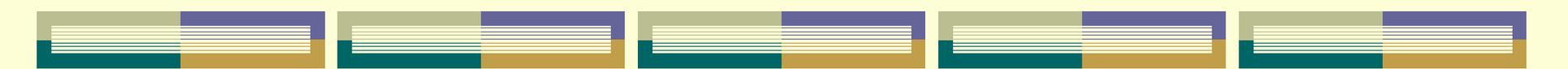


# Sustaining a Future for Food Sovereignty and Gender Equality:

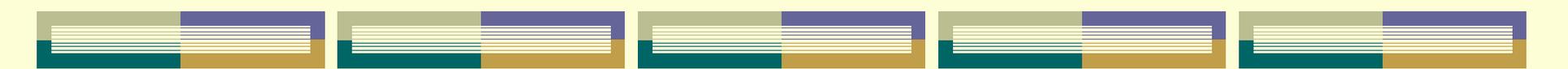
## Challenges for the World Trade Organization (WTO)

Úrsula Oswald Spring  
CRIM-UNAM/Coltlix  
UNU-EHS  
Mexico



# Content

- ❖ **1. Food Security and the Millennium Goals**
  - ❖ **2. Basic Concepts and Focus Trade Negotiation,**
  - ❖ **3. Trade Negotiations, Agribusiness and Agrifood**
  - ❖ **4. Mexico, NAFTA, Debt, Economic and Environmental Crises**
  - ❖ **5. WTO, Free Trade Agreements, Food Trade and Agribusiness**
  - ❖ **6. Social Movements, Ecofeminism and “Altermundism”**
  - ❖ **7. Need to Adaption: A long term strategy**
- 



# 1.1. Objective of the Talk

- ❖ **1. International compromises with Food security and Millennium Development Goals (MDG)**
  - FAO argued that agriculture plays a key role for rural development and food security. “75% of the 1.1 billion people living on less than USD 1 per day live in rural areas... In a world of plenty, 852 million people suffer from chronic hunger with 843 million of them living in developing and transition countries” (FAO 2005b:1).
  - Despite of multiple international summits organized to alleviate poverty and eradicate hunger, still 468 millions persons experiencing hunger create an annual economic lost of 30 billion dollars (FAO, 2005a). Chronic child malnutrition, iodine and iron insufficiency reduces their intellectual capacity by 10 to 15%. Combining the protein-caloric malnutrition and the loss of micro-elements the economic loss of GDP per year of all poor countries is estimated at 5-10%, equivalent of more than 500 billion dollars.
- 

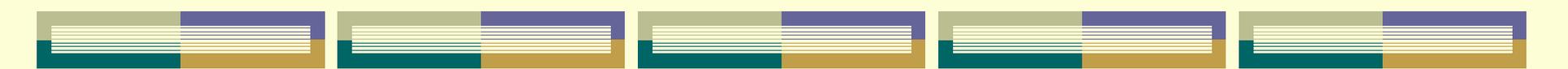
- **Basic Concepts: Gender Security, Food Security, Food Sovereignty**



## 2.1. Human, Gender and Environmental Security (HUGE)

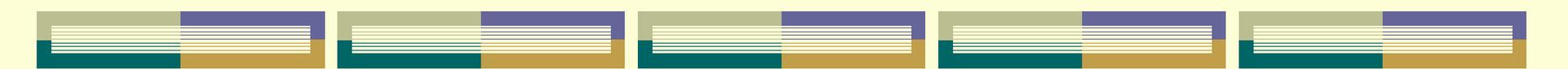
<b>Level of expansion</b>	<b>Determination</b>  <b>Which security?</b>	<b>Mode of expansion</b>  <b>Reference object</b> <b>Security of whom?</b>	<b>Value at risk</b> <b>Security of what?</b>	<b>Source(s) of threat</b> <b>Security from whom or what?</b>
<b>Without expansion</b>	National Security (political, military dimension)	The State	Sovereignty, territorial integrity	Other States, terrorism, sub-state actors, guerrilla
<b>Increased</b>	Societal Security	Nations, social groups	National Unity, national identity	(States), Nations, Migrants, Alien cultures
<b>Radical</b>	<b>Human Security</b>	<b>Individuals (Humankind)</b>	<b>Survival, quality of life, cultural integrity</b>	<b>The State, globalization, nature, GEC, poverty, fundamentalism</b>
<b>Ultra-radical</b>	Environmental Security	Ecosystem, urban and agricultural system	Sustainability	Nature Humankind
<b>Trans-radical</b>	<b>Gender Security</b>	<b>Gender relations, indigenous, minorities</b>	<b>Equity, identity, social relations</b>	<b>Patriarchy, totalitarian institutions (élites, governments, religions, culture), intolerance</b>

**Source:** Bjørn Møller, 2003:279; Úrsula Oswald, 2001, 2004



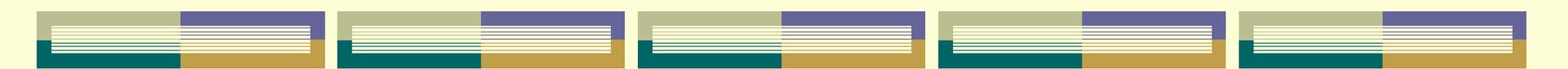
## 2.2. Main Attributes of Social Identity

- Thousand of years of experiences have created a society within a **specific socio-historic** environment, where symbolic elements have developed –class, ethnicity, age, religion, race, nationality, professional adscription, political ideology, education etc. However they are in permanent change, but the main attributes –gender, sex and race- and the socioeconomic condition –rich, poor- are stable (Habermas). Each process of classification implies relations of identity, inclusion or rejection and exclusion, which constitutes the base of any power exercise.
- 



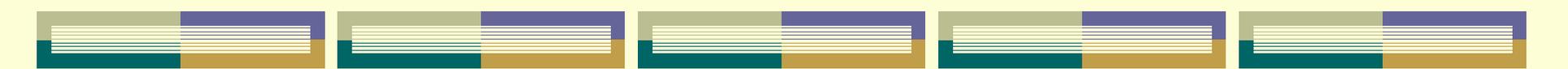
## 2.3. Gender Identity

- Refers to the process of consciousness raising to be a human, concretely a man or a woman or a bisexual, depending on the position of the social structure.
  - **Gender security** is normally **taken for granted**. The relations are linked to the status as gender –indigenous, poor, minority, women- in relation to the model of reference. Equity and identity are values at risk. The source of threat comes in first instance from the patriarchal hierarchical and violent order, characterized by exclusive and totalitarian institutions such as non-democratic governments, churches and élites. The symbolic distribution assigns the male the public space: production, *res publica*, *homo sapiens*; and the women the private one: reproduction, home, *homo domesticus*. The distribution of power acquires also generic forms. Men exercise a hierarchical and vertical power of domination and superiority; women care.
- 



## 2.4. Definition of Food Security and Nutritional Gap

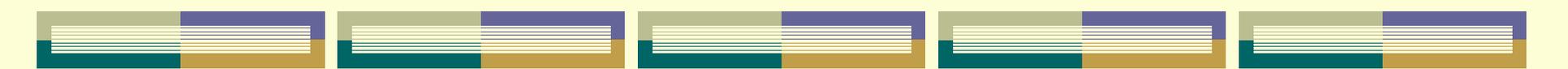
- ❖ ***Food security*** is defined by FAO as the sufficient disposal of food for individuals, families, regions or nations, after discounting non-food use. However, only two thirds of grains world-wide produced are used in human feeding, the rest goes to industrial inputs and livestock. A more specialized definition refers to the balanced daily intake of proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, necessary to live healthy.
  - ❖ The Department of Agriculture in the United States (USDA) defines national ***food security*** by “measuring the gap between actual food consumption – domestic production, plus commercial imports, minus non-food use and consumption targets”. The ***nutritional gap*** measures the minimal daily nutritional requirements, in accordance to age, activities and gender.
- 



## 2.5. Hunger and Food Security

### Food Security and the Millennium Goals:

- ❖ **75% of the 1.1 billion people living on less than 1 USD/day lives in rural areas**
  - ❖ **852 million suffer from chronic hunger with 842 of them living in developing and transition countries.**
  - ❖ **Chronic child undernourishment, iodine and iron insufficiency reduces intellectual capacity by 10-15%**
  - ❖ **Hunger (protein-caloric malnutrition and the loss of micro-elements) generates an economic loss of GDP per year of 5-10% of all poor countries, equivalent to 500 billion USD**
- 



## 2.6. Food Sovereignty

- Local agricultural production and trade, with access for women and peasants to ***water, seeds, credits, technical and financial support***;
  - Guarantee women the access to ***land for production and livelihood***, in order to overcome the violent and patriarchal structures inside of their families, countries and in the global economic system;
  - Promote ***women*** peasants as ***key elements in food issues*** and agricultural production and commerce;
  - Encourage ***participation*** of women, indigenous and peasants in the national and regional definition of ***rural policies***;
  - The right to produce and ***consume healthy, permanent and culturally accepted food***, locally produced, sold, cooked and consumed;
  - The right of regions and nations to ***protect*** themselves ***from subsidized food imports***, establishing agricultural prices which cover production costs;
  - The obligations of national and local ***governments to improve the nutritional situation*** through stimulation of local food production and transformation, clean water and sanitation and elimination of parasites;
  - Linking ***environmental services into farming***, land planning and participative democracy in order to create areas and a human right to no-migration, which includes prospects to live a dignified life in their own village and country.
- 



## 2.7. Key Issues linked to Hunger:

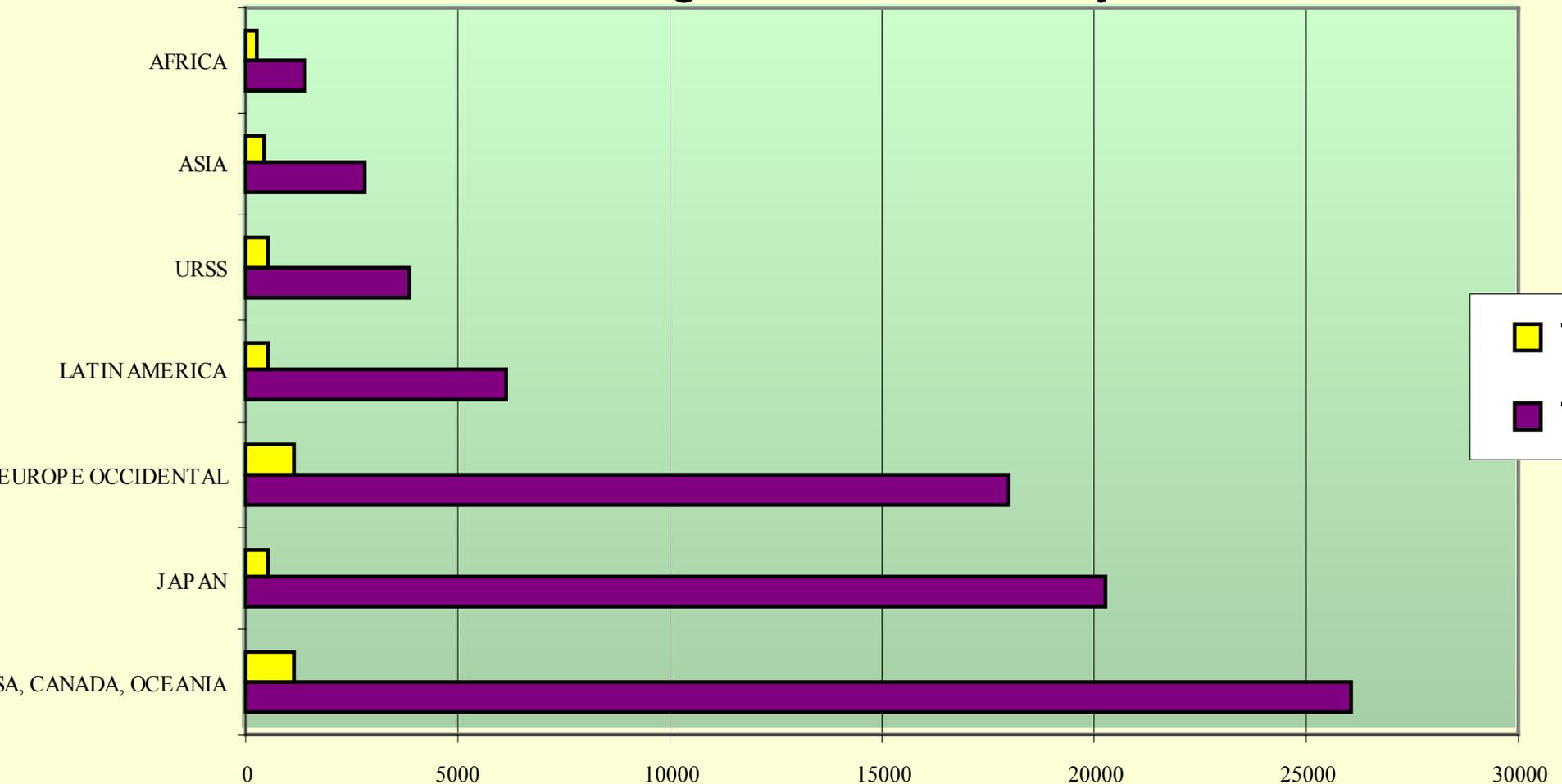
- **public resources to reduce poverty and hunger have to come from domestic and international sources, coordinated and interrelated from top to bottom and bottom-up and administrated by women;**
  - **food security and rural development must be addressed in an integral way;**
  - **agricultural financial instruments, risk management tools and volatility of prices creates vulnerabilities for peasants;**
  - **poverty reduction has to be combined with global public services;**
  - **private investments can complement (but not substitute) public ones, and economic stability;**
  - **programs directed to access to food in hand of women improve the situation of vulnerable groups, and women-headed households and victims of diseases and disasters should receive special attention;**
  - **food aid has to be targeted to avoid distorting non-market and local production systems.**
- 



### **3. Trade Negotiations, Agribusiness and Agrifood**

# 3.1. Wellbeing by Regions

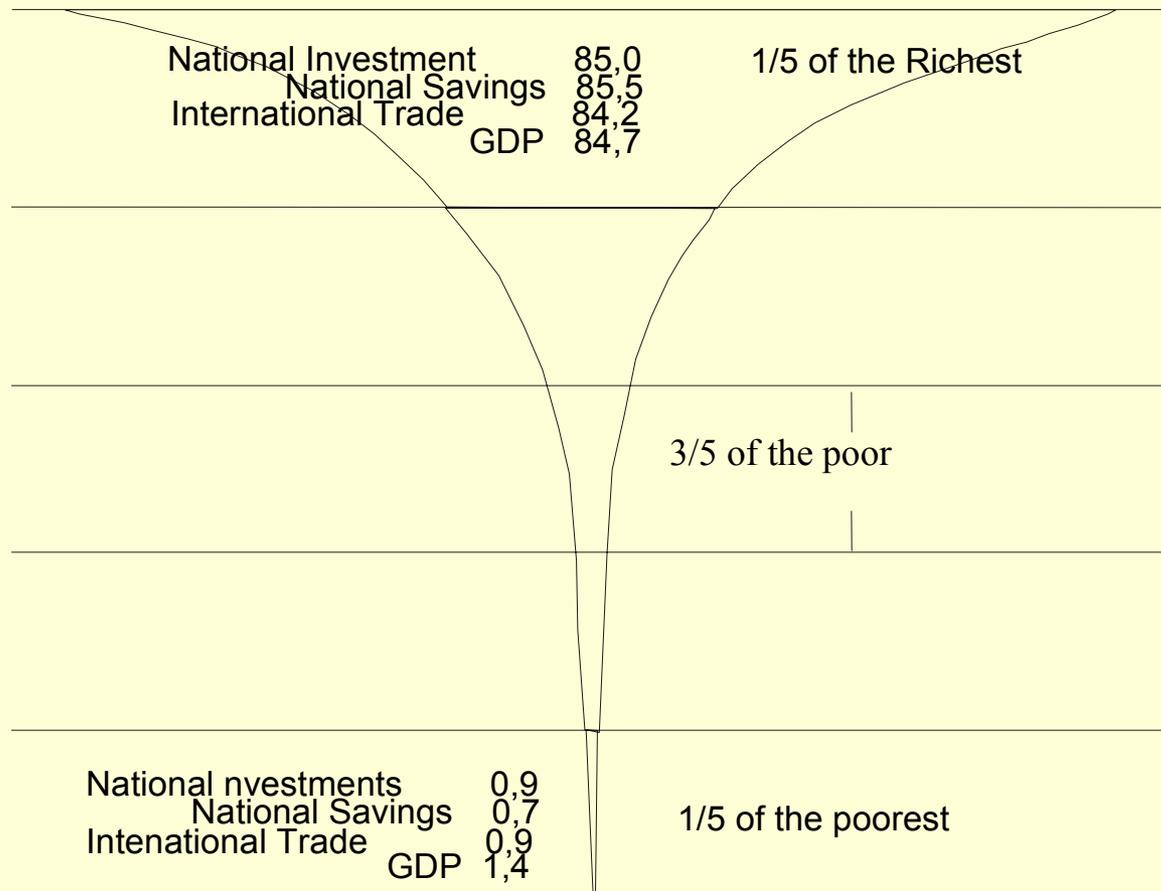
Growth of regional GDP 1820 y 1998



Source: OECD with exception of Japan

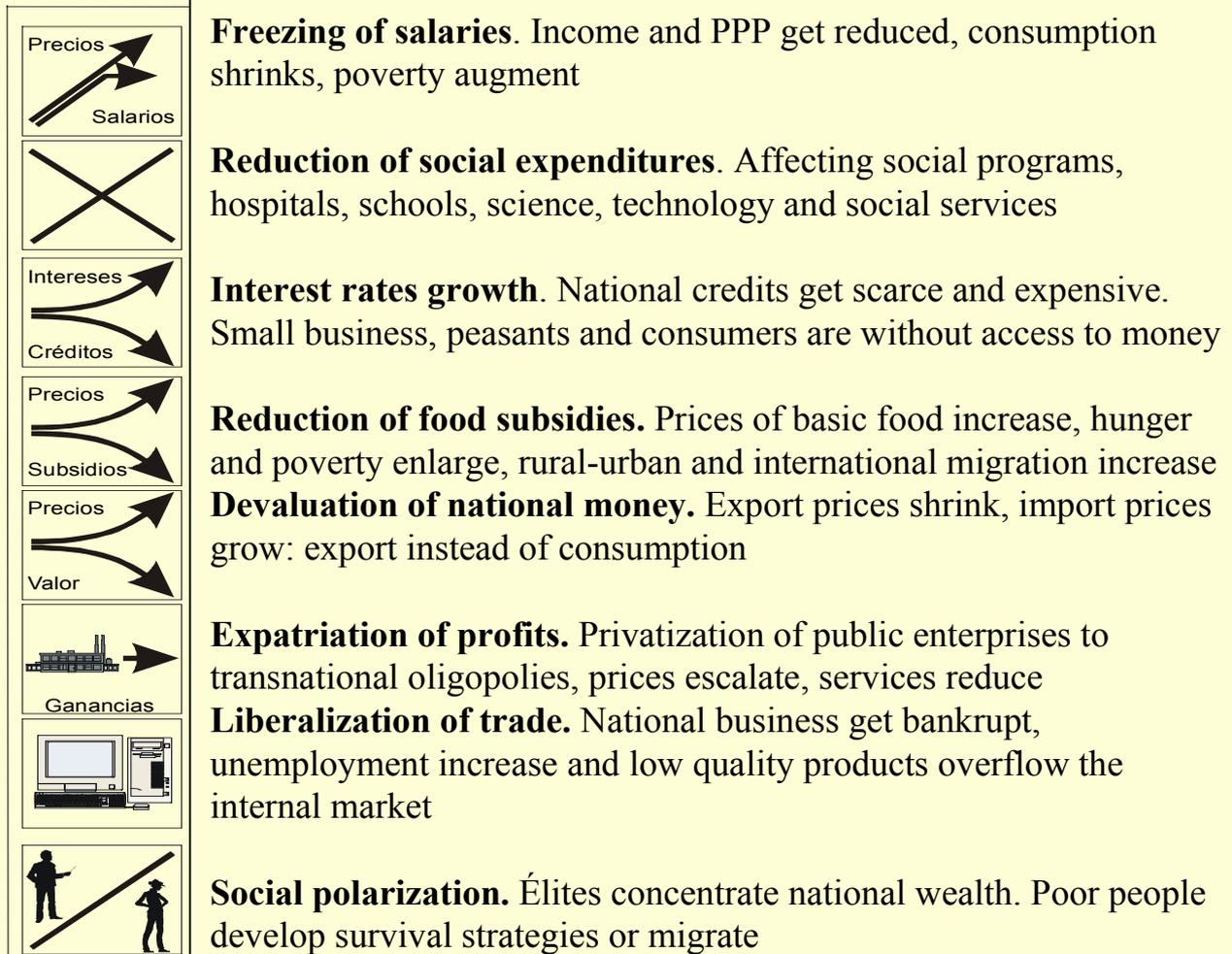
Income in US Dollars of 1990

## 3.2. Unequal Access to the Resources in the World



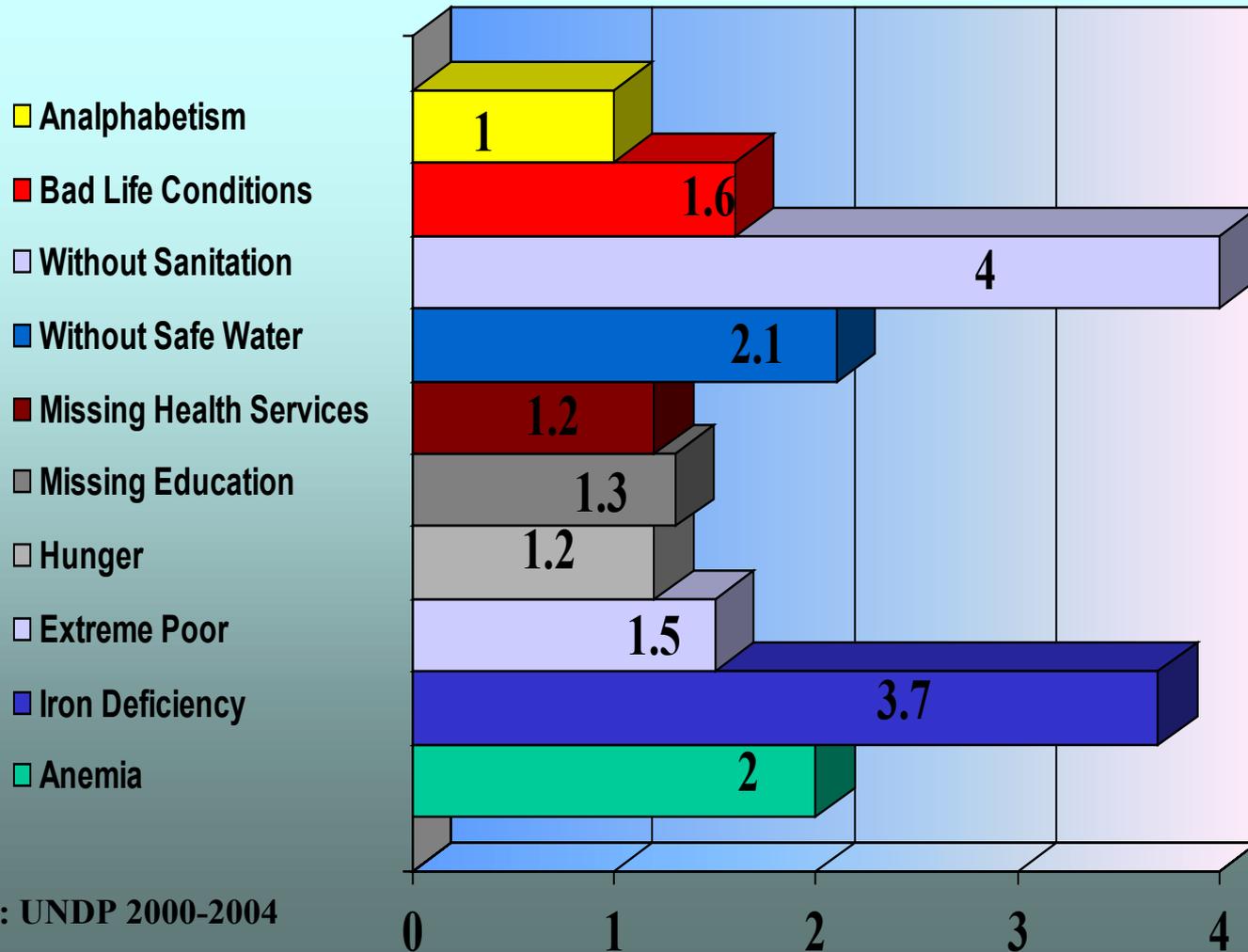
Source: UNDP (2000-2004)

### 3.3. Conditions of IMF for Highly Indebt Countries



Strahm/Oswald, 1990:

# 3.4. Perverse Trade System



Source: UNDP 2000-2004

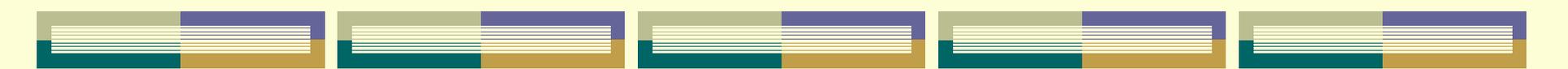


## **4. Mexico, NAFTA, Debt, Economic and Environmental Crises**



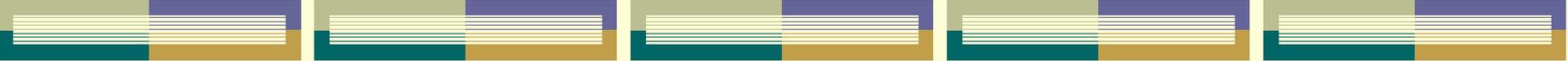
## 4.1. Mexico after a Decade of NAFTA

- ***Economic growth*** has been slow, less than 1%.
  - ***Job creation*** could not integrate more than one million of young persons into the labor market. The new jobs are without social protection and trade union protection and around half of the economic active population works in the informal, some of them in the illegal sector.
  - ***Wages*** have declined by more than 60% since 1982; and during membership in NAFTA by 23%.
  - ***Poverty*** has increased for 75% of people living below the poverty line.
  - The ***rural areas*** and the peasant sector is in crises with 80% of poverty, half of them in extreme poverty. More than 1.7 million persons left the rural area since 1994 when NAFTA was signed, migrating to the urban areas and half of a million to the United States.
  - ***Women*** have not only to deal with migrated husbands, they are in charge of the family, but they have also to care for the land and the survival of their children and elders. In the towns they develop survival strategies (Oswald, 1991). However the deterioration of the environment, declining agricultural prices and deteriorating life condition have confronted women with a survival dilemma (Brauch, 2004, 2005).
  - ***Import*** surpass exports producing a deficit in the trade balance
  - The ***environment*** has deteriorated, representing a loss of about 10% of annual GDP equivalent to \$ 32 billion.
- 



## 4.2. Poverty in Mexico

- 28% of Mexican **children** are poor (UNICEF, 2005)
  - **Infant poverty**: place 80 (behind South Africa: 76; World Bank –WB- 2005)
  - **Income per capita**: place 80 (WB, 2005)
  - **National Income** 637,200 million dollars; place 10, WB, 2005)
  - 20% of **rich concentrate** 43% of consumption: structural induced scarcity (Homer-Dixon, 1998:351-353)
  - Minimal requirement to live 70 pesos (6.2 US\$)
  - **Economic Active Population**: 43 million: 12.5 million in formal sector
  - **Occupied population**: 26 million: 7% less than 1 minimal salary (MS: 42 MN or 3.7US\$); 20.7%: 1-2 MS; 46.2%: 2-5 MS; 26.1: more than 5 MS (INEGI, 2005)
- 



## 4.3. Social Gap in Mexico

<b>Concept</b>	<b>% of Population</b>	<b>% of Nat. Wealth</b>	<b>% of Financial Savings</b>
<b>Very Rich</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>78.0</b>
<b>Workers</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>10.0</b>

INEGI, 2004 and Bank of Mexico, 2004

## 4.4. Internal Gap: Bank Savings

<b>Account</b>	<b>Number of bank accounts</b>	<b>% of Mexican population</b>	<b>% of National Saving</b>
<b>More than 1 Million pesos</b>	<b>73,481</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>More than 1,000 pesos</b>	<b>16'027,000</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>s.d.</b>
<b>Less than 1,000 pesos</b>	<b>15'700,000</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>s.d.</b>

Bank of Mexico, 2004

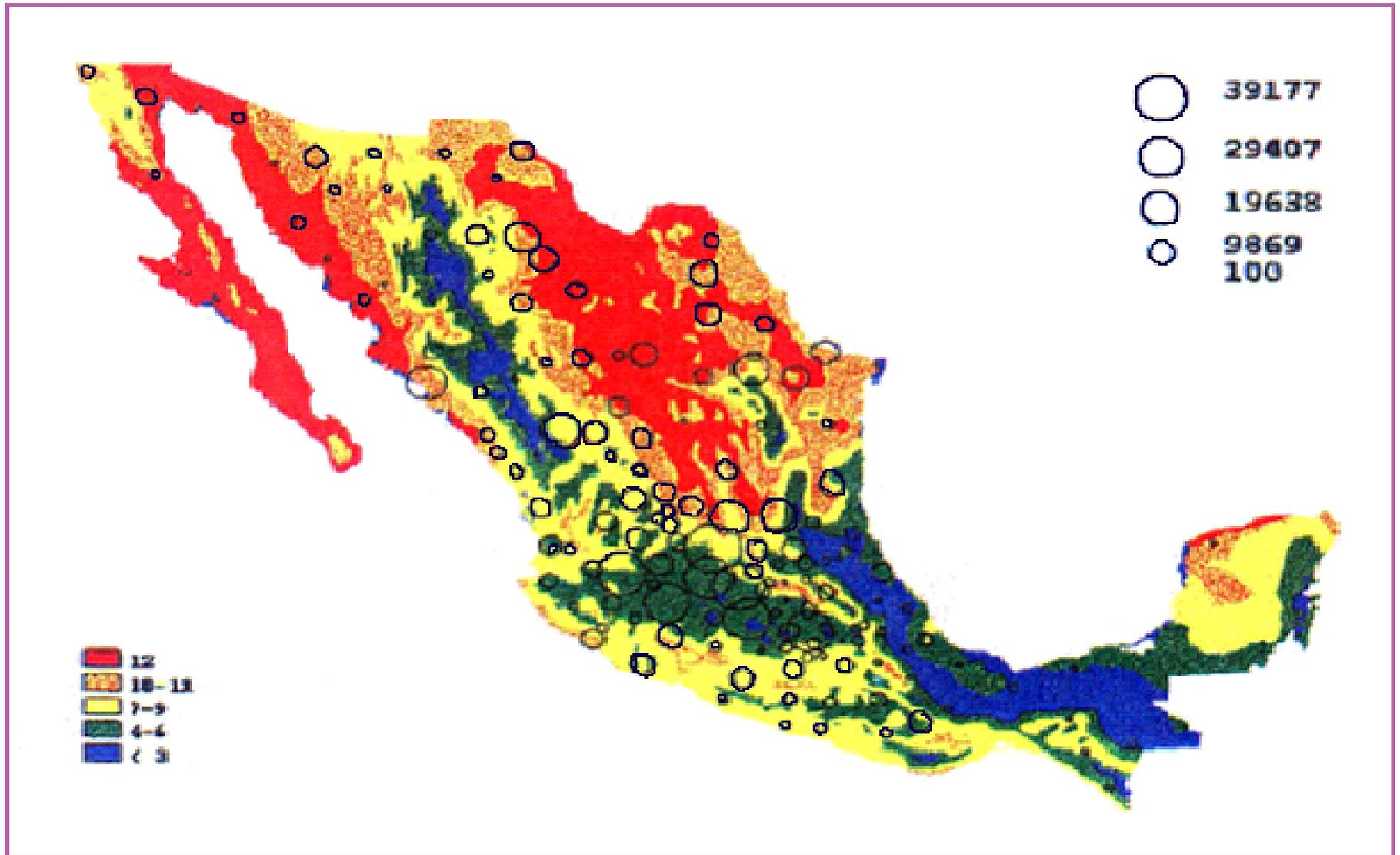
## 4.5. NAFTA and Food

- **Price of corn lost in real term from 1985 to 1999: 64%**
- **Beans: loss 1985-99: 46%**
- **Basic food basket: increase 1985-99: 257%**
- **78% of Mexicans live in poverty and rural poverty is over 80%**
- **USA subsidies in agriculture US\$ 21,000, México US\$700/ hectare**

## 4.6. Effects of NAFTA to Peasants in Mexico

- 1,780,000 peasants emigrated during 1 decade
- Two of Three Peasants live under the poverty line
- Profits of Mexican Agribusiness per year:
  - Bimbo: 3.3 bn US
  - Pulse and Savia 1.2 bn US
  - Maseca 1.221 bn (14 mt and 50% more profit in 1 year)
  - Bachoco 1 bn
- Importation of Maize and loss of Food Sovereignty:
  - Increase from 2.5 a 6.148mt of maize
  - Increase of 8.7 a 18.7 mt in basic grains
  - Importation of 95% of soya, 58.6 of rice, 49% of wheat, 25% of maize, 40% of meat
  - **Costs of Food Importation:** 78 bn US\$

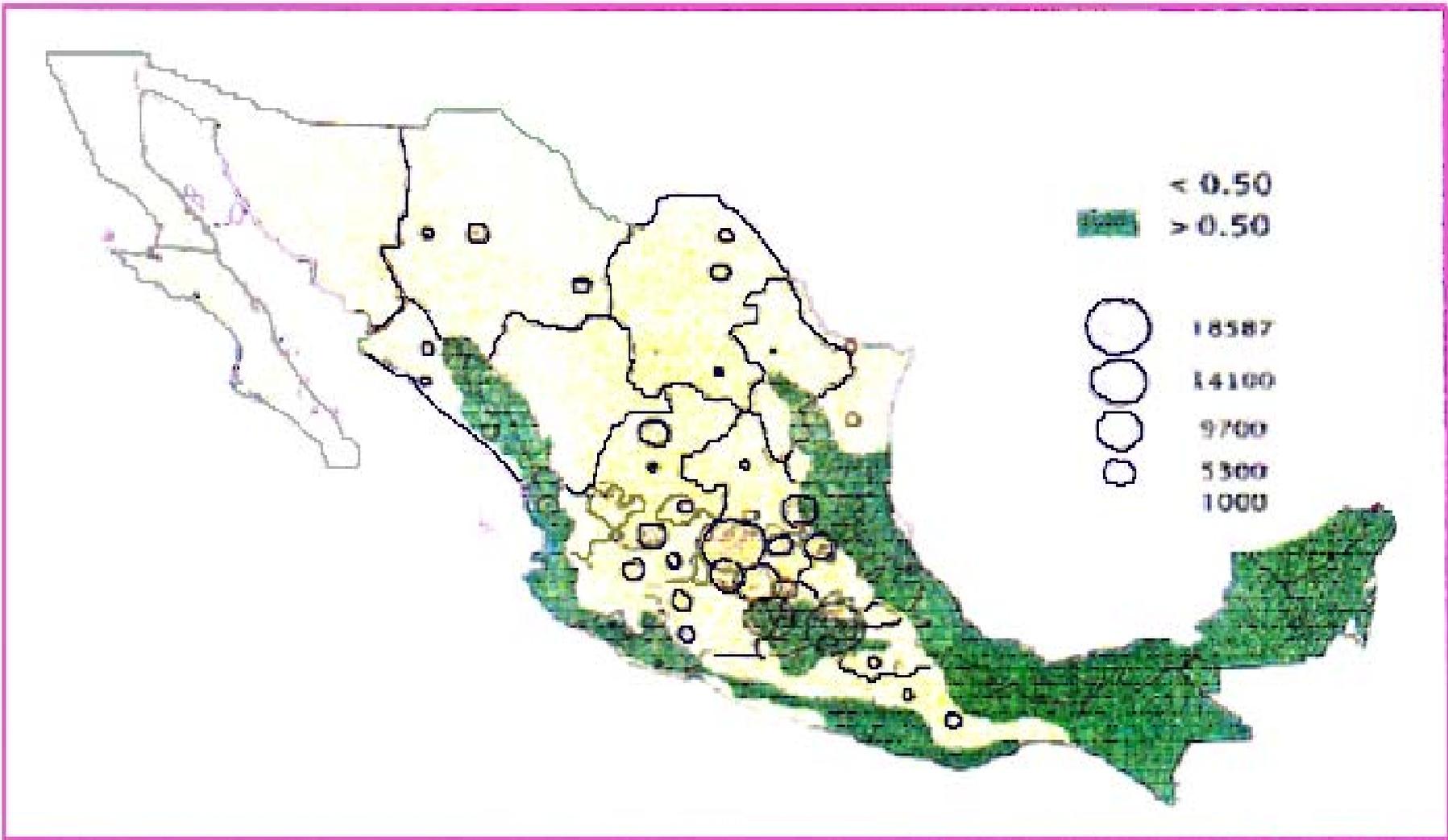
## 4.7. Number of Dry Months and Migration



Number of dry months and flow (estimation for 1993) of Mexican migrants living and working in the US, surveyed on the border on their return to Mexico (spatial distribution according to their region of birth in Mexico, rural and urban localities).

Sources:  
Survey on Mexican-US migratory flow (COLEF)  
Atlas Nacional de México de INEGI  
Sistema de Información Geográfica y Estadística de la  
Frontera Norte (COLEF-DSITOME)

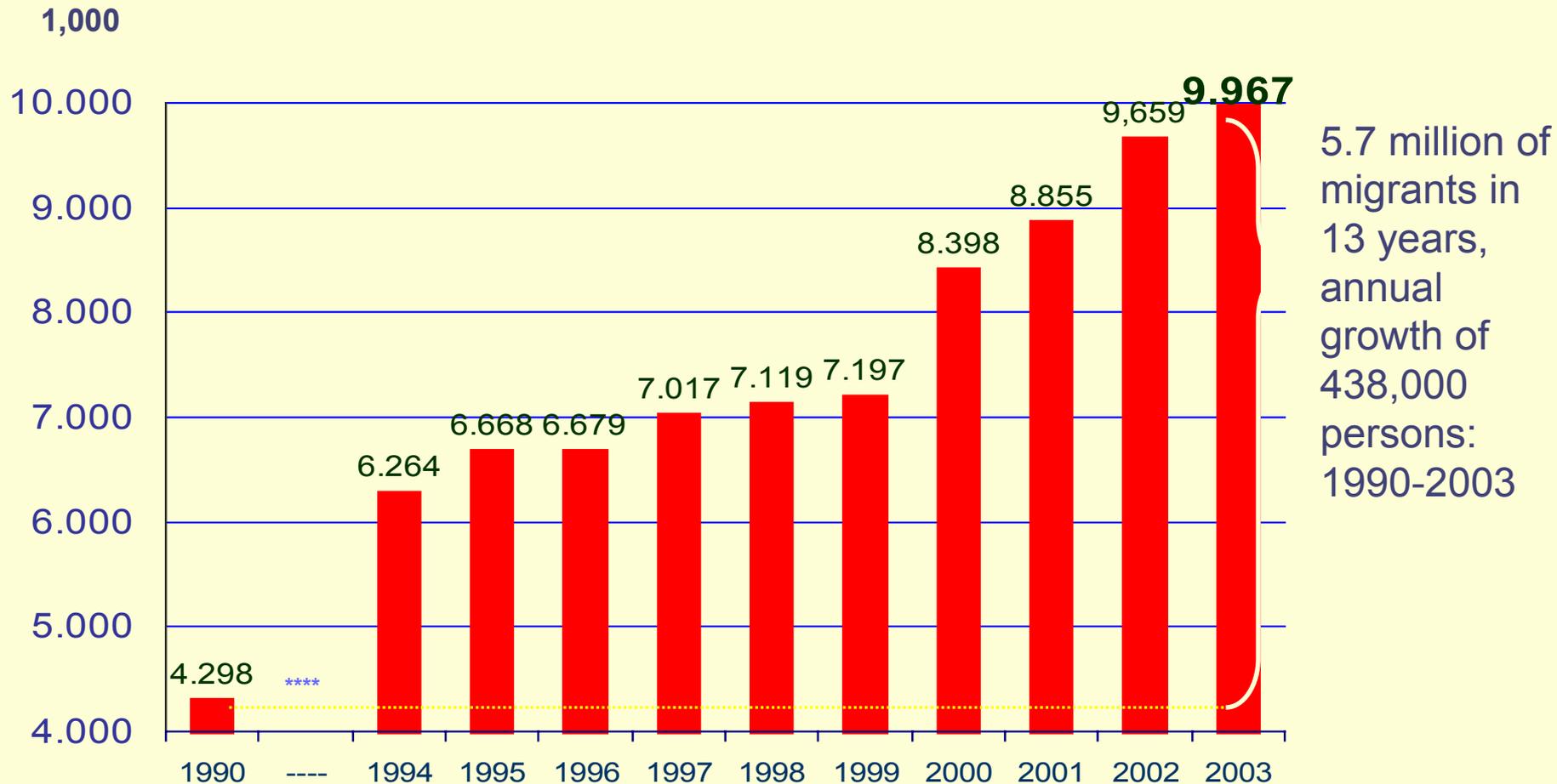
# 4.8. Rural Migration and Aridity



- Arid and dry areas (< 0.50)
- Humid area (> 0.50)
- Flow of Mexican migrants in 1995, living and working in the US, surveyed on the border on their return to Mexico (spatial distribution according to the region of last residence in rural localities of Mexico).

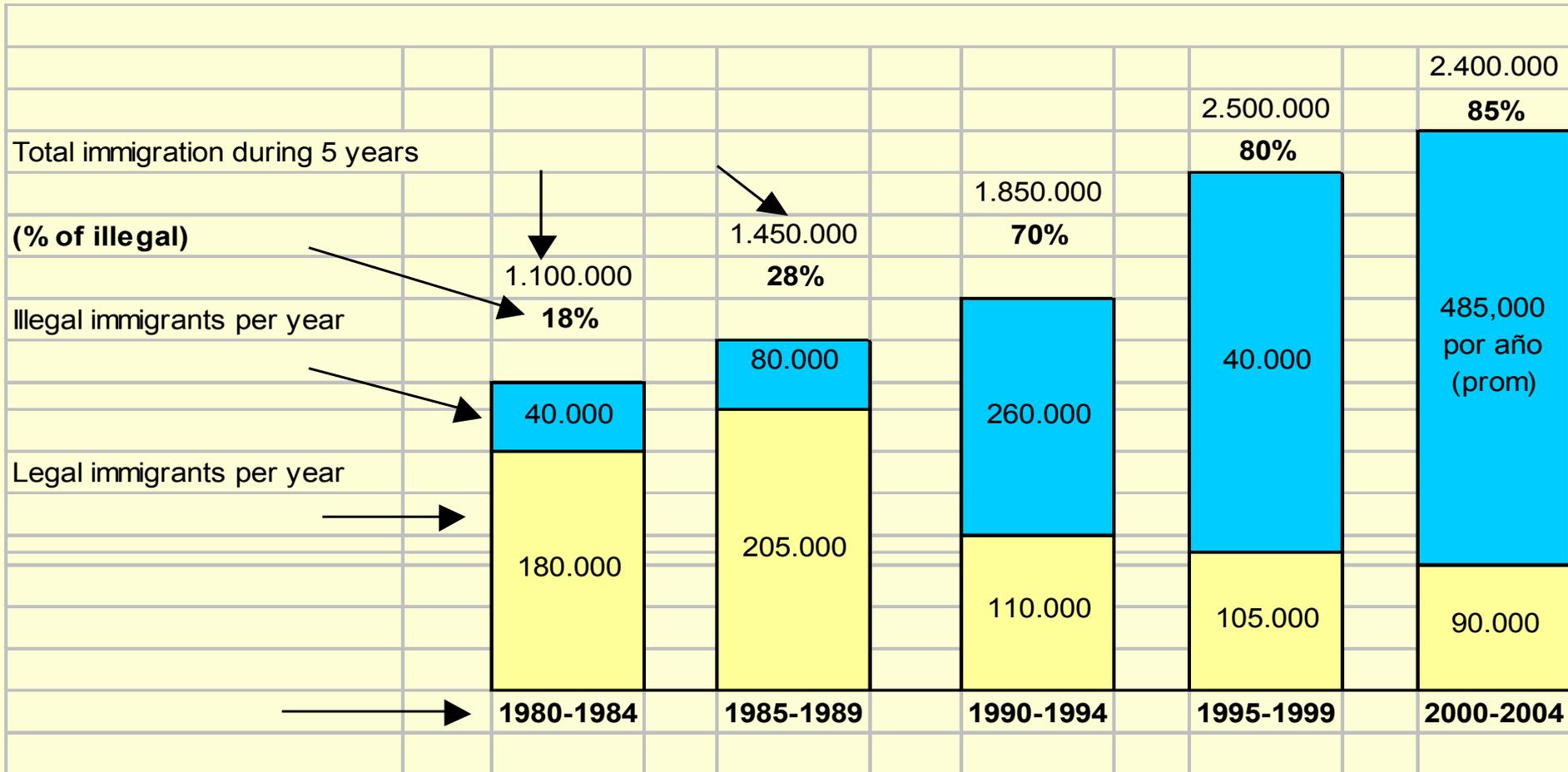
Source:  
 Survey on Mexican Migrants in Immigrant Report, OCEI  
 Atlas Nacional de Migración 1995  
 Sistema de Información Geográfica y Estadística de la  
 Frontera Norte, I. I. I. (1995)

# 4.9. Mexican Migrants to USA 1990- 2003 (1000 Persons)



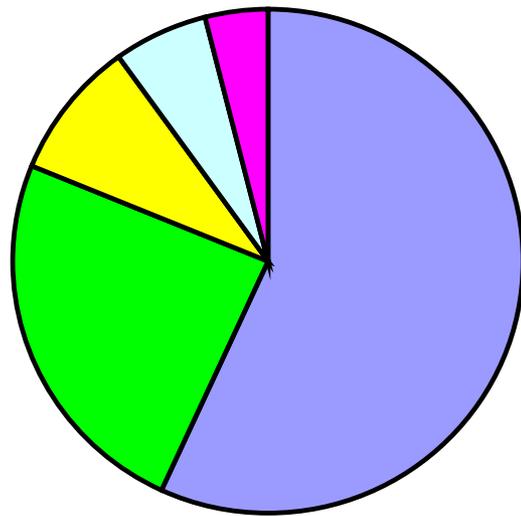
SOURCE: Public-use files from the US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March Supplement, elaborated by Fernando Lozano, 2005

# 4.10. Migrants to USA from Mexico by Legal Status



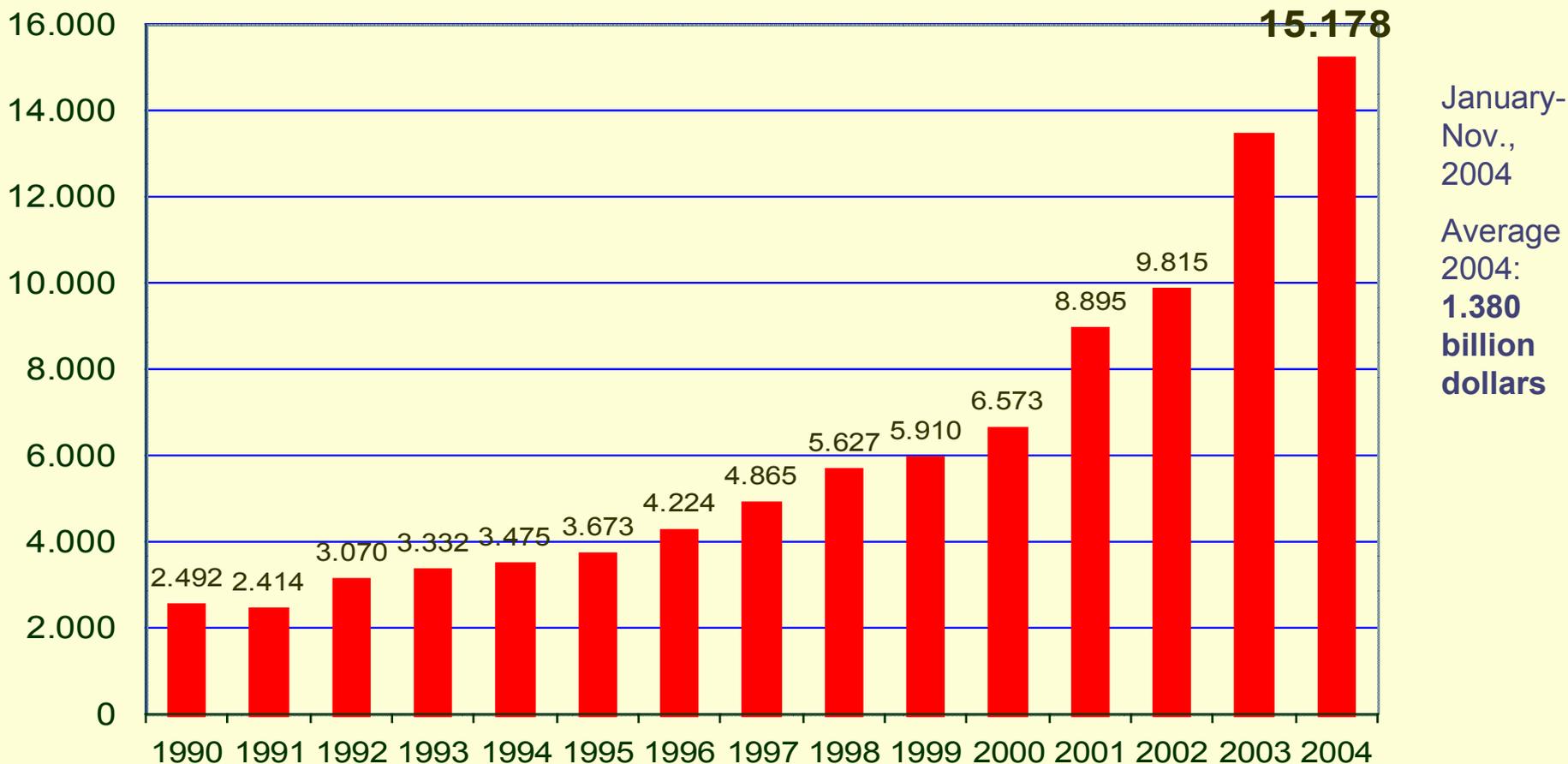
Source: Pew Hispanic Center, Estimation of the Amount and Characteristics of Undocumented Population Living in USA

## 4.11. Undocumented Immigrants by Origin (Total 10.3 million, March, 2004)



- Mexico (5.9 millones)
- Latin America (2.5 millones) without Mexico
- Asia (1 millon)
- Europe and Canada (0.6 millones)
- Africa and others (0.4 millones)

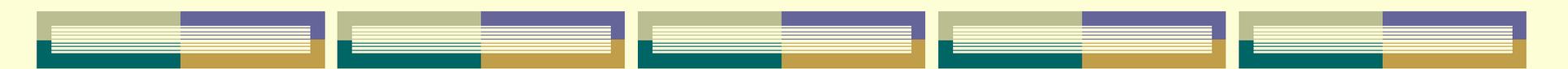
## 4.12. Remittance From Migrants Sent to Mexico, 1990-2004 (1'000,000 US \$)



SOURCE: Informes Anuales Banco de México, varios años. [www.banxico.org.mx](http://www.banxico.org.mx), elaborated by Fernando Lozano, CRIM, 2005

# 5. WTO, Free Trade Agreements, Food Trade and Agribusiness

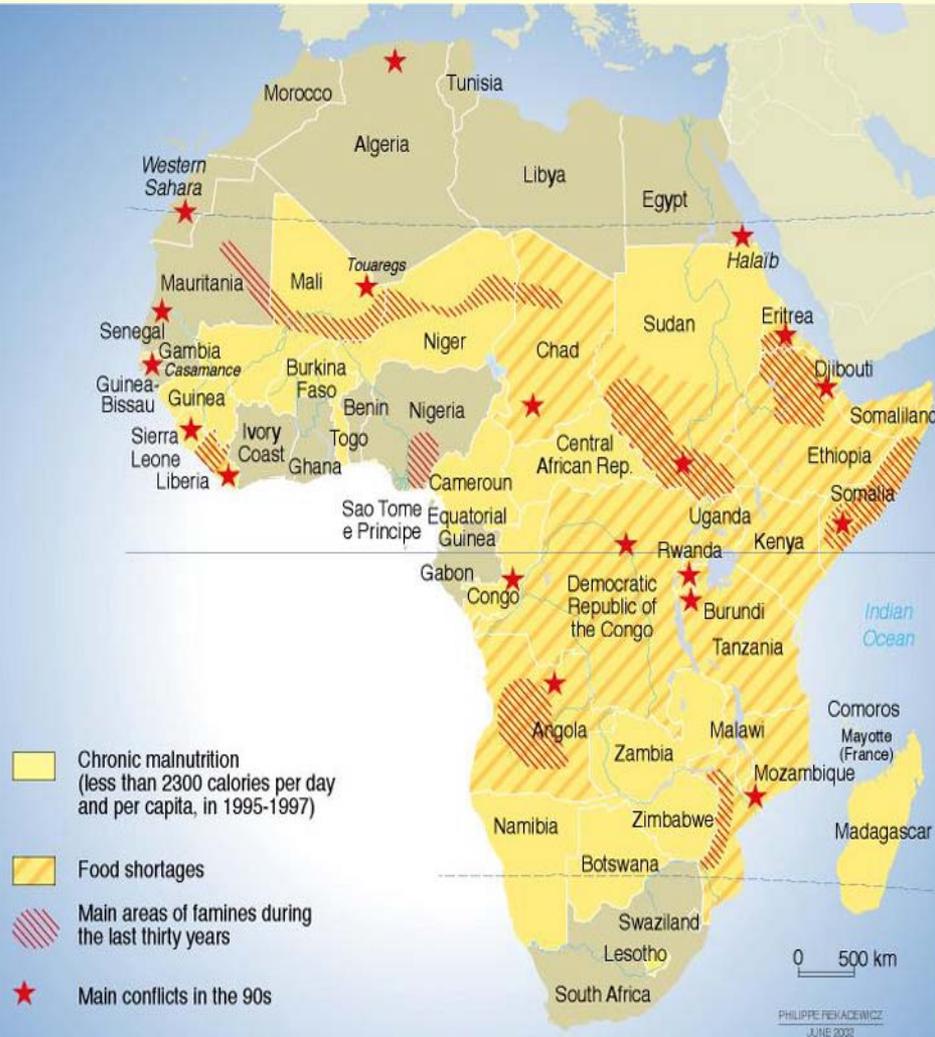




## 5.1. Corporatised Agriculture: Agrifood

- The national economy **depends** on the world economy.
  - The global network of financial markets produces short term investment, **speculation** and periodical economic crisis.
  - Foreign investments are in the hands of **transnational** corporations, who apply a rational division of labor bringing labor intensive jobs to the South and allow low skilled labor force to immigrate into the industrialized nations.
  - Less developed states are obliged by international financial bodies (IMF and World Bank) to **self-inflicted restrictions**.
  - Subsidies and other supports for transport, infrastructure, communication and research **benefit above all corporate agribusiness**, ignoring environmental and health costs.
  - Global communications **homogenize a consumer society** and promote one single consumption culture.
  - Trade is regulated through agreements between blocks of nations and local or **national food security** is lost.
  - The nation state has fewer options to compensate side effects of globalization process and trade agreements force it to **support the corporative system**.
  - The new **labor force must be flexible**, with high technological qualifications, where research and innovations are the most important elements.
- 

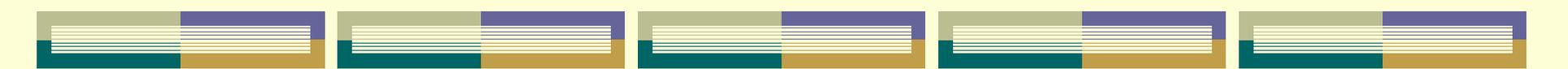
## 5.2. Potential Links Between Hunger, Drought & Conflicts in Africa?



- Coincidence between famine areas & major wars in 1980s and 1990s?
- Famines, political unrest, and civil wars occur simultaneously in the same countries and regions.
- ❖ Migration: rapid spread of diseases, especially AIDS.
- Research is needed on the links among outcomes: drought, famine, migration, crises, and conflicts.

## 6. Social Movements, Ecofeminism and “*Altermundism*”



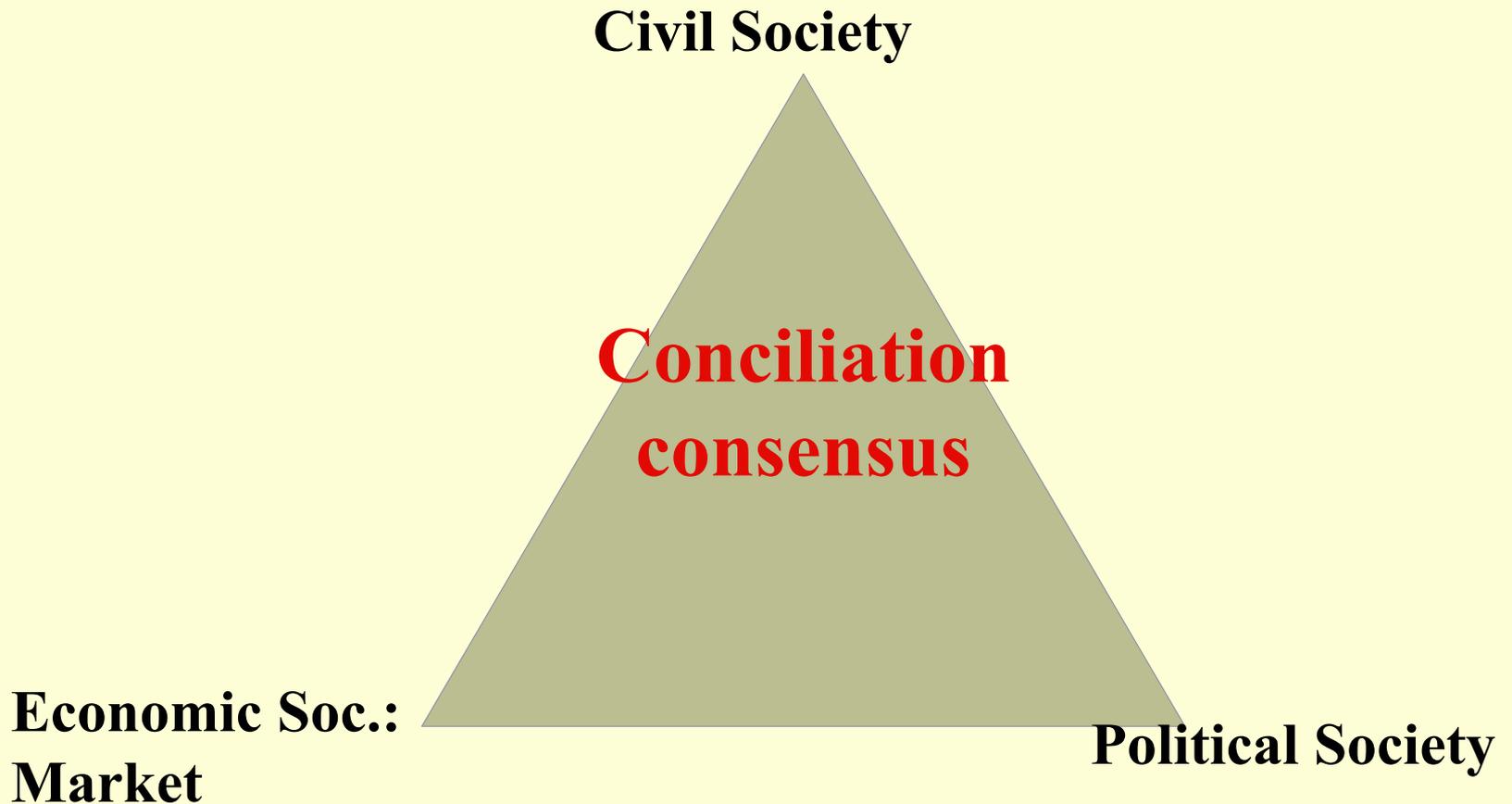


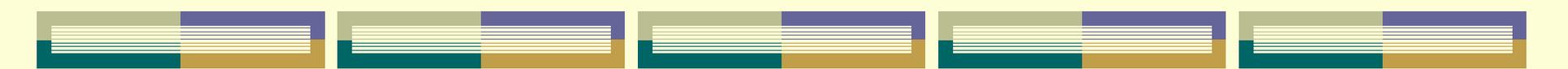
## 6.1. Civil Society: CS

- ✿ Jusnaturalists (Grotius): political society vs natural society
  - ✿ Locke, Kant, Rousseau, Hobbes: civilized society versus wild society
  - ✿ Marx: political society (State) vs civil society (private sphere)
  - ✿ Gramsci: political apparatus of State vs worker class
  - ✿ Liberalism: Nation-State vs citizen
  - ✿ Habermas: Transnational enterprises vs postnational civil society
- 



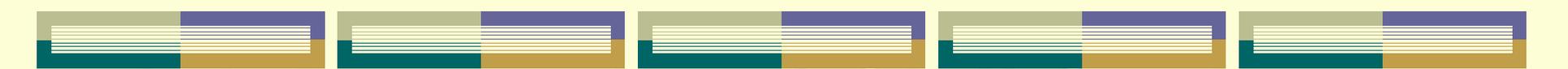
## 6.2. CS: Third Sphere (Arato, Cohen)





## 6.3. What is Participation

- Consolidation of democratic living together through institutions: objective value
  - Citizen attitude with knowledge and experiences: subjective value
  - Participation is necessary to consolidate democracy
  - Taking part in the decision making process and the conduction of the society, beyond the electoral process and the vote
- 



## 6.4. Postnational Civil Society

- Mediator between State and market;
  - Struggling for basic consensus;
  - Integrated by individuals and no corporative behavior, representing interest of groups or parties;
  - Active within the state of law;
  - Consolidate democratic life through citizen participation;
  - Globally articulated through common interests (sustainability, equity, legality, Human Rights, diversity);
  - Behave with values such as tolerance, pluralism, responsibility, solidarity, legality and sustainability.
- 

# 7. Need to Adaption: A long term strategy



1998

hurricane Mitch, Central America

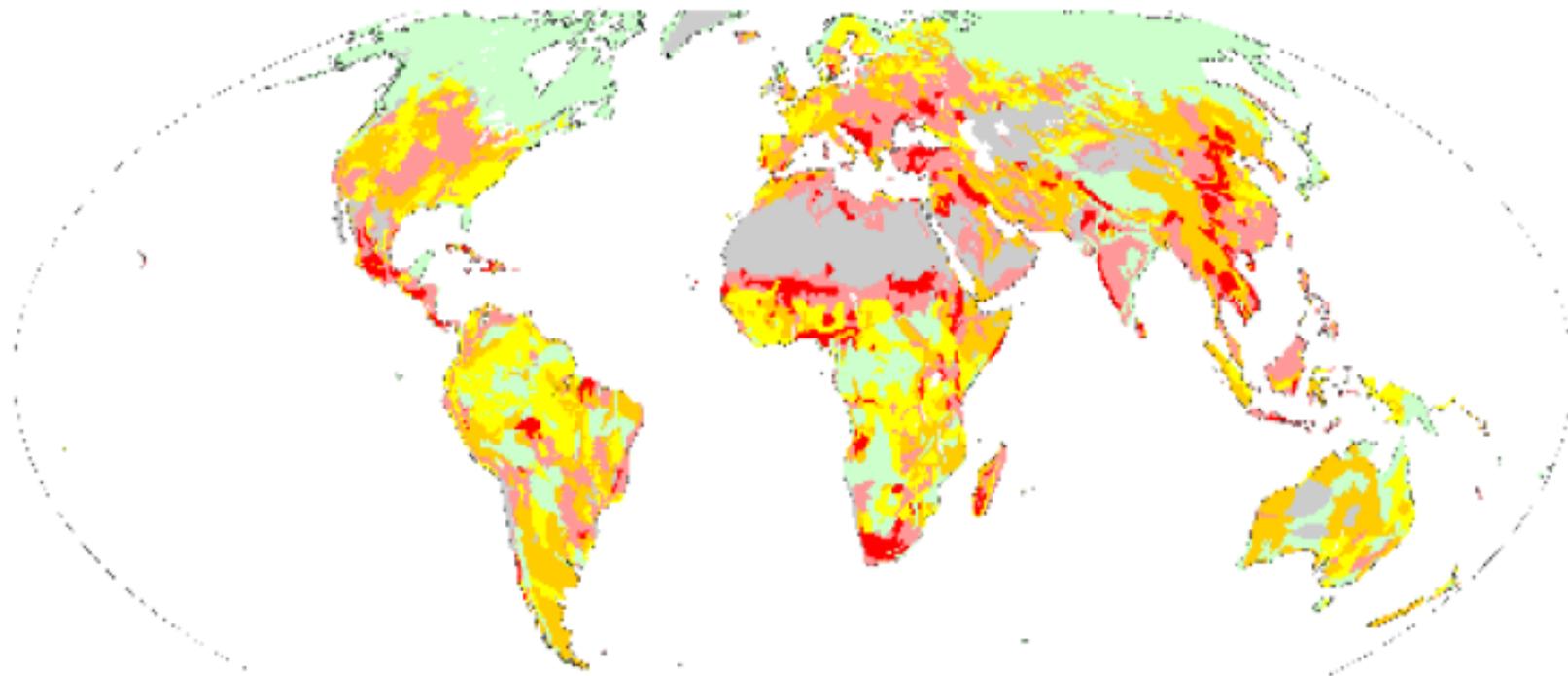
Photo MunichRe

# 7.1.

## Severity of Land Degradation

according to

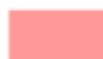
The GLASOD Study (UNEP - ISRIC)



light



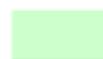
medium



high



very high



stable terrain



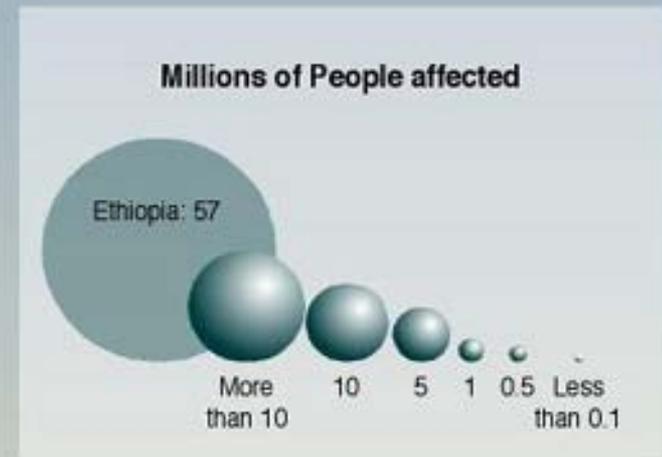
non-used  
wasteland

Mollweide Projection

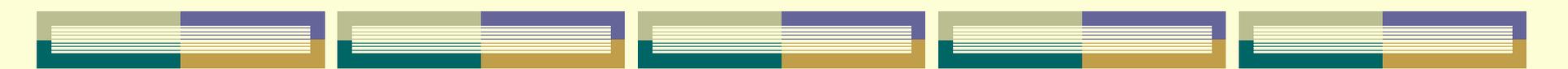
FAO -GIS, March 2000

# 7.2. People Affected by Drought, Flood, Illnesses & Famine in Africa (1971-2000)

## People Affected by Natural Disasters between 1971-2000



Source: The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), International Disaster Database, [www.cred.be/emdat](http://www.cred.be/emdat), Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussel, Belgium.



## 7.3. Impacts of Desertification, Migration, Urbanisation, Refugees and Internal Displacement

### The Almería Statement, 1994:

#### Socio-political dimensions

- of 50 conflicts: 20 env. dimension
- Major factor of geopolitical instability
- Urbanization: accelerates impoverishment of land, resources & people

#### Policy priorities

- IDP in arid, semi-arid lands; impose severe pressure on scarce natural land
  - Prevention of involuntary desertification, induced migration or famine vs. sustainable agriculture
  - Regional planning: harmonize agricultural production with development of medium-scale towns in rural areas and increase self-sufficiency.
- 

## 7.4. Challenges, Capacity & Resilience



1998  
Hurricane Mitch, Central America



1998  
Blizzard, Canada and USA

- **Challenges:** a combination of potential & real institutional, societal, economic and political processes able to deal with risks, fears and hazards.
- **Capacity** is “a combination of all the strengths and resources available within a community, society or organization that can reduce the level or risk, or the effects of a disaster.” (ISDR, 2004: 2)
- **Resilience**, “the capacity of a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt, by resisting or changing in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning and structure. This is determined by the degree to which the social system is capable of organizing itself to increase its capacity for learning from the past disasters for better futures protection and to improve risk reduction measures.” (ISDR, 2004: 6)