

Figure 2-11 Demographic transition versus time, Sweden and the United States
Source: Bogue 1969.

The demographic transition is a complex manifestation of several dynamic population characteristics discussed here—decreasing mortality and fertility as industrialization proceeds, and significant delays in the adjustment of fertility rates to changing mortality rates and economic conditions. Although the pattern has been consistent in the countries that have already industrialized, several other patterns are theoretically possible. One, in particular, may be occurring now in some parts of the world. As shown in Figure 2-13, exportation of death-control techniques from the industrialized countries to some nonindustrialized ones has brought about a major decrease in death rates at a much earlier stage in the industrialization process than that which prevailed at the onset of the demographic transition in Western countries. There now appears to be little correlation between economic development and death rates, especially in countries with per capita GNP values below 500 dollars. This deviation from the historical pattern could conceivably either hasten or postpone the declining birth rates that would complete the demographic transition in these countries.

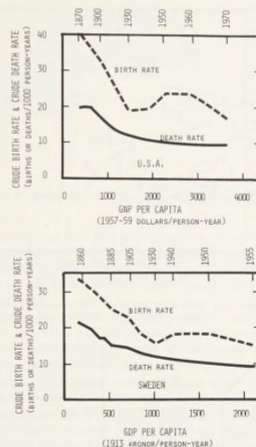


Figure 2-12 Demographic transition versus GNP per capita, Sweden and the United States
Sources: U.S.: 1960, Johansson 1960, U.N. *DY*.

Although the historical relationship between industrialization and the death rate now appears to have changed, it is still possible to classify different populations of the world in terms of the various stages of demographic transition. The results of such a classification, shown in Figure 2-14, indicate that most of the world's populations have moved to the stage at which death rates have fallen but birth rates are still at or near their traditional high levels.

2.3 BASIC CONCEPTS

The determinants of human birth and death rates are as numerous and diverse as the cultural, economic, and environmental systems that form human experience. Therefore, any population model that tries to include each separate determinant soon