



Population profile

Demographic dividend

Education and skills challenge

Alternative futures



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Demography is destiny

Auguste Comte

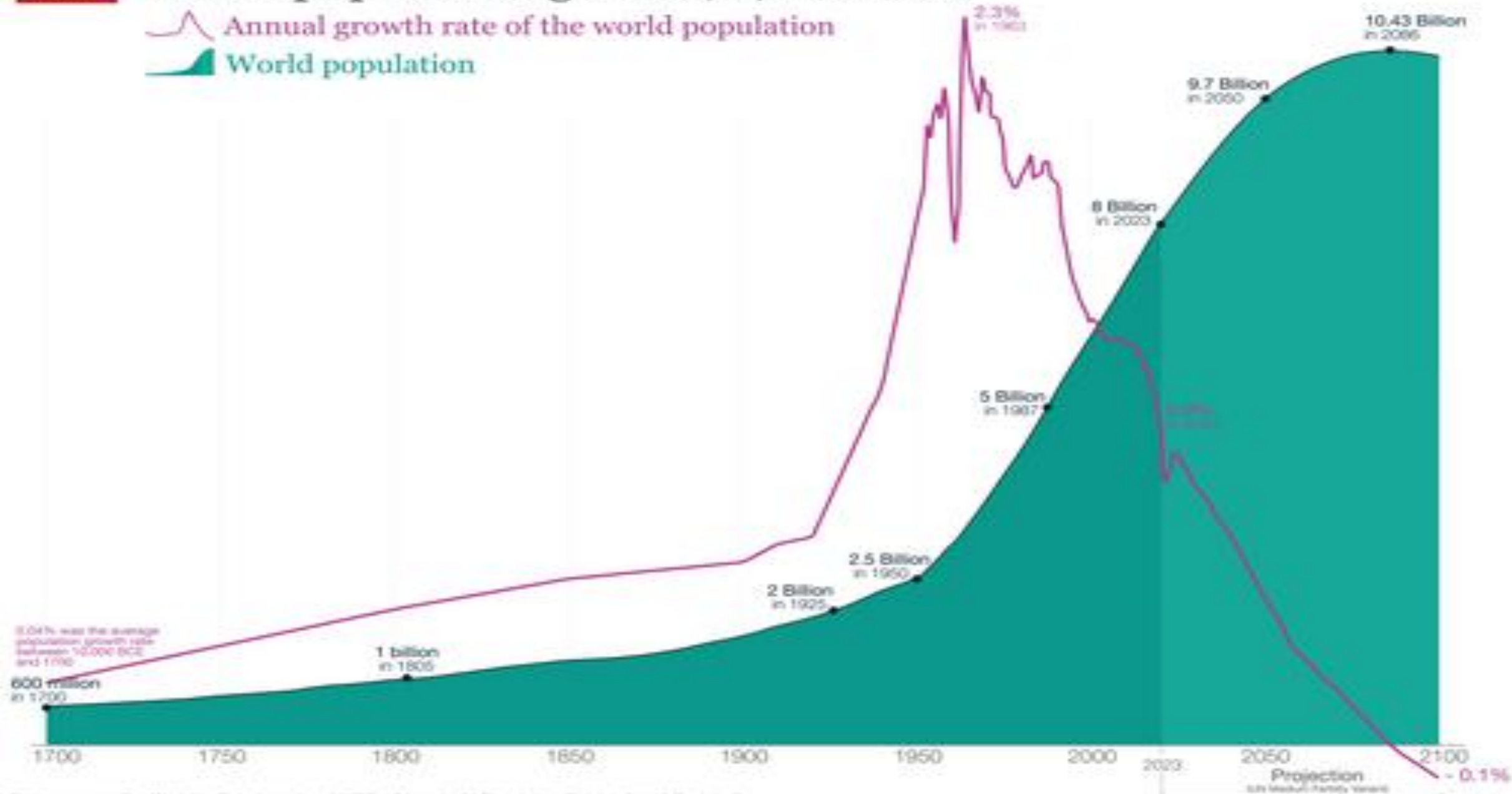


the size and composition of a country's population will determine its future.

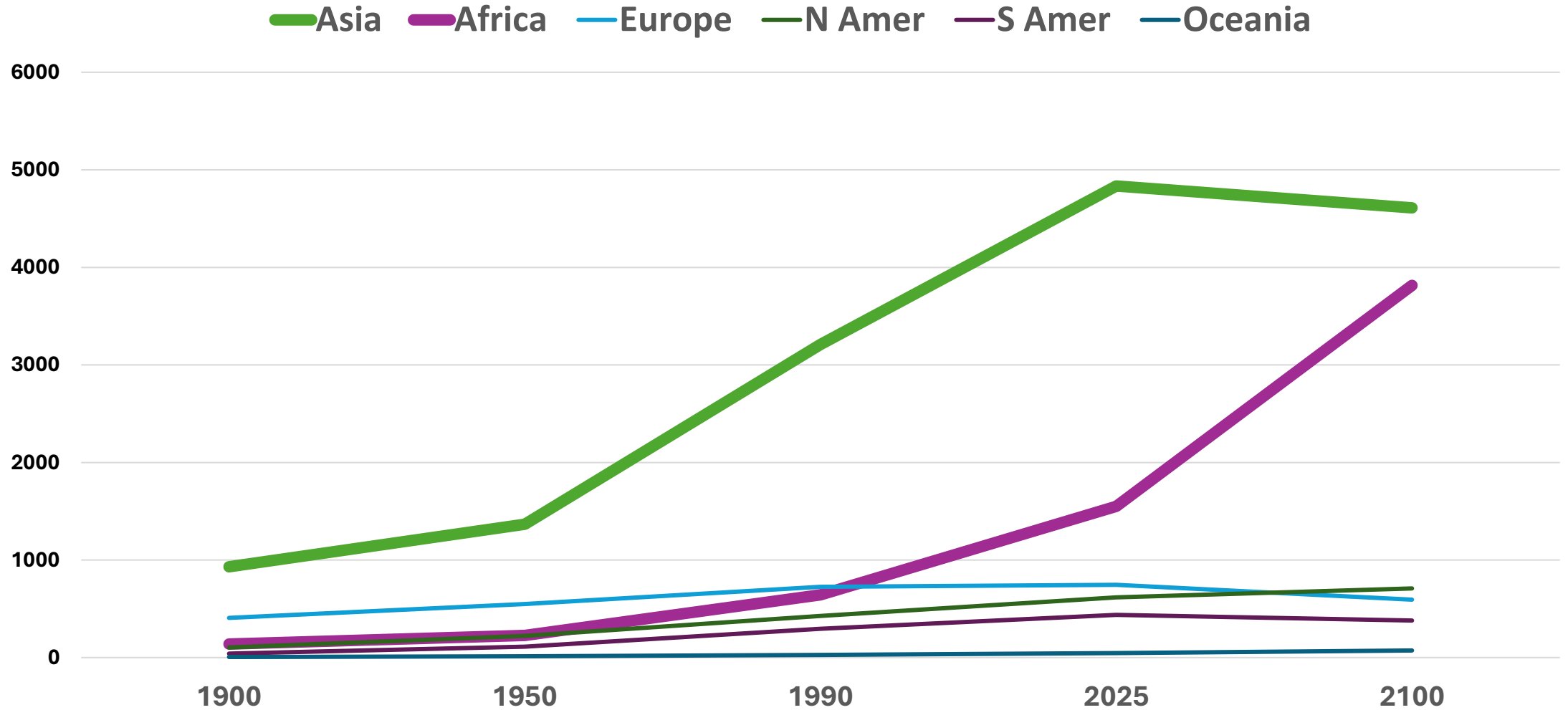
World population growth, 1700-2100

Annual growth rate of the world population

World population

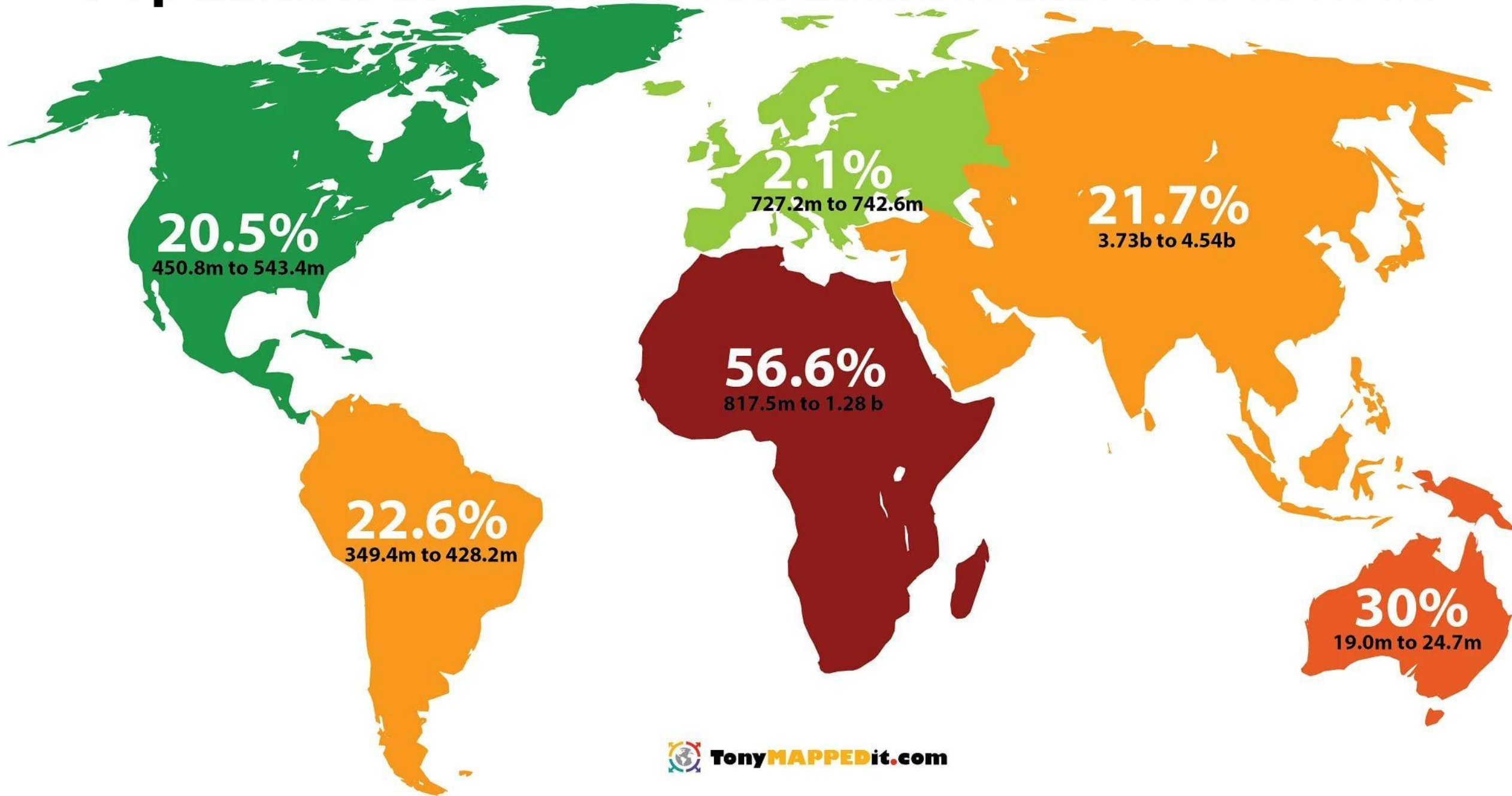


World population by continent

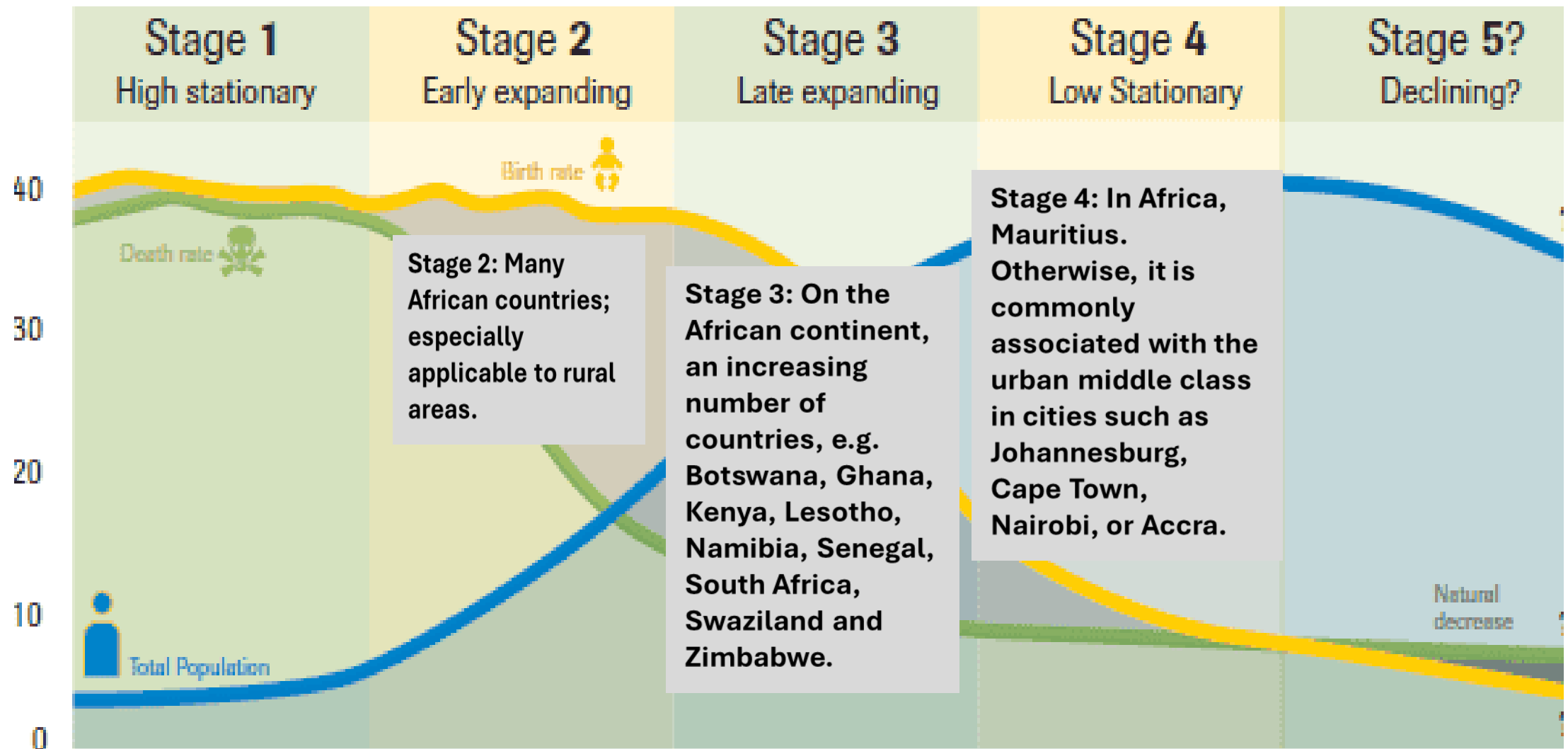


Computed from UN

Population Growth Per Continent From 2000 to 2018



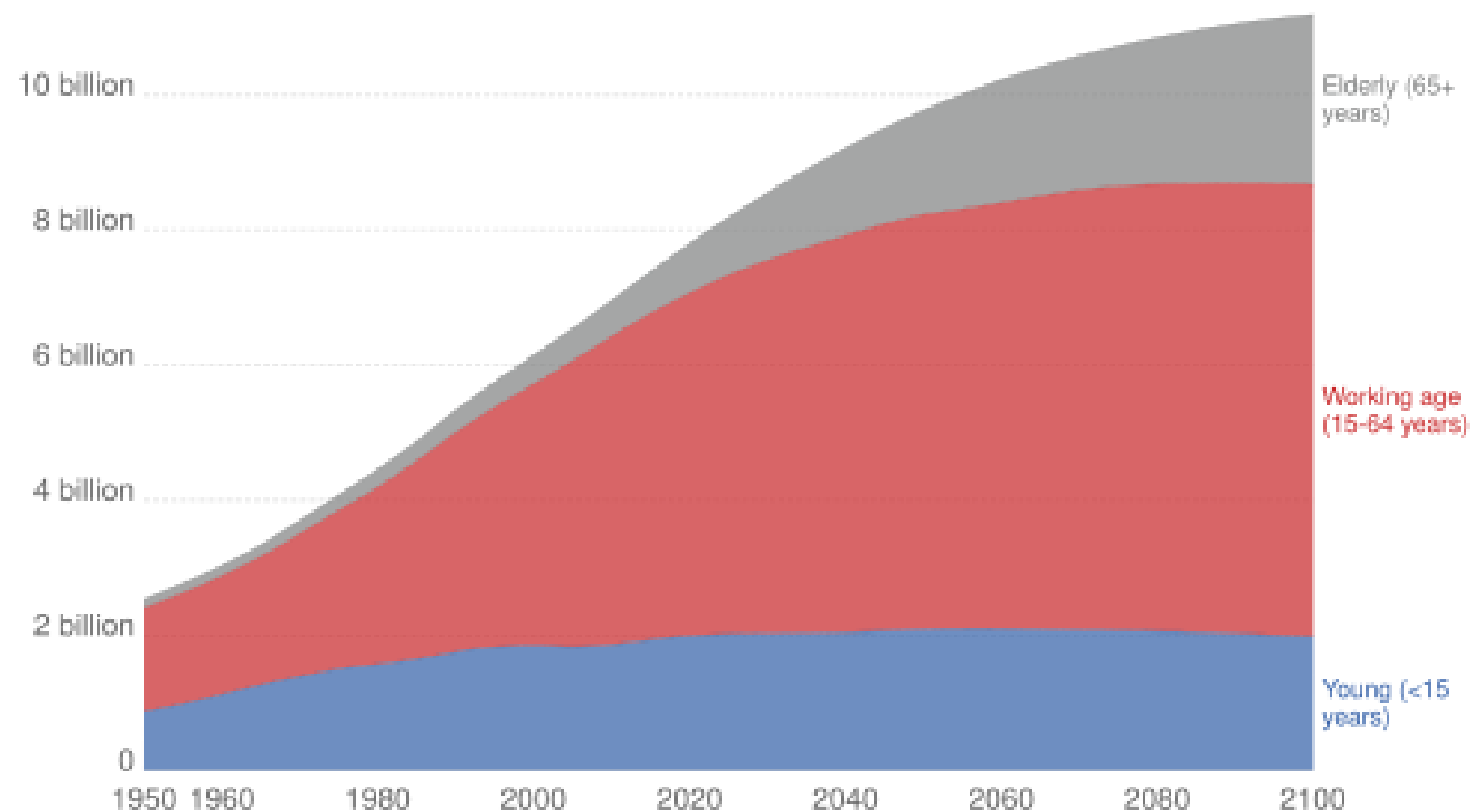
Demographic cycle



Size of young, working-age and elderly populations projected to 2100, World

Our World
in Data

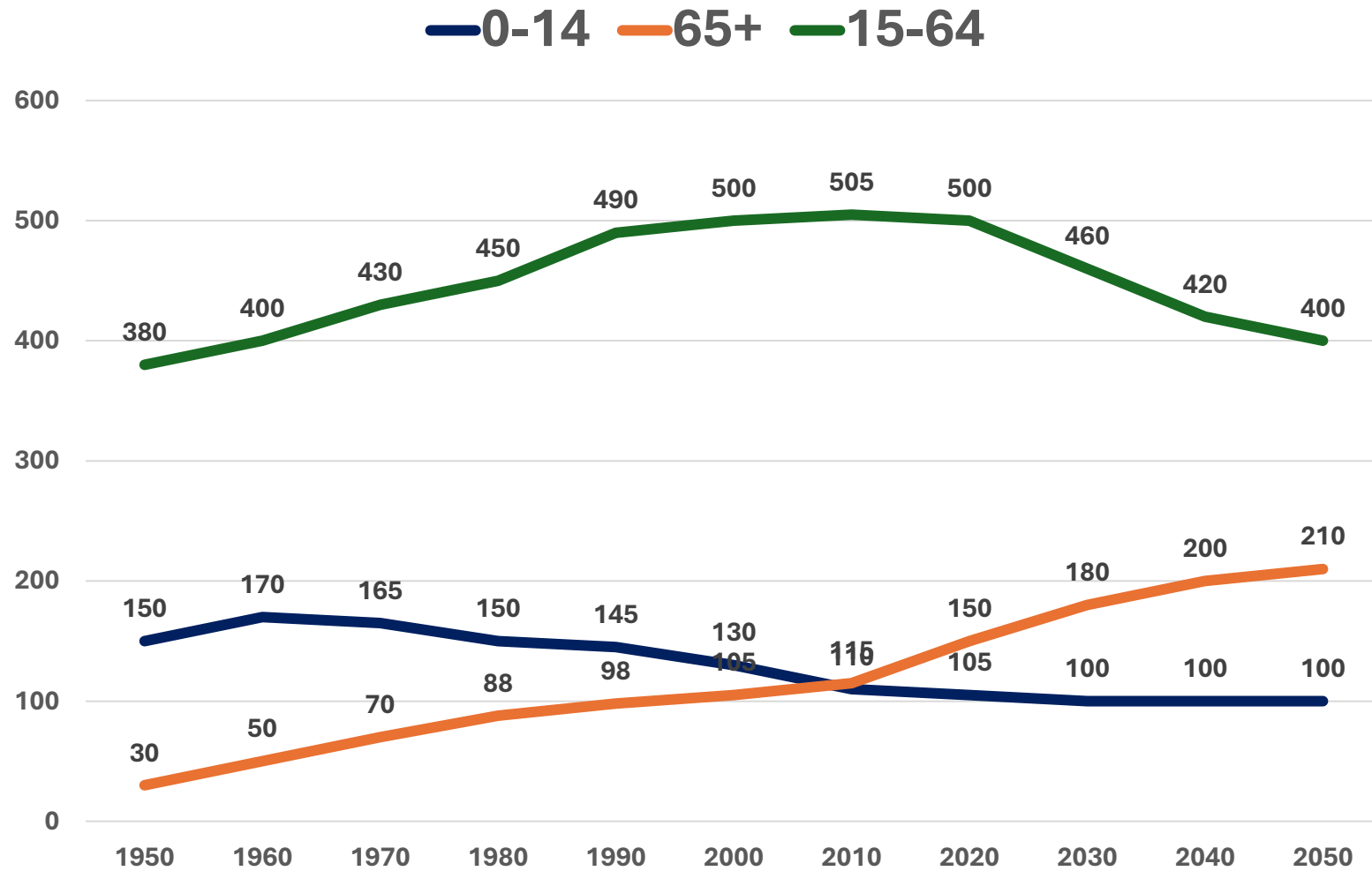
Total population categorised by three age groups: young (under 15 years old); working-age population (15-64 years old); and elderly (65+ years old). This is shown for historic estimates from 1950 to 2015, and projected to 2100 based on the UN medium scenario.

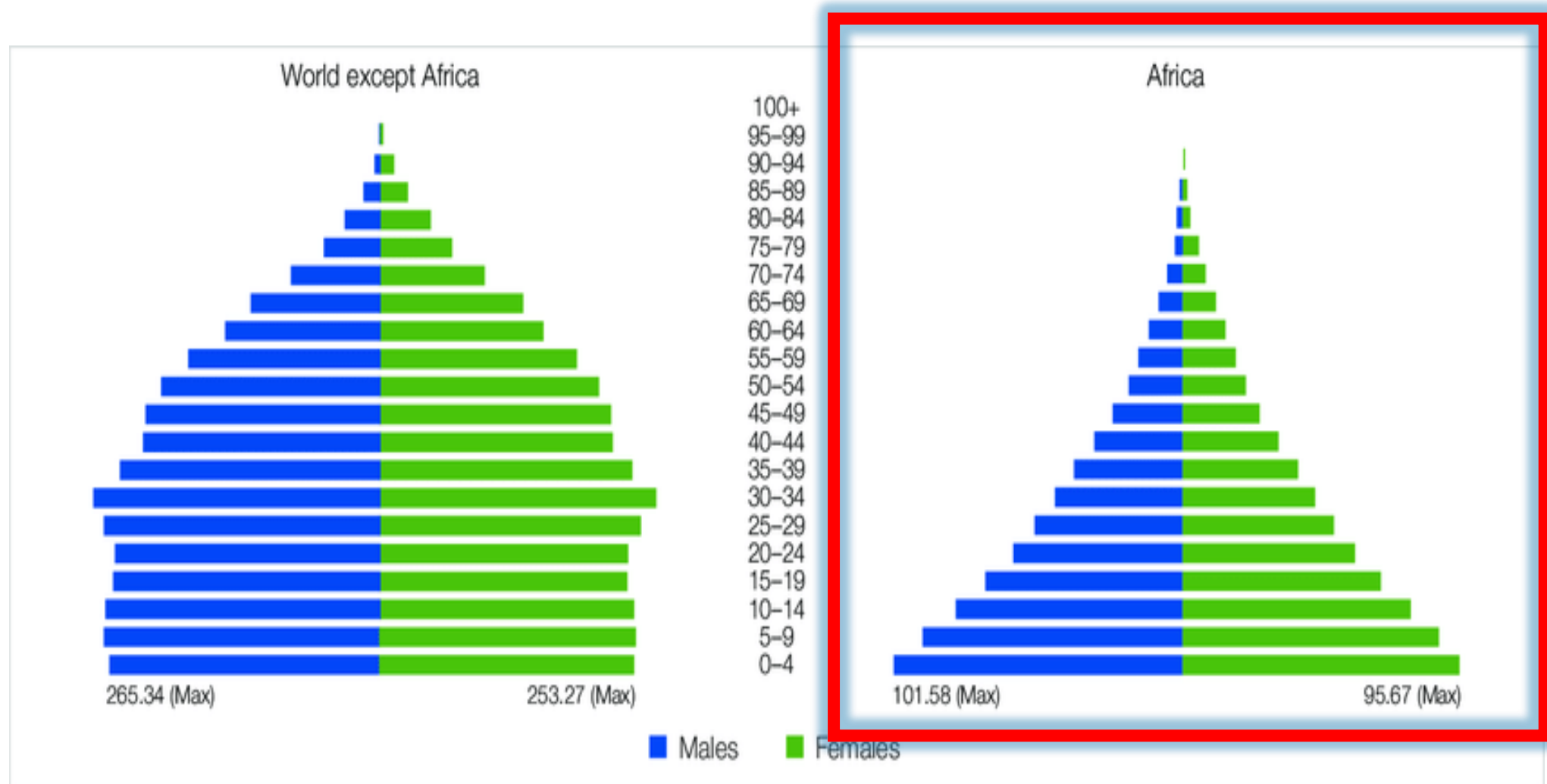


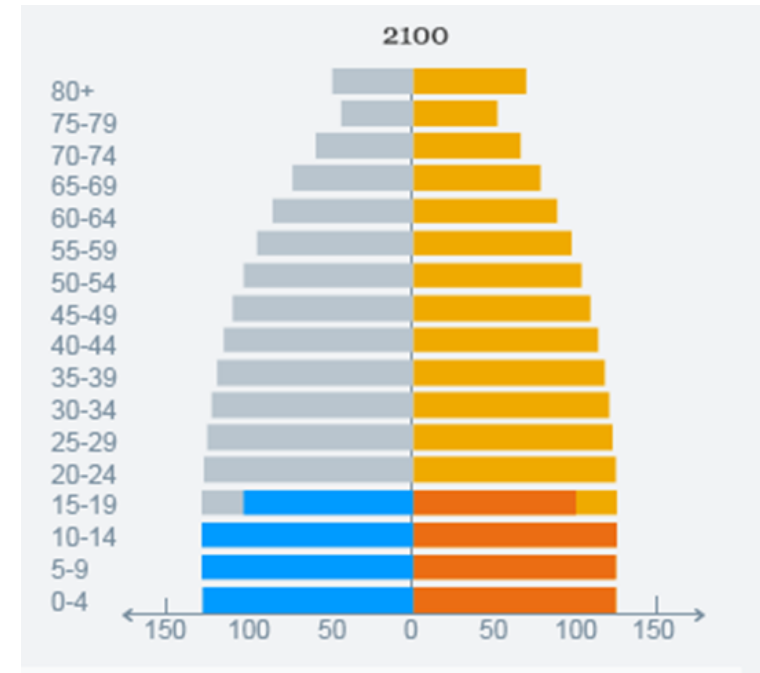
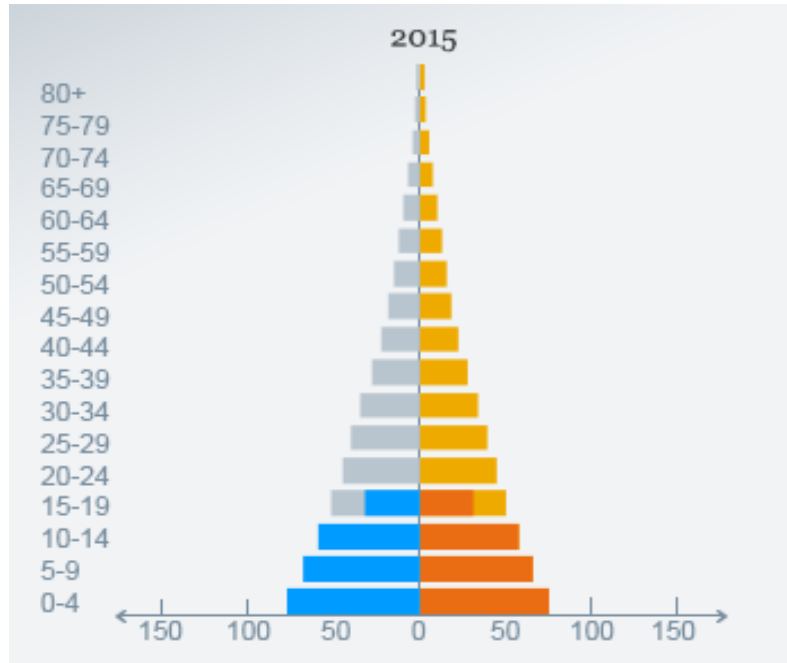
Source: UN World Population Prospects (2017)

OurWorldInData.org/world-population-growth • CC BY

Age distribution | Western Europe



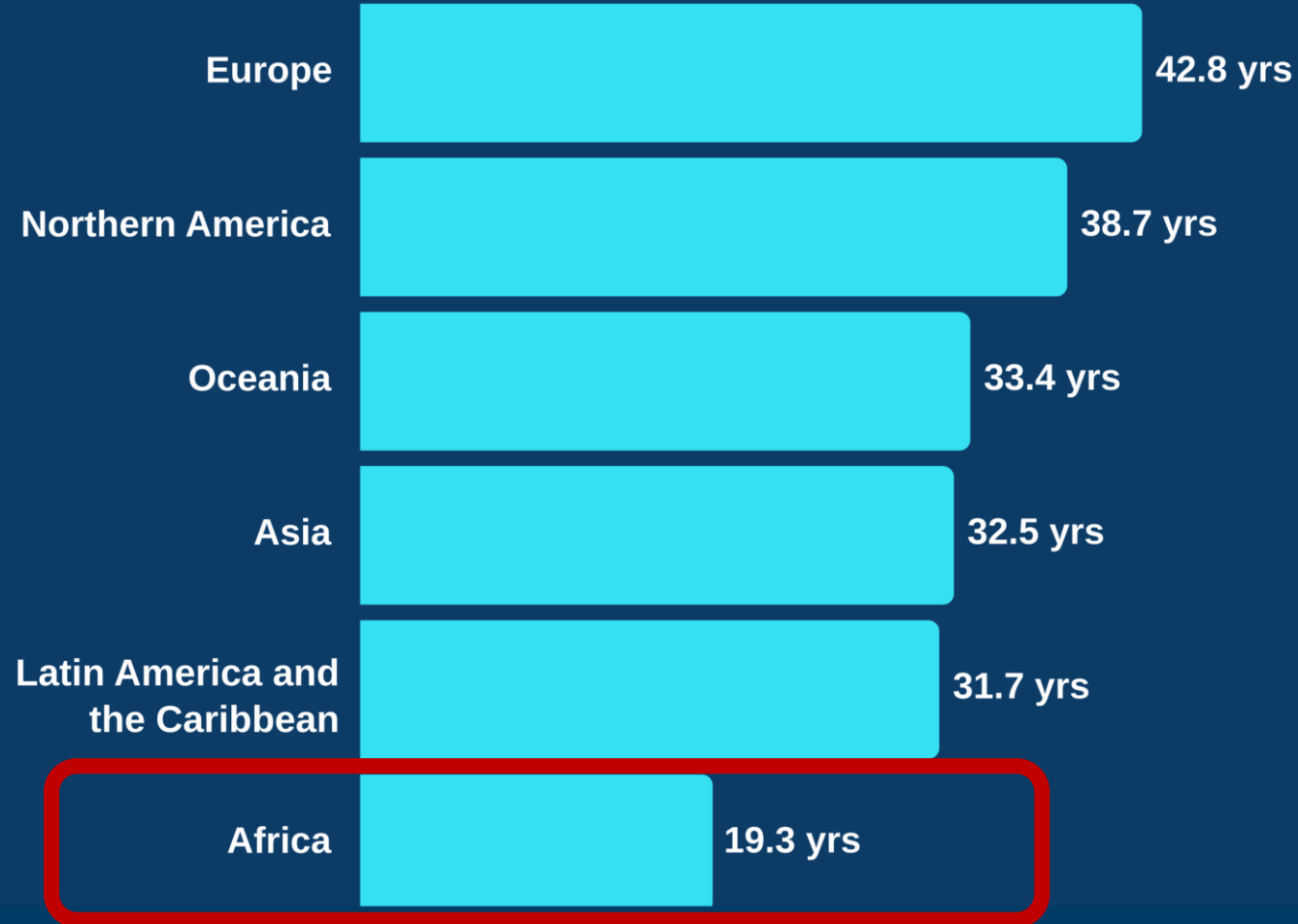




male adults
 male children (under 18)
 female adults
 female children (under 18)

World's youngest population

With a median age of 19 years, Africa has the youngest population, while Europe has the oldest population (43 years)



Median age of the world's population by region (July 2025)

Source: Worldometer

650m Africans born AFTER 2005



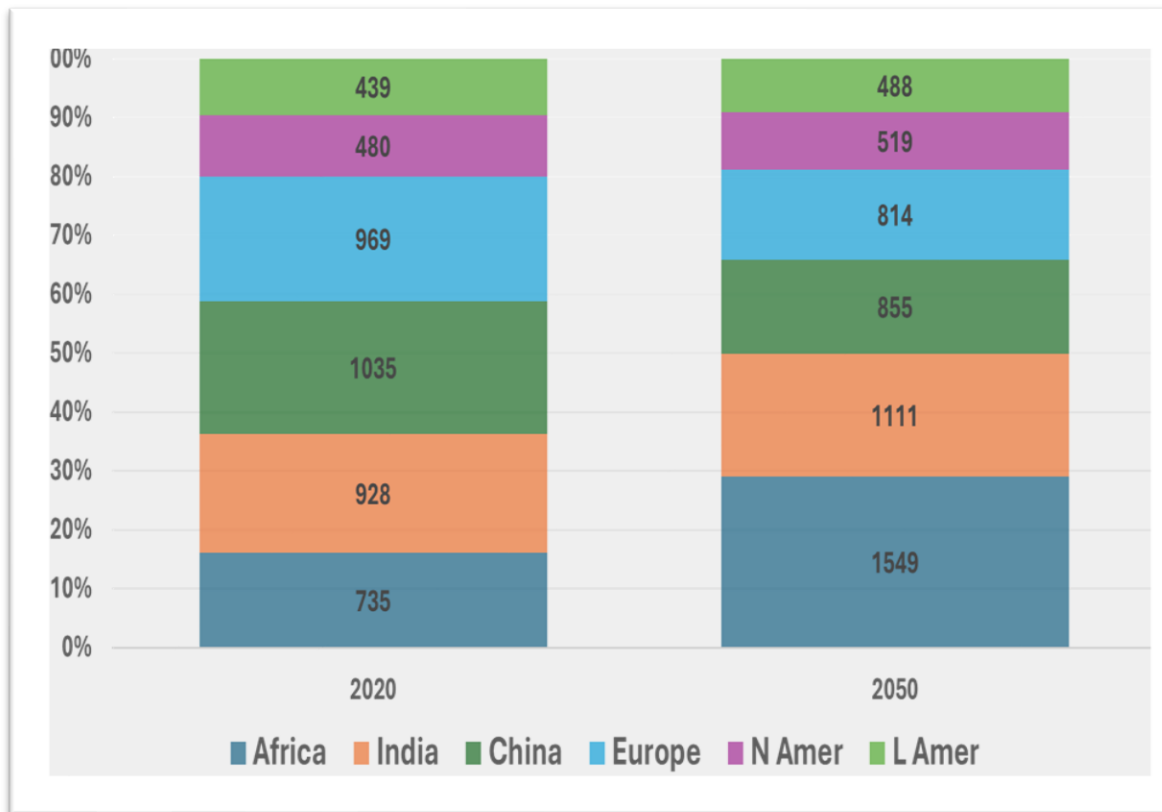
intelpoint.co

Decision making *insights* for everyone

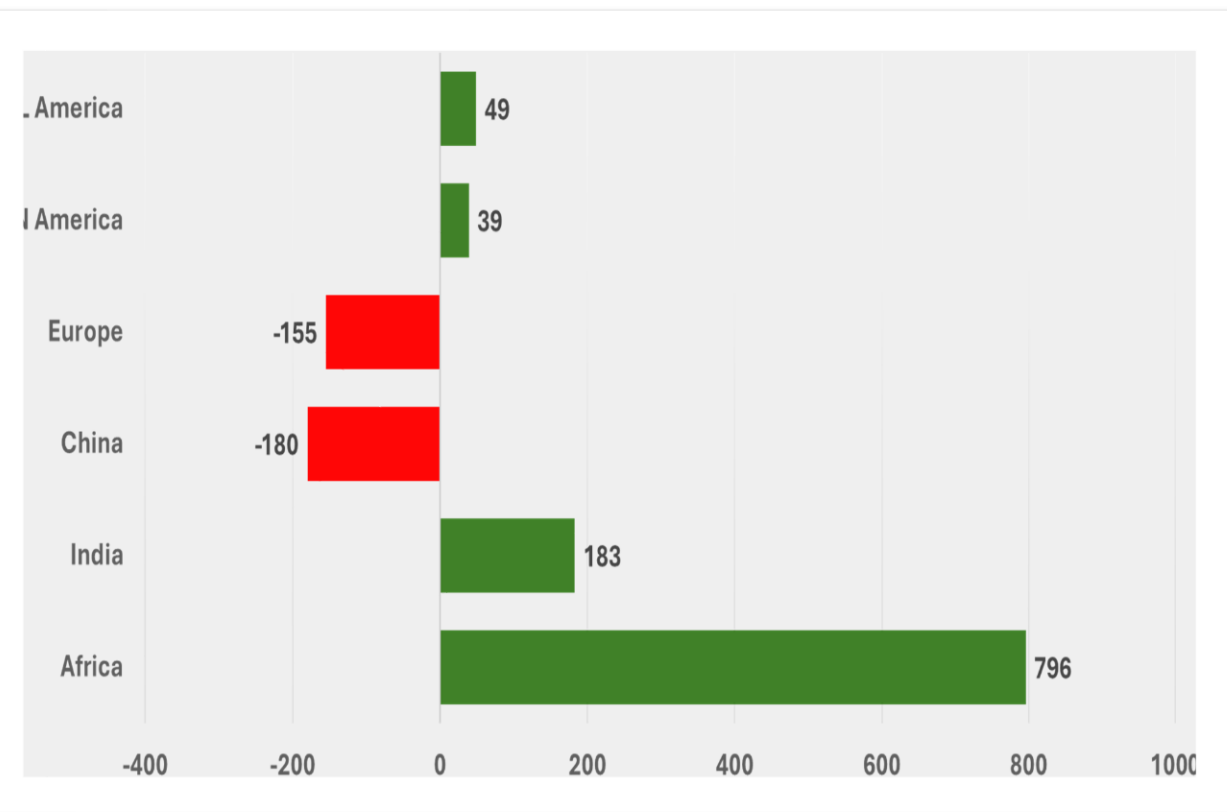
X Instagram Facebook @Theintelpoint

Working age population (15-64)

2020 and 2050 (m)



Change 2050 vs 2020 (m)



A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the continent of Africa and the surrounding Atlantic Ocean. The sun is visible in the upper right corner, casting a bright glow over the scene. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular box.

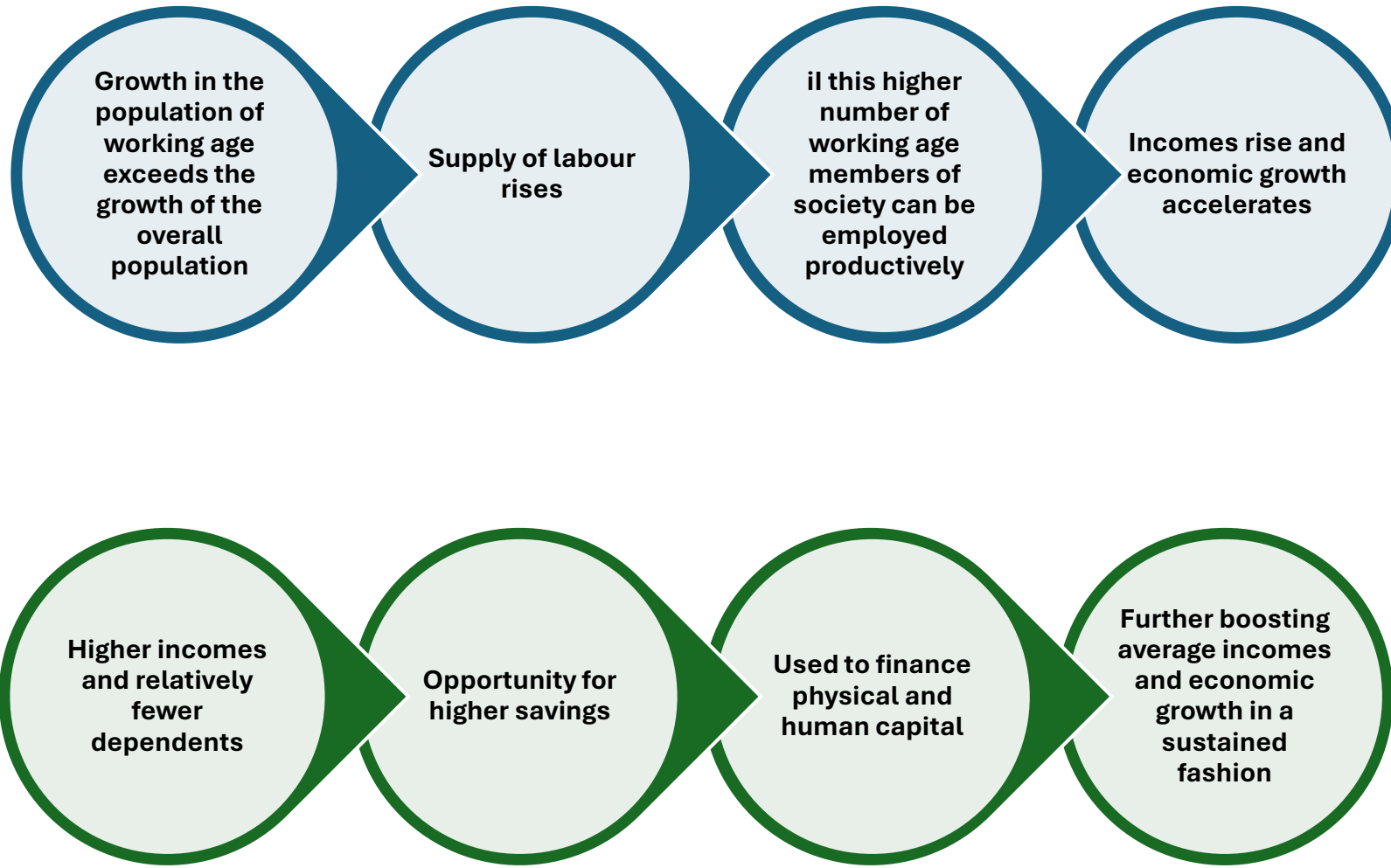
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Demographic dividend





Demographic window of opportunity

Those years in which the proportion of children (0-14) in the total population is less than 30% and the proportion of seniors (65+) is less than 15%

UK	Germany	Japan	USA	China	India
Pre-1950-1980	Pre-1950-1990	1965-1995	1970-2015	1990-2025	2015-2050



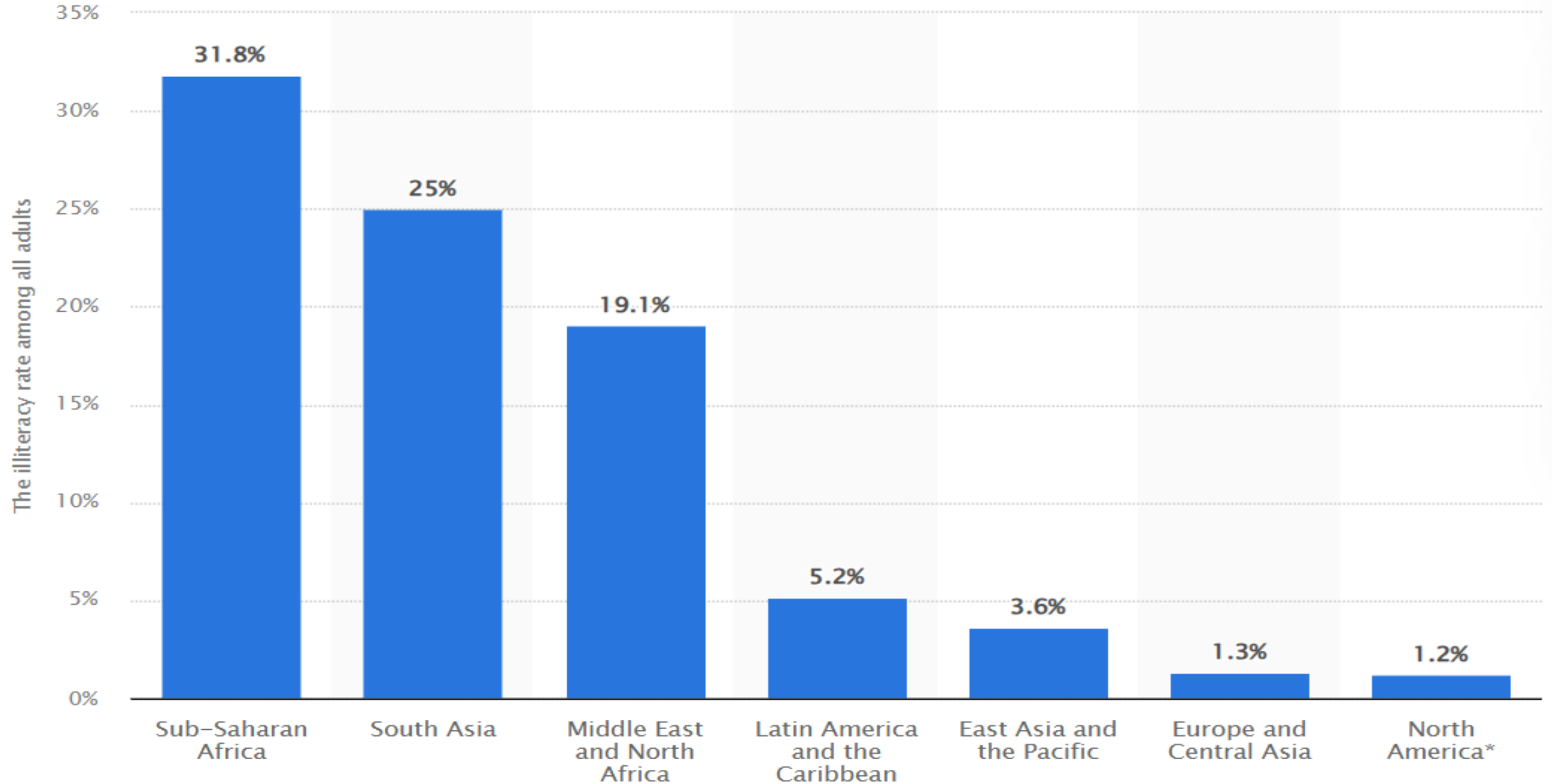
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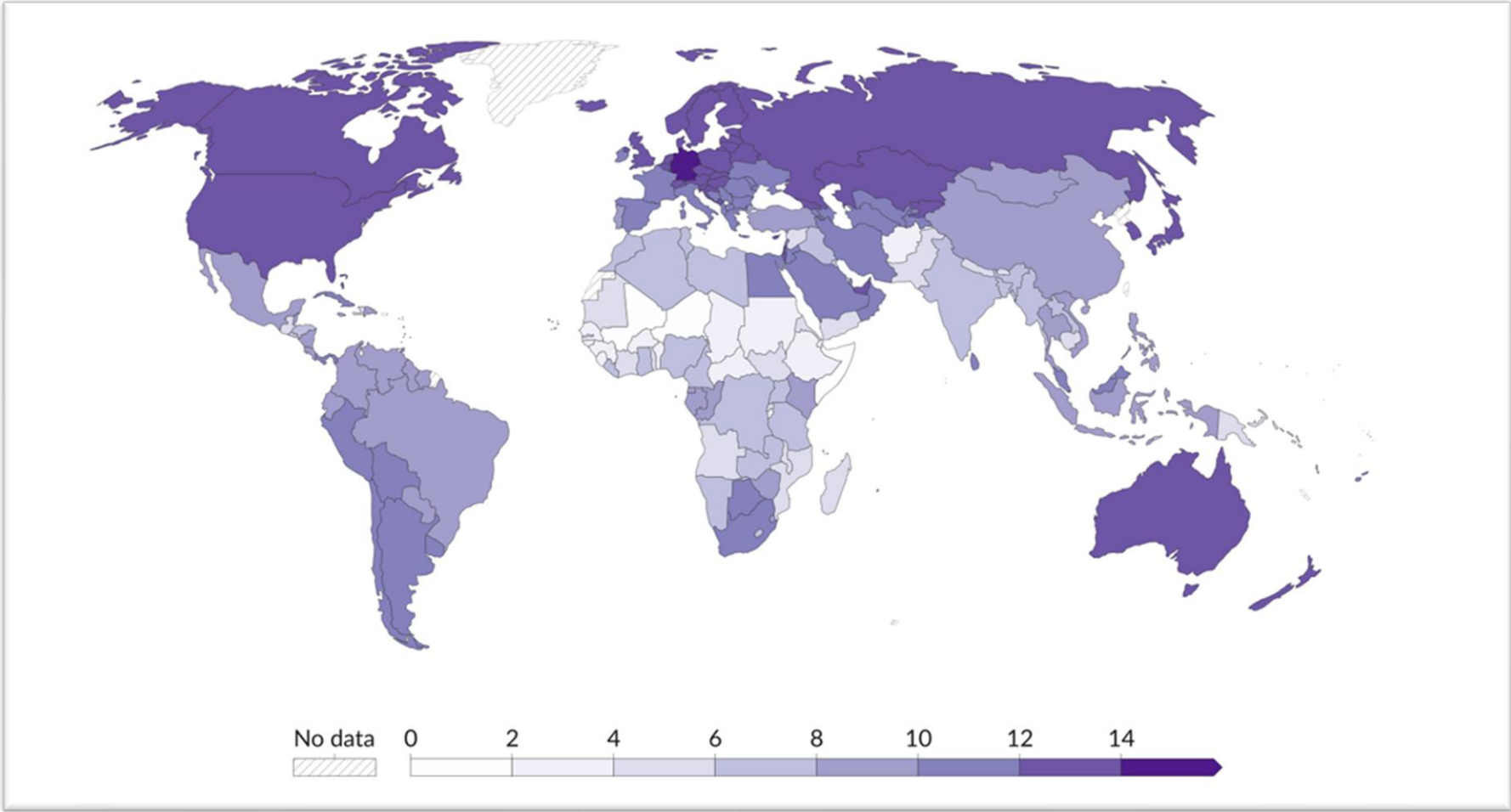
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Adult illiteracy rate (15+)

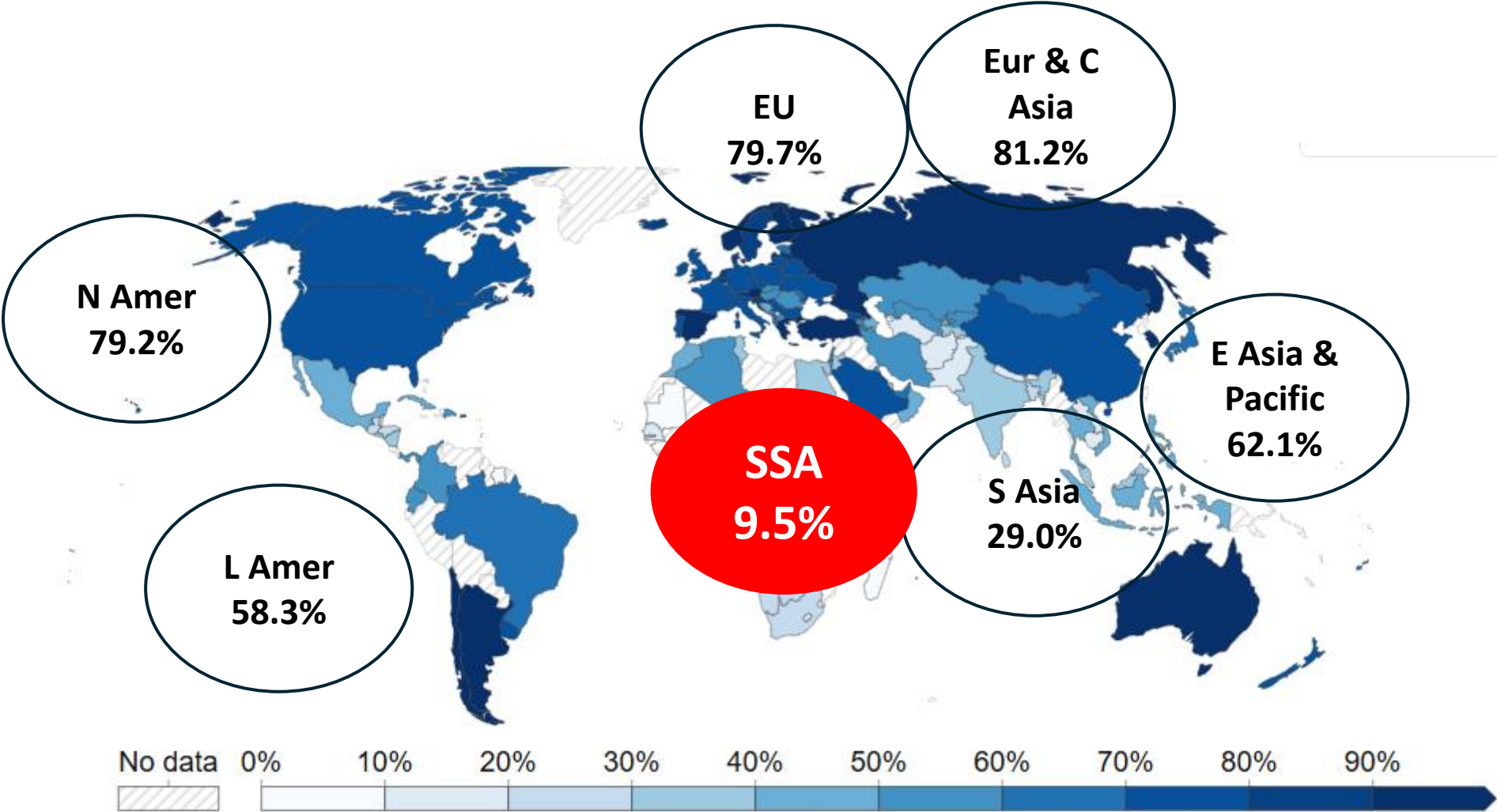


Average years of schooling among adults (>25), 2023



Country	Years
Niger	1.4
Ethiopia	2.4
Mozambique	4.6
Rwanda	4.9
Angola	6
Africa	6.3
Namibia	7.3
DRC	7.4
Nigeria	7.6
Zimbabwe	8.9
Egypt	10.1
Botswana	10.5
South Africa	11.6

Gross enrolment in tertiary education

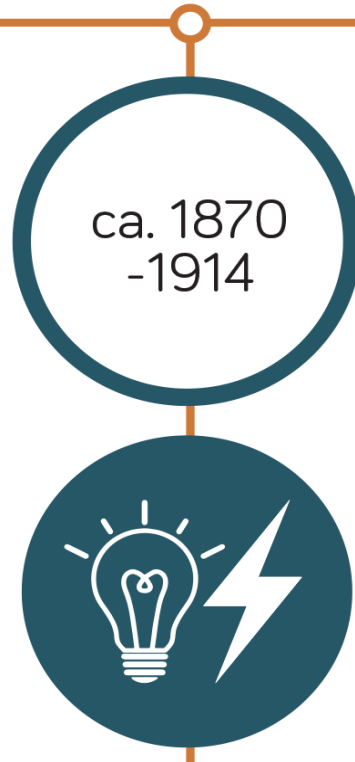


First Industrial Revolution



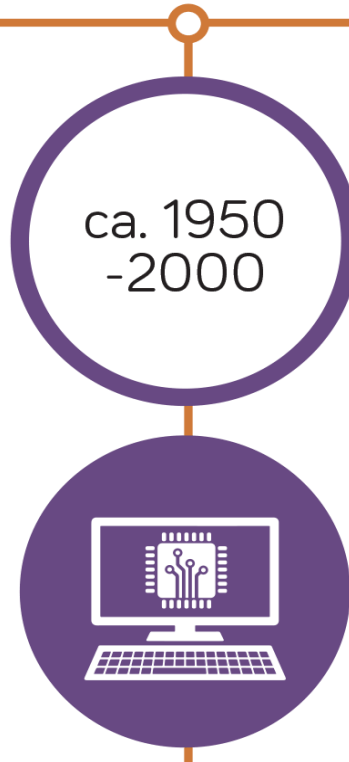
- Physical labour
- Basic engineering
- Learn a skill

Second Industrial Revolution



- Business acumen
- Standardisation
- Certainty

Third Industrial Revolution



- Deep expertise
- Disciplinary
- STEM

Fourth Industrial Revolution



- Learning agility
- Adaptability
- Empathy
- STEAM

Top 10 skills 2025 (WEF)

Analytical thinking and innovation

Active learning and learning strategies

Complex problem solving

Critical thinking and analysis

Creativity, originality, and initiative

Leadership and social influence

Technology use, monitoring and control

Technology design and programming

Resilience, stress tolerance, and flexibility

Reasoning, problem-solving, and ideation



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Tipping points



Competing in the global economy through diversification



Adequate and appropriate infrastructure



Social capital – depreciation or appreciation?



Appropriate skilling of youthful population



Generating sufficient savings



Accountable governance and autonomous institutions

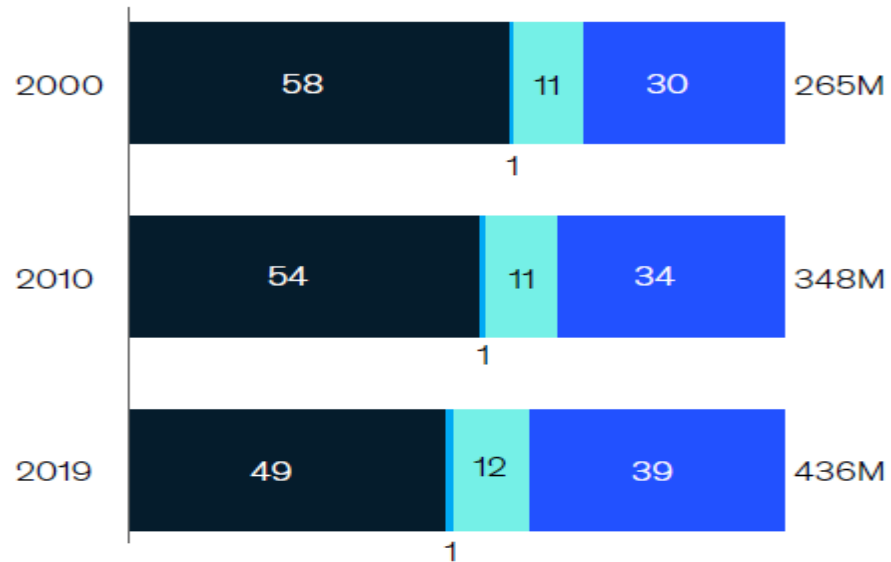


Competing in the global economy through diversification

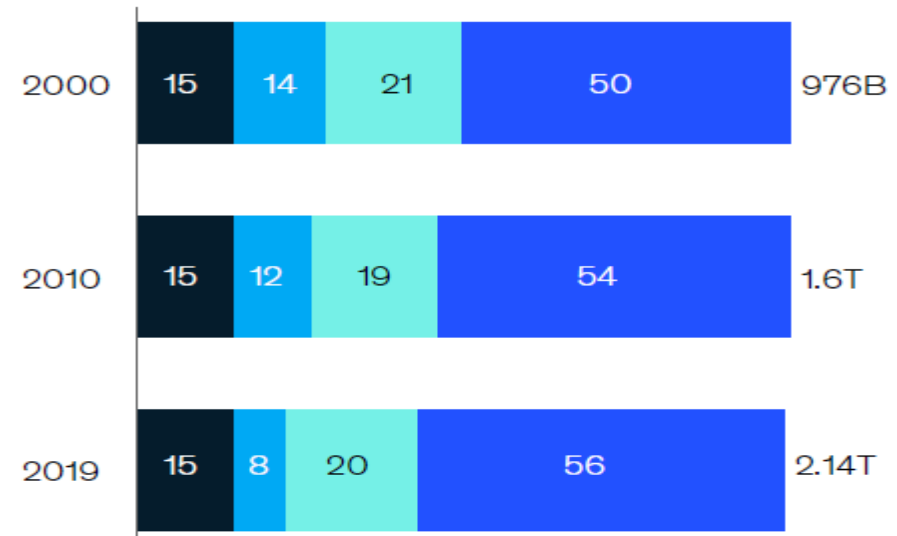
Africa is undergoing a fundamental structural shift to services.

■ Agriculture ■ Extraction ■ Industrial¹ ■ Services

Sector employment, %
with total jobs



Gross value added, %
with total, \$



¹Includes manufacturing, construction, and utilities.
Note: Figures do not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.
Source: MGI Africa Productivity Model

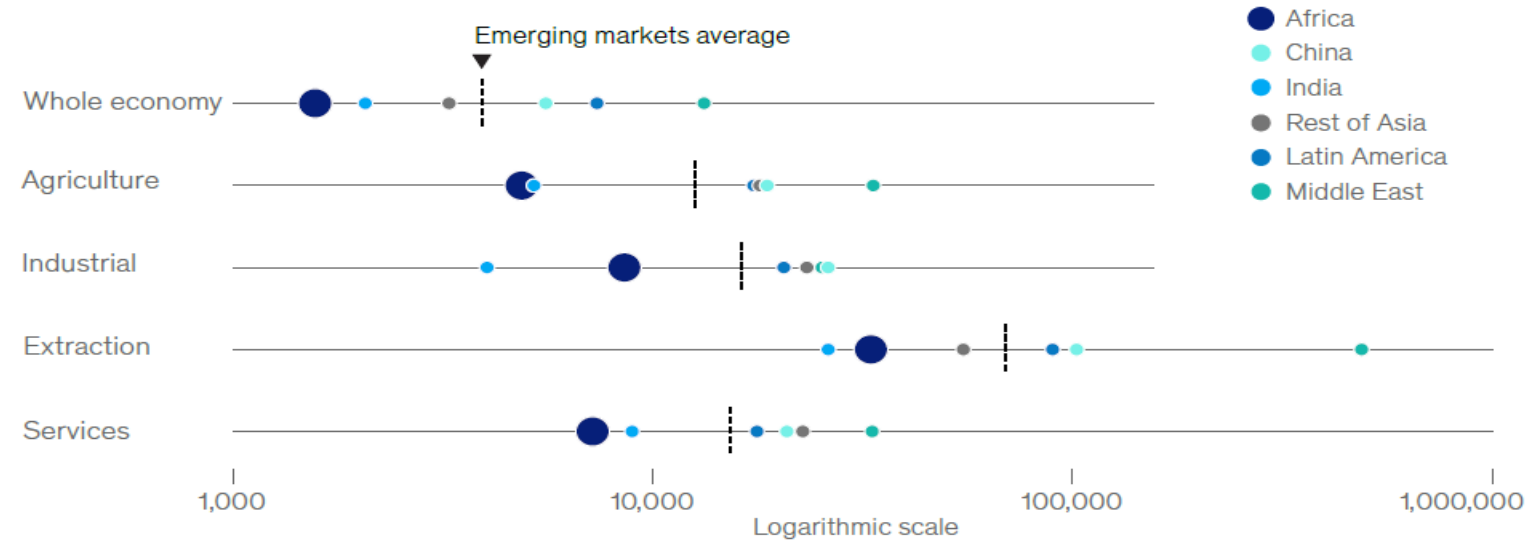


Competing in the global economy through diversification

BUT....

African sectors are less productive than the average for emerging markets.¹

Real productivity, 2019, \$

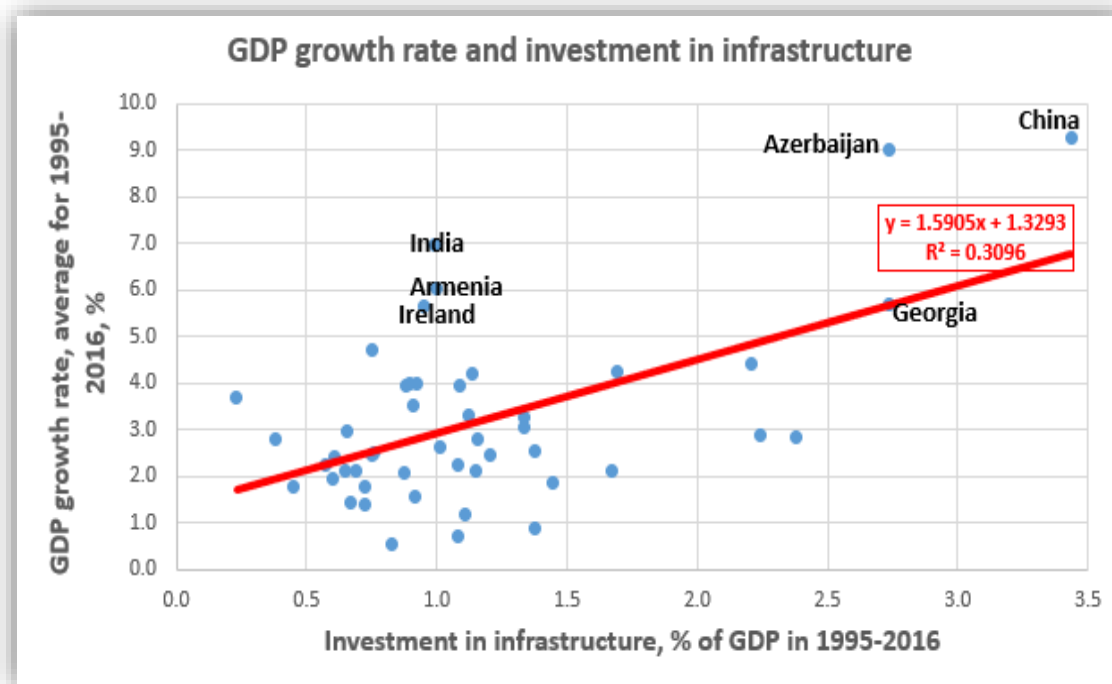


¹Emerging markets include middle-income countries as defined by the World Bank.
Source: MGI Africa Productivity Model; McKinsey Global Institute analysis



**Adequate and
appropriate
infrastructure**

**Infrastructure
investments cause
economic growth and
economic growth, in
turn, pushes up
infrastructure
investments, so that
investments into
infrastructure go hand
in hand with general
economic growth**



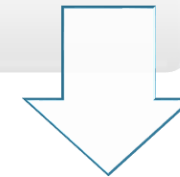


Adequate and appropriate infrastructure

If implemented with co-ordination and coherence, infrastructure plans could improve individual welfare and deliver significant socio-economic returns.



In African cities, each dollar invested in such projects is estimated to add 20c to GDP.



Given public resource constraints, cities should explore private partnerships.



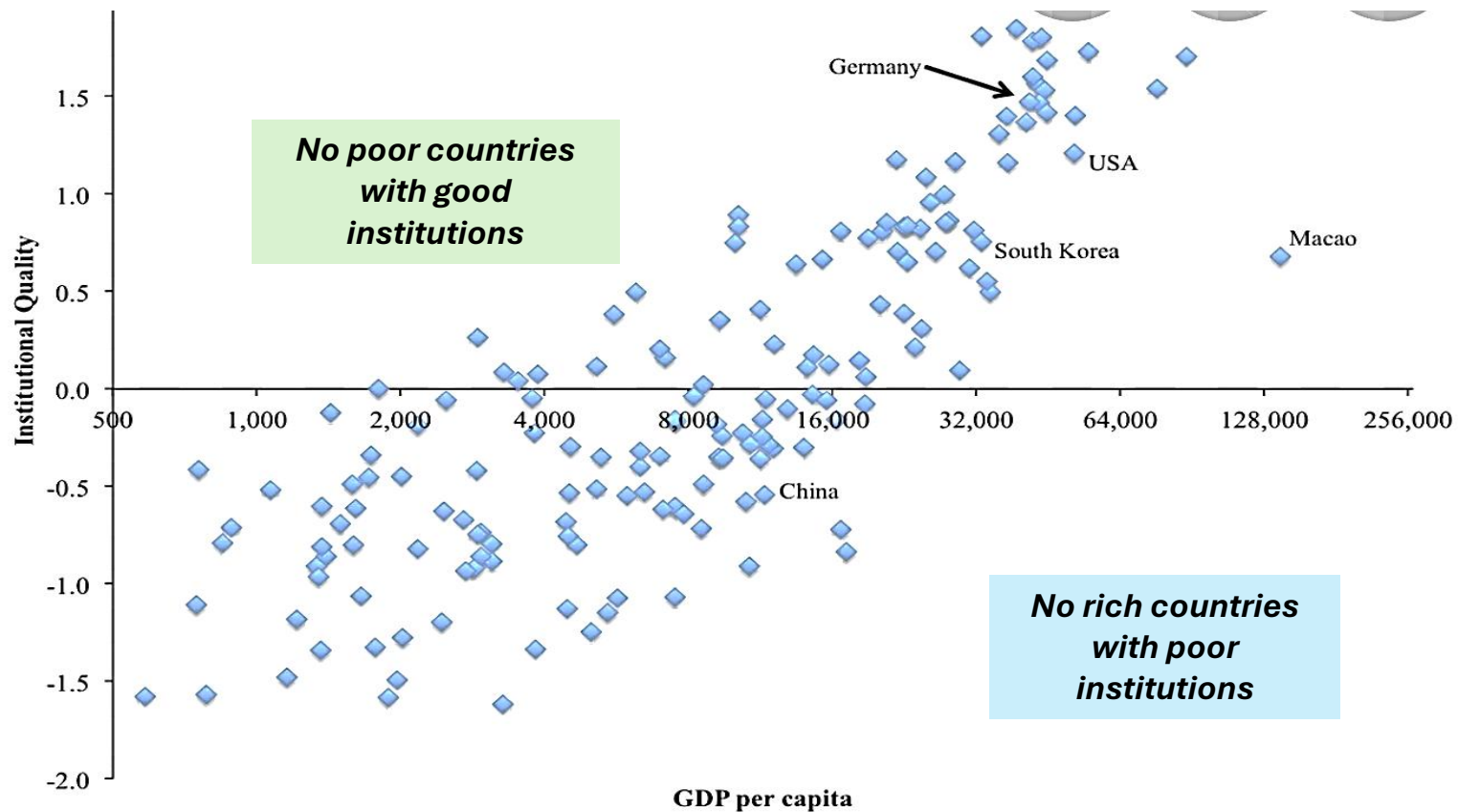
Appropriate skilling of youthful population





Accountable governance and autonomous institutions

Institutions matter a lot



Tipping points



**Competing in the
global economy
through diversification**



**Adequate and
appropriate
infrastructure**



**Social capital –
depreciation or
appreciation?**



**Appropriate skilling
of youthful
population**

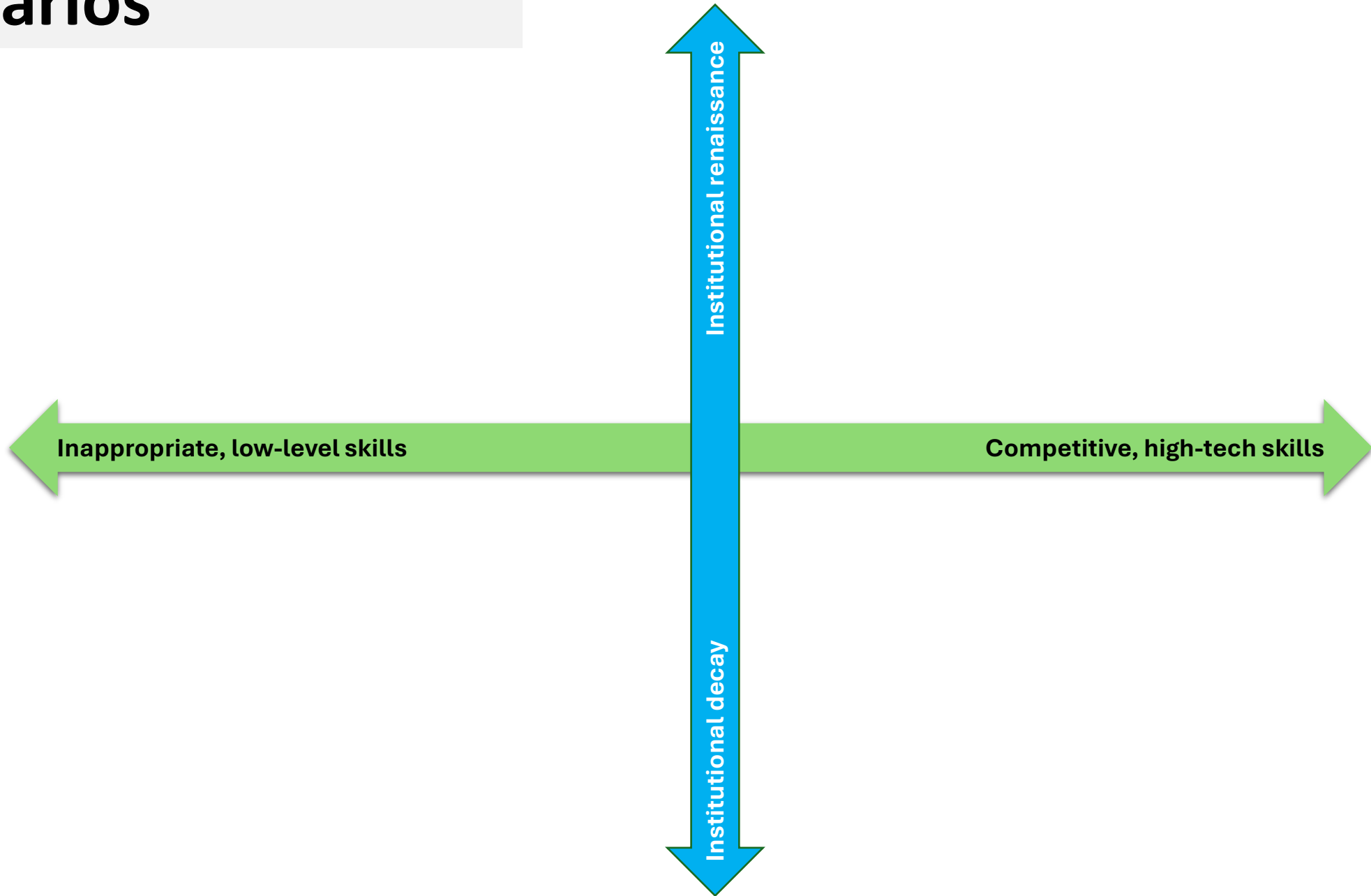


**Generating sufficient
savings**



**Accountable
governance and
autonomous
institutions**

Scenarios



Scenarios

On the right track



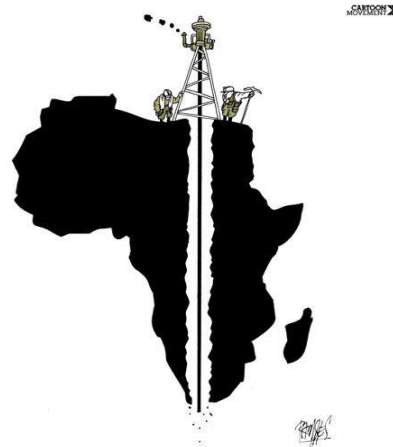
African Renaissance



Inappropriate, low-level skills

Competitive, high-tech skills

Resource curse



Institutional renaissance

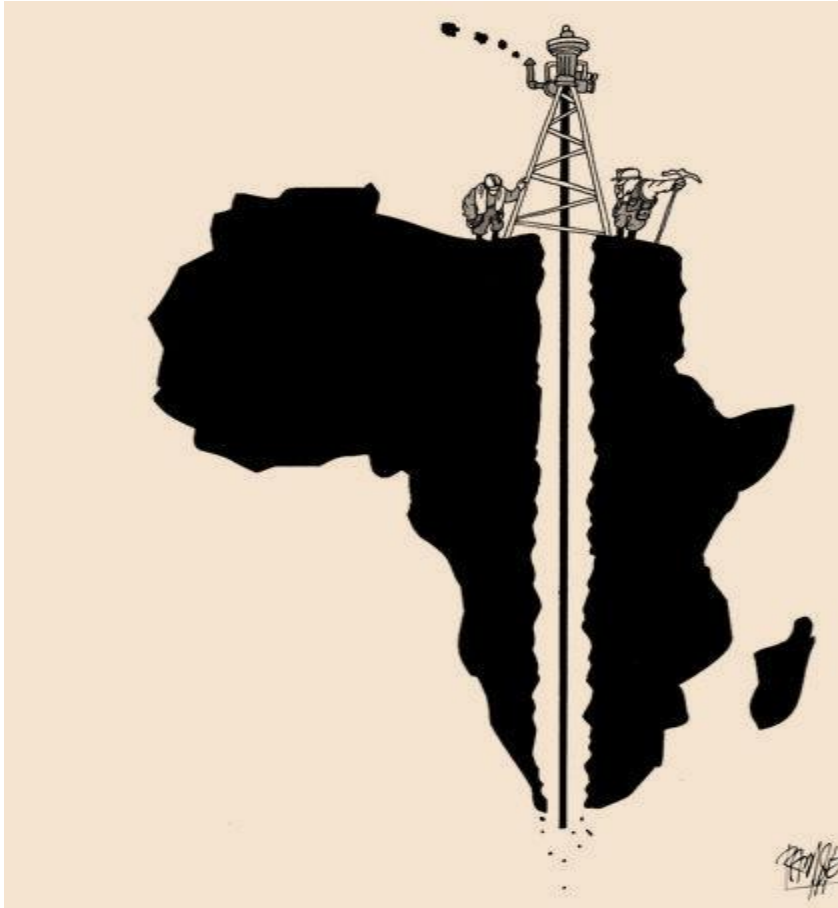
Institutional decay



Better luck next time

Resource curse

- ❑ Inappropriate low-level skills
- ❑ Institutional decay



- ❖ Rent-seeking behaviour
- ❖ Limited recognition of property rights
- ❖ “Africa” Spring
- ❖ Unhealthy labour force
- ❖ Vigilantes/ warlord
- ❖ Elitist, exclusive growth
- ❖ Developmental stagnation
- ❖ Uncontrollable state debt
- ❖ Bail-outs – IFIs/ China
- ❖ Hyper-inflation

African renaissance

- ❑ **Competitive high-tech skills**
- ❑ **Institutional renaissance**



- ❖ **4IR skills and talents**
- ❖ **Healthy labour force**
- ❖ **Tolerance and goodwill**
- ❖ **Entrepreneurial revolution**
- ❖ **Accountability**
- ❖ **Shared vision of the future**
- ❖ **Resource-based industrialization**
- ❖ **Competitive exports**
- ❖ **Inclusive economic growth**
- ❖ **Broad-based development**