

quences. This book provides a good introduction to the basic facts that constitute the population problem, and also to many of the opinions that have made it a controversial issue.

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## GENERAL HISTORY OF WORLD POPULATION<sup>1</sup>

**I**N recent years there has developed a lively interest in the historical study of demographic phenomena. The number of historical investigations has grown sufficiently numerous to justify a separate rubric in the bibliographical listings of the *Population Index*. At the 1961 International Population Conference a special session was devoted to research concerning 18th century populations, and on that occasion a demographic history association was founded. To this burgeoning field the volume under review, a comprehensive history of world population, makes a major contribution. In 1949 Marcel Reinhard, Professor of History at the University of Paris, published an earlier version of this work, *HISTOIRE DE LA POPULATION MONDIALE DE 1700 Á 1948*. This new edition, however, has been greatly expanded. Professor Reinhard has added a whole part which carries the analysis all the way back to prehistoric times while the co-author, Professor André Armengaud, of the University of Dijon, has revised the materials after 1800 and brought the story up to date. As in the previous edition, Professor Alfred Sauvy has contributed a foreword.

It is usually considered the better part of wisdom not to attempt any demographic analysis of prehistoric times. Yet, grounding himself upon a critical evaluation of both archaeological evidence as well as comparisons from contemporary preliterate societies, Reinhard does begin with a brief, if highly tentative, account of prehistoric demography. As the curtain of history rises, some written population figures become available. Interpreted with great caution they provide a few clues about density and population size in ancient Egypt, Mesopo-

<sup>1</sup> Marcel Reinhard and André Armengaud: *HISTOIRE GÉNÉRALE DE LA POPULATION MONDIALE*, (Paris: Editions Montchrestien, 1961), 597 pp.

tamia, and biblical Israel. Sufficient data are available to justify a separate chapter each for ancient Greece and Rome, but since slaves were generally not counted, most calculations must remain quite uncertain.

Proceeding chronologically, the chapters on antiquity are followed by accounts of demographic developments during the early, high, and late middle ages. Here the authors gauge the numbers involved in the great migrations and attempt to assess their effects. They trace the persistent expansion of Western European populations during the succeeding centuries. The increase was pronounced from the 11th to the 13th century, but was sharply interrupted by the plague which ravaged all of Europe in the 14th century. Recovery was slow but by the 16th century growth had been resumed everywhere, only to be interrupted once more by famines, wars and epidemics which resulted in the prolonged stagnation of the 17th century. Though mainly concerned with Europe, the authors make a determined attempt to live up to the book's title by interspersing brief accounts of demographic developments in the Byzantine, Arab and Mongol empires. They also present the fragmentary data available for India, China, and Japan prior to the 16th century and for pre-Columbian America. For the 17th and 18th centuries sufficient materials are available to permit a more detailed treatment of several European nations. The data document the well-known acceleration of population growth in the 18th century, which marks the onset of the demographic revolution in Western Europe. By the same token the historical continuity makes it clear that the changes were more gradual than is sometimes supposed. A brief review of the non-European world from the 16th to the 19th century and an account of the 18th century population controversy conclude the first part.

Part II describes the demographic transformation of Europe in the 19th century. Separate analyses are presented for France, which gets the most detailed treatment, England and Germany. The rest of Europe is reviewed more briefly in a single chapter. The manner of presentation permits the reader to follow the unrolling of the demographic revolution as it moved across the continent from northwest to southeast. Part III traces the concomitant overseas migrations of 40 million Europeans and

analyzes the demographic consequences of the great exodus. This comprises accounts of the demography of the New Worlds, both Anglo-Saxon and Latin. It also includes brief but careful evaluations of the demographic effects of colonization in Africa, Asia, the West Indies and the Pacific. Part III concludes with a chapter on the modernization of China and Japan.

The last part, entitled "The Demographic Disequilibrium in the Century of Masses and Technology" covers the period from the first World War to the present. Two chapters describe the sharply differing patterns of population growth during the interwar period. While Western Europe appeared to be rapidly approaching a stationary state, the eastern and southern portions of the continent continued to grow, as did the rest of the world, with the possible exception of parts of Africa where insufficient information prevents any conclusions. The next chapter assesses the demographic aspects of World War II, documenting the heavy loss of life, the massive population displacements, forced migrations and transfers which were the hallmarks of this catastrophe. The developments of the post-1945 period are portrayed in the last four chapters. In Western Europe population growth has been resumed on a modest scale. Although developments in the Anglo-Saxon New Worlds basically resemble those of Western Europe, their populations are growing at a markedly more rapid rate. Somewhat unexpectedly, though not unreasonably, a brief account of Israel's development is included in the chapter on the Anglo-Saxon New World areas. A separate chapter is devoted to the Soviet Union and the Iron Curtain countries, which are all growing rapidly with the sole exception of Eastern Germany. A few brief pages sketch the "antinatalist revolution" in Japan. The last chapter offers a worldwide survey of the underdeveloped countries, highlighting their grave demographic problems which bedevil international relations and threaten to defy rational solutions.

The authors are to be congratulated on the ingenious way in which they have ordered and presented an incredible wealth of material in barely 600 pages. They have successfully avoided a mere chronicling of unrelated facts and events, the bane of much traditional historiography. At the same time, although

using such classificatory concepts as “demographic disequilibrium” and “demographic revolution,” which they divide into a first and a second phase, they have not forced the data into conceptual schemes where these don't fit. They have no axe to grind and if this tale has a lesson, it is that doctrinaire theories, whether they posit population as an independent or a dependent variable, are inadequate. The book elucidates the fundamental role of demographic factors in human history without distorting them into a final cause.

A work of such monumental scope will necessarily contain some inaccuracies. I am in no position to judge the validity of Professor Reinhard's procedure in accepting or rejecting historical evidence. The few errors which I have found are mostly trivial—for example, the name of the late Geneva demographer was Liebmann, not Lucien, Hersch, and the first Zionist Congress took place in Basle, not in Berne. More serious is the erroneous explanation of the aging Western populations which is attributed to declining mortality whereas in fact it has been caused by the decline in fertility. Nevertheless, this book will be of great value to the educated general reader and to the student of history whom it provides with an overview of demographic developments in historical context. It will also serve as an excellent historical reference work for professional demographers who will find here the worldwide historical perspective which is too often lacking among those who labor in the vineyards of demographic data, particularly on this side of the Atlantic. One wishes that this elegantly written work could be translated into good English, complete with footnote citations less skimpy than is the French custom, and with a good index, which is lacking.

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## FAMILY GROWTH IN METROPOLITAN AMERICA<sup>1</sup>

**T**HIS is the first of two volumes promised from the Princeton study of contemporary fertility. The study, itself, has

<sup>1</sup> Charles F. Westoff, Robert G. Potter, Jr., Philip C. Sagi and Elliot G. Mishler, *FAMILY GROWTH IN METROPOLITAN AMERICA*. xxii (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1961), 433 pp.

been the beneficiary of some of the best long term research planning in the history of demography. It is in direct continuity with the five volume Indianapolis Study of the Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility which was itself a monument to team research. The Princeton Study can be said to have been conceived in 1952 at a Milbank Fund Round Table on current fertility by the many distinguished social scientists invited to the Fund's annual conference. Included in the group were many former members of the research team of the Indianapolis Study who formed over the next two years a steering committee to guide the Princeton Study through the problem formulation and study design phases of the project. The quality of the first report reflects the thoughtful guidance and cogent suggestions of these scholars and the many successes and disappointments of the pioneer work in Indianapolis.

Because the first studies of the factors affecting fertility focused largely on completed family size, they did not successfully anticipate the dramatic changes in family size preferences and fertility performance of the war and postwar years. The Princeton Study complements this early work by focusing on families in the midst of the family building process in order to throw light on the processes of family building. The researchers have accordingly singled out one particular parity and birth interval for study, couples having two children only, whose second child was born in September, 1956. The first interviews were held five to seven months after the birth of the second child. In 1960 the couples were again interviewed to ascertain the factors which led some to have added children and others to limit further child bearing for the 3½ year period. The volume I am reviewing contains only the findings from the 1957 interviews.

The study is introduced by a series of chapters on background and objectives, sample design and methodology which are enlivened by wry humor as the choices facing the researchers are reviewed. The costs and expected returns from the strategies adopted are candidly appraised by these seasoned researchers. Their research procedures are described in sufficient detail that replication of the study by others would prove no problem (finances being available, for this is an expensive study). The