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978-0-521-29020-3 - Demography, Fifth Edition  
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Frontmatter  
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**PETER R. COX**

C.B., F.I.A., F.S.S.

# DEMOGRAPHY

*Fifth edition*

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

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LONDON · NEW YORK · MELBOURNE

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521210034](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521210034)

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First published 1950  
Second edition 1957  
Third edition 1959  
Fourth edition 1970  
Fifth edition 1976  
Re-issued in this digitally printed version 2008

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Cox, Peter R.

Demography.

Includes bibliographies and indexes.

1. Demography. I. Title.

HB881.C783 1976 301.32 75-27262

ISBN 978-0-521-21003-4 hardback  
ISBN 978-0-521-29020-3 paperback

## Preface to the fifth edition

Although it is only about five years since the Fourth Edition of this book was published, the passage of events and the change of outlook they have wrought have created a need for a material revision of the contents; otherwise, the most recent information could not be presented as an effective comment on the theories expounded or in illustration of the methods described. About one-third of the text has been rewritten with this in mind. There has also been recently some general change of emphasis in demography towards the more political aspects of the subject, as a result of which the refinements of technical analysis assume rather less importance; this change finds its reflexion in a new order of the chapters: they are now grouped within the following main subdivisions:

Fundamentals  
Population Movements  
General influences on Population  
Technical Analysis

with a concluding section in which the past and future of the subject are surveyed. Material which was formerly spread over twenty-six chapters is now allocated to only twenty; but the coverage of topics is as before and the text as a whole is no shorter in length. The four new subdivisions embrace the contents of the following chapters in the Fourth Edition: 2–6; 7–9; 19–25; 10–17 respectively. The present chapter 1 fulfils the same functions as the previous one, while former chapters 18 and 26 are combined in the new concluding chapter 20.

The gradual diminution of attention paid to the specific demographic problems of Britain, and the broadening of interest to a full international scale, which are features of the development of this book from one edition to the next in the past, have been continued in the transition to the Fifth Edition; there has been a further rebalancing, after which Britain now receives little more emphasis than any other single country and more attention than before is paid to the 'Third World'.

The author's sincere thanks are extended to all those who have helped him so much over the years, notably Bernard Benjamin, Roland Clarke, John Peel and Clifford Thomas, but many others too, and on the present occasion he is deeply indebted in addition to his wife, Faith, for every kind of support.

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*Demography*

As the prefaces to former editions are omitted, it should be reported here that H.M. Stationery Office gave permission for the reproduction of certain extracts from official papers. These extracts were derived from the Annual Reviews and other publications of the Registrars General for England and Wales and for Scotland; from the Report and Statistics Committee papers of the Royal Commission on Population; and from the Decennial Supplement, England and Wales, 1951, on occupational mortality. Most of these extracts appear again in the Fifth Edition, and H.M. Stationery Office has also given permission for (i) the reproduction of English Life Table No. 11 (Males) which appears in another of the Decennial Supplements of the Registrar General for England and Wales for the year 1951, and (ii) the appearance of figs. 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3, which relate respectively to census, birth and death records and which bring up to date some corresponding illustrations given in previous editions of *Demography*.

*March 1975*

P.R.C.

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