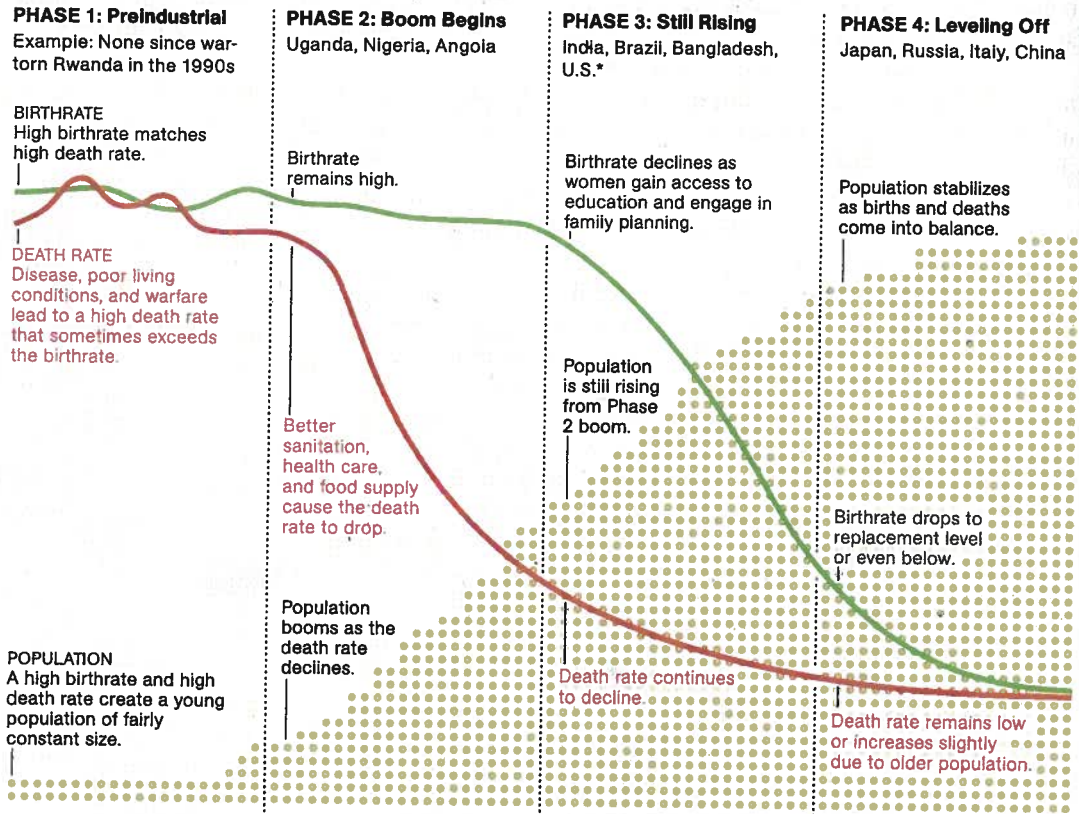
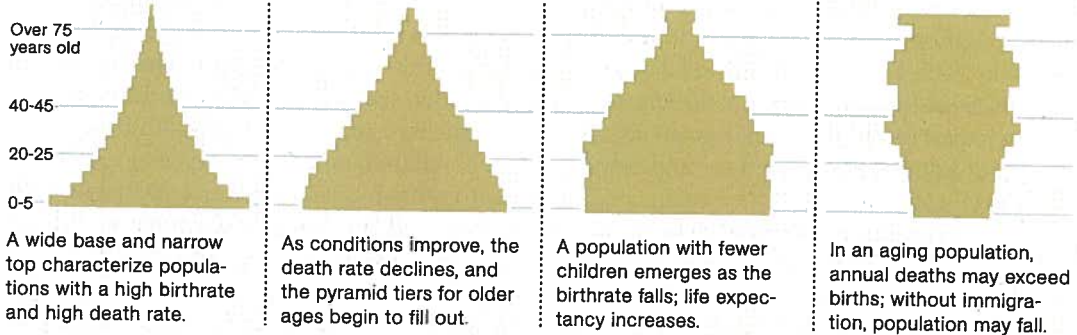


## How Population Booms

As living conditions improve, a country enters successive phases of a process called the demographic transition. The death rate falls, but there's a lag before the birthrate falls too. The result: Population soars. Each phase is marked by a redistribution of the population's age groups, as shown in the pyramids at bottom.



### POPULATION PYRAMIDS



\*THE U.S. HAS CHARACTERISTICS OF PHASES 3 AND 4: A RELATIVELY HIGH BIRTHRATE AS WELL AS AN AGING POPULATION.  
MARIEL FURLONG, NGM STAFF  
SOURCE: CARL HAUB, POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU