

ABORTING THE FUTURE

/the impact on society

Europe's population is shrinking - and greying - with possibly grim economic and social consequences. These figures are replicated throughout the First World, and the Third World is rapidly following suit. Are we aborting our future?

The birth rate in England and Wales has fallen to an all-time low, official figures show. And they reveal that one in five pregnancies there ends in an abortion - one in three in some areas. The average number of children per woman is just 1.64 - the lowest since records began in 1924.



Some Facts:

- An estimated 50 million babies are killed by abortion worldwide every year. ¹
- A recent BBC report found that Britain's birth rate was at a "all time low" and that abortion was a contributing factor, with up to one in every three pregnancies in London ending in abortion. ²
- The General Register Office for Scotland considers recent changes to abortion laws to be one contributor to the declining birth rate in Scotland. ³
- Spain's native population will drop 30% by 2050 because of the low birth rate of 1.2 children per woman. ⁴ Spain's new government has announced plans for a 2012 draft law that will restrict abortions and correct the 'structural gender violence' that leads women to 'renounce motherhood because of family, work, or social conflict.' ⁵
- Legalized abortion clearly correlates with falling fertility. In Wales the fertility rate dropped 31% from 1974 to 2004, with the average rate of 1.68 children per woman. ⁶ The Rand Corporation has blamed the rapid ageing of the Russian population with Russia's abortion rate—the world's highest at 225 abortions per 100 live births. ⁷
- While some countries consider legalizing abortion, Russia is restricting it for demographic reasons. In July 2011, Russia inaugurated abortion restrictions specifically to halt demographic collapse. ⁸ As of November 2011, an additional law requires waiting periods, curtails late-term abortions, and improves mother and child prenatal and postnatal support. ⁹
- The Southeast European Times states that Serbia's abortion rate, the highest in Europe, poses a "potential economic threat to Serbia, because due to its ageing population the country can expect a low number of work-age adults in the future." ¹⁰
- The Economist notes that China's one-child policy, implemented in the name of overpopulation, has caused 'too low of a birth rate.' ¹¹
- The Baltimore Sun notes Baltimore City's extremely high abortion rate of 86.2 per 1,000 women is a major driver in the city's shrinkage to two-thirds of its former population. ¹²
- The total fertility rate for African-Americans would increase by 10 percent without abortion funding, and by an additional five percent if legalized abortion ended. ¹³

THE REALITY

DOES China have enough people? The question might seem absurd. The country has long been famous both for having the world's largest population and for having taken draconian measures to restrain its growth. ... But new census figures bolster claims made in the past few years that China is suffering from a demographic problem of a different sort: too low a birth rate. The data imply that the total fertility rate may now be just 1.4, far below the 'replacement rate' of 2.1, which eventually leads to the population stabilising. Slower growth is matched by a dramatic ageing of the population.

'THE MOST SURPRISING DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS'
THE ECONOMIST, 05 MAY 2011
[HTTP://WWW.ECONOMIST.COM/NODE/18651512](http://www.economist.com/node/18651512)

Population increase is a natural sign of political health. By that measure, Baltimore has been sick a long time. Six straight decades of depopulation have reduced the city by a third. Maryland has a very high abortion rate (third highest among the states in 2005). The breakdown by jurisdiction reveals that Baltimore City is driving those deadly numbers, and also that the abortion rate among African-American women is at least triple the white rate.

DIANA SCHAUB, 'A HIDDEN CAUSE OF BALTIMORE'S POPULATION LOSS: ABORTION'
BALTIMORE SUN, 23 JANUARY 2012

Russia's parliament has [restricted] abortions in an attempt to tackle the country's population collapse. The UN predicted that, by 2050, Russia's population will shrink by a fifth to 116 million.

AMANDA WALKER, 'RUSSIA RESTRICTS ABORTIONS AS POPULATION DIPS'
SKYNEWS, 11 NOVEMBER 2011

Around the time that **PRESIDENT KENNEDY** went to Germany and gave his 'Ich bin ein Berliner' speech, Europe represented 12.5 percent of the world's population. Today it is 7.2 percent, and if trends continue, by 2050 only 5 percent of the world will be European.

DRUSSELL SHORTO, 'NO BABIES?'
NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE, 29 JUNE 2008

Combine a shrinking population with rising life expectancy, and the economic and political consequences are alarming. In Europe there are currently 35 people of pensionable age for every 100 people of working age. By 2050, on present demographic trends, there will be 75 pensioners for every 100 workers; in Spain and Italy the ratio of pensioners to workers is projected to be one-to-one. Since pensions in Germany, France and Italy are paid out of current tax revenue, the obvious implication is that taxes will have to soar to fund the pretty generous pensions that Europeans have got used to. The cost is already stretching government finances. Deutsche Bank calculates that average earners in Germany are already paying around 29% of their wages into the state pension pot, while the figure in Italy is close to 33%.

'EUROPE'S POPULATION IMPLOSION'
THE ECONOMIST, 17 JULY 2003
[HTTP://WWW.ECONOMIST.COM/NODE/18651512](http://www.economist.com/node/18651512)

lifefacts/backup

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