(Rowthorn, 2010)

* Considering the NUTS level 1 regions which have an average population of 5 million and are grouped into two broad areas of the North and South, each with populations of 25-30m
* He chose the NUTS1 regions as data on these regions are readily available and it is a simple matter to aggregate them into the broad categories of the North and South
* This also allows him to focus on important development in recent decades, namely the gradual shift in the balance of population and economic activity towards the Southern Part of Mainland Britain
* **Employment and Demography**
* The dividing line between the North and South is seen to run between the Rivern Severn to the Wash
* Although both areas have failing and successful parts, the South as a whole has been more dynamic than the North in recent decades. It has suffered less from the decline of manufacturing and mining employment, and it has gained a disproportionate share of the new jobs in such dynamic areas as financial and business services
* Taken together the North and South form a system which exemplifies what in another context has been called ‘combined and uneven development’
* Total employment in the North reached an all-time peak of 12.8M in 1979, then falling sharply in the industrial slump of the early Thatcher years. This was followed by an irregular recovery, and by the turn of the century the number of people employed in the North was still slightly below the level achieved in 1979.
* Over the same period, 2.5m extra jobs were created in the South, where the industrial slump was less severe and the subsequent economic recovery was much stronger
* The contrasting employment experience of the two areas is mirrored in the behaviour of migration and population
* **Structural change – North and South compared**
* He presents no maps
* The relative de decline of the North has been masked by the rapid growth of public expenditure in this area. This expansion will not be repeated and future job creation in the North will depend primarily on what happens in the Northern private sector, above alls on its ability to produce tradeable goods and services
* The share of the North in private sector tradable has been falling for some decades and this trend looks set to continue, although more slowly in the past
* There is some way to go before the northern population catches up with the decline in its export base that has already occurred
* If there is a highly restrictive immigration policy, the declining share of the North may be accompanied by a fall in absolute numbers, driven partly by a resumption of net migration from North to South – either way the result will be a migration driven increase of population in the South. Such demographic changes are likely to prove unpopular and they may eventually provoke a political reaction and redoubled efforts to rebalance economic development in favour of the North. How successful they will be is unclear