

# Theory of Demographic Transition

⇒ What is demographic transition:

Looking at how countries over time change specifically focusing on their birth rate, death rate and increase rate (population growth).

By the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century mortality had fallen in many western countries and fertility was beginning to fall too. This experience gave rise to the major demographic theory, i.e. the theory of demographic transition by Warren Thompson (1929). He said that the population of any country has three stages.

Stage I: High birth rate and high death rate.

In this stage the population is stable or in a stationary condition at low level.

Majority of human history took place in this stage so it also known as old balance because a large number of births were necessary to compensate for the large number of deaths especially maternal and child deaths. Maternal mortality was extremely high. In addition, a large proportion of children born (sometimes one-fourth to one-third) died within a year after birth and about the same proportion died within 1 to 5 years of age and still more before reaching maturity.

Stage II: Continue high birth rate and sharply declining death rate.

It is a stage of population explosion (rapid natural increase).

It is a stage to catch up with technological innovations, vaccines, insecticides and other medicines. This growth is helpful for underpopulated nations which need more manpower, expanding markets and greater military potential. However it eventually

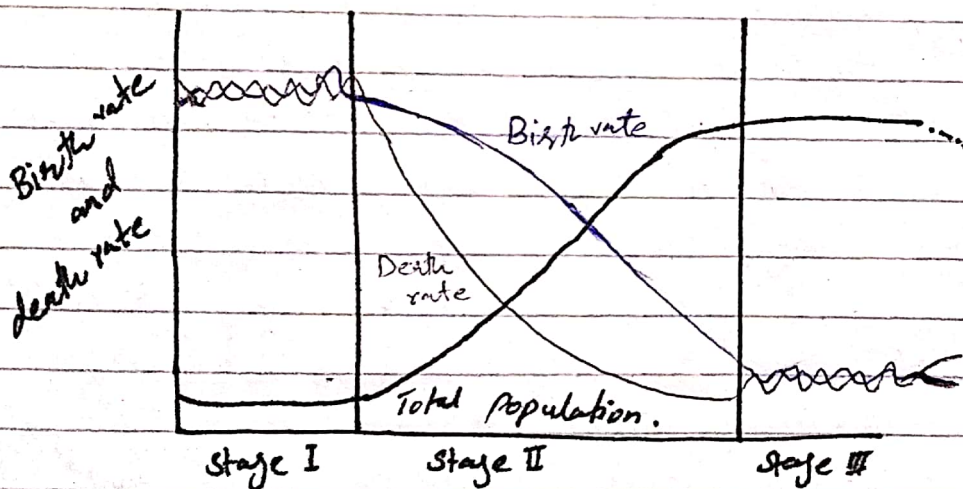
results in too fast growth of population leading to economic, political and social chaos.

A number of developing countries such as Pakistan and many African countries are in this phase of demographic transition.

Stage 3: Low birth rate and low death rate.

In this stage the population is stable or in a stationary condition at high level.

It can happen by improved condition of health especially due to good hygiene and nutrition leading to fewer deaths. Low fertility due to improved reproductive health and family planning practices.

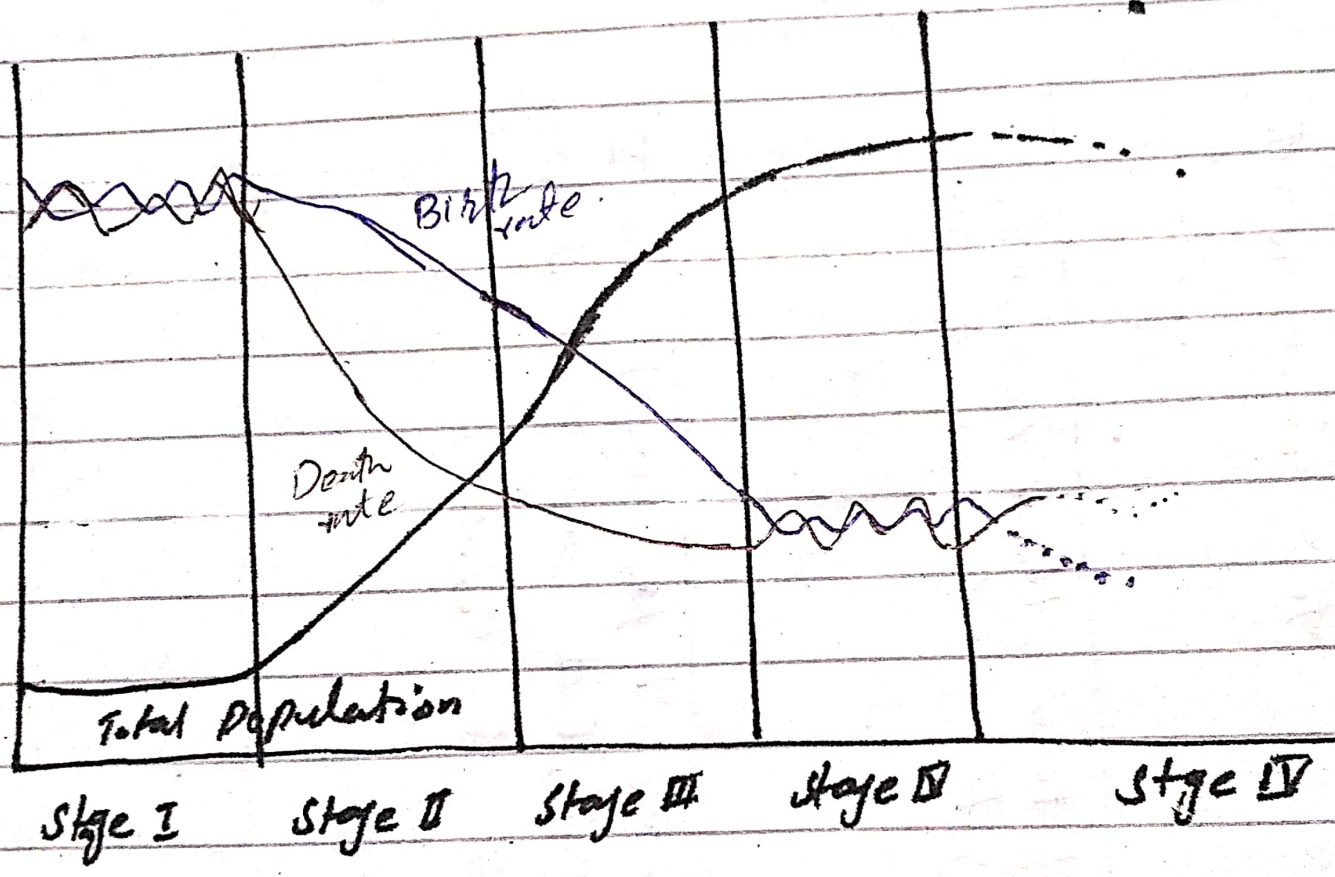


Many demographers described the demographic transition in four or five stages/phases after the warren thompson.

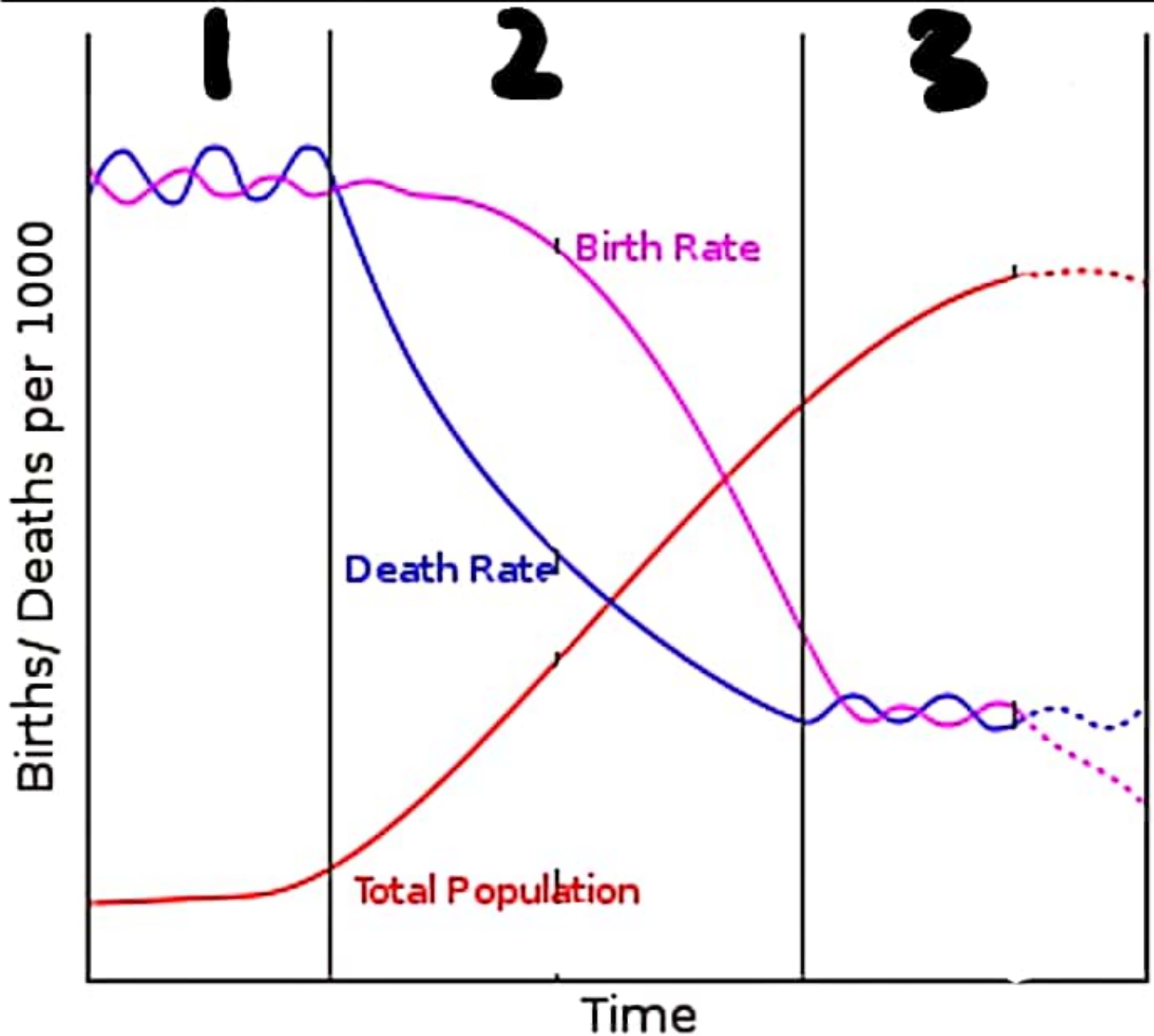
Blacker (1947) discerned five phases/stages of demographic transition as shown in table.

Phase	Birth rate	Death rate	Natural rate of increase	Reasons	Examples
1. High stationary	High	High	Zero or very low	Unimproved condition of health	Europe in the 14 <sup>th</sup> century.
2. Early expanding	High	Falling slowly	Slow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Industrial revolution</li> <li>→ medical revolution</li> <li>→ technological innovations</li> </ul>	India and Pakistan before world war II
3. Late expanding	Falling	Falling faster than birth rates	Rapid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Urbanization</li> <li>→ Mind change</li> <li>→ Economic changes make it harder to support a large family.</li> <li>→ Improved medicine</li> </ul>	Southern and Eastern Europe before world war II and India after world war II.
4. Low stationary	Low	Low	Zero or very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Urbanization continues</li> <li>→ Women have more opportunities in society.</li> <li>→ Women are more involved in the workforce have less time to have kids.</li> </ul>	Australia, New Zealand, United states in the 1930s.
5. Declining	Low	Higher than birth rates	Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ This causes a variety of problems for society. (Poverty, disease etc).</li> <li>→ Elderly support ratio (more old age persons)</li> </ul>	France before world war II and, East and west Germany in the 1970s.

Birth rate and Death rate



# Demographic Transition Model



# Demographic Transition Model

