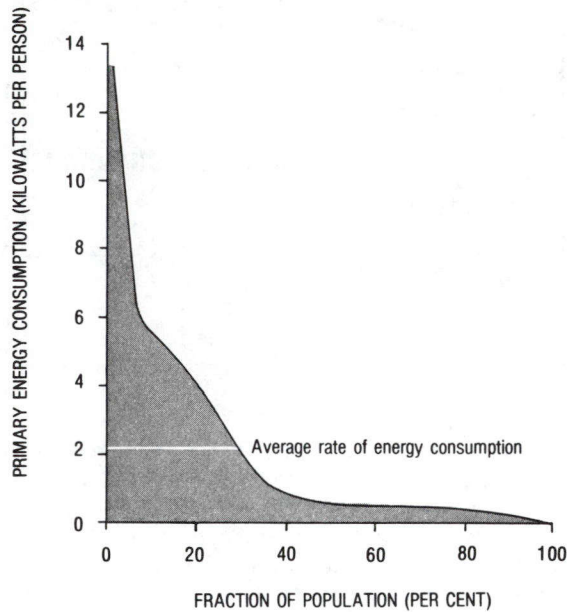


vation of energy in industrialized society can approach the requirement for new energy supplies in the developing world just to offset population growth. Consequently, for most of mankind, the dominant issue in energy affairs is increasing the supply of energy at an affordable cost.

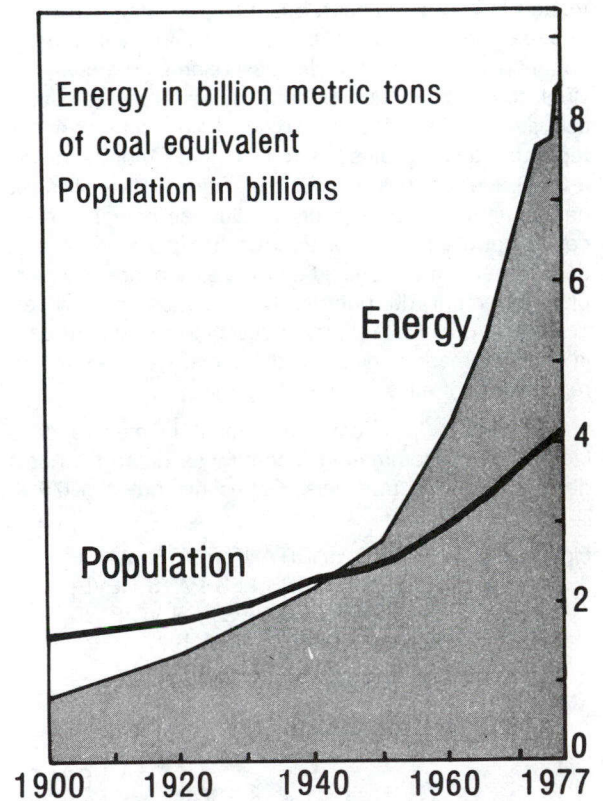
To close this brief review of the world energy scene, we compare twentieth century rates of growth in population and energy demand (Figure 3-5). Since 1950 the world has witnessed an extraordinary phenomenon: while observers were expressing alarm over man's burgeoning numbers in the post-war period, the demand for energy was escalating at a rate approaching *four times* that of the population. This is indeed a remarkable (but transient) period in man's tenure of this planet.

Figure 3-4: GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN 1975



Source: Sassin, 1980, p. 120.

Figure 3-5: THE GROWTH IN WORLD POPULATION AND ENERGY DEMAND, 1900-1977



Source: Sivard, 1979, p. 6.