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## Preface

Since the first edition of *Population: Perspectives on Development* was published in 1974, the population of the world has grown by almost one billion people—nearly the number that lived in the entire world when the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. In the same period, famine has stalked the peoples of the Sahel region of Africa and the struggling peasants of the Indian subcontinent. In many other less-developed nations, the effects of the world economic recession and rising energy costs have become increasingly apparent in the hearts of the people. Since 1973, the world conflict has been fueled by both temporary inflation and permanent recession. The specter of environmental catastrophe has become reality, and its possible role in future human development has become a subject of intense and hotly debated controversy. The world has never previously seen so many of these