

## Human Impact Notes II

Main Concern with Human Impact all comes back to **human population** growth

- Currently, the world population is about 7 billion.
- Two types of overpopulation possible:
  - Population Growth
  - Increased demand of resources

More-developed countries ( MDC s)

- Slow population growth and people enjoy high living standards
  - Ex. USA, Canada, Europe, Japan, Australia

Less-developed countries ( LDC s)

- Fast population growth and the majority of people live in poverty
  - Ex. Latin America, Africa, and Asia
  - Asia has 59 % of the world's population living on only 31 % of the world's farmable (arable) land
  - As LDCs become more industrialized, their consumption of resources and production of pollution will increase
    - Ex. China competes with us for oil and metals but has a huge smog problem

### **Environmental Impact**

- MDCs use a much larger portion of the Earth's resources, despite having less people
- Ecological Footprint = estimate of the amount of land on the Earth that an individual uses in order to survive
  - Includes land for food, water, energy, clothing, building materials, and other goods
  - Also includes the amount of land for storage of the waste the person produces
  - U.S. footprints are typically 1.5 x larger than Europeans and about 6-9 times those of LDCs