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Climate and population! Only about six per cent of the earth's surface is climatically desirable for supporting large populations. Of all the continents, Europe has the largest proportion of land suitable for agriculture. Dense populations are necessarily dependent upon climates favorable to intensive cultivation. China, India, Japan, and Java, which are distinctly agricultural countries, contain about half the people of the world. These countries, with Europe and northeastern United States, lie mostly in the North Temperate zone with climates characterized by ample rainfall and warmth in the growing season.

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