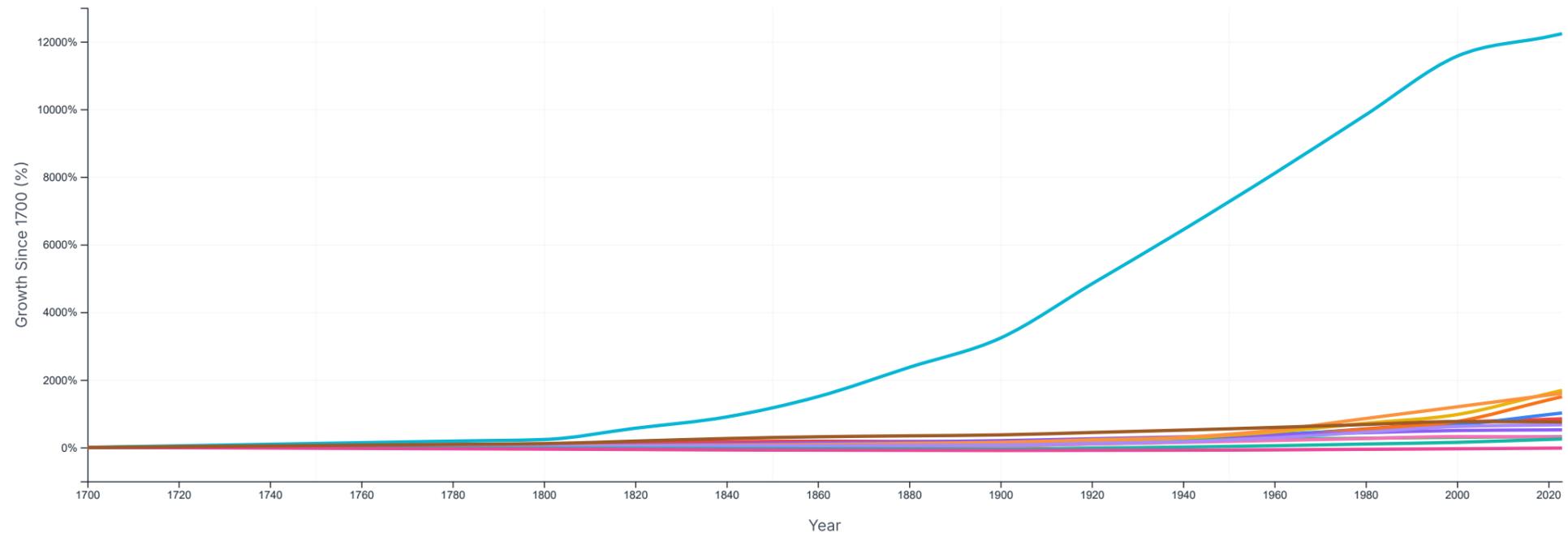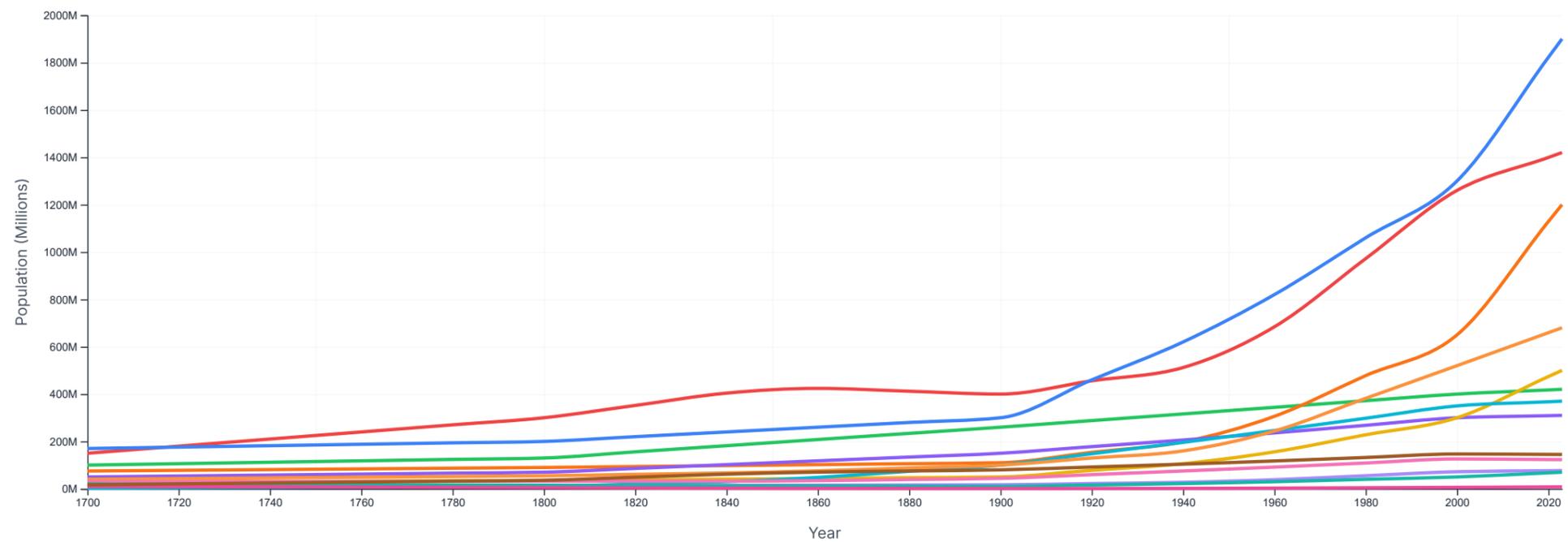# Population & Land Analysis of Ancestral Groups

An interactive visualization of demographic trends from 1700 to 2023.
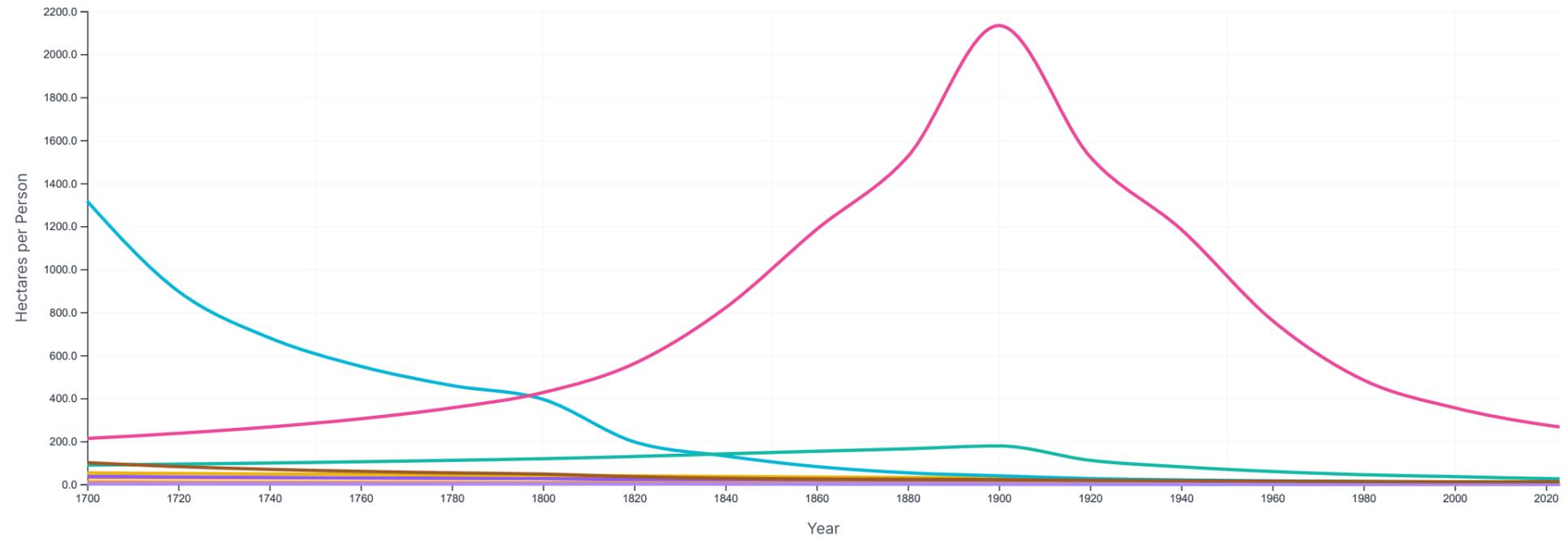
Chart 1: Percentage Growth Since 1700

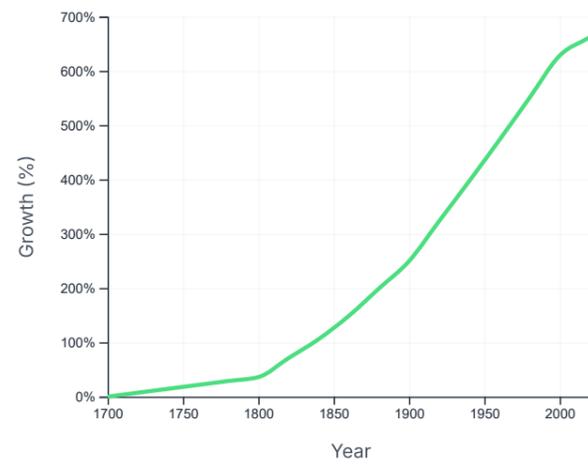## Chart 2: Absolute Population Growth (in Millions)

Chart 3: Estimated Hectares Per Person

Combined Analysis: Western Europeans & Whites (New World)

This section visualizes the combined demographic trajectory of these two groups as a single entity.

Percentage Growth

Absolute Population (M)
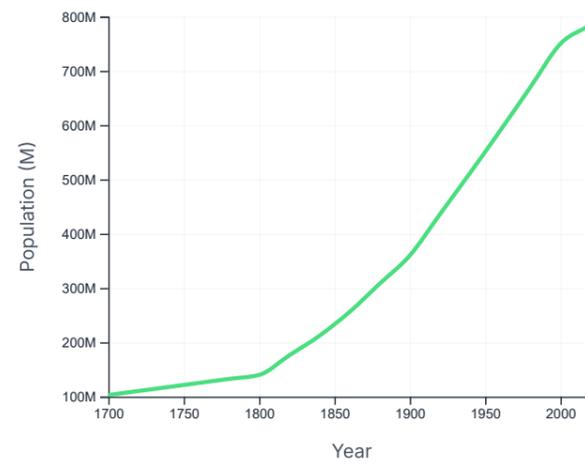
Hectares Per Person

Population Groups

- Chinese
- Eastern Europeans
- Japanese
- Korean
- MENA Peoples
- Native North Americans
- Native South Americans
- Russians
- South Asians
- Southeast Asians
- Sub-Saharan Africans
- Western Europeans
- Western/New World (Combined)
- Whites (New World)

Commentary & Analysis

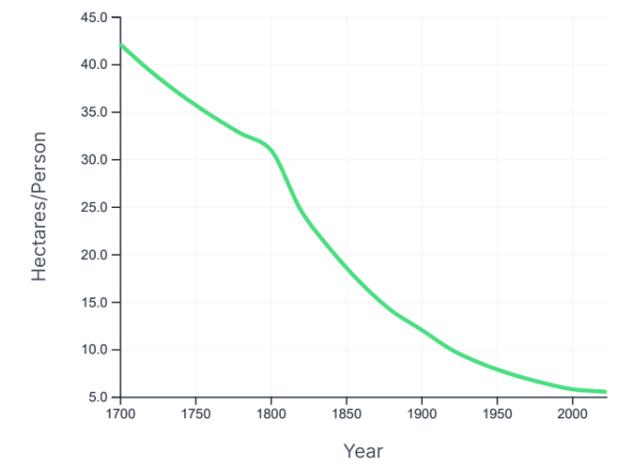The charts reveal starkly different demographic trajectories. The "Percentage Growth" chart is dominated by the "Whites (New World)" group, showcasing explosive relative growth. This reflects migration to vast, sparsely populated (from a European perspective) continents and high birth rates, moving from a tiny base of 3 million to 370 million. In contrast, while the growth of the South Asian population appears more "tapered" on the percentage chart, the "Absolute Population" chart tells a different story.

South Asia's growth is a phenomenon of immense scale, not of extreme rate. Starting from a large base of 170 million in 1700, it added over 1.7 billion people, the largest absolute increase of any group. This steady, massive expansion was fueled by agricultural improvements and 20th-century medical advancements. The "tapered" percentage masks the addition of hundreds of millions of people each generation, a demographic reality with profound implications for resources, as highlighted by the dramatic decline in the "Hectares Per Person" chart.

A story of explosive growth is also evident for Sub-Saharan Africans, MENA Peoples, and Southeast Asians, particularly after 1950. For centuries, high birth rates were matched by high death rates. The introduction of modern medicine and sanitation in the post-colonial era dramatically lowered mortality, unleashing a period of exponential population increase that is still ongoing in many of these regions. This has placed immense pressure on land and resources, as seen in their respective hectares-per-person trends.

East Asia presents two contrasting narratives. The Chinese population, long the world's largest, saw massive growth but also periods of stagnation, such as the dip around the turn of the 20th century, reflecting periods of intense social and political upheaval. Its subsequent rebound in the 20th century was staggering. Japan, on the other hand, offers a glimpse into a different demographic future. After a period of steady industrial-era growth, its population peaked in the early 21st century and has now begun a gradual decline, a trend characteristic of highly developed nations with low birth rates and an aging populace.

Perhaps the most tragic story told by the data is that of the Native American peoples. Both North and South American indigenous populations experienced a catastrophic decline following 1700, a continuation of the collapse that began with European contact. Disease, warfare, and displacement led to a demographic nadir around 1900. The slow recovery seen in the 20th and 21st centuries, while significant, represents a climb back from the brink. The hectares-per-person metric for these groups is deceiving; it initially rises not because of prosperity, but because the population collapsed faster than land was formally expropriated.

Notes & Methodology

Data Granularity: Original data points were linearly interpolated to create estimates for 20-year intervals, providing a smoother representation of trends. The final data point is for 2023.

Hectares Per Person: This metric is a broad estimate. Land area is based on the modern geographical boundaries of regions historically associated with these ancestral groups. It does not account for historical border changes, migration, or land usability (e.g., deserts, mountains). It is calculated by dividing the estimated total land area in hectares by the population for that year.

General Disclaimer: All data are estimates for illustrative purposes. Historical demographics are complex and subject to ongoing research and revision. Groups are defined by broad ancestral geography.

Group Definitions: The "Russians" category has been added. There may be some historical overlap between this group and the "Eastern Europeans" category, as demographic boundaries and identities have shifted over time.

References

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