Week 5: How Can The Population Explosion Be Controlled?

Population Trends

Belsie, “How Many People Does it Take to Change the World?”
1. What is the central demographic theme of the millennium (AD 1000-2000) and how did the Industrial Revolution accelerate the process?

2. Why has the 20th century been a “showstopper”?

3. What developing countries/regions have rapidly reduced their fertility rates and which regions have not?

4. What are the “productive” factors that influence a woman “reproductive” role?

1. What is the meaning/definition of ‘zero population growth’ (ZPG) and ‘replacement fertility’. What total fertility rate is associated with ZPG?

2. Following Europe’s sudden rise in population (triggered by its commercial, agricultural & industrial revolutions), what led to its eventual mortality and fertility declines? How are Africa’s, Asia’s & Latin America’s population trends similar to and different from what happened in Europe?

Crossette, “Millions of People Worldwide on the Move”
1. According to a 2002 UN survey, what data indicated that an increasing number of people are migrating to both developed and developing countries? Why is this (especially illegal migration) a cause of concern in every region?

2. Why do some nations and population experts argue against migration as an open safety valve?
LaFranchi, “UN Looks at Migration”
1. According to Mr. Neuman and other experts, what changes are gradually reshaping the global view of migration in both developed (receiving) and developing (sending) countries?

2. According to Ms. Zlotnik, what the “broader definition” of migrant’s remittances to their countries—which is illustrated by programs such as the one linking Italy and Sri Lanka and the program that helped Afghans return home?

Francis, “How to Slow the Population Clock”
1. According to Thomas Malthus’ “Essay on Population” (1798), what are the “positive” and “preventative” check that control population growth?

2. According to Mr. Flavin (President, Worldwatch Institute), what factors (3 examples) will break population growth?

Lamb, “In Some Nations, the Rise of Shortevity”
1. What is the cause of the shortevity crisis in Russia/former Soviet block and Sub-Saharan Africa?

2. How is World Vision working to help African governments and people deal with the shortevity crisis?

Trescott, “Shorter Lives Lead to Short-term Goals in Zimbabwe”
1. According to Mr. Masunguere and Mr. Rondozai, what are 3 negative effects of the low live expectancy on Zimbabwean society?

2. According to a WHO report, what is responsible for the decline in life expectancy in Zimbabwe? What does and Mr. Masunungure say may also plays a part?

3. What is the Girl Child Network Trust doing to help young women build longer lives?

Francis, “Fuse on the ‘Population Bomb’ Has Been Relit”
1. According to Thoraya Obaid (UNFPA), why has the rate of progress (in reducing population growth) come down?
2. Why does Ms. Leahy—the author of a report to the PAC—say (her thesis) that between 1970 and 1990, 80% of all civil conflicts that caused at least 25 deaths occurred in countries in which 60% or more of the population was under age 30?

**Consequences of Demographic Change**

**Francis, “Facing the Challenge of a World’s Older Population”**
1. Why will mortality rates drop faster between now & 2020 than they did during the 1918-1987 period? By 2050, what percent of the world’s population will be over 60 year of age (compared to 10% today)?

2. Why is growth in the aging population a particular challenge to developing countries?

**Fuchs, “Spain Labors to Bring Home Baby—and the Bacon”**
1. What is Spain’s population problem and what incentives are being offered to solve it?

2. According to women’s rights advocates, what economic and social/attitudinal/political factors contribute to Spain’s population problem?

**Grant and Hoorens. “Consequences of a Graying World”**
1. What are 2 probable impacts of an aging population?

2. What are the 2 driving forces behind population aging?

3. What are the 3 main options/strategies for mitigating the effects of population aging?

**Francis, “Europeans Struggle with Idea of ‘Replacement Migration’”**
1. Why do EU countries need “replacement migration”, but on the other hand are concerned about “cultural genocide”?

2. Why (3 reason) hasn’t fertility level in the Philippines dropped as rapidly as it has in neighboring Asian countries?
**Francis, “Now Danger of a Population Implosion”**

1. What is the cause of the population implosion, how many countries are facing a population implosion, and what measures are some governments taking to solve the problem?

2. While the U.S. is slightly below replacement fertility, why is its population expected to grow to 430 million by 2050?

3. What are the 6 nations that account for one-half of the growth in world population and what’s amazing about year 2003’s population growth in India vs. the EU?

**Knickerbocker, “World First: Most People Live in the City”**

1. According to the Worldwatch Institute’s 2007 Annual Report, what are 4 ramifications/major challenges that are faced by growing urbanization in developing countries?

2. Why do advocates say that there a need to reassess global development priorities?

3. According to Mr. Flavin, for what dangers are the “abject and disgraceful poverty” that exists in many cities a breeding ground?

**Success Stories**

**Holt, “Mexico’s Dramatically Shrinking Families”**

1. What is the little-noticed change that has occurred in Mexico?

2. What 2 changes since 1974 contributed to the success of Mexico’s family planning program?

3. How will these changes benefit both Mexicans (2 examples) and the US (2 examples)?

**Tohid, “Bangladesh Clerics Back Family Planning”**

1. What 2 groups have teamed up to combat Bangladesh’s burgeoning population?

2. Despite Bangladesh’s success in reducing population growth & the fertility rate, why does Hussain (Deputy Director, FPAB) think that there is going to be another population explosion in Bangladesh?
Marquand, “6 Billion People and a Countertrend”
1. What is happening in Kerala that is remarkably different from the rest of India and what are 3 factors that explain this amazing trend?

2. For years, the debates on population control have swung between 2 factors. What are the 2 factors and what does Kerala’s success show, regarding which factor is more important?

Peters, “A New Push to Clean Up the Slums”
1. Why are aid experts concerned about the growing number of rural poor migrating to cities around the developing world?

2. How is the Aga Khan Development Network helping to revitalize Darb al-Ahmar’s slum district and give residents hope?

Controversies
Gerson, “Spain’s Guest Worker Program Provides Test Case for EU”
1. What is Spain doing—in partnership with Senegal—to reduce illegal immigration. What is another mechanism that Spain has implemented with Mali to help meet Spain’s labor demands?

Axtman, “Illegal Entry of Non-Mexicans Rises”
1. What is the new crisis that’s emerging along the southern borders of the US?

2. According to INS Agent Cutler, what are 2 holes/loopholes in the border system?

Price, “Tighter Borders Won’t Help the Desperate”
1. According to Price (the author of the article), why is it unlikely that President Bush’s decision to post National Guard along the Mexican–US will stem the flow of illegal immigrants?

2. According to Price, what would stop the illegal migration from countries south of the U.S.-Mexico border?
Abend and Pingee, “Morocco’s Biggest Export is People”
1. For Spain, Morocco’s emigrant tides is both a boon and a threat. How is it a boon? What is the threat?

2. Why does the fact that so many Moroccans dream of leaving significantly threaten Morocco’s economic development, social well-being, and political stability? What does Morocco gain from the illegal emigration?

1. What event does Sharon Camp (president of the Guttmacher Institute) cite as a drastic example of U.S. isolation?

2. How do proponents of the Bush administration’s policy, like Steven Moser (PRI), explain the apparent isolation?

Marquand, “China Faces Future as Land of Boys”
1. Three factors have contributed to China’s gender imbalance—traditional values in rural areas, technology, and government policy. Give an example of each of these factors.

2. What are 2 things that the government of China is doing to try to reverse the gender imbalance?