• This gives people a more accurate picture of where people live and why
• Ex. 98% of Egypt’s population inhabit only 3% of its land
• Over 80% of Western Europe’s population lives in cities contrasted with East and South Asia having 40% of its people living in cities
• Historically, people live where they can grow food making populations unevenly distributed
• As a result-cities grew near sources of water-usually near a coast where land was more productive and transportation easily accessible
• Today making those coastal areas into urban agglomerations-megalopolis
• Globally-four clusters of population exist in the word of 7.3 billion
• 1. East Asia
• 2. South Asia
• 3. Europe
• 4. North America
• British economist-Thomas Malthus published An essay on the Principles of Population-1798
• After studying patterns throughout England-he warned the world’s population was increasing faster than the food supplies to sustain it
• Malthus wrote food supplies grew linearly, whereas population grew exponentially-causing controversy
• Malthus assumed food production was confined spatially-people only could eat what their country produced
• However Malthus did not take into account several huge changes impacting England and eventually the rest of Europe:
• Colonization, capitalism, advances in agriculture, production, and technology
• Nor did he foresee globalization
• All of which greatly affected food production and distribution
• Present day thought-
• Neo-Malthusian scholars share the same concerns as Malthus did
• Human suffering and natural disaster occur on a large scale affecting the poorest people the most
• Present day populations continue to rise as people are still hungry and cannot produce enough food
• Population change in one place can be affected by what is going on in neighboring countries or at the regional scale
• The natural increase of a country’s population is to subtract deaths from live births only
• However two key components affect population and demographic change over time- “immigration and emigration”
• Populations across scales go through various stages of expansion and decline at various time periods
• Contrasting stats from 2010: The former Soviet Union have rates of natural increase of -0.5% or less annually VS. Subsaharan Africa with natural growth rate of over 2.5% annually VS Muslim countries of SW Asia and Saudi Arabia have rates of natural increase of 1.5-2.4% VS China at .5%