

Senate Special Committee on Aging

Why Population Aging Matters: A Global Perspective

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Historians may well conclude that the most significant event of the 20th century was ...?

the growth of world population.

And in the 21st century,
the most significant event
may likely be ...?

the ageing of humanity.

Population ageing is a triumph of civilization.

- It is the inevitable consequence of attaining low levels of fertility and mortality and long life.
- However, this achievement requires vital social and economic adjustments to current and expected future demographic realities.
- In particular, population ageing raises critical issues for countries, states and cities in areas such as economic growth, employment and retirement, pensions, health care and social support services.

Proportions Aged 65+ and Under Five: 1950-2050

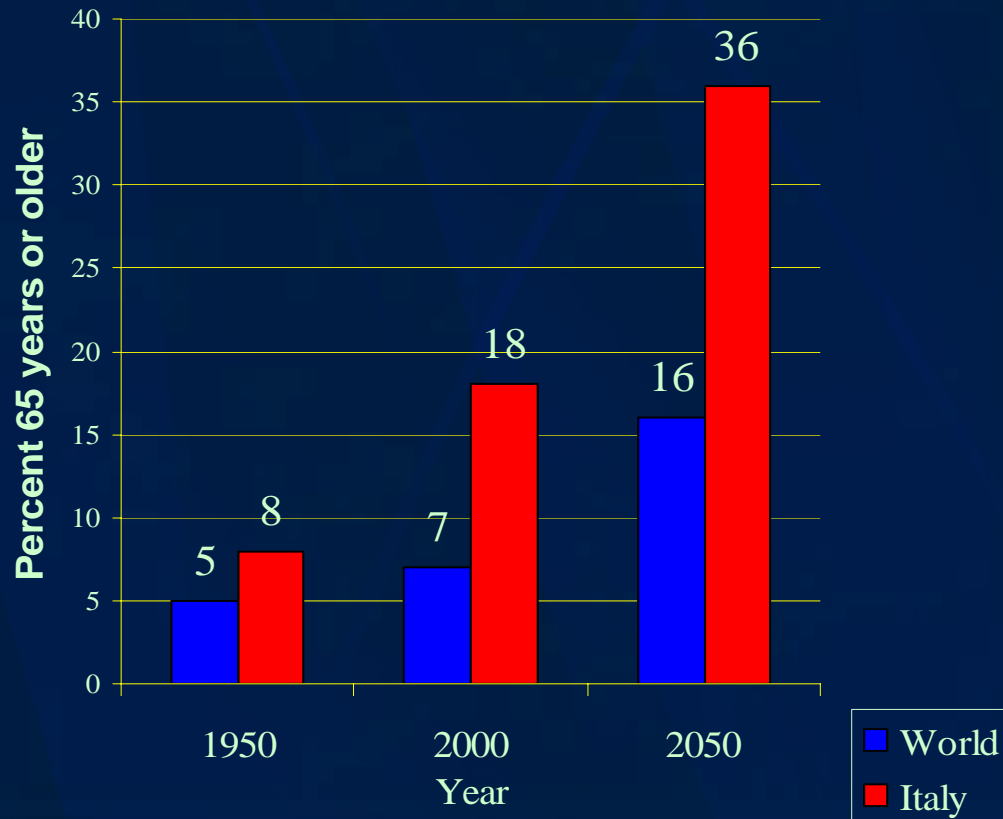


Oldest and Youngest Countries:

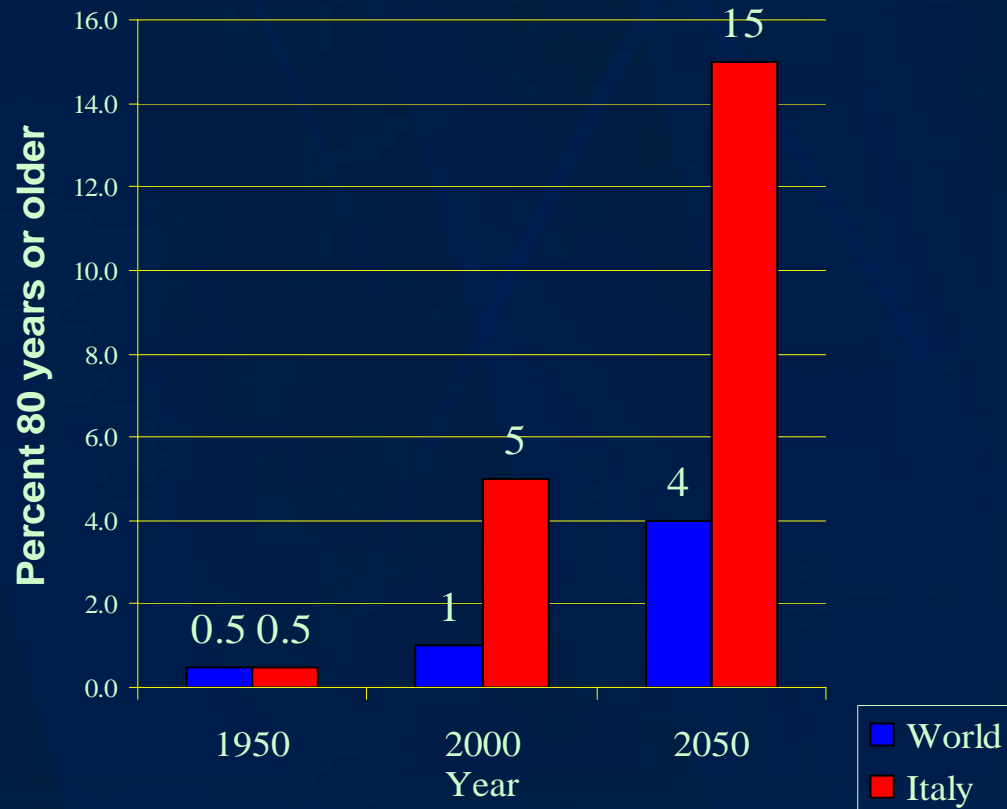
(median age)

<u>Nation</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2050</u>
Japan	43	55
Italy	42	51
Germany	42	49
<i>WORLD</i>	28	38
Mali	16	25
Niger	16	21
Uganda	15	23
USA	36	41
China	33	45
India	24	39

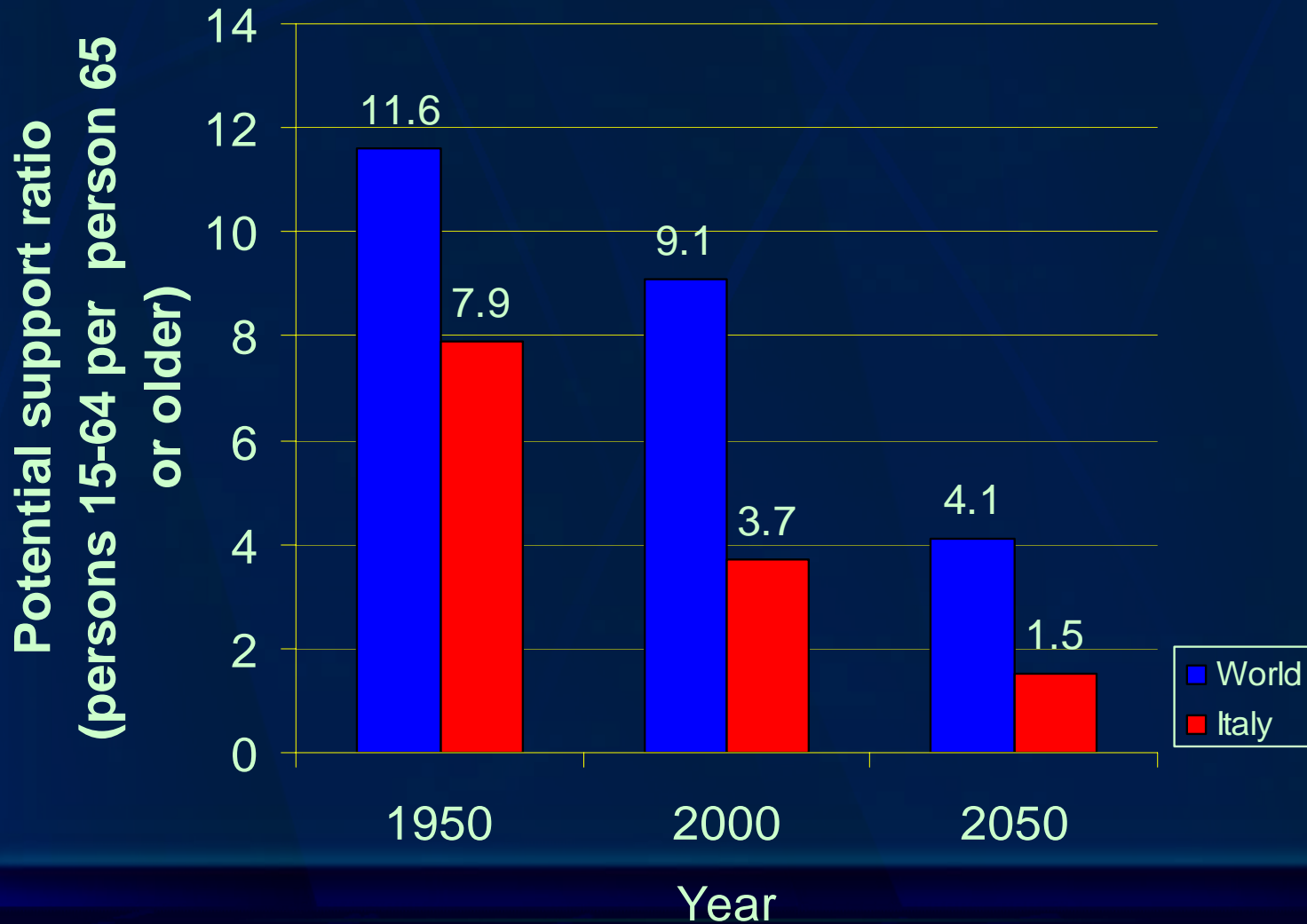
Percent 65 Years or Older for World and Italy: 1950, 2000 and 2050



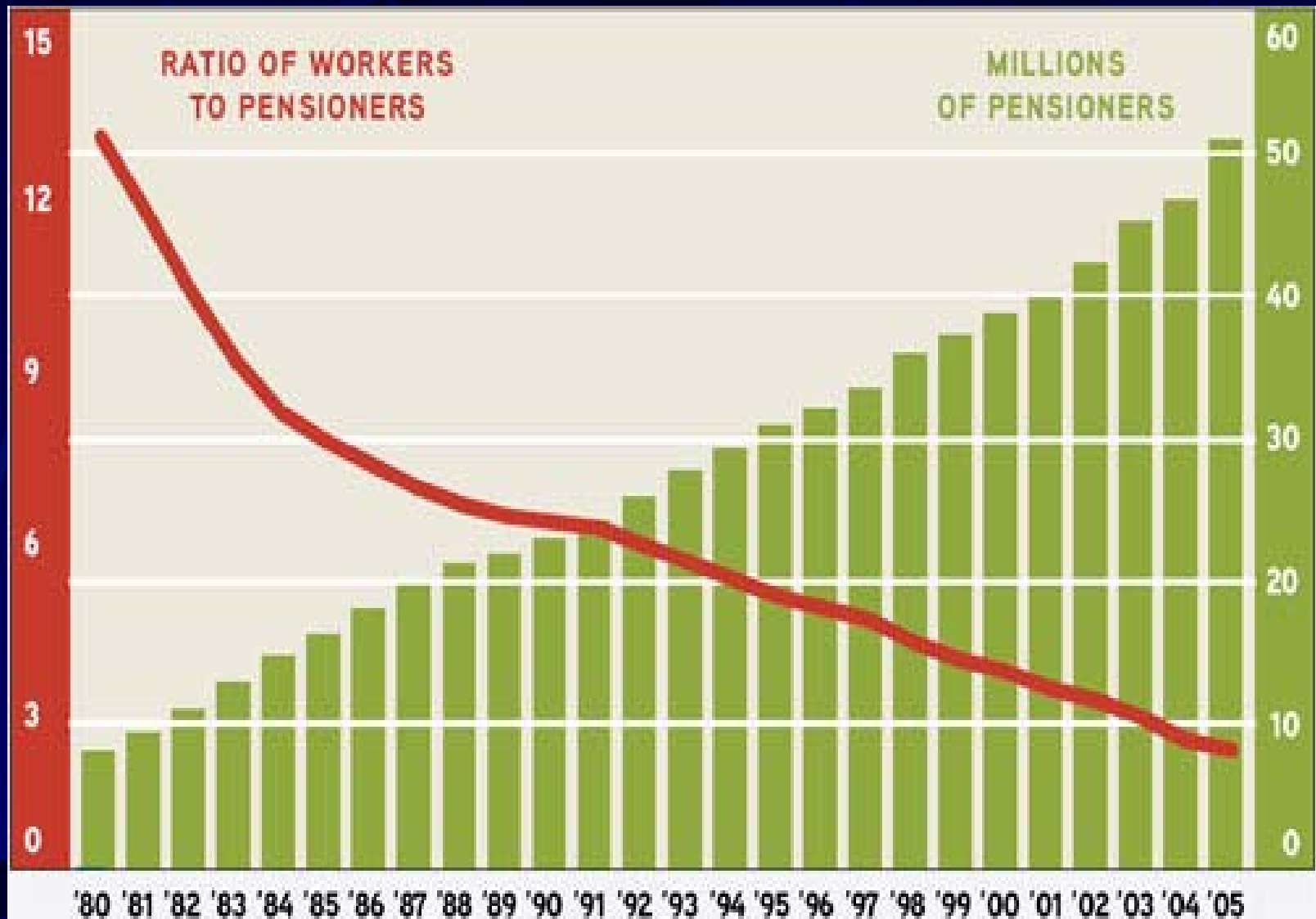
Percent 80 Years or Older for World and Italy: 1950, 2000 and 2050



Potential Support Ratio (PSR) for World and Italy: 1950-2050

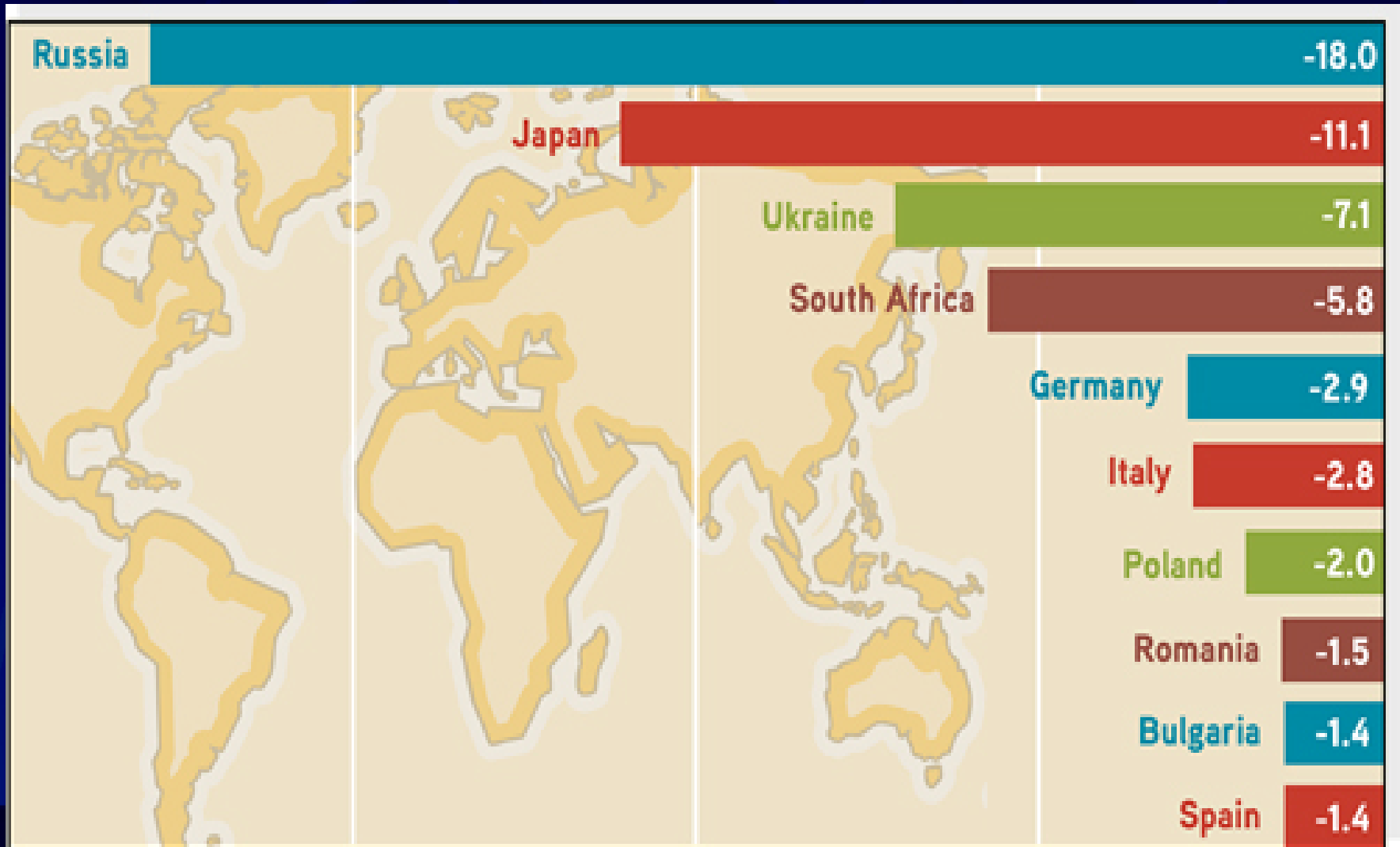


Ratio of Workers to Pensioner and Pensioners in China: 1980-2005



National Population Decline: 2006-2030

(millions)



Closing Points:

1. Population aging is an achievement of humanity.
2. Population aging is unprecedented, profound and pervasive.
3. Population aging presents enormous social, economic and political challenges for societies.
4. Finally, the sooner the necessary adjustments for population aging are made, the better because they will be easier and less costly!

Thank you!