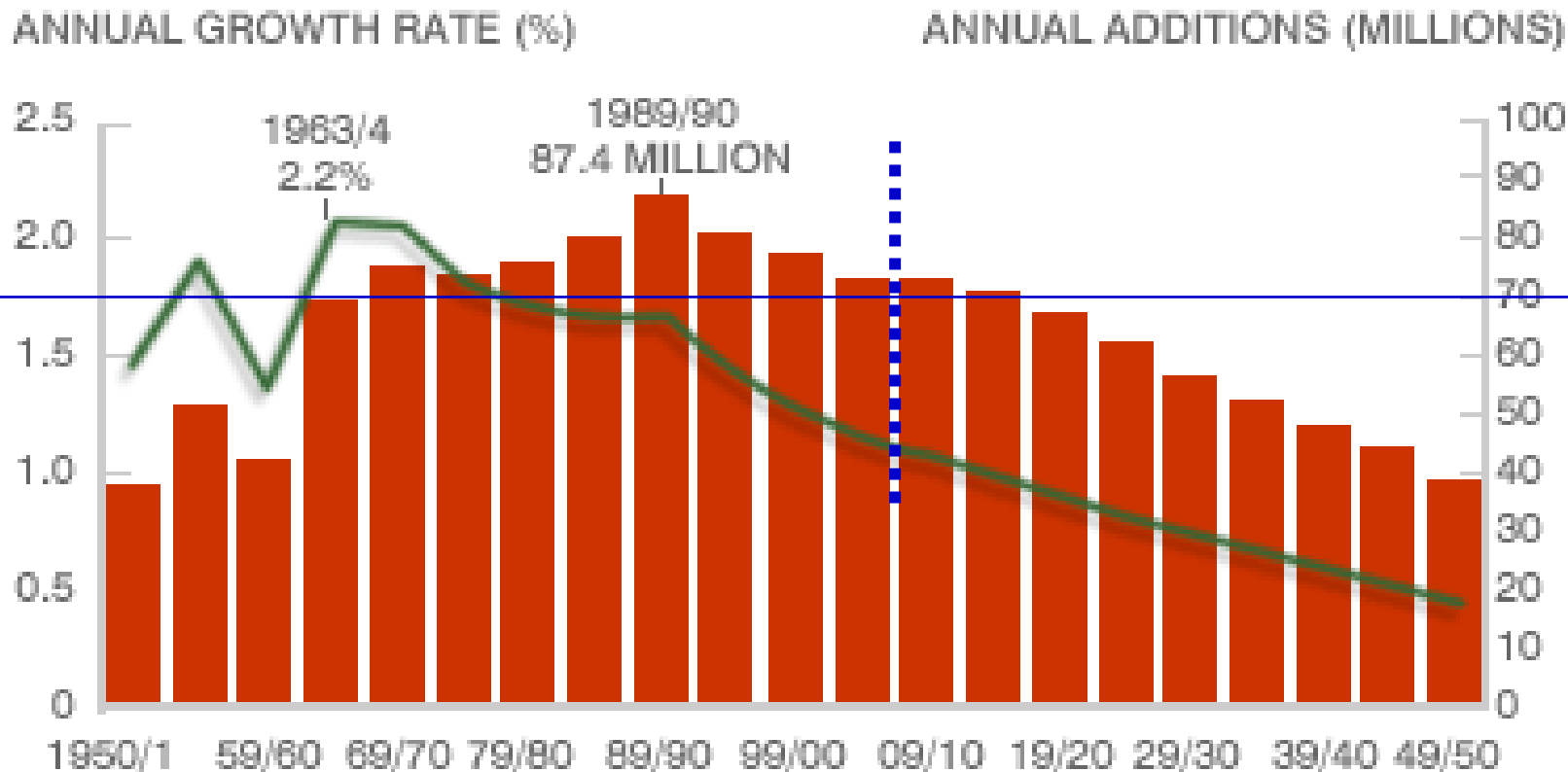


# Population Growth

Source: United Nations, Population Prospects: 2004 Revision



# WORLD POPULATION GROWTH RATES



SOURCE: US Census Bureau, International Programs Centre, International Data Base and unpublished tables.

Population Reference Bureau

# A macro view of global population

2 billion in 21<sup>st</sup> century

Resources  
& Skills



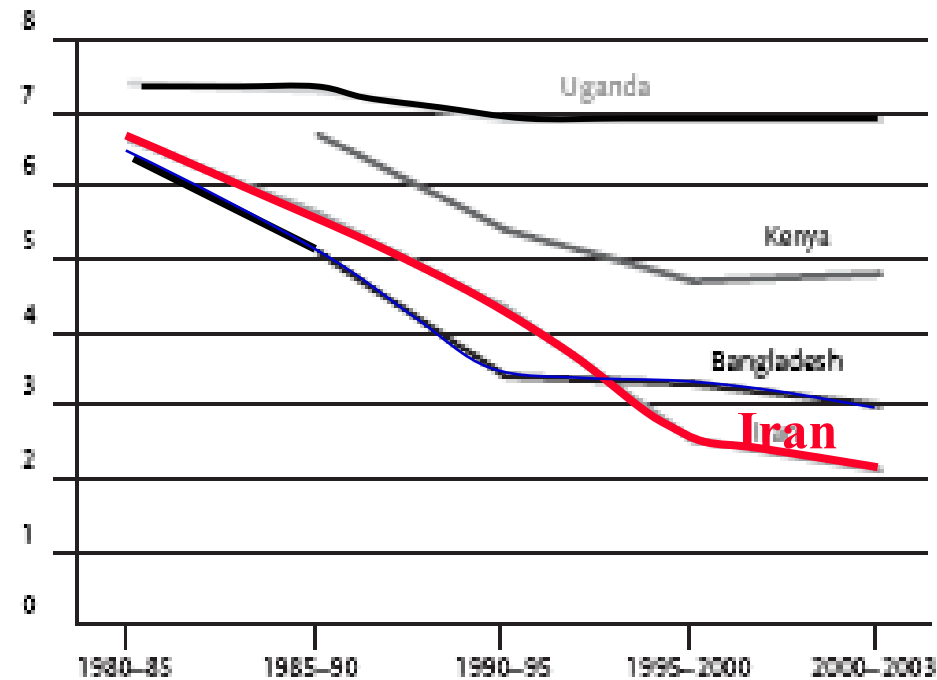
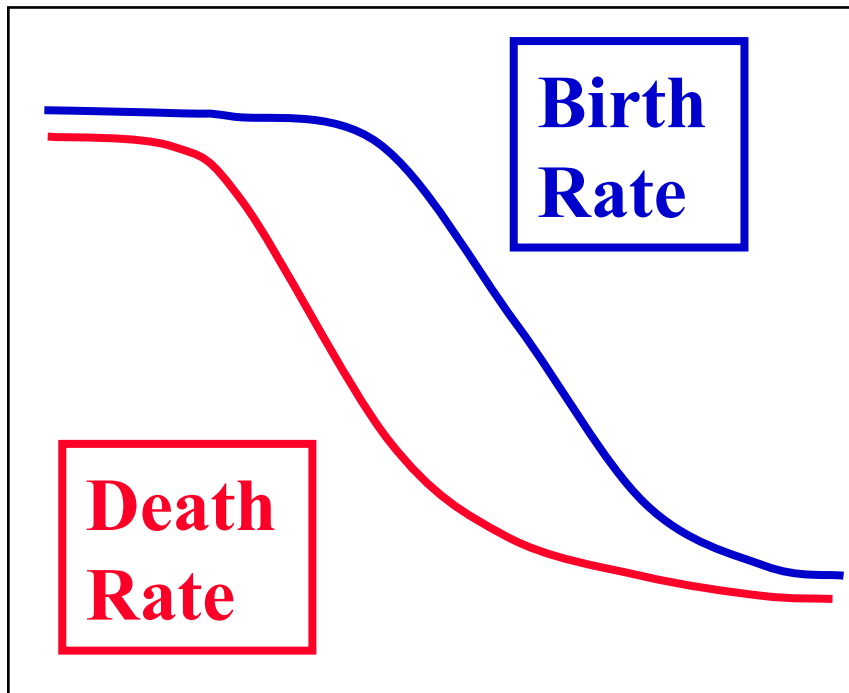
1.5B people  
in transition

3 billion in 18<sup>th</sup> century  
with less than \$2 ppp/day  
(Additional 2.5B are expected here)

# Population bulge | Changes in fertility

Access to health care  
(vaccines, antibiotics,...)

Lifetime births per woman:  
Access to reproductive health

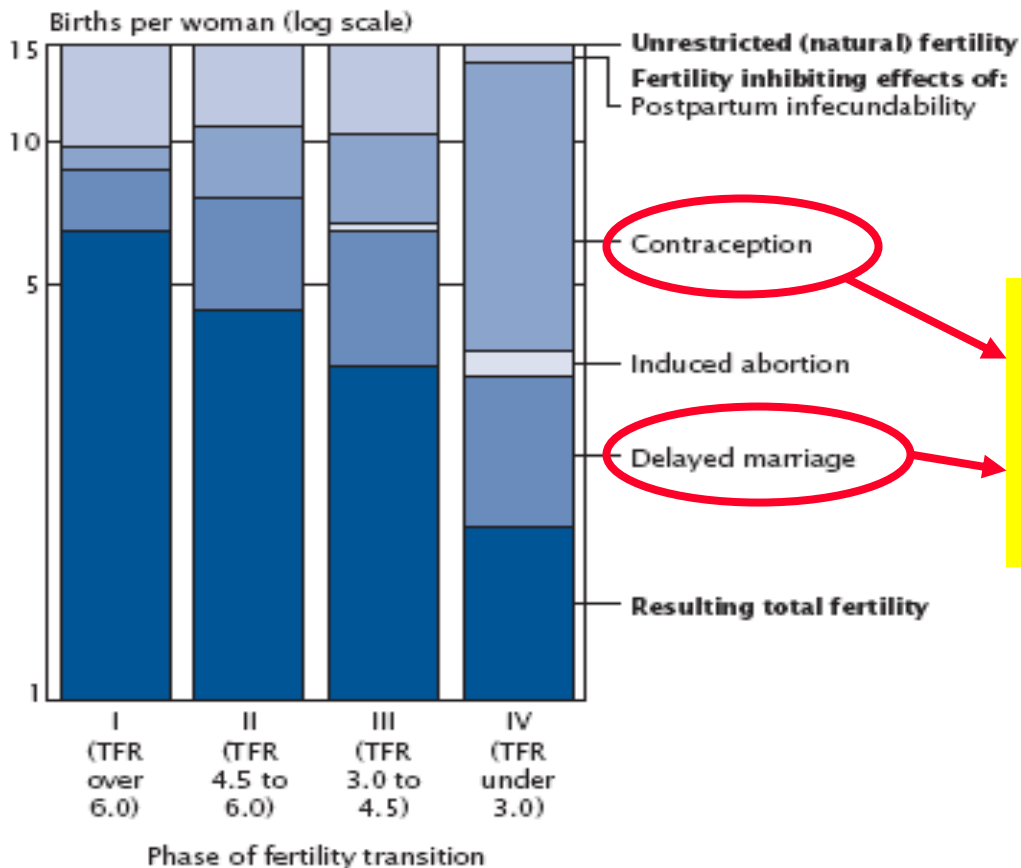


Sources: Demographic and Health Surveys and United Nations Population Division.

# Changes in fertility: planned families

## Conceptual Model of the Changing Contribution of Contraception and Other Proximate Determinants to Fertility Decline

The relative importance of factors determining fertility level varies with phase of fertility transition.



Source: Bongaarts (1982).

Importance of women's rights & Education

# **Goal: Reproductive Health & Planed Family**

**Provide every man and women with easy and free access to modern family planning and disease prevention methods (pill, IUD, condom, vaccines against STIs, ...)**

**A Global Fund for free IUDs, pills, condoms: ~\$10B/year**

# Population Challenge

	Social	economic	technical	scientific	political
<b>Aging</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Growth</b>	✓	✓			✓



## **2) Global Public Health**

**Why are**

**HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, SARS, Avian flu, ...**

**NOT sufficient calls to action?**

# **A stitch in time saves nine**

**It is very expensive, if at all, to fix the burden of**

- Vaccine preventable diseases**
- Infectious diseases**
- Diseases caused by pollution (e.g. lead)**
- Alcohol, tobacco, narcotics addiction**
- Malnutrition**

**Every child has the right to basic health care and adequate nutrition**

# Living Dangerously

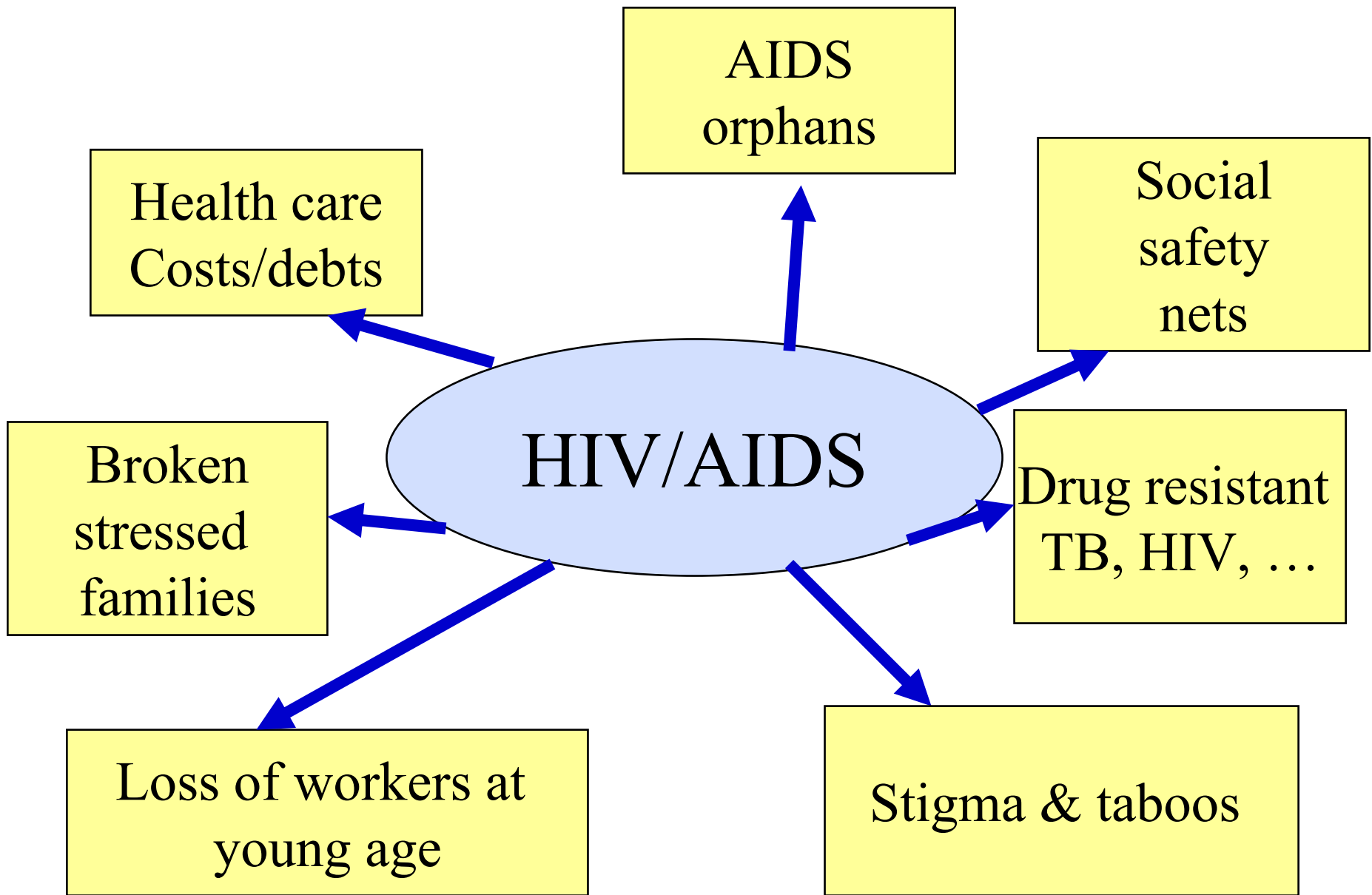
*The world is living dangerously, either because it has little choice or because it is making wrong choices. On the one side are the millions who are dangerously short of the food, water and security they need to live. On the other side are the millions who suffer because they use too much [or are too indulgent]. All of them face high risks of ill-health.*

Address by Gro Harlem Brundtland to the 55th World Health Assembly.

[http://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/2002/english/20020513\\_\\_addresstothe55WHA.html](http://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/2002/english/20020513__addresstothe55WHA.html).

# HIV/AIDS is exceptional

- Long asymptomatic infectious period (~10 years)
- Almost always fatal
- No cure or vaccine
- Sex and IV drug use – major transmission routes
- Stigma keeps risky sex and drug use underground
- Young adults most vulnerable
- Kills the most productive; leaving orphans
- Poor marginalized populations most vulnerable



# **A global jackpot fund for essential medicines and vaccines**

**Enhance the public private partnership for  
both crisis management and prevention of  
communicable and lifestyle diseases globally**

# Healthcare and nutrition

	Social	economic	technical	scientific	political
Vaccines	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basic medicines	✓	✓			✓
Hygiene	✓	✓			✓
Nutrition	✓	✓			✓
Awareness	✓	✓			✓

# **3) Cheap clean energy for all**

## **Essential for**

- Job creation**
- Education**
- Health care**
- Mobility**
- Environment and water management**



250 cubic feet  
natural gas

3 gallons  
oil

20 pounds  
coal

**Each day  
every  
American  
uses**

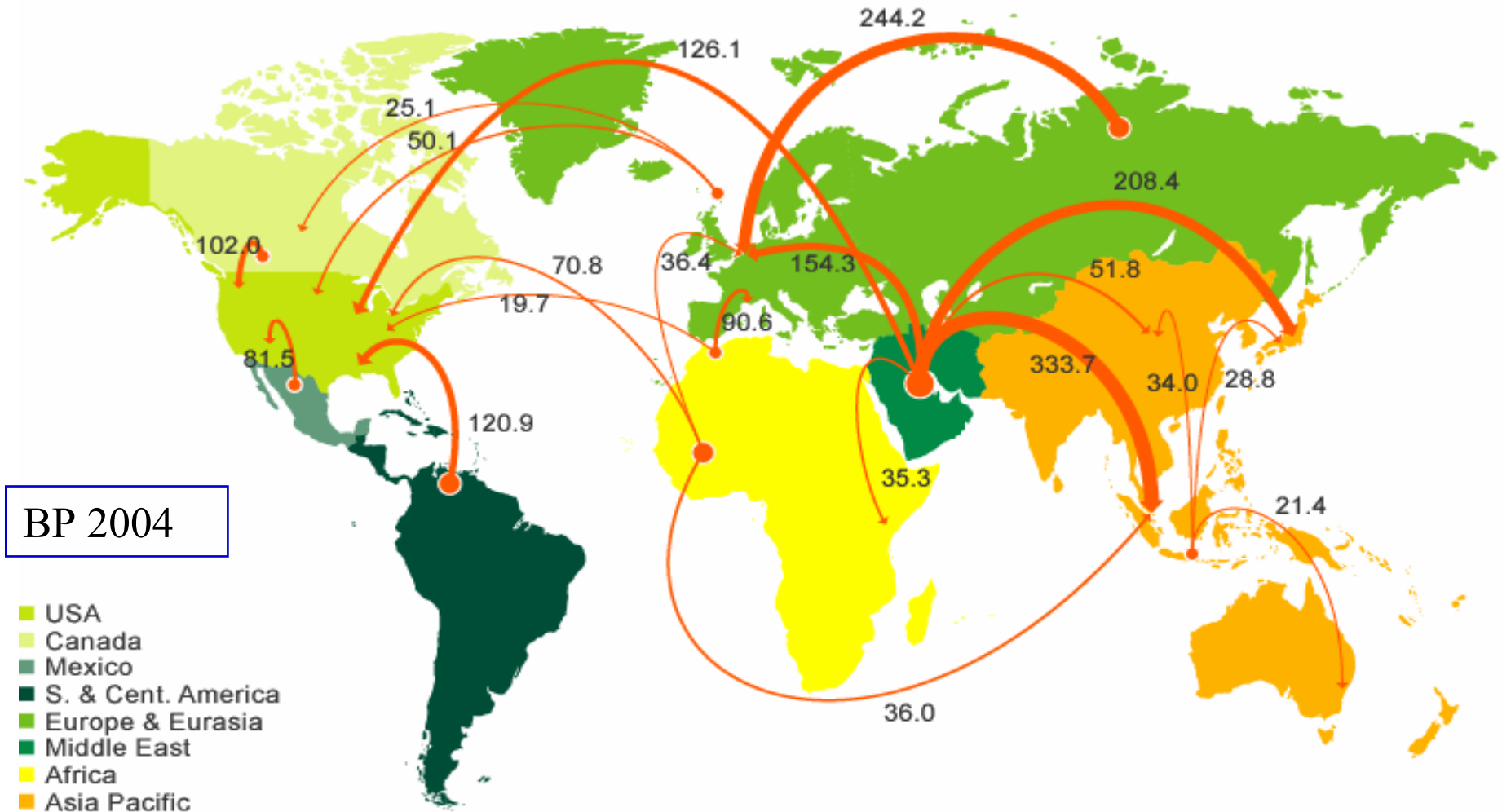
3½ pounds  
biomass

One ounce  
uranium ore

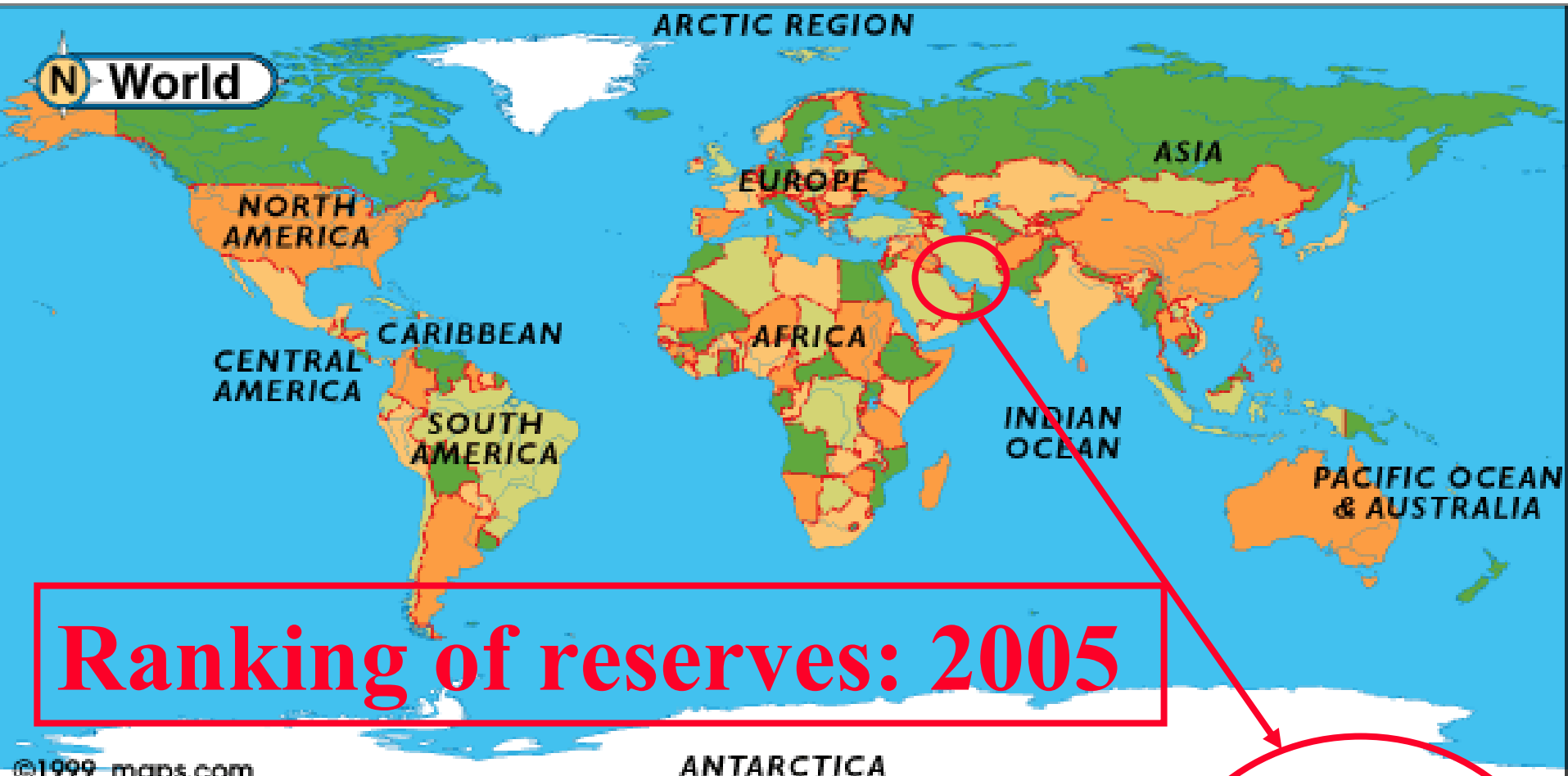
Source: Greg Swift

# Oil: High density & easy to ship & store

Trade flows worldwide (million tonnes)



The issues are demand  $\geq$  production, geopolitics, strife



# Ranking of reserves: 2005

©1999 maps.com

USA 12,6,1

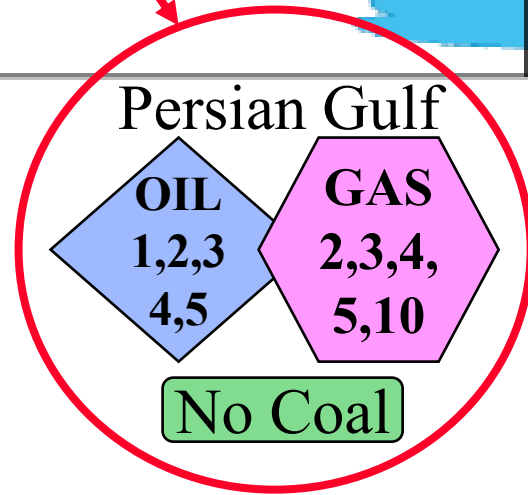
China 11,-,3

EU -, -, 4

Russia 8,1,2

India -, -, 5

AT -, -, -





**Fast forward to 2020**

USA ?, -, 1

China -, -, 3

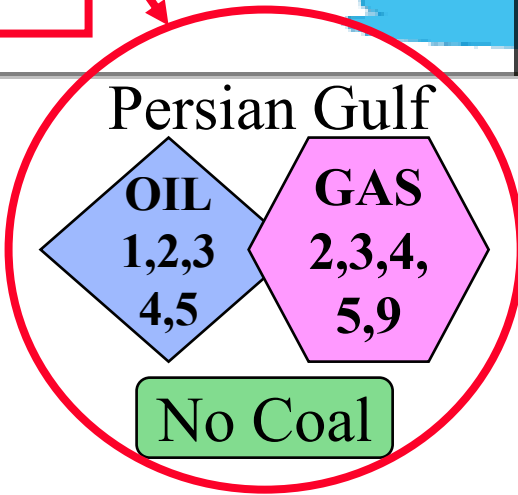
EU -, -, 4

Russia ?, 1, 2

India -, -, 5

AT -, -, -

? → EOR

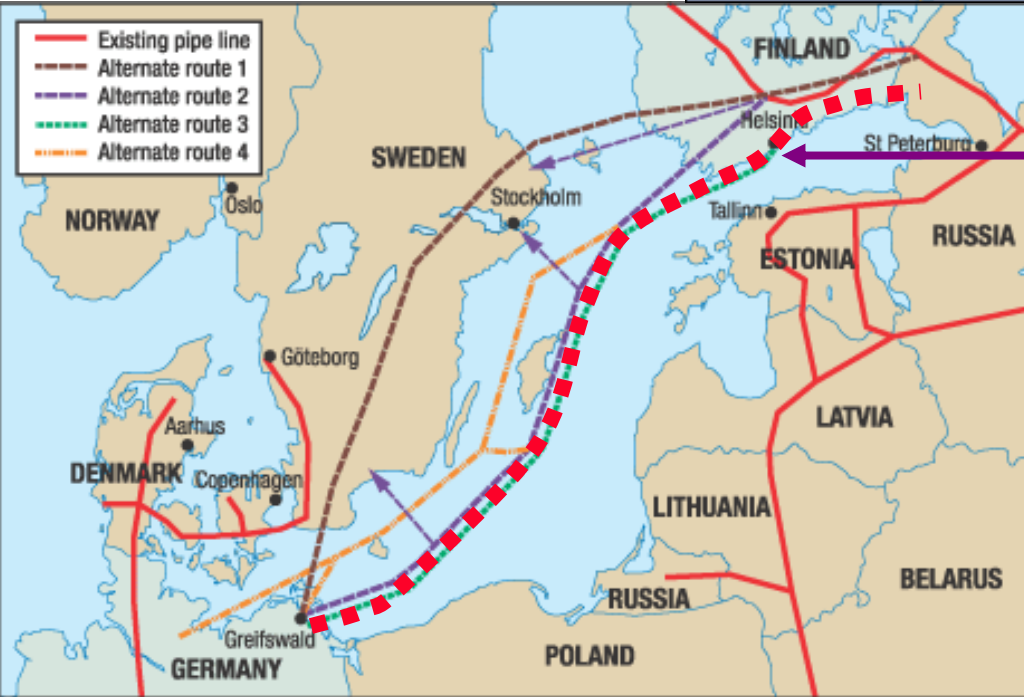


**Middle East and  
Russia control  
conventional  
natural gas and oil**



**She who owns the pipelines gets the oil & gas!**

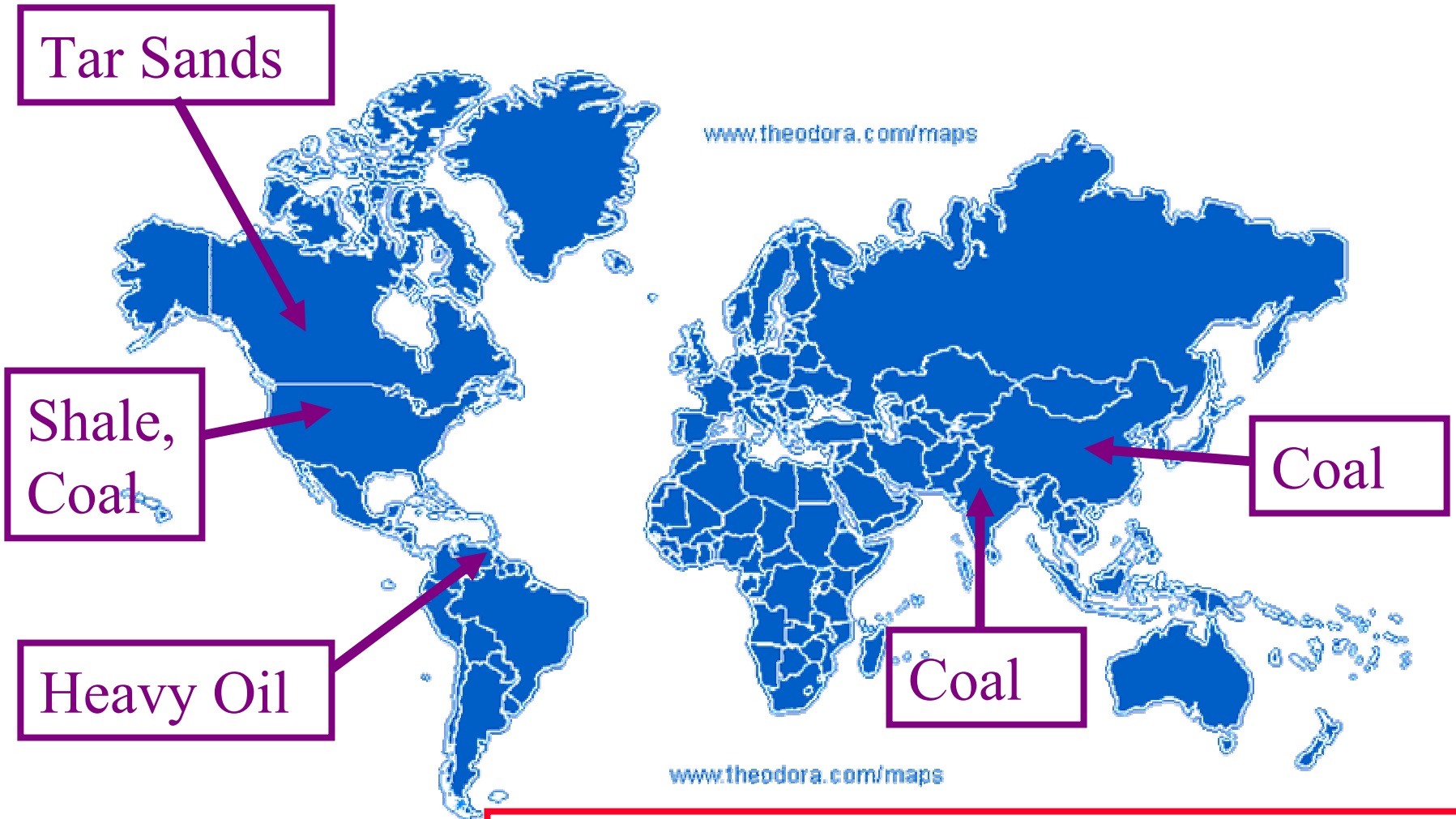
**Which countries will get Russian natural gas in 10 years time?**



**New pipeline from Russia to Germany bypasses Ukraine and Eastern Europe**

**Natural destination is Europe & Asia**

# Unconventionals: Large reserves



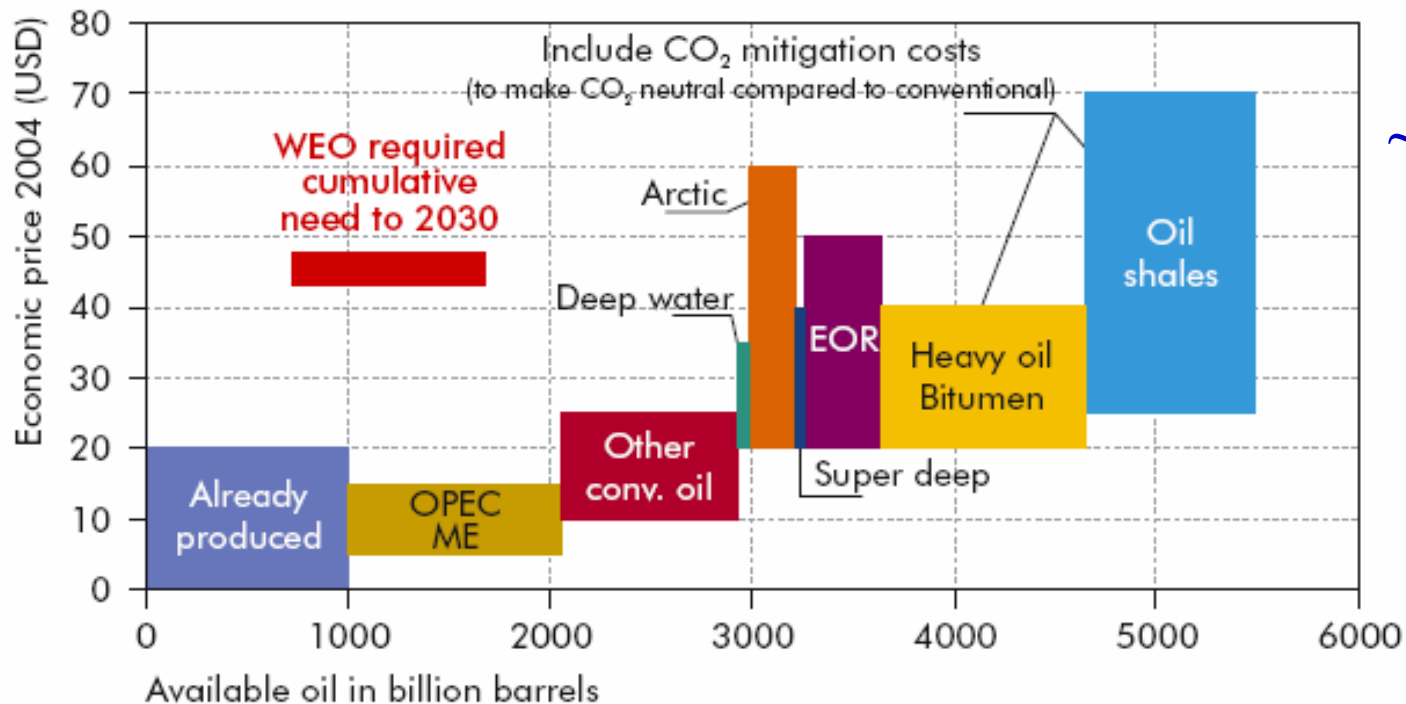
**Problem is pollution and CO<sub>2</sub>**



# Next 100 years burning of fossil fuels

Av. (current) Tera Tons C

- OIL: 100 (85) Mbo/day → **0.5**
  - Gas: 1.5 (3/4) Tcf/day → **0.7**
  - Coal: 30 (14) M tons/day → **1**
- } 1/2 accumulates in the atmosphere & **2.1 GtC = 1 ppm**



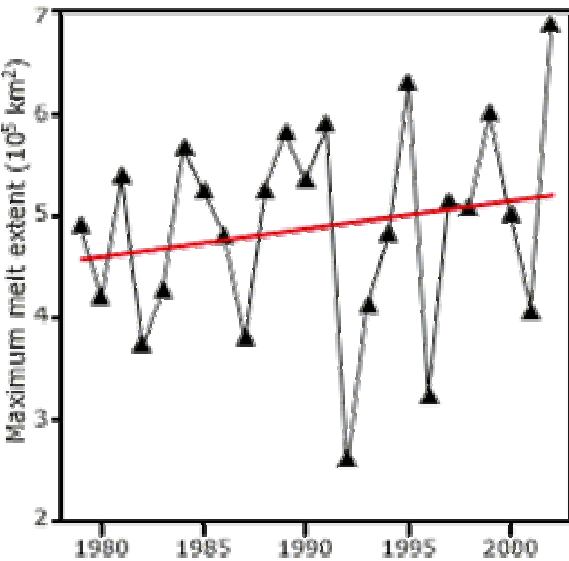
↓  
~900ppm

↔ 3.7 T barrels ↔

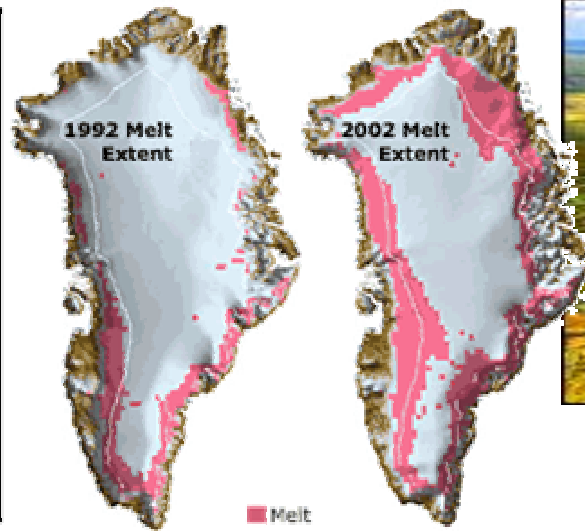
# Fossil fuels and Environment

**In the 20<sup>th</sup> century we started to act on pollution (NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, acid rain, soot, mercury?, ...) but not Green House Gasses like CO<sub>2</sub> and the associated global climate change**

*CO<sub>2</sub> is a greenhouse gas. It forms a blanket around the earth that causes warming*



<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Study/vanishing/>



Melting of permafrost

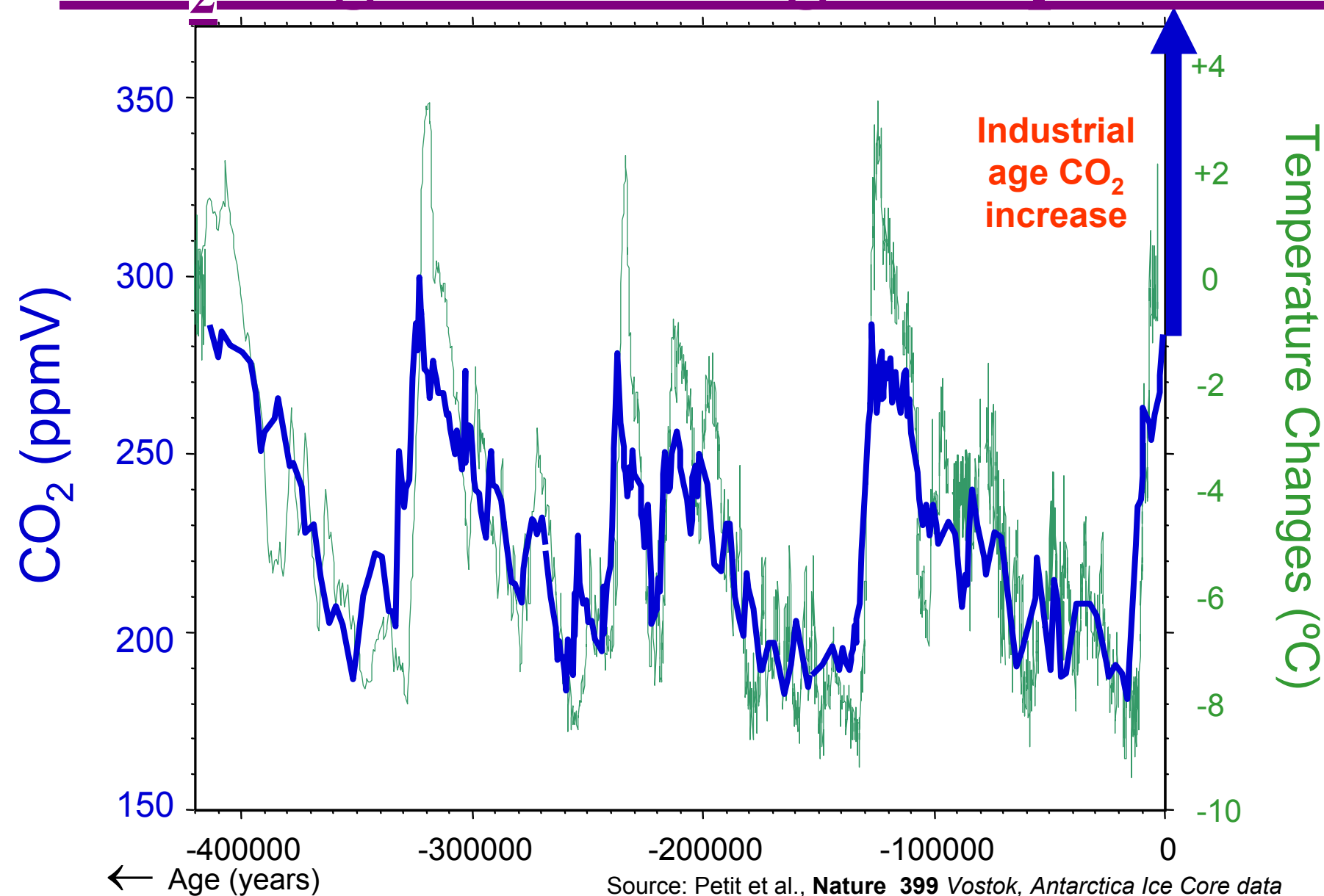
**Melting of glaciers in Greenland and around the world. Is it global warming?**

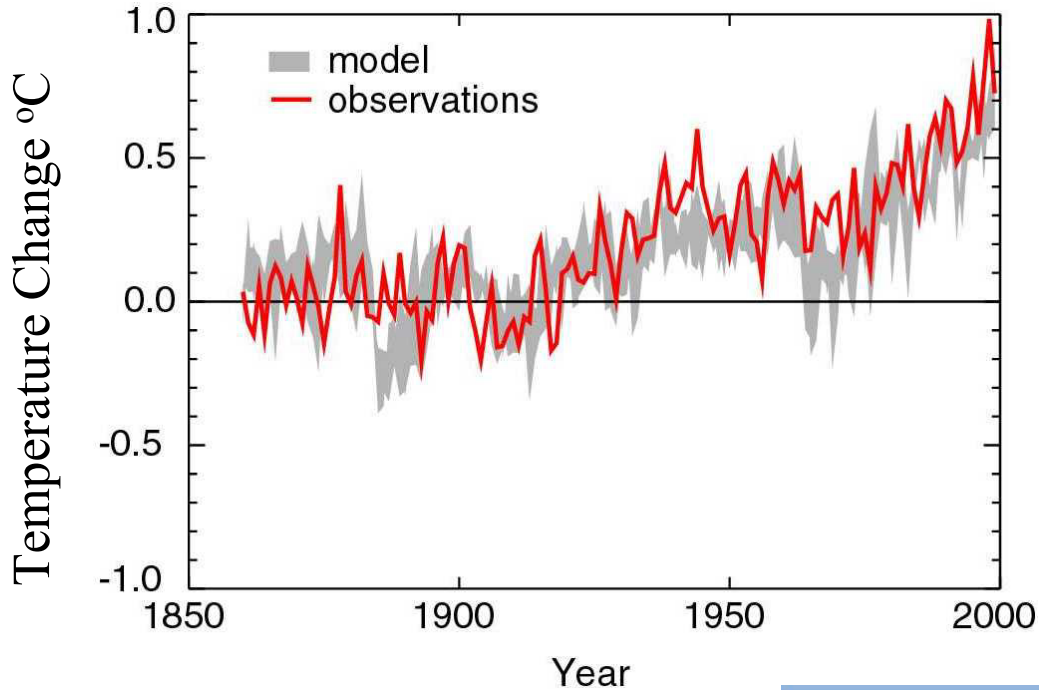
**Sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub>: First capture CO<sub>2</sub> and then store it**



Intense storms

# CO<sub>2</sub> & global average temperature

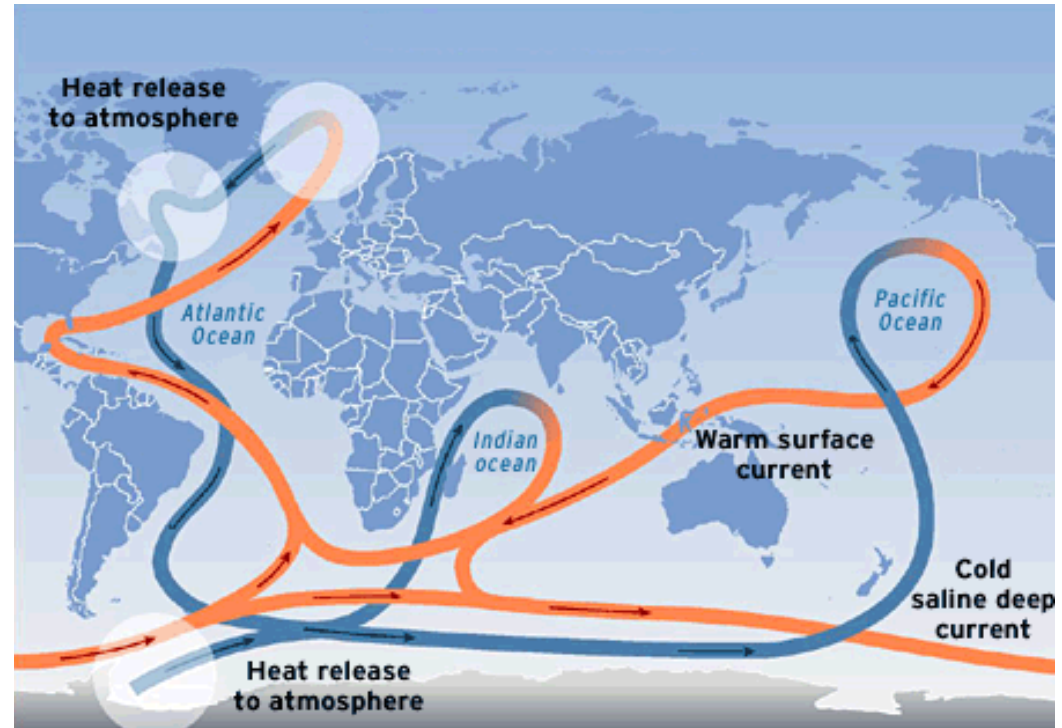




**Increasing evidence  
for rise in average  
temperature due to  
fossil-fuel burning**

**Possibility of  
catastrophic  
change:**

**Shutdown of the  
thermohaline in  
10s of years**



**Climate change is the  
largest, costliest, most  
dangerous, uncontrolled  
experiment ever done by  
mankind**

# **Industrialized countries must lead**

- **Develop and commercialize cheap clean energy**
  - **Hopefully before cheap oil (2010?) and gas (2035?) production < demand**
- **Large scope for cost-effective energy efficiency in homes, buildings, manufacture and transport**

**A tremendous economic opportunity:  
A \$48B/day market at 5c/kwh**

# Cannot have cheap clean energy for all without some key S&T at **tera** scale

- Separation/capture of CO<sub>2</sub> from mixed gas streams
  - Secure and effective long-term storage of CO<sub>2</sub>.
    - Geologic, mineralization, ...
  - Hydrogen from water without using fossil energy:
    - Electrolysis of water (inexpensive and efficient electrodes)
    - Photochemical and/or thermo-chemical splitting of water
  - Photovoltaic cells (→ \$1/peak watt installed)
    - nano and/or bio PV materials integrated into systems
  - Advanced nuclear fuel cycle and reactors
    - separation of SNF, transmutation, fuel reassembly, waste
  - Fusion?
- CCS
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## **4) Managing the environment and water resources**

# Immense Environmental Challenges

- **Green house gases and global climate change**
- **Accelerating loss of habitats and species**
- **Ecosystems under increasing stress**
- **Deforestation**
- **Soil erosion and degradation**
- **Alien invasive species**
- **Food chains undergoing drastic changes (meat use↑)**
  
- **Pollution of rivers, lakes, coastal areas**
- **Eutrophication (fertilizers reaching water bodies)**
- **Depletion/pollution of ground water**

# Environment and Water Challenge

	Social	economic	technical	scientific	political
Env.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water	✓	✓	✓		✓

## **5) Nurturing and Educating children for 22 or more years**

It takes ~100 watts to keep a person alive and in servitude. It is much harder to provide every kid a nurturing environment and ~4000 watts of power that would allow them to develop skills to control their destiny in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

# Life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- Pace of change is rapid and increasing
- Many more options and stresses
- Expected to make high consequence decisions often and at younger age
- Stress management is increasingly important
- Premium on
  - Higher education
  - Technical skills
  - Emotional health
  - People skills
  - Healthy lifestyles

**Kids need a loving, caring, healthy environment to grow up in and good higher education**

# **Education: a public-private partnership**

- **Stable funding**
- **High quality teachers and researchers**
- **Motivated students**
- **Aligned priorities of parents and society**
- **Kids growing up in healthy environment**

- **Education increasingly becoming a business**
- **Well funded private institutions set standards**
- **Shortage of good teachers (math and science)**


# Kids that fall off the table

- More prone to risky behaviors
- More likely to have unhealthy lifestyles
- Fewer career options
- Less able to make sound long term financial decisions or investments
- Less able to provide a nurturing environment to their children or help with higher learning

**Do they compound the**

- **Health care, environmental problems?**
- **Are they good future providers and stewards?**

# **In the absence of healthy leisure time activities people gravitate towards**

- **Shallow television**
  - **Gambling**
  - **Alcohol and drugs**
  - **Risky sex** → **HIV/AIDS**
- 

**Need education and meaningful jobs**



# **Disillusioned and without hope**

- **Crime**
- **Violence**
- **Gangs**
- **Militias**
- **Terrorists**

**Social and political instability**

# **Poverty: a compounding factor**

- **A child without nourishment falls sick & cannot focus**
- **A child without health care is handicapped**
- **A child is defenseless in unhealthy environments**
- **A child without education faces a life of servitude**
- **A child without “love” faces emotional handicaps**
- **A child without hope and anchors is an easy prey**
- **Without energy a family remains in darkness**

**Population growth is in the poor**

# Keeping kids on the table: highest priority long term investment

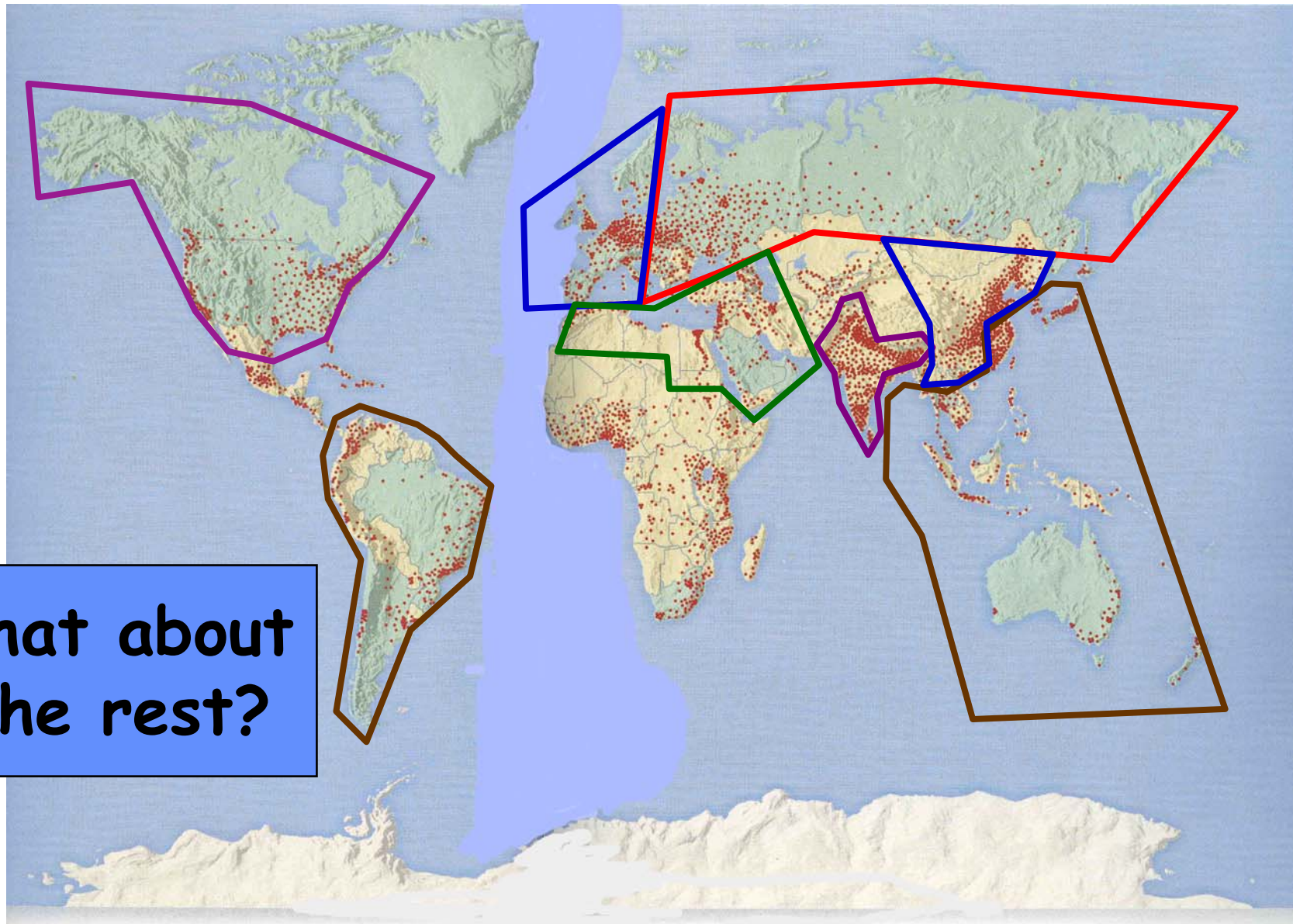
	Social	economic	political	parents	schools
Raising strong kids = our future = security	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Conclusion

**Why we must act with urgency?**

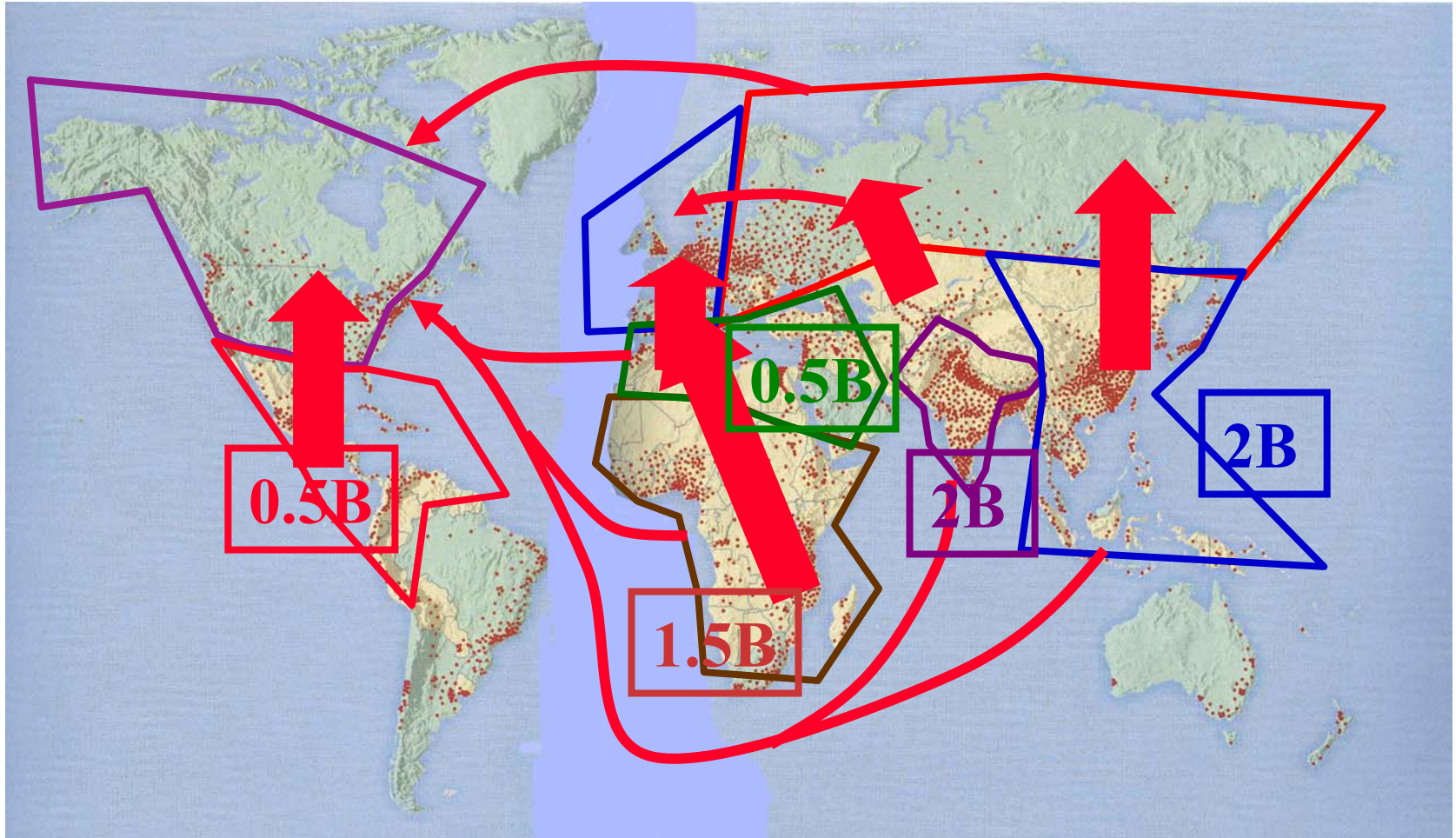
# Scenario Under Business-as-Usual

# Eight Economic Zones: each of about 400M “global” people



What about  
the rest?

# Pressure of migration 6.5B → 1B



Adaptation and integration or conflict?

# **Migration and Reinvestment: Examples of accelerated change**

- **Migration created a global Indian community**
  - **Similarly:** China, Taiwan, Ireland, Israel, Korea, Singapore
- **Migrant community has skills, entrepreneurship, capital, ties and genuine empathy**
- **Helped create IT revolution in US & India**
- **Many are keen to help and invest in India**
- **Can engage meaningfully in poverty reduction, health care, education and development**

**Prerequisites:** Stability and educated workers at home

**Caution:** Don't over fish developing pools



# **Impediments to development: Sharks and Barracudas that come in many guises**

- **Despotic, corrupt governments**
- **Exploitative business**
- **National and transnational criminals**
- **Fanatics and terrorists**

**Failed states are a global challenge**

# Rocking a leaking boat

- **Impact of catastrophic events?**
- **Impact of conflicts and wars?**
- **Global climate change?**
- **Population growth, demographics, urbanization, migration, refugees**
  - **Especially if developing countries fail**

- **Resilience/adaptability of systems under stress?**
- **Need nation building not failed states**

The more we ignore the  
needs of the poor and  
the marginalized, the  
more we empower the  
despots, the sharks  
and the barracudas!

# Questions?

- **Promote a race towards first world consumption or help develop access to basic rights for all?**
- **Globalized world –**
  - **Can/will free/competitive markets create stability in supply and demand?**
  - **Can we come to an agreement on equity?**
  - **Should environmental remediation costs be factored into product costs?**
- **Can competition in a resource limited world foster co-operation?**
  - **Global identity (transcending family, communal, religious and national interests)**

# A challenge to modelers

**We are starting to understand the networks and strengths of the interconnections at the macro level.**

**We need to better understand the rules and dynamics at the micro (people) level**

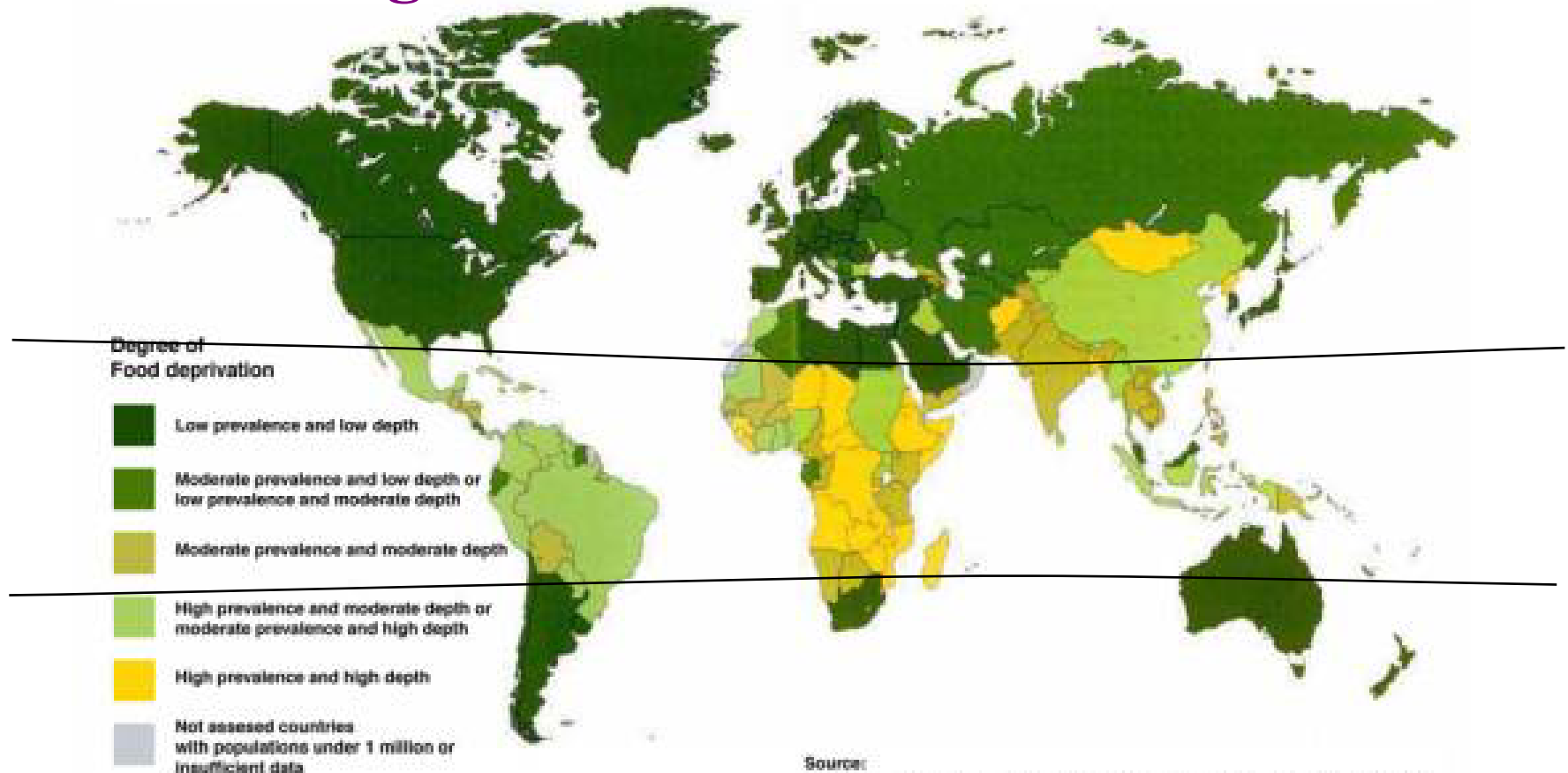
**Must develop tools to bridge the scales and anticipate collateral/ripple effects**

# Hope versus Hunger

We understand threats to people & nature

We have tools to deal with them

Will we grow the will and act in time?



Source:  
FVIMS (Food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping systems)  
SOFI 2000 (State of Food Insecurity in the World)  
<http://www.fvims.net/>