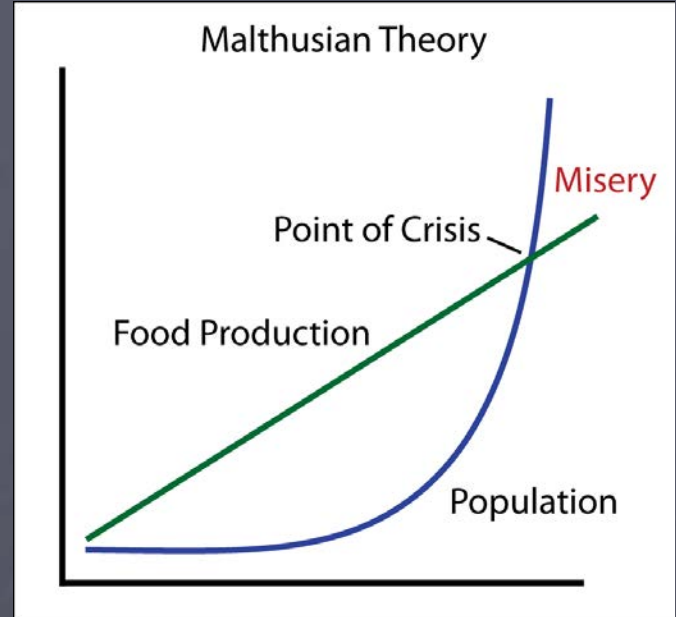


# Basics of Population Theory

Preparation for the AP Human Geography Examination

# Malthusian Theory

- Argues that world population is growing geometrically while food production is only increasing arithmetically
  - Population would soon exceed food stores



# Controlling Population

- Population could not continue un-checked and Malthus classified two different types of checks
  - Positive Checks: Factors increasing mortality (War, Famine, Disease, etc...)
  - Preventative/Negative Checks: Factors decreasing fertility (Moral restraint, contraception, abortion, etc...)

# Neo-Malthusian Theory

- Two characteristics of recent population growth make Malthus' theory more realistic today
  - Transfer of medical technology (but not wealth) from MDCs to LDCs has allowed for fastest population growth in poorest areas
  - Expanded Malthus' ideas to more than just food, but to also include energy resources
    - Argue wars and civil violence will increase as food, clean air, fuel, and suitable farmland become more scarce

# Marxian Theory

- Argues that capitalism drives population growth as a way to increase pool of cheap labor
- Established Conflict Theory
  - Claims society is in a state of perpetual **conflict** due to competition for limited resources. It holds that social order is maintained by domination and power, rather than consensus and conformity

# Alternative Theories

- William Catton
  - Links population with “carrying capacity of ecosystems” and idea of cornucopia
    - As humans over-exert the earth’s resources they will eventually pay the price
- Esther Boserup
  - As population approached crisis the world would respond with assistance spawning economic growth and new technologies

# Data Driven Analysis

- Hans Rosling
  - Tracks population data and theorizes that world population will even out at 10 Billion people
    - World can make plans on supporting that many people

