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Africa population dynamics

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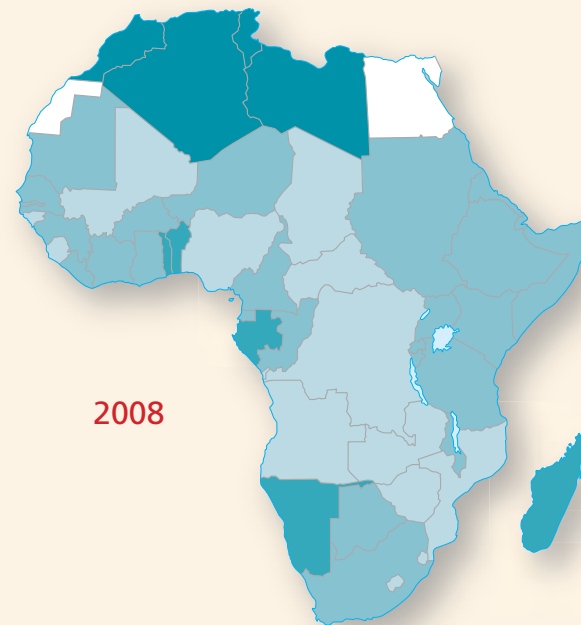
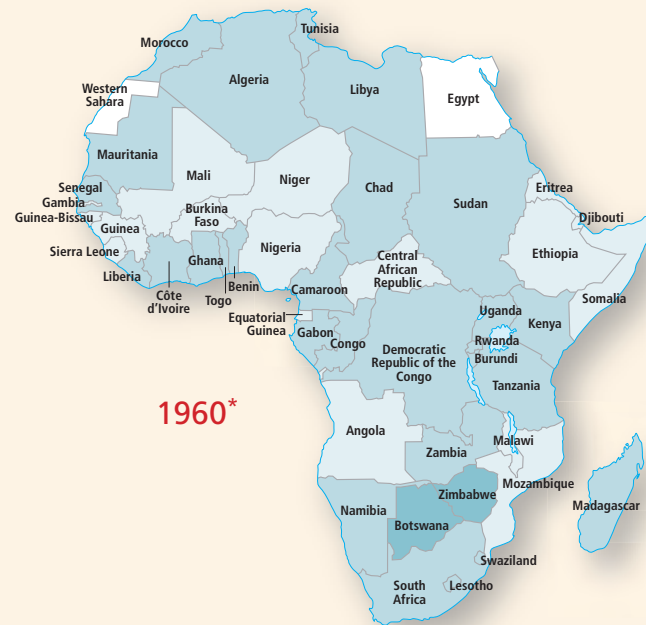
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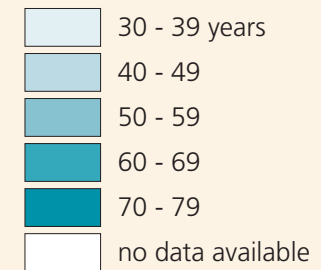


Africa Now & Then - African Studies Centre

Africa Population Dynamics

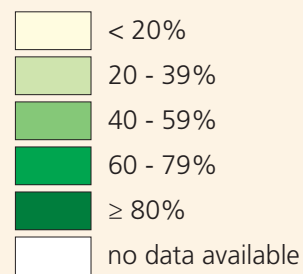


Life Expectancy

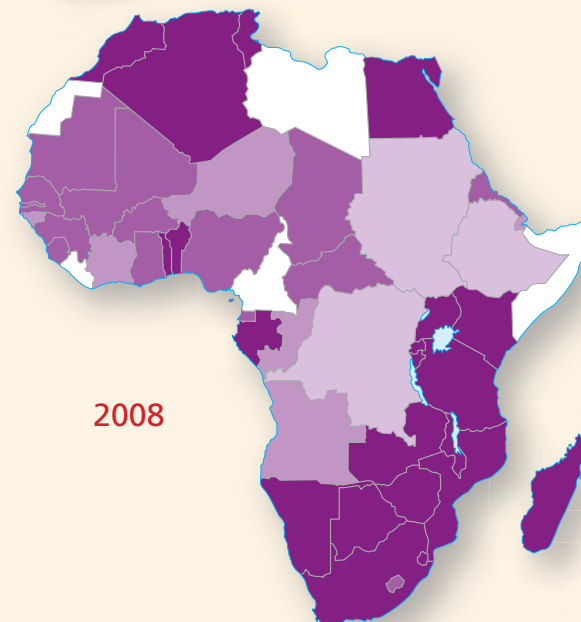
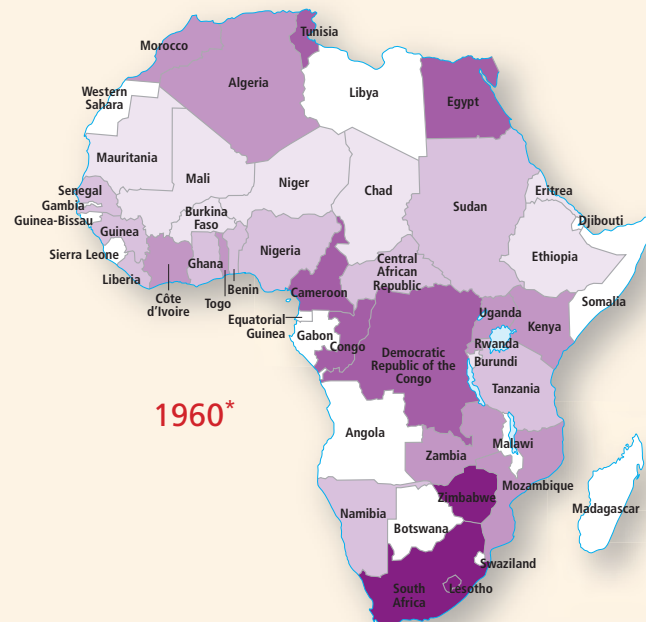


Sources:
1960: World Bank
World Development Report 1983
2008: World Bank
World Development Indicators 2010

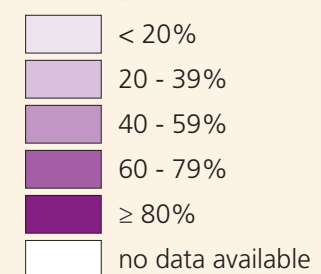
Literacy Rates



Sources:
1960: World Bank
World Development Report 1983
2008 (2006/2007 figures and partly estimated)
World Bank
World Development Indicators 2010

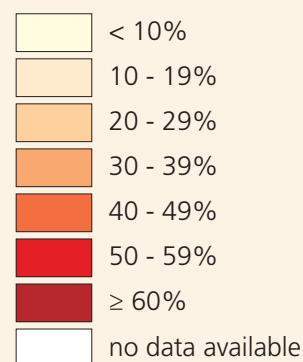


Primary School Attendance

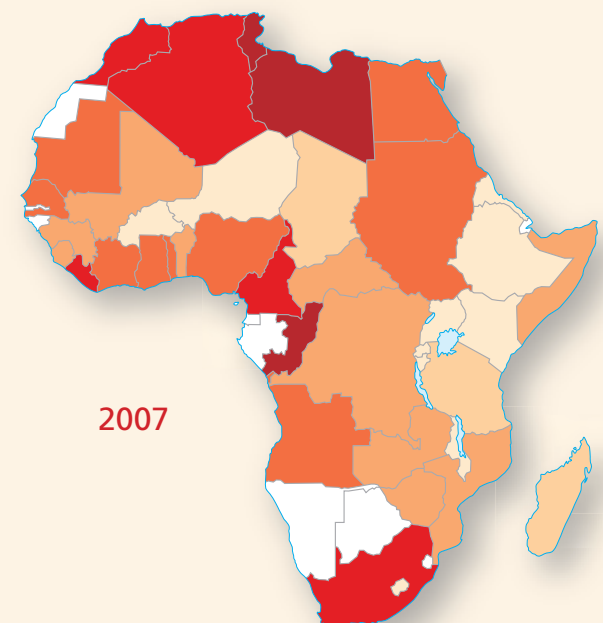


Sources:
1960: World Bank
World Development Report 1983
2008: World Bank
World Development Indicators 2010

Urbanization



Sources:
1960: World Bank
World Development Report 1983
2007: World Bank
World Development Indicators 2010

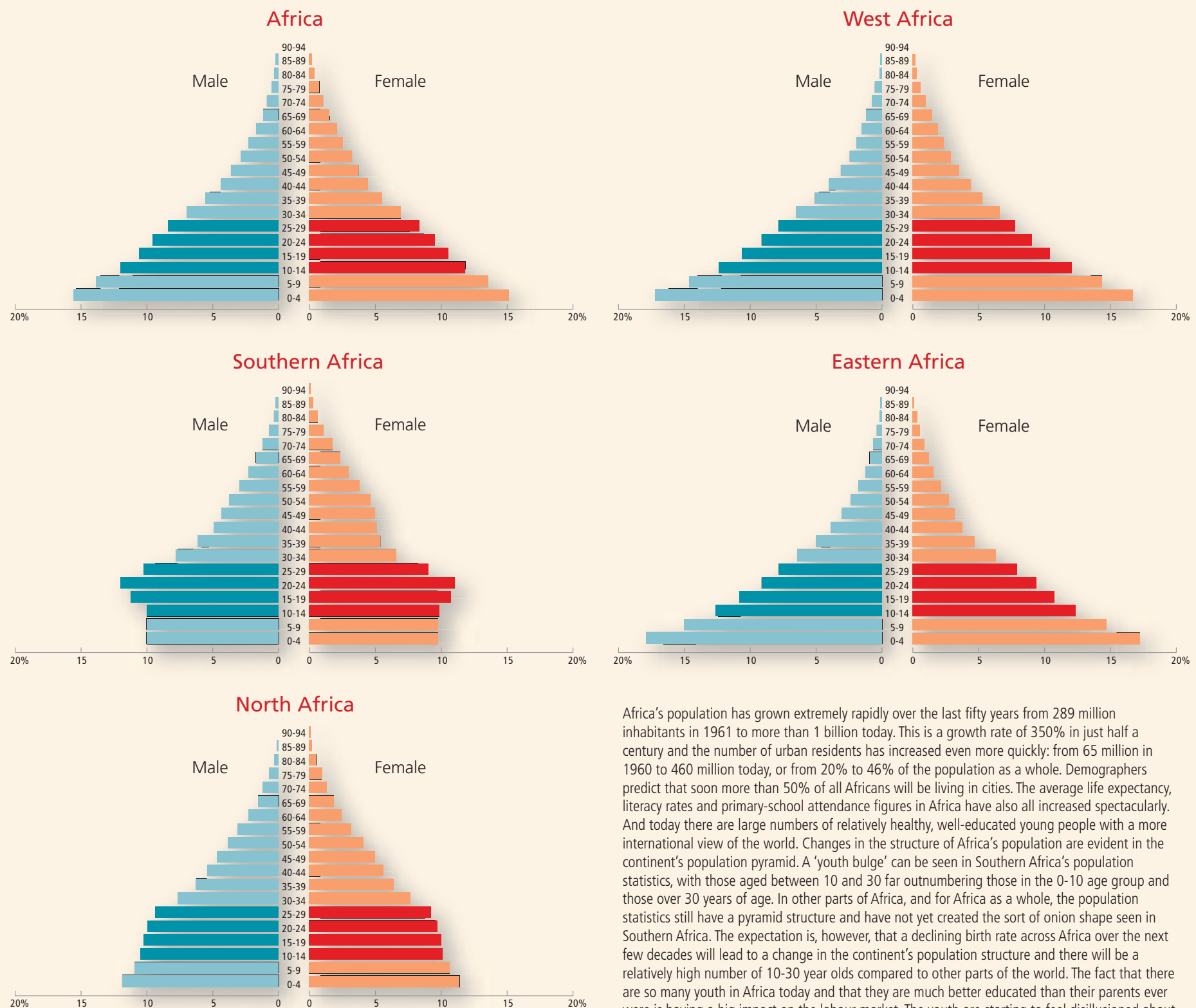




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'Youth bulge'

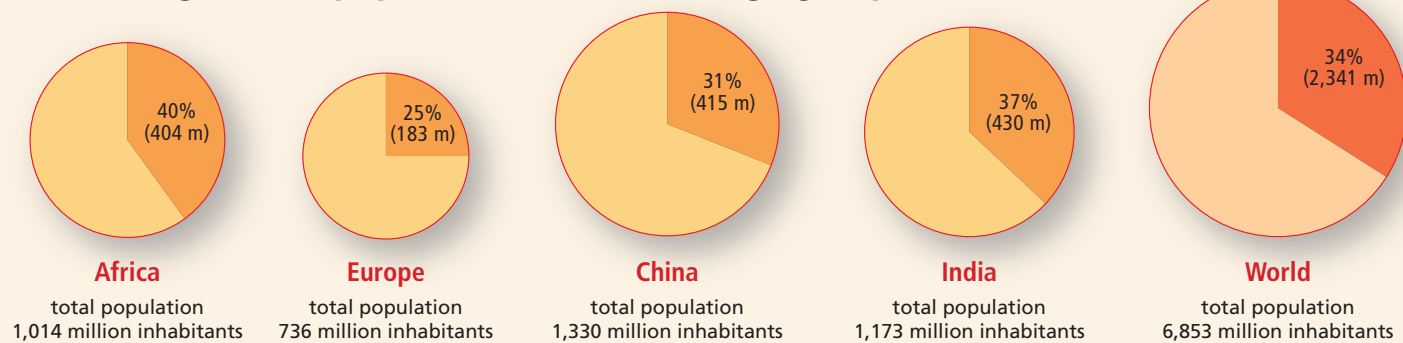
Population in Africa and its regions 2009



Sources: US Census Bureau International Data Base

Africa's population has grown extremely rapidly over the last fifty years from 289 million inhabitants in 1961 to more than 1 billion today. This is a growth rate of 350% in just half a century and the number of urban residents has increased even more quickly: from 65 million in 1960 to 460 million today, or from 20% to 46% of the population as a whole. Demographers predict that soon more than 50% of all Africans will be living in cities. The average life expectancy, literacy rates and primary-school attendance figures in Africa have also all increased spectacularly. And today there are large numbers of relatively healthy, well-educated young people with a more international view of the world. Changes in the structure of Africa's population are evident in the continent's population pyramid. A 'youth bulge' can be seen in Southern Africa's population statistics, with those aged between 10 and 30 far outnumbering those in the 0-10 age group and those over 30 years of age. In other parts of Africa, and for Africa as a whole, the population statistics still have a pyramid structure and have not yet created the sort of onion shape seen in Southern Africa. The expectation is, however, that a declining birth rate across Africa over the next few decades will lead to a change in the continent's population structure and there will be a relatively high number of 10-30 year olds compared to other parts of the world. The fact that there are so many youth in Africa today and that they are much better educated than their parents ever were is having a big impact on the labour market. The youth are starting to feel disillusioned about the lack of job opportunities and are realizing that their (reasonably good) level of education is not going to allow them direct or easy access to greater prosperity and a better life.

Percentage of the population in the 10-30 age group



This information was compiled by
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The African Studies Centre (ASC)

The ASC in Leiden, founded in 1947, is the only research institute in the Netherlands devoted entirely to the study of Africa. Its primary aims are to undertake scientific research on Africa in the social sciences and humanities and to promote a better understanding of African societies. It is an independent institute but maintains close links with Leiden University as part of LeidenGlobal. The ASC's work is not only of importance to researchers but also to policymakers, journalists, NGOs, businesses and other organizations

Research The ASC's research programmes last for five years. Its multidisciplinary are empirical in nature and are carried out in cooperation with African colleagues and institutions by the Centre's researchers and PhD and Research Masters students.

Library The ASC's Library, Documentation and Information Department has the most extensive and specialized collection on Africa in the Netherlands in the fields of the social sciences (including law and economics) and the humanities. The library, which is open to the general public, has more than 80,000 books, 1500 documentaries and feature films from and about Africa, and subscribes to nearly 750 periodicals. *African Studies Abstracts Online* offers some 10,000 abstracts and journal articles and web dossiers provide background information on specific topical events and themes.

Publications ASC researchers publish in many different journals and with well-known publishing houses. The Centre also has five publication series of its own:

Africa Yearbook
Afrika-Studiecentrum Series
African Dynamics
African Studies Collection
and ASC Infosheets

Seminars Regular seminars are held at the ASC on Thursday afternoons on a wide range of topics. These are given by prominent local and international Africanists and are open to the general public.

Visiting Fellows Eight African academics are invited to Leiden every year on three-month fellowships to promote an effective academic dialogue between Africa and the North. These scholars use their stay in Leiden for data analysis and writing.

Research Masters in African Studies The ASC offers a two-year Research Masters in African Studies in cooperation with Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences. About 60% of the students on this course come from outside the Netherlands.

Thesis Award A prize is awarded annually for the best Masters thesis on Sub-Saharan Africa by a student at a university in the Netherlands or in Africa. The winning thesis is published in the African Studies Collection series.

ASC Community The ASC Community includes fellows, affiliates and associates of the Centre, and people with a professional interest in Africa who are working in business, policymaking, NGOs and in media circles. We would like to welcome you as a partner in the ASC Community!

<http://www.ascleiden.nl/?q=content/asc-community>.