**Summary of *Beyond Babies* Unit 5**

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The article “Beyond Babies” by Stefan Theil starts the article by presenting the global phenomenon that an increasing number of families remaind childless among with a sharp decline of the birth rate. And the author illustrated several facts such as the change of the society’s view about the childless middle-aged people, the newly spawned culture of childlessness and the spring up of varies child-free public places to prove that childlessness is no longer an unusual and strange phenomenon. Then the author discusses the reasons that contribute. For some women, childlessness can be seen as a quiet form of protest. Women may be away from their loved career and can’t get husband’s help for bringing up their child. For Japanese men, the growing job insecurity also decline their motivation to have a child. After that, the author enumerate some measures have been taken to increase the birthrate. Some countries sanction against the childless people, such as implementing an income-tax surcharge on childless couples. However this kind of measure doesn’t work in the slightest, for instance, the Germany already has the world’s second-hightest taxes on childless singles yet hasn’t done a thing to boost the birthrate. Finaly the author suggested that the government should tweak policies to nudge parents who already have a kid or two to give it another go, and encarage people to start their family earlier when they have a good fertility, which recently increased the birthrate of France.