

MALNUTRITION

FAMINE VS UNDERNUTRITION

FAMINE: ...economic and social phenomenon characterized by the widespread lack of food... leading to death.

...regional...food shortage over an extended time period... requiring assistance from outside the area.

occurring from earliest times to now...

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FAMINE: HISTORICAL (a few listed)

3500 B.C. EGYPT Earliest record
 436 B.C. ROME
 917 A.D. INDIA/KASHMIR
 1051 MEXICO / TOLECS
 971-1970 RUSSIA: 121 FAMINE YRS,
 100 HUNGER YRS 54-1740;
 ENGLAND (many) 192-1822,
 IRELAND (many)...

1845-51 IRELAND-"POTATO FAMINE"
 20th CENTURY –EUROPE/ ASIA/AFRICA...

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THE GREAT FAMINE– IRELAND
 1845 - 1851

POTATOES introduced into Ireland (from Peru via Spain, with widespread European use by 18th century. **Staple food** of the poor (general).
In Ireland: landless labourers, tenants (absentee land ownership - England).

1845: Fungal infection "**Potato Blight**" (not new, also in eastern U.S., Europe)

Results:eviction/starvation/emigration–"1 million dead" population 8(1841)... 6.5(1851)...4(1900) million.

...but grain,meat exported from Ireland to England, during famine years. i.e. food available

Food Crisis: endemic food shortage, which can lead to hunger (\$ for food purchase)... which can or does not ...lead to famine.

Food Crisis / Famines. WHY? :

- ...drought, floods,
- ...other short term disasters,
- ...long-term environmental degradation (soils, water supply, climate)
- ...war (internal or external)
- ...embargos ("political")

etc.

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"HOW WFP FIGHTS THE GLOBAL WAR ON HUNGER

Set-up in 1963, WFP is the United Nations frontline agency in the fight against global hunger. In 2001, WFP fed 77 million people in 82 countries, including most of the world's refugees and internally displaced people."

U.N. WFP

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"FOOD CRISIS"... nutritional aspects

Protein-calorie malnutrition (PCM) = Protein-energy malnutrition (PEM)

affects children...inadequate quantity food

MARASMUS (wasting): under 1 yr.
KWASHIORKOR (edema): +1yr.
 more prevalent: low-birth weight, stunting, underweight...

older terminology – replaced in UN 4th Report "The World Nutrition Situation" ...[next]

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