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and Human Security



Social Responses to Regressive Globalization, Environmental Change and Conflicts

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Hexagon Series, Vol. III & First volume of Security Handbook

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VOL 3 / HEXAGON SERIES ON HUMAN
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND PEACE

Globalization and Environmental Challenges

Reconceptualizing Security
in the 21st Century

 Springer

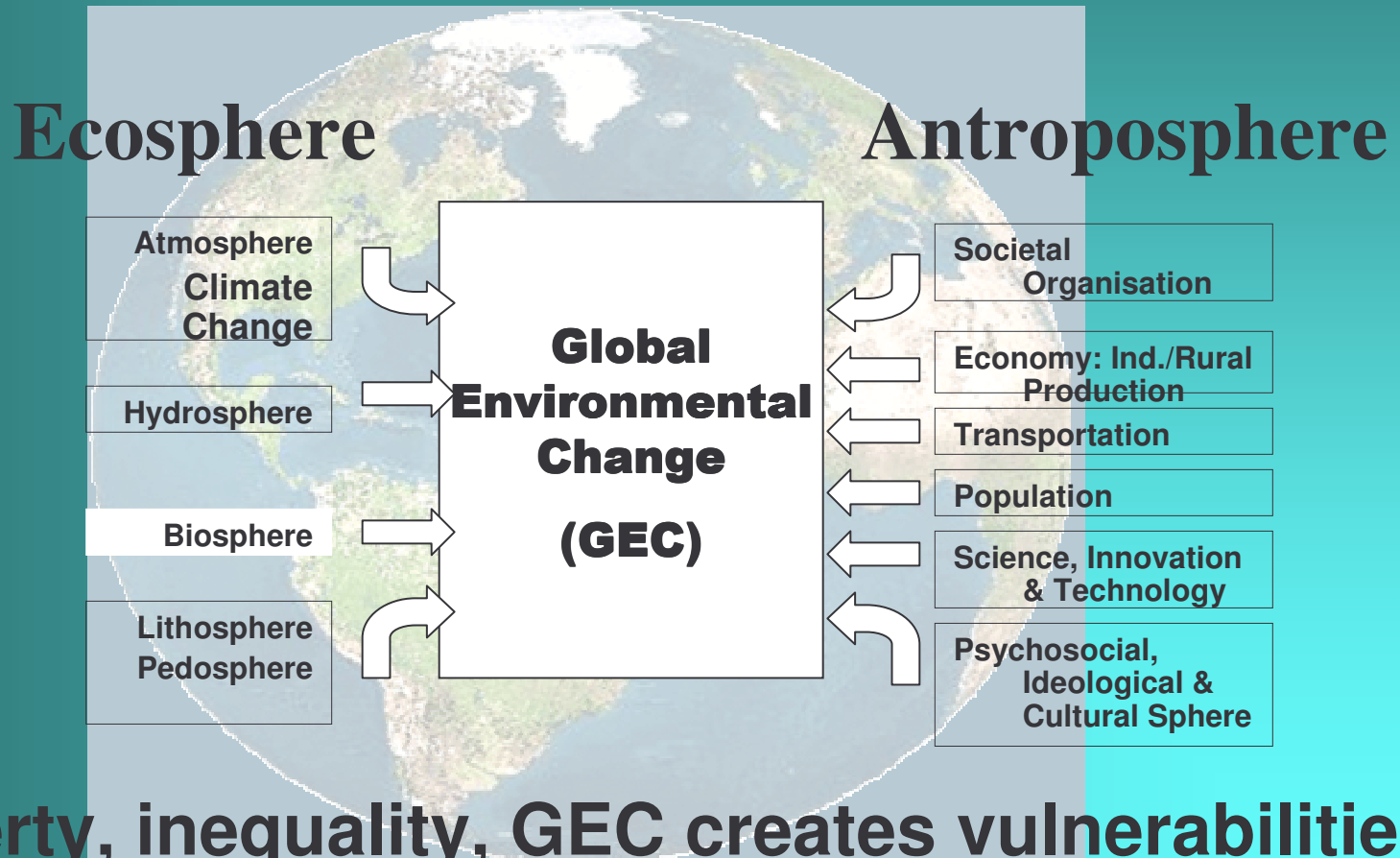
H.G. Brauch, , Ú. Oswald Spring, C. Mesjasz, J. Grin, P. Dunay, N. Chadha Behera, B. Chourou, P.H. Liotta, P. Kameri-Mbote (Eds.): *Globalization and Environmental Challenges: Reconceptualizing Security in the 21st Century* (Berlin–New York: Springer-Verl.,2008);

see at: <http://www.afes-press-books.de/html/hexagon_03.htm>.

Globalization and Environmental Challenges pose new security dangers and concerns. In this reference book on global security thinking, 92 authors from five continents and many disciplines, from science and practice, assess the global reconceptualization of security triggered by the end of the Cold War, globalization and manifold impacts of global environmental change in the early 21st century. In 10 parts, 75 chapters address the theoretical, philosophical, ethical and religious and spatial context of security; discuss the relationship between security, peace, development and environment; review the reconceptualization of security in philosophy, international law, economics and political science and for the political, military, economic, social and environmental security dimension and the adaptation of the institutional security concepts of the UN, EU and NATO; analyze the reconceptualization of regional security and alternative security futures and draw conclusions for future research and action.

Wider Security Focus: Non-military Challenges

Global and Environmental Change (GEC): Environment & Security Linkages



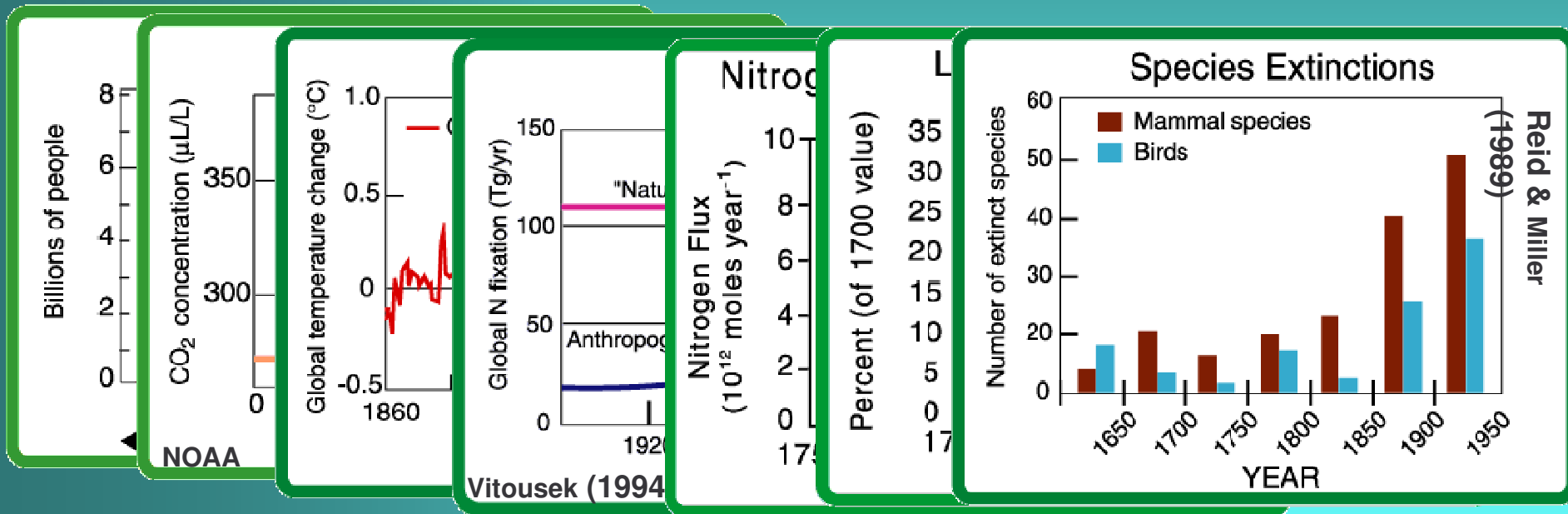
Poverty, inequality, GEC creates vulnerabilities and poses threats, risks and challenges for humanity and nature

An aerial photograph of a mountainous region. The majority of the terrain is covered in a thick layer of snow, with some rocky patches visible. In the lower right foreground, there is a large, dark, rocky outcrop. The overall scene is bright and high-contrast due to the snow.

Global Environmental Change and Globalization

What is Global Environmental Change?

- GEC is more than climate change
- Includes natural **plus** human components
- It is a constellation of changes in different spheres, such as:



Characteristics of GEC

1. Extreme temperatures: warmer and colder
2. Climate change
3. Desertification and erosion
4. Increase of sea level
5. Hydro-meteorological disasters with greater frequency and higher impact
6. Erosion and loss of biodiversity and ecosystems
7. Urbanization with slum development
8. Poverty and social inequality
9. Migration and environmental refugees
10. New plagues and illnesses (avian flue, Ebola)

Desertification



Degradation of soils in semi-arid, arid and dry sub-humid areas

Loss of soil fertility

Erosion

Quantitative and qualitative reduction of water

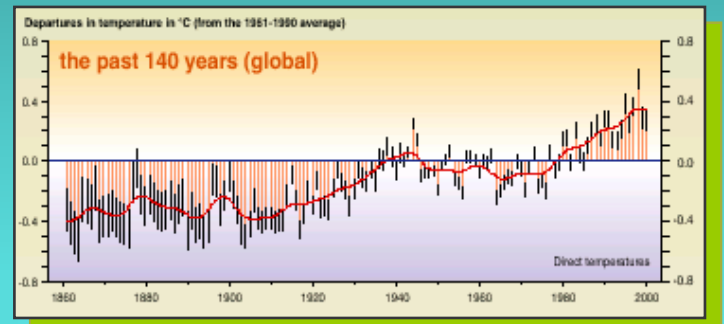
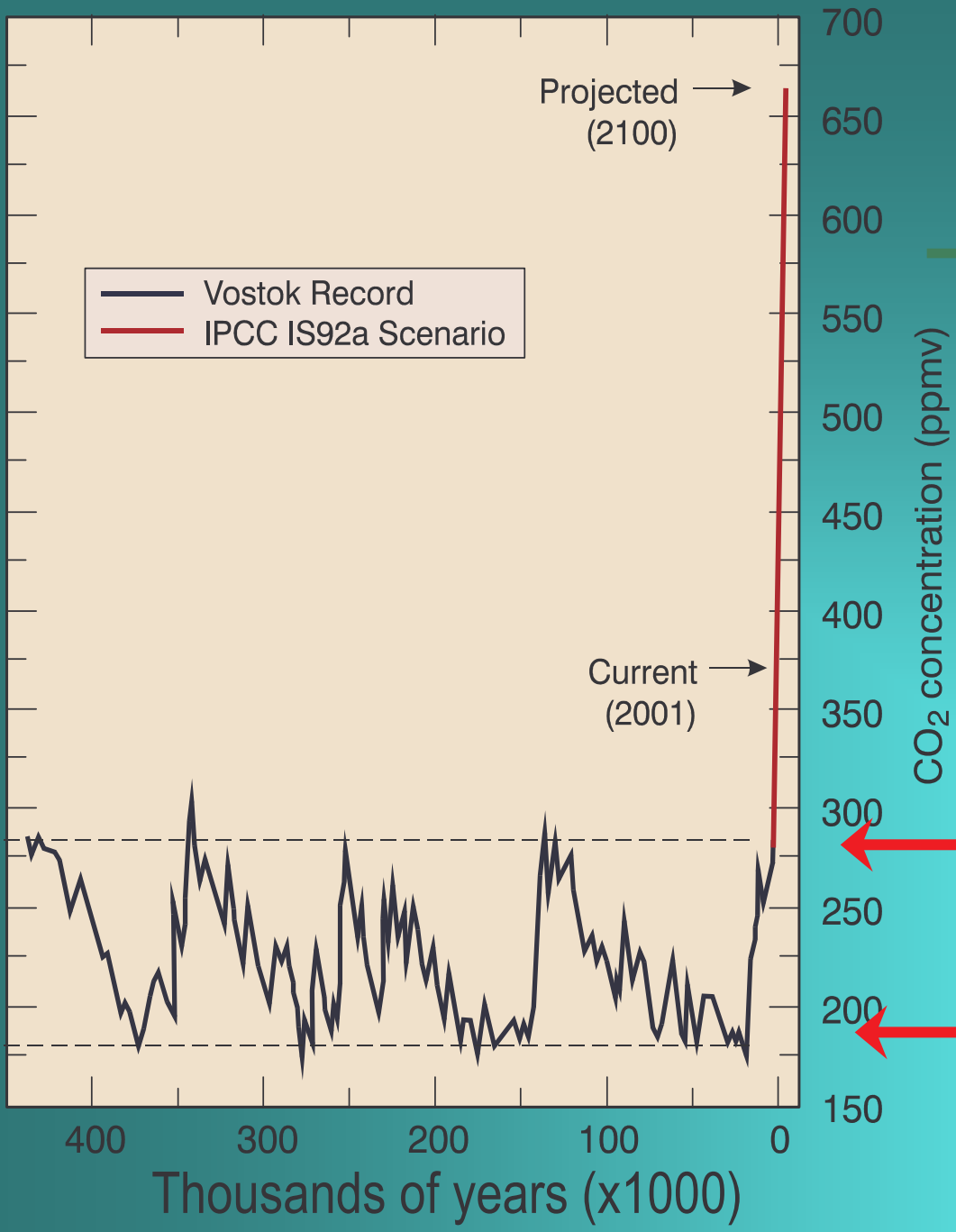
Reduction of yield average and vegetation

Loss of ecosystems and biodiversity

Air pollution

Human induced unsustainable productive activities

Past and Future of CO₂



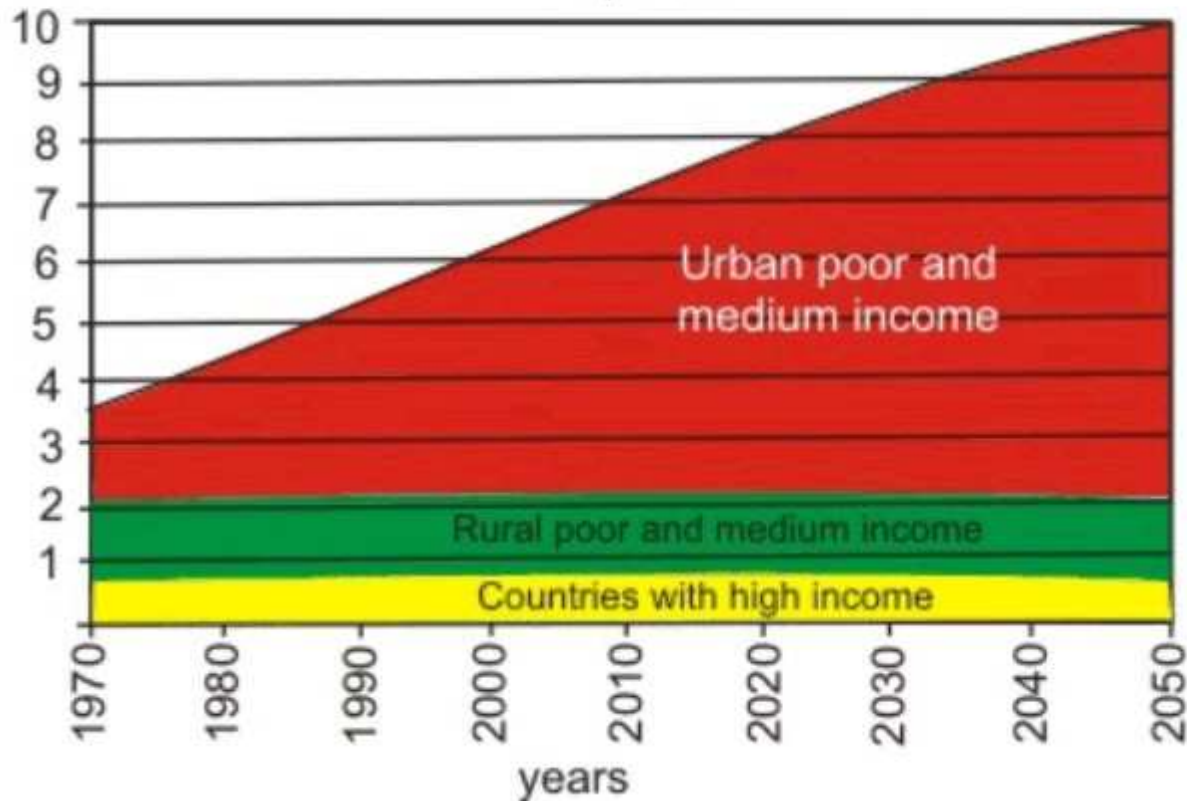
280 ppm

180 ppm

Proyection of population and urbanization

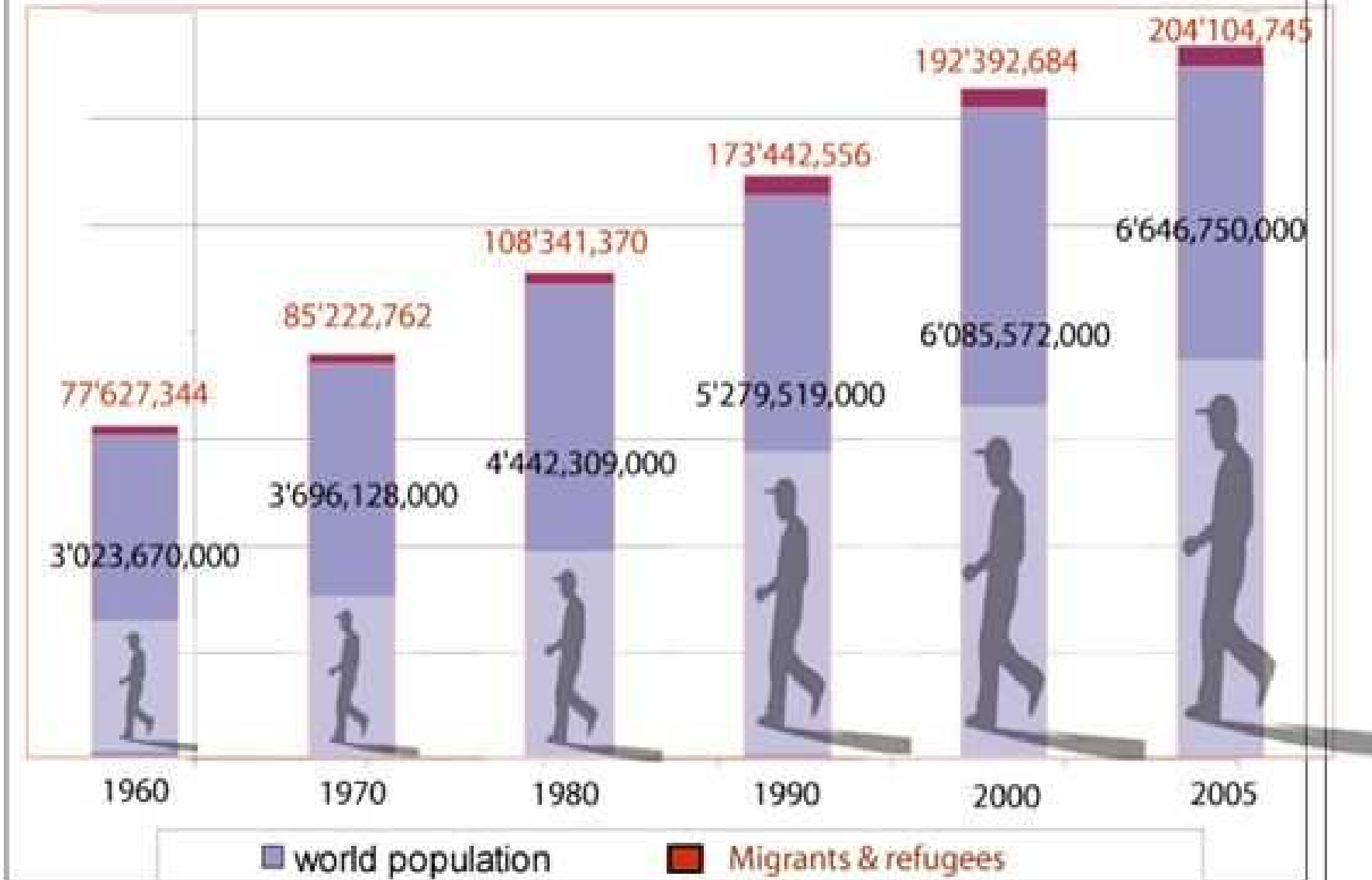
Billion persons

Population

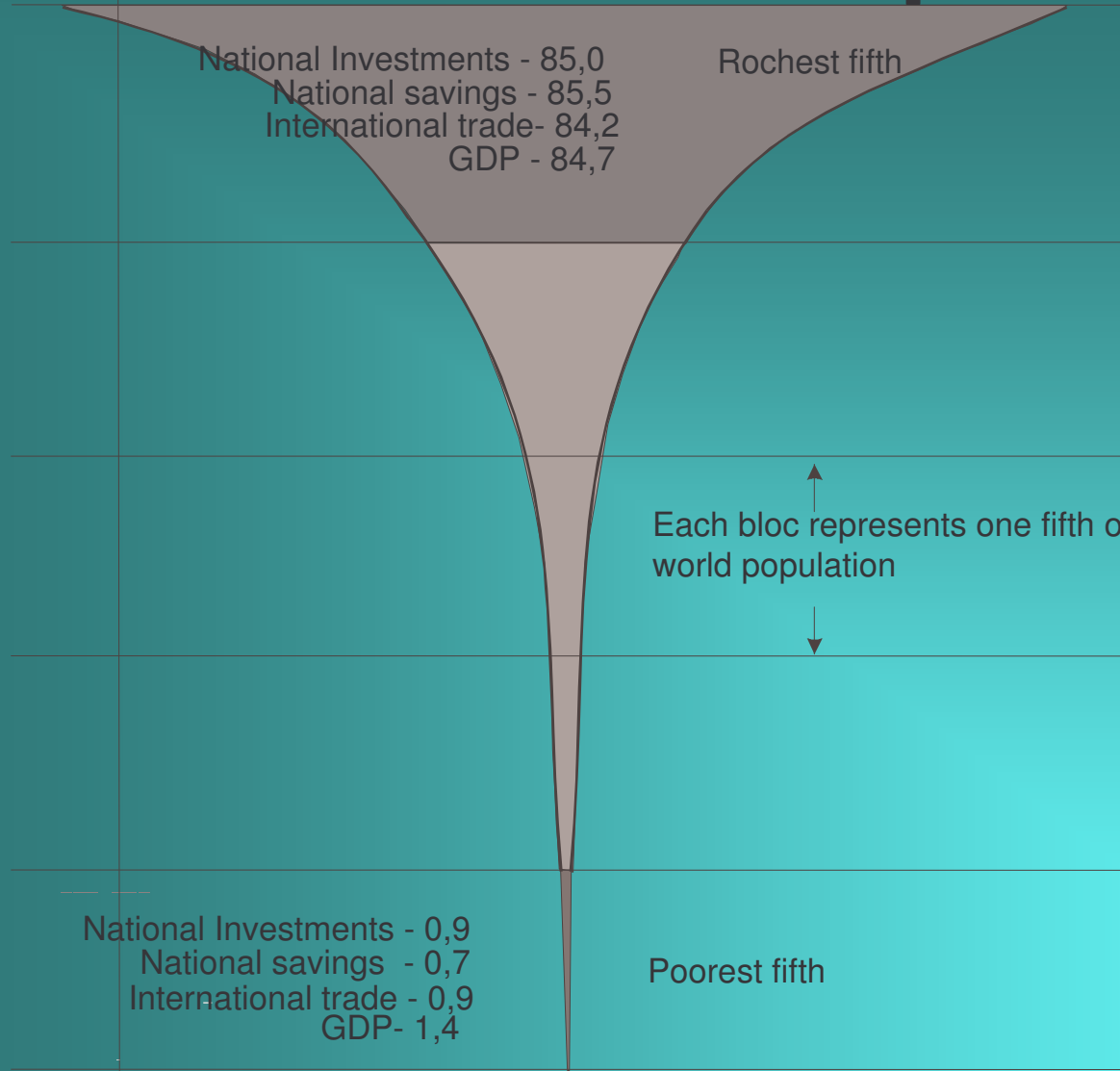


Countries with low and medium income

International migrants & refugees (1960-2005)



Globalization with Unequal Development





**Gender Vulnerability:
Gender Identity
Social Representations
Risks, Vulnerabilities and Challenges
Gender Violence**

Gender Vulnerability

In Indian Ocean tsunami, the Pakistan earthquake and Bangladesh flood the rate of women dead was **68-80%.** **Why are women so highly vulnerable?**

Reasons:

- 1. External:** women could not swim, wore sari, had long hair and worked mostly inside their homes.
- 2. Gender identity:** explains how a society identifies women as caregivers and how women self-identify to this role and lose their life to save others, inclusive domestic animals.

Main Attributes of Social Identity

- **Thousands of years of experience have created a society in a specific socio-historic environment where symbolic elements have developed (class, ethnicity, age, religion, race, nationality).**
- **They are in permanent change, but its main attributes –gender, sex and race- and the socioeconomic conditions –rich, poor- are stable.**
- **Each process of classification implies relations of identity; inclusion or rejection and exclusion, what constitutes the basis of any power exercise, discrimination and violence.**

Social Representations

- “*Systems of values, ideas and practices*” create a **system of order that is** able to offer a person the possibility to get familiar with the social and material world.
- Communication within a community offers a **code of common social interchange**, where several aspects of life, personal and collective history are **classified without ambiguity** (Moscovici, 1976: xiii).
- Social representations originate in **daily life**, where society is the **thinking and acting system**.
- The theory of social identity establishes a continuum between personal and social identity with a **processual**, relational, multidimensional, contextual and essentialist character.

Obstacles: Social Vulnerability

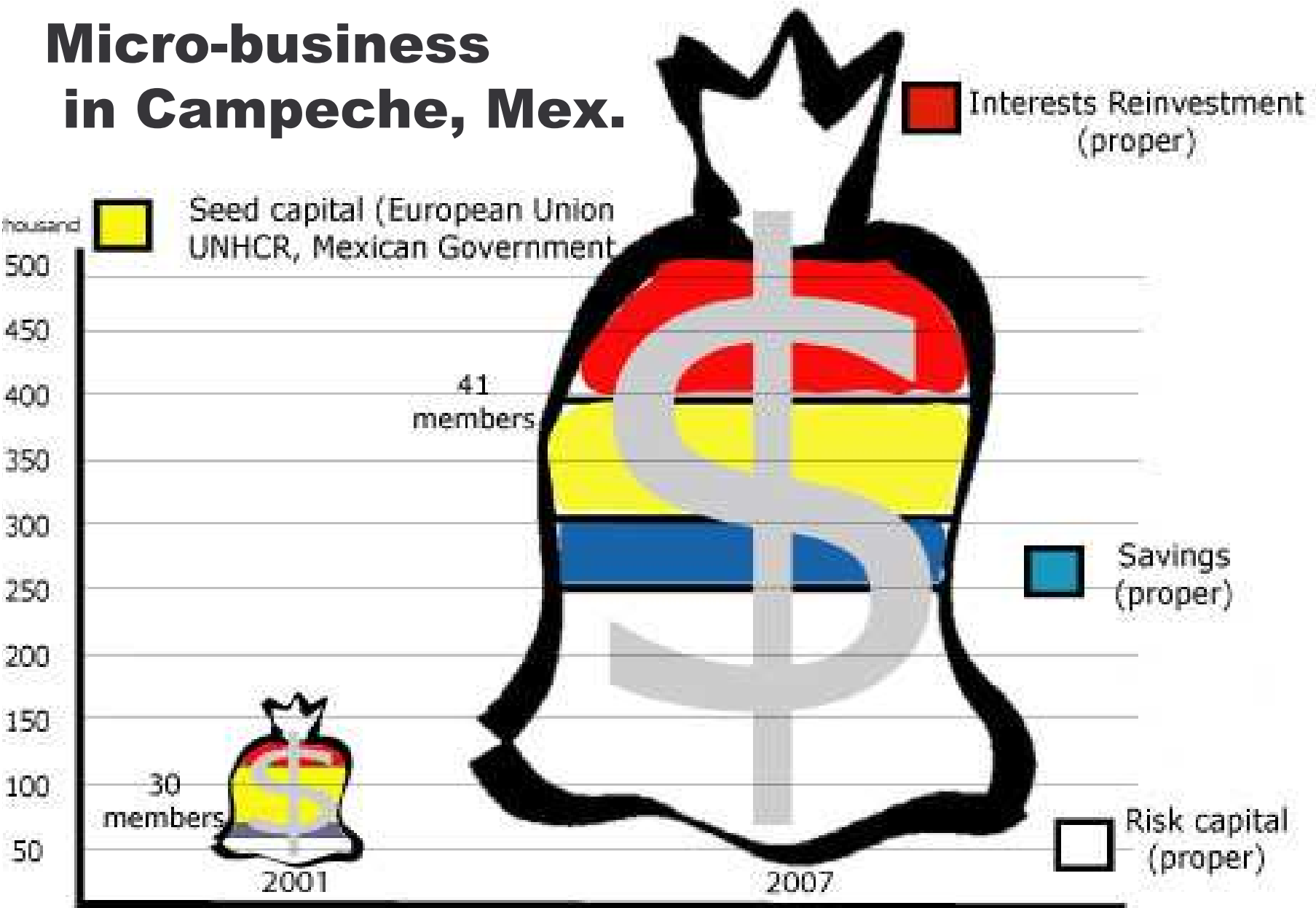
- Social vulnerability is a historical and accumulative result of poverty and unequal access to material and cultural consumption and power.
- Increase susceptibility of a community or person confronted with hazard impacts.
- Poor women, heads of single household are at greater risks: **poverty has women's face.**
- Contrarily, hazard impacts **can empower** affected people and prepare them to cope with disasters and new risks by developing survival strategies.

Survival strategies in poor countries

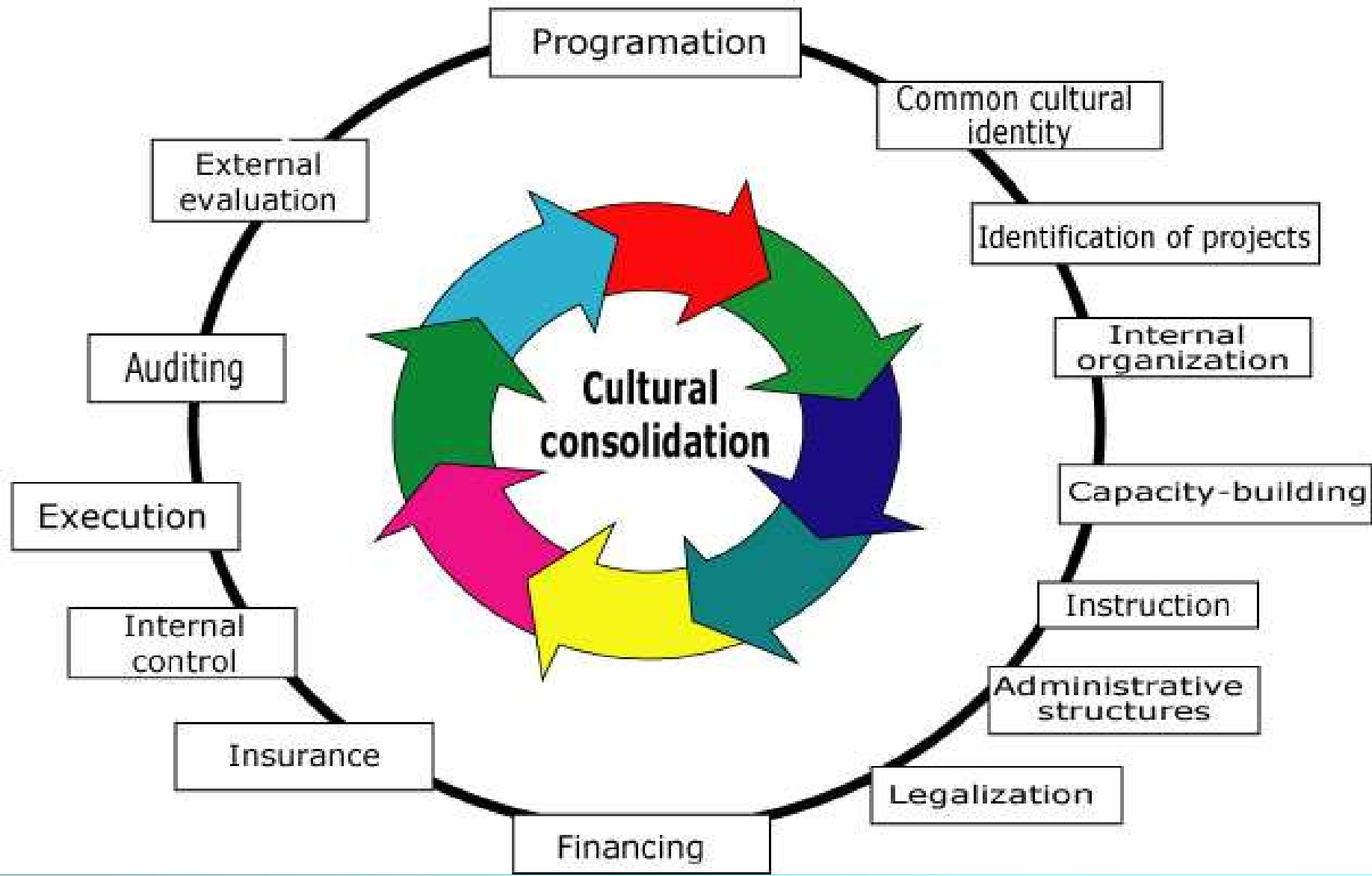
(Oswald 1991, 2008)

1. Cooperation during massive rural migration to urban slums
2. Illegal occupation of marginal and risky land
3. Construction of shelter with precarious materials (waste)
4. Complementary cash income due to chronic unemployment of men
5. Selling unnecessary good
6. Credits and micro-credit systems with familiars and neighbors
7. Economic crises threaten food supply and family survival
8. Recollection of perished fruits and vegetables at central market
9. Collective popular kitchens
10. Rotation of women in community work (kitchen, child rearing, vigilance)
11. Common struggle for basic services (electricity, water, roads, community center)
12. Communal efforts for regularization of land and services
13. Struggle for public subsidies and poverty alleviation programs
14. Temporary paid work (washing, ironing, cleaning)
15. Multiple activities: services, handicrafts, food selling, grocery (in windows)
16. Social organization against organized crime and gangs
17. Empowerment and fight against intra-family violence
18. Social and economic consolidation of colony and families

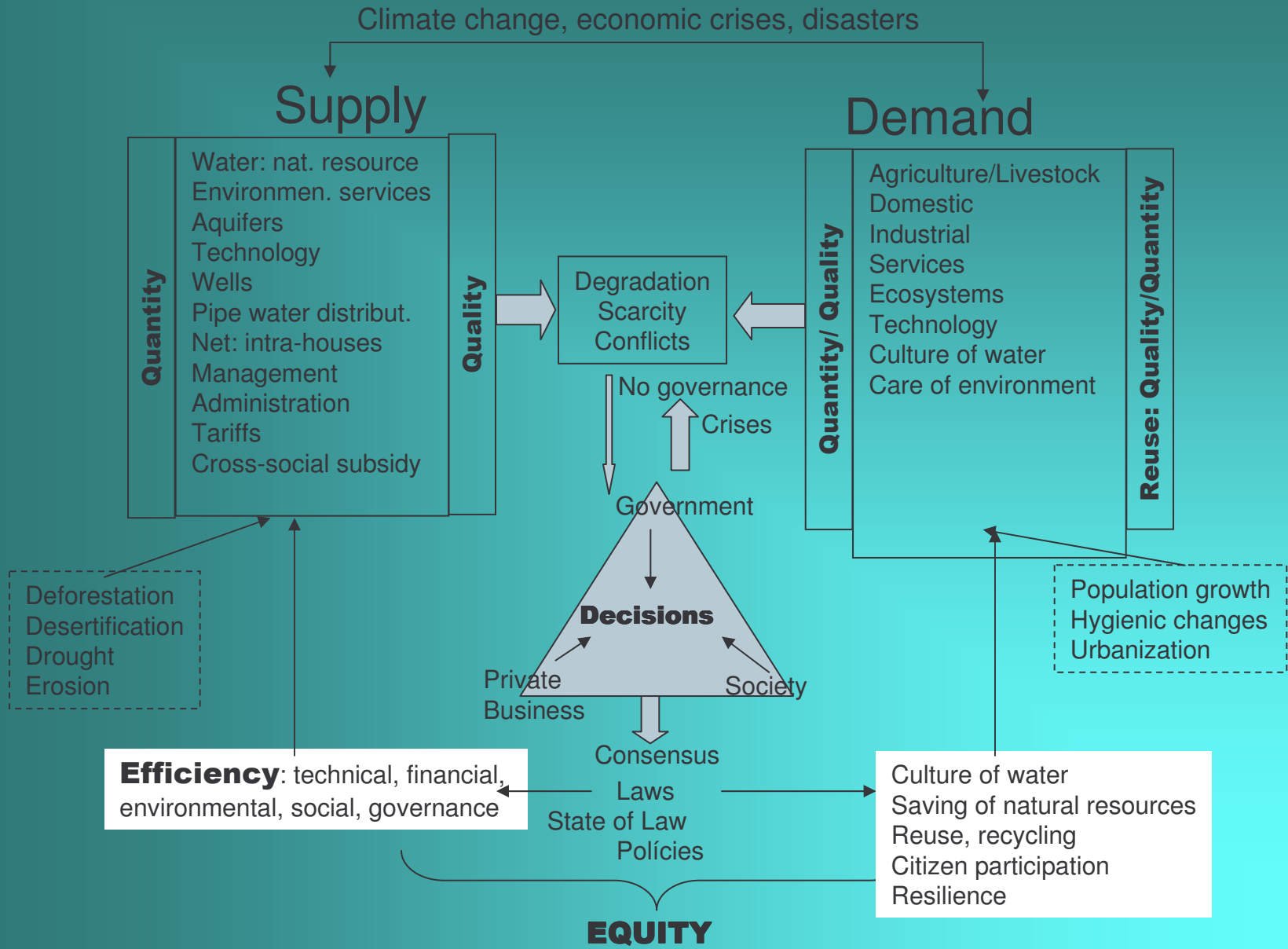
Self-sufficient Micro-business in Campeche, Mex.



Model of self-reliant entrepreneurship

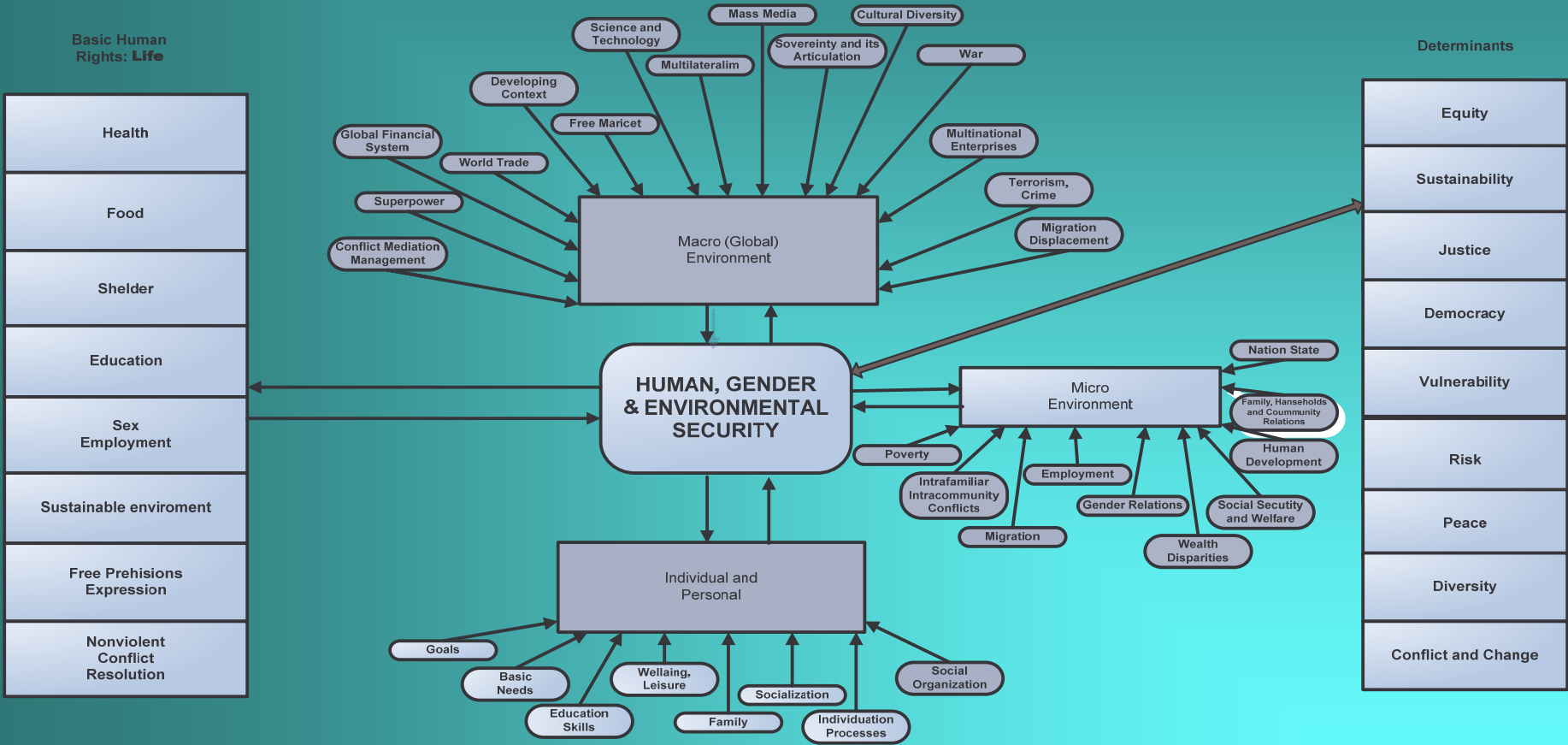
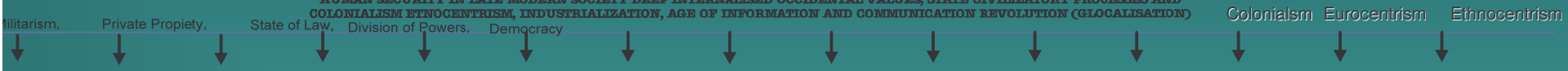


Efficiency and Equity with Natural Resources



HUGE: Human, Gender and Environmental Security

HUMAN SECURITY IN LATE MODERN SOCIETY DEEP INTERNALISED OCCIDENTAL VALUES, STATE CIVILIZATORY PROCESSES AND COLONIALISM ETHNOCENTRISM, INDUSTRIALIZATION, AGE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION REVOLUTION (GLOBALISATION)





**7. Conclusions: a HUGE
security for HUGE threats**

- 1. Complex social networks sustain humans in normal times. Human vulnerabilities during change, hazard, disaster or conflict related to GEC are usually a matter of disruption or failure of these networks.**
- 2. A central challenge for research and practical policies is that formal data banks on such disruptions do not distinguish between gender and other demographic questions. Existing data overlooks social vulnerability and does not account for gender identity during normal, let alone in crisis situations.**
- 3. Gender analysis will lend a more nuanced understanding of women and men as social beings aligning in networks of family and community.**
- 4. Future research and policy on resilience building during extreme hydro-meteorological events helps to improve theories, data and concrete training about the impacts of climate, disaster, and other disruptions, able to increase HUGE.**
- 5. More accurate understanding and training will facilitate to support networks that underlie a resilient society, where women educate, care and reproduce the historical memory and the cultural background, but increasingly generate also the material family sustain.**
- 6. Active female and male participation opens the possibility to reduce gender related social vulnerability, improve hazard resilience, and increase the survival of the whole communities frequently affected by hydrological disasters, but reduce also gender violence and insecurity before, during and after disasters.**

A photograph of a natural rock archway made of reddish-brown sandstone. The arch is set against a clear blue sky. The foreground shows a flat, sandy or rocky surface. The background beyond the arch shows a hilly landscape with some vegetation.

Thank you for your attention

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http://www.afes-press.de/html/download_oswald.html