

Population Theories



- **Core Principles of Malthus**

- Food is necessary for human existence.
- Human population tends to grow faster than the power in the earth to produce subsistence, and that
- The effects of these two unequal powers must be kept equal.
- Since humans tend not to limit their population size voluntarily ("preventive checks" in Malthus's terminology), population reduction tends to be accomplished through the "positive" checks of famine, disease, poverty and war.



- An anti-Malthusian school of thought believes that people will **adapt** to their environment in order to sustain population growth.
- The use of antibiotics and vaccination to prevent disease or the coming of the Green Revolution which supplied the world with food are examples of how people can adapt to support larger population.
- Because of examples such as these, the Adaptation Theory has found greater acceptance in modern times.

- **Core Principles of the Adaptation Theory**

- Food is necessary for human existence.
- Human population tends to grow faster than the power in the earth to produce subsistence, and that
- These two unequal powers may be made equal through human efforts.
- Since humans tend not to limit their population size, we must find ways to grow more food, and prevent disease in order to sustain the population.