



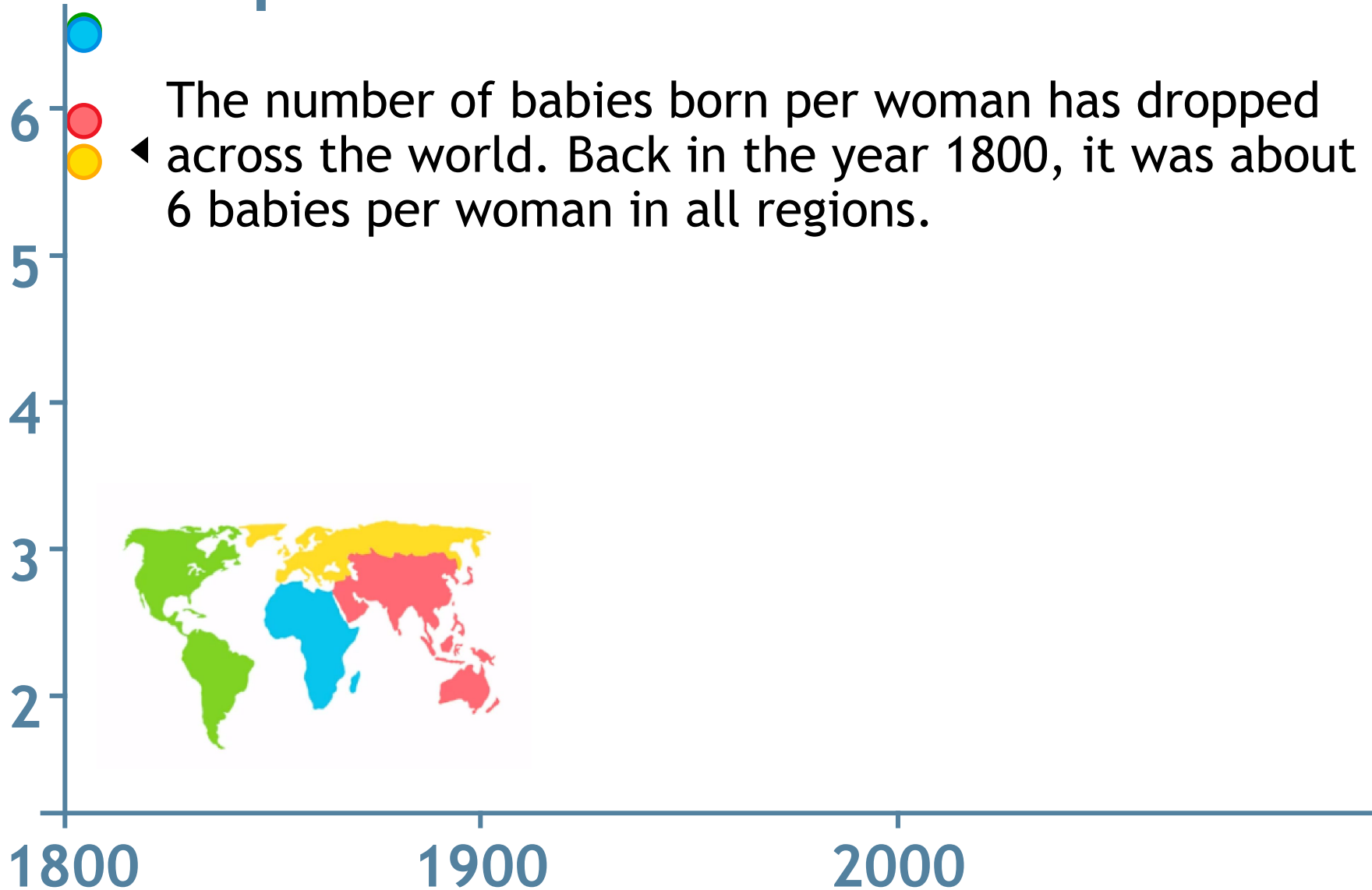
GAPMINDER ANSWER 3

— How Did Babies per Woman Change in Different Regions?

Short answer — It dropped everywhere

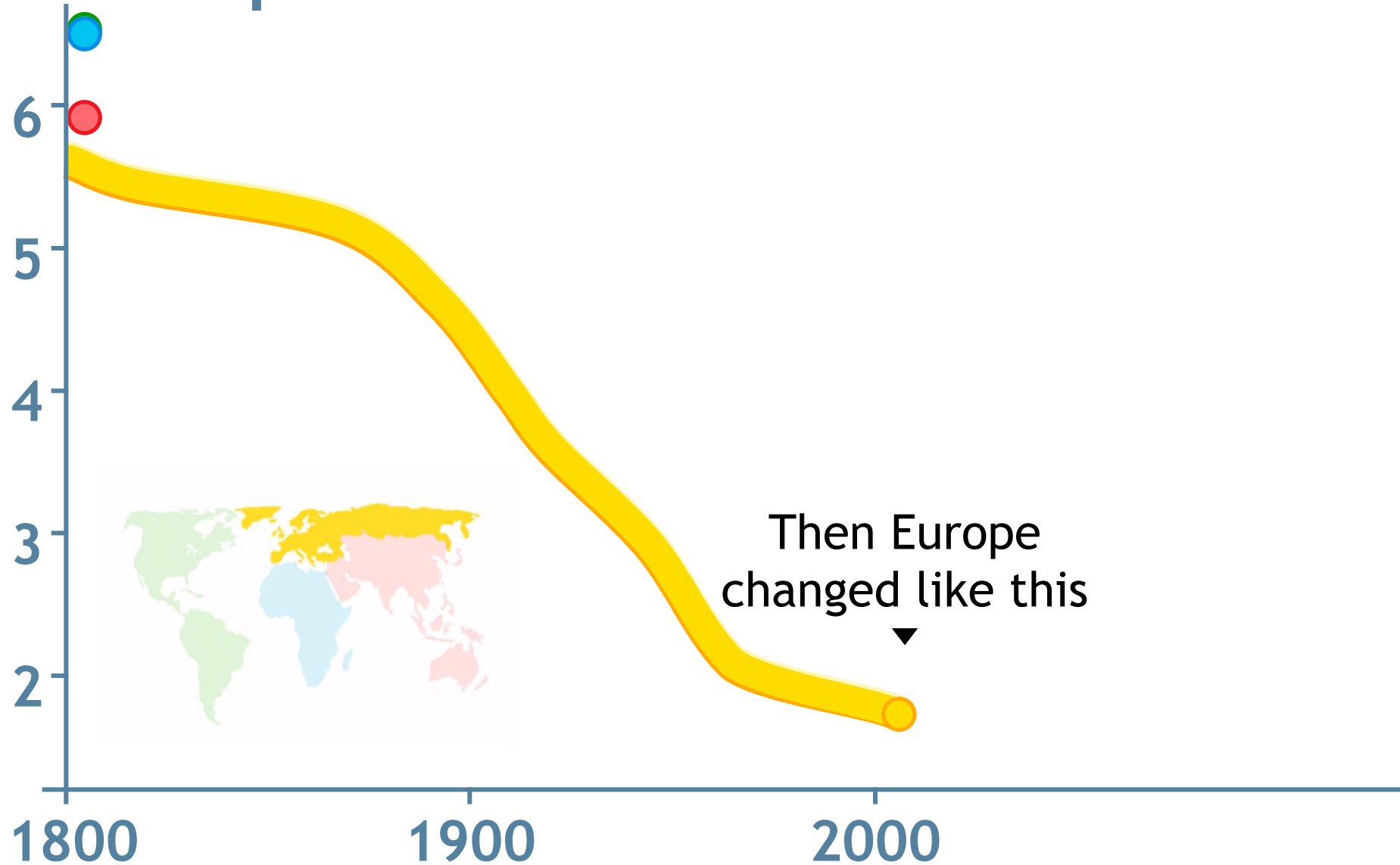
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Babies per woman



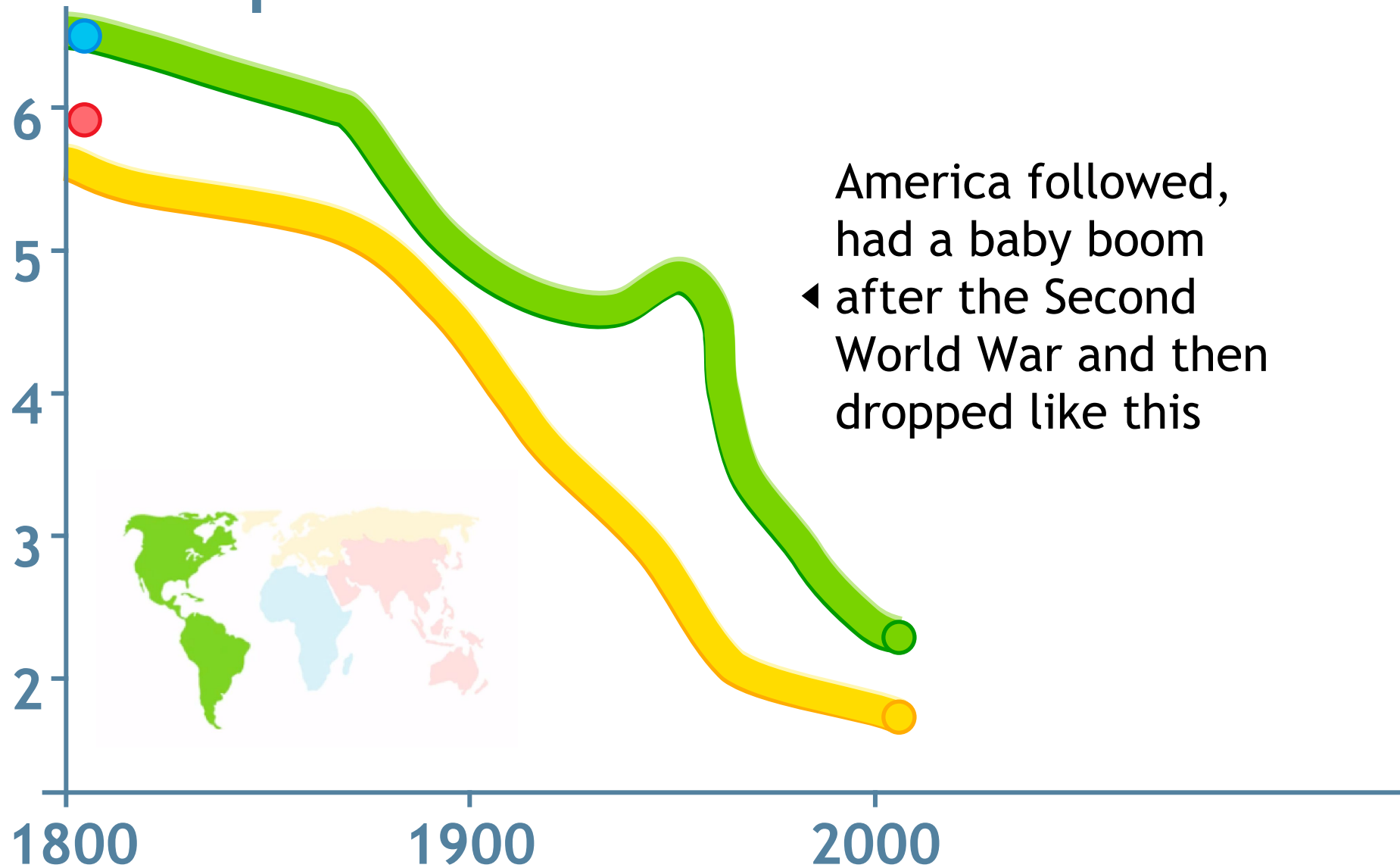
Sources: After 1950: UN World Pop. Prosp. 2012. Before 1950: hundreds of sources combined by Gapminder.

Babies per woman



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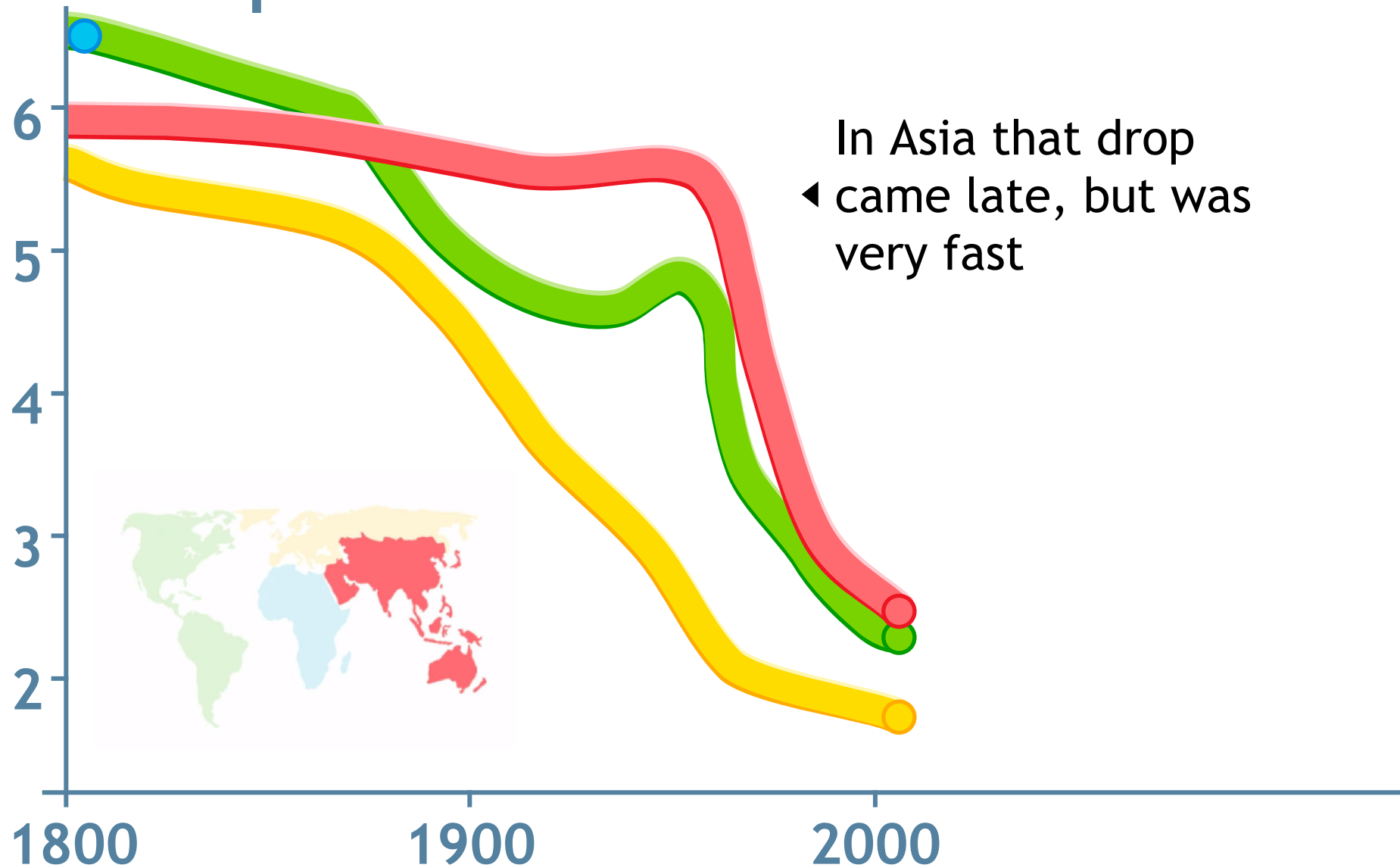
Babies per woman



America followed,
had a baby boom
◀ after the Second
World War and then
dropped like this

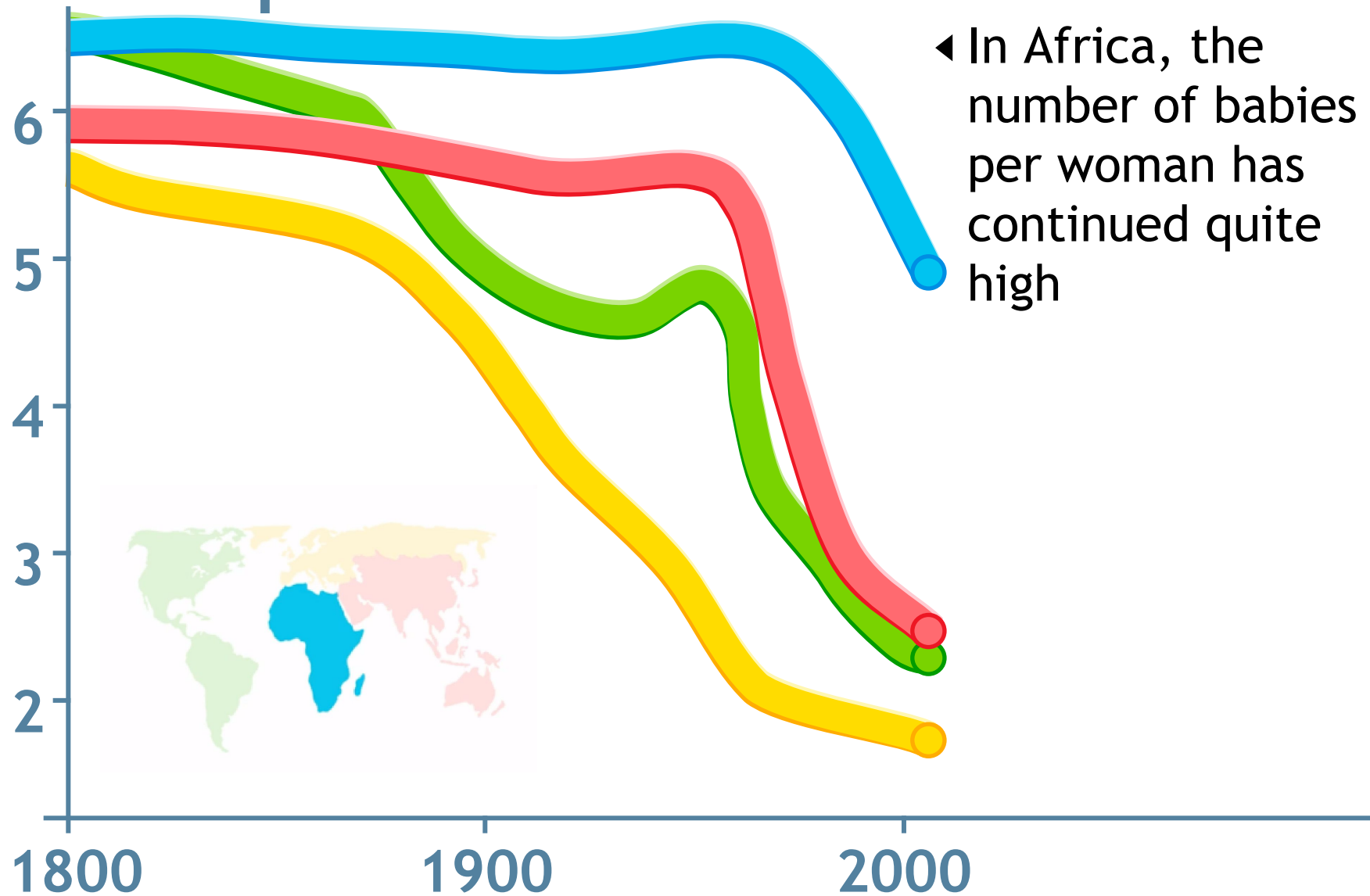
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Babies per woman



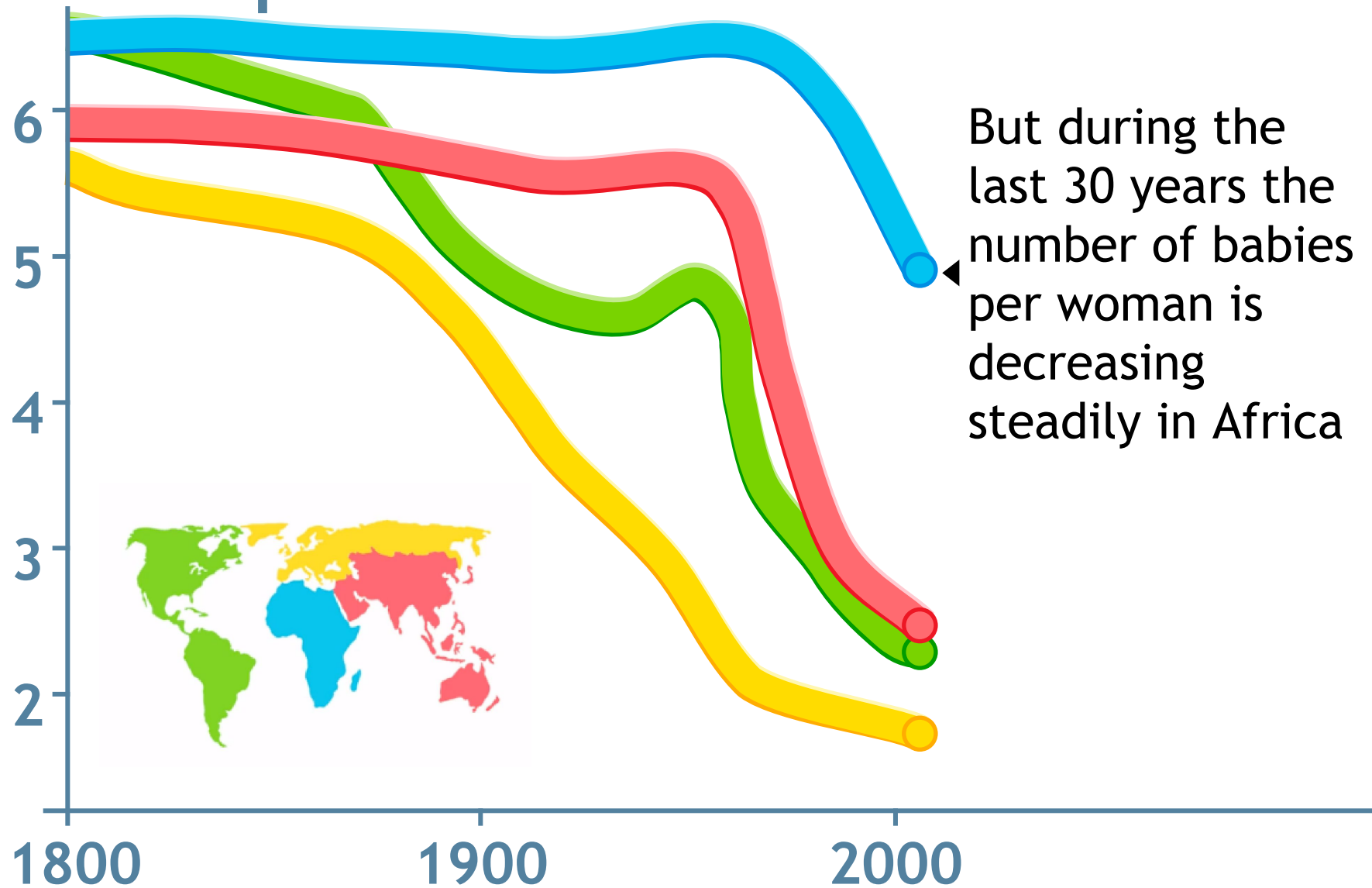
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Babies per woman



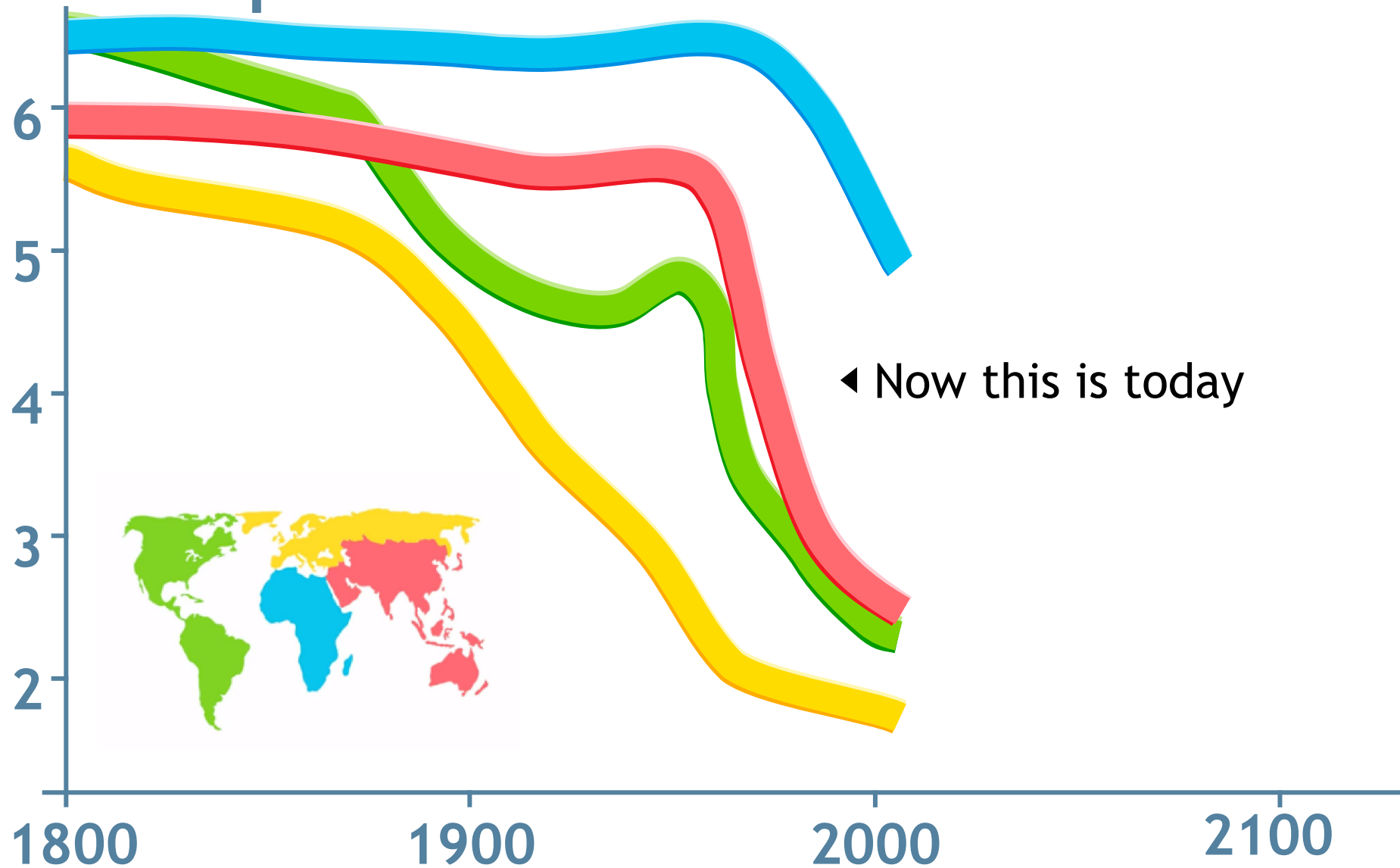
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Babies per woman



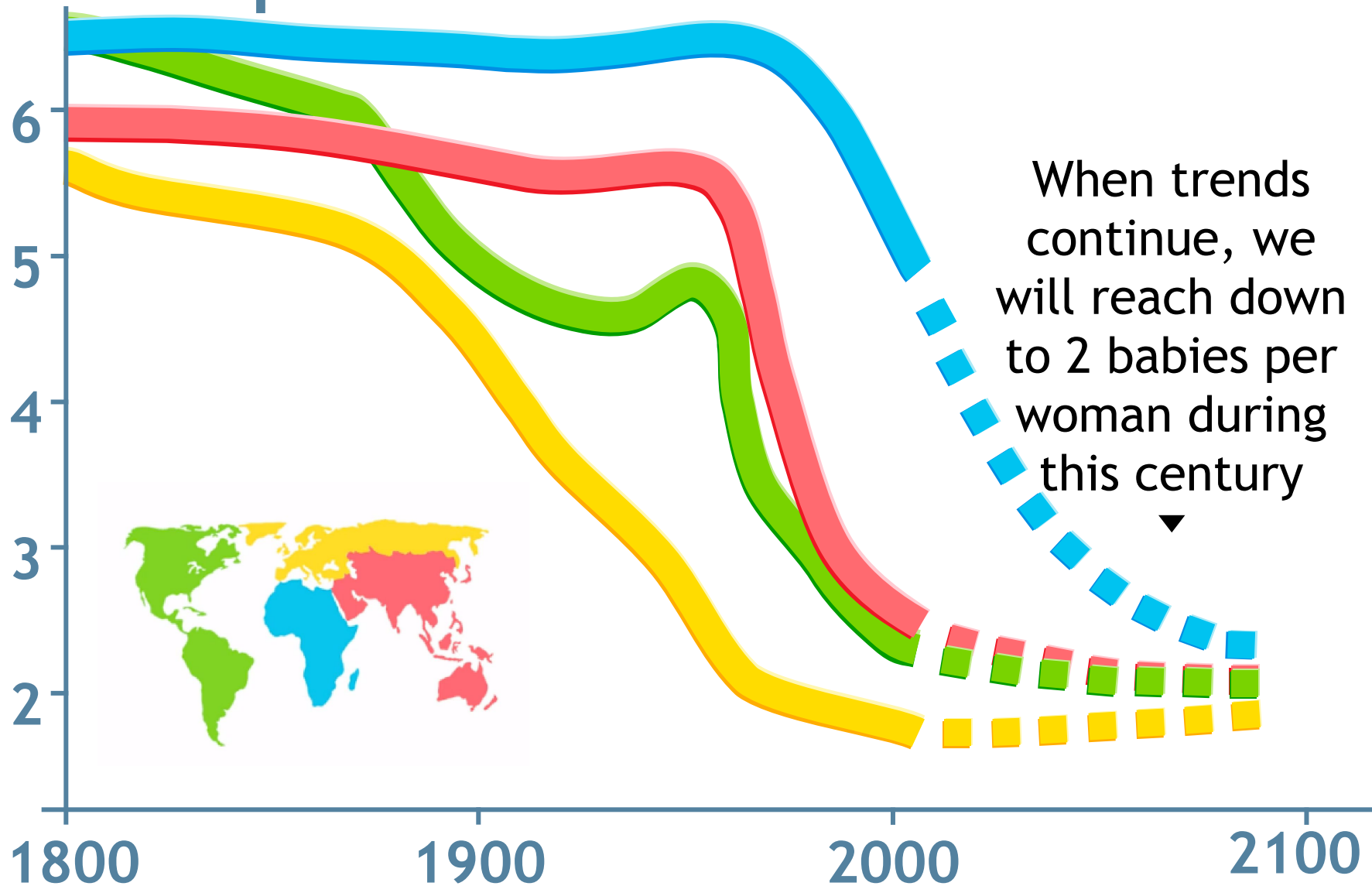
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Babies per woman



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Babies per woman



When trends continue, we will reach down to 2 babies per woman during this century

Sources: After 1950: UN World Pop. Prosp. 2012. Before 1950: hundreds of sources combined by Gapminder.

RELATED QUESTIONS



How did babies per woman change in the world?

Short answer – It dropped

Throughout history, women on average have given birth to more than 5 babies. But in the 1960's the number suddenly started dropping. Today it's down to less than three. Most likely it will continue to drop down to two or even below.



Why is population growing even if babies per woman dropped?

Short answer – more adults

The future fast growth is not due to the same reasons as the fast growth historically. In the future, people will indeed survive longer, but life expectancy is only going to increase a little bit. And the number of children in the world is expected to remain stable. The main reason for the future fast growth is the highly predictable fill-up of adults, as larger young generations grow older as explained in another slideshow.



How did the world population change?

Short answer – first slowly. Then fast.

In this short video Professor Hans Rosling shows how the size of the world population has changed over time. From the beginning of agriculture to the industrial revolution the population growth was very slow. Then the population started to grow rapidly because fewer died young. Today, most women have fewer children and therefore the rapid growth will soon be slowing down. World population will most likely stabilise around 11 billion towards the end of the century.

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