

Case Study: China's One-Child Policy

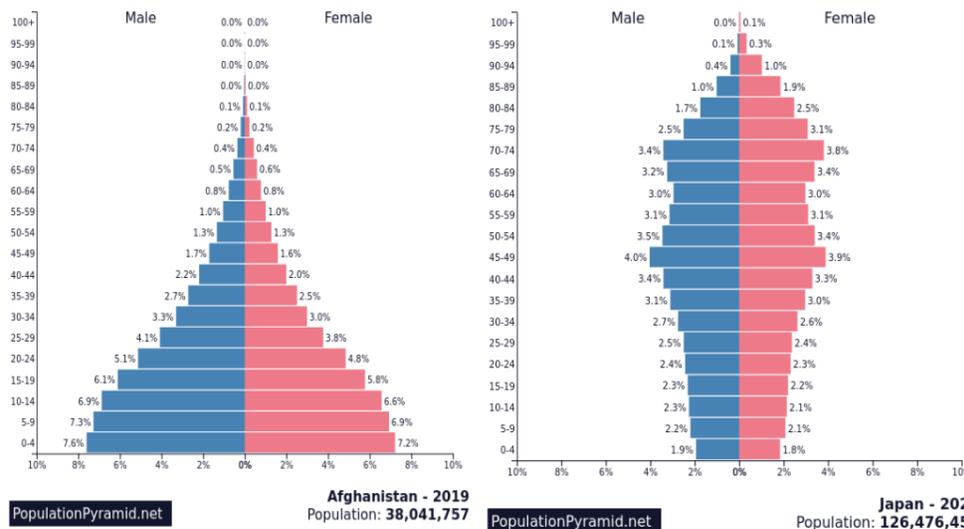


What are the consequences of China's rapidly growing population?

- China's **One Child Policy** was introduced in **1979** to try and combat **overpopulation** and increase the **quality of life** for people living there. It stated that each family in China were only allowed to raise one child.
- It was **abolished in 2015**, but the legacy of the government policy has had long-lasting consequences of China's population.
- The One Child Policy has led to an **ageing population**. This means that by 2030, there is expected to be only two tax payers for every elderly person living in China. This has brought various challenges, as elderly citizens require more healthcare and funding from the Chinese State.
- The One Child Policy has also meant that women involved in raising children do it for a much shorter period of time which means there is a **higher proportion of women who work**.
- Lots of Chinese families favoured having boys. This led to high **abortion rates for baby girls** which has led to much higher proportion of men compared to women today.

Key Terms

Demography	The study of statistics such as births, deaths and income, which show us the changing structure of human populations.
Population Density	The number of people in one geographic area (e.g. square mile).
Distribution	The way something is spread out or arranged over a geographic area.
Fertility rate	The average number of children a woman will have in her lifetime based on where she lives.
Overpopulation	When the population of a place becomes too dense that it reduces the quality of life of the people living there.
Internal migration	The movement of people from one area to another within a country, often for employment or education.



Case Study: Afghanistan's Youthful Population



What are the opportunities and challenges of Afghanistan's youthful population?

- 63.7%** of Afghanistan's population are **under 25**, meaning there is a steep population pyramid. This is because of Afghanistan's **high fertility rate** of 4.56.
- There are many benefits of a youthful population. More people make up Afghanistan's **workforce**. More young people is leading to a shift in **Afghan politics**, where young people are striving to make Afghanistan a peaceful and safe country.
- Young people in Afghanistan face significant challenges related to **health, education, employment and gender inequality**, because of their youthful, fast-growing population.
- Due to **poor healthcare**, Afghanistan has one of the highest **infant mortality rates** in the world (the number of babies that die before their 1st birthday).
- Youth literacy rate is low** at 62% for men and 32% for women, highlighting gender discrimination. This makes it difficult for Afghans to gain the knowledge and skills needed for some employment.

How is Asia geographically unique?



What is the human and physical geography of Asia like?

- There are **48 countries** in Asia and is home to nearly **4.5 billion people**. 1.4 billion of these people live in China.
- Asia has an extremely **diverse physical environment** with everything from the tallest mountain in the world, Mount Everest, to the tropical rainforests, cold tundra and coniferous forests.
- Asia is the most **densely populated continent**, and its unique cultures and traditions are influencing life around the world.

How can we use population pyramids to understand population?

- A population pyramid is a way to visualize two variables: **age and sex**. They are used by **demographers**, who study populations.
- A population pyramid can be used to compare differences between **male and female** populations of an area. They also show the number of **dependents** (children and, sometimes, elderly people) and general **structure** of the population at any given moment.
- Population pyramids give an indication of how **developed** a country is, and give us important information about **life expectancy, fertility rate and infant mortality rate**.

Case Study: Japan's Ageing Population



What are the opportunities and challenges of Japan's ageing population?

- Japan's has an ageing population which is **slowly declining**. This means that there are a **higher proportion of elderly people** which require looking after by the Japanese state. Japan's population is expected to drop from **127 million in 2015 to 88 million by 2065**.
- Japan's ageing demographic is due to an **extremely high life expectancy** of 84.4 and **low fertility rate** of 1.36. This is as result of Japan's highly developed society, with advanced medical care and opportunities and education for women.
- An ageing population is having significant impacts on Japan's **economy**, which is suffering from a **labour shortage**. As elderly people retire, there are not enough young people to fill employment gaps.
- Many Japanese cities are trying to reverse the ageing demographic by offering **money and benefits to women who have children**, and by creating programmes where elderly people look after young children

Birth rate in China (per 1000)

