Week 10 Thursday 12/1/16 Population Policies

Population Policy: Gov’t policies used to manage the size, composition, and distribution of a population

Any gov’t attempt to intervene in the demographics of their country

Gov’ts focus on decreasing mortality. Mortality has decreased worldwide, but there are ongoing global attempts to bring it down further (measure of development / location on the demographic transition, improve development, standards of living, education, sanitation, access to medical services / health care, etc.) in order to improve the economy, improve morbidity, etc, so many variables go hand in hand with mortality such that improvements in mortality produce other improvements in a country

Gov’t’s focus on fertility is less straight forward. Many gov’ts care a lot about fertility, but while some are trying to decrease it, others are trying to increase it

Antinatalist Policies: Policies designed to decrease fertility

‘Natal’ means births

Reasons:

Limited Resources

Low fertility is a marker of development / progress along the demographic transition

Strategies

Set strict limits on # children being born

Require bith permits in order to have children

Increase access to and education about contraception / family planning

Increase access to legal abortions

Free / incentivized sterilization

This was a policy in India for many years, though there were many allegations of forced sterilization. It attempted to target men who already had 1 or 2 children, but in practice wasn’t always as voluntary as it was intended

Improvements in access to education for women

Propaganda

U.S.: Delayed the retirement age and the start of welfare programs (medicare)

Consequences

Asia’s Missing Women

Selective abortions against females

China has 33 million more men than it does women

Pronatalist Policies: Policies designed to increase fertility

Reasons:

Need to balance pop age structure, declining pop

E.g. Japan, Singapore, Denmark

Strategies

Child tax credit / tax breaks for large families

Or additional tax on childless men and women

Free or subsidized child care

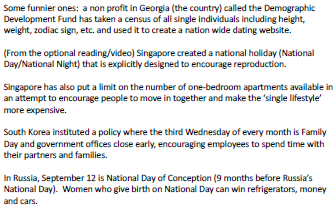
Limit access to contraception / abortion

Make divorce more difficult

Paid parental leave

Propaganda

Some have suggested increasing immigration, but this comes with all sorts of other concerns as the demographics of immigrant pops don’t (initially) match those of the host pop





Immigration policy is a de facto population policy of the U.S., Canada, and many other Global North countries

All countries manage the quantity and quality of immigrants entering the country

Unique

Has an almost immediate effect (compared with mortality / fertility policies) on pop structure and composition

Most directly impacts the size of the working pop

Often has unintended consequences (immigration gap)

Canada: Immigration accounts for approx. 70% of labor force growth in recent years



Internal migration policies are less common, but more complicated

E.g., U.S.: The forced relations of indigenous ppl onto reservations

E.g., China’s Hukou system

Everyone assigned citizenship to a particular locality (children assigned based on mother’s citizenship)

These localities were divided b/w rural and urban

To move from a rural locality to an urban locality you had to apply

W/o permission, you cannot access health care, education, or other social services in new urban locality and risk deportation

Strategies

Forced relocations

Limit where ppl can access social services

Free land in particular places

Tax breaks / economic incentives

Propaganda