
The “Population Problem” in Pacific Asia

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HKUST iLibrary Talk, September 2020





THE "POPULATION PROBLEM" IN PACIFIC ASIA

STUART GIETEL-BASTEN

OXFORD

theinterpreter

Singapore's vulnerability: A large and growing pool of older people

STEPHEN DZIEDZIC

The city state leads in the fight against the virus, but in the longer term, an ageing population is another challenge.



Japan's Population Age is Shrinking and That's The Biggest Challenge For New PM

Hong Kong's ageing time bomb a cause for concern

Editorial by SCMP Editorial

Ageing Hong Kong risks loss of competitive edge if it does not transform

Hong Kong's population will be a little smaller, a lot greyer by 2069, according to new government projections

South Korea's Population May Have Already Peaked

Recent statistics suggest South Korea's population may be aging even more quickly than previous worst-case scenarios predicted.

THE STRAITS TIMES



By [Troy Stangarone](#)

February 14, 2020

THE | DIPLOMAT

READ THE DIPLOMAT, KNOW THE ASIA-PACIFIC

South Korea set to be superaged society within 4 years

The
Economist

Asia

Jun 29th 2019 edition >

Old, shrivelling and broke

Rural areas bear the burden of Japan's ageing, shrinking population

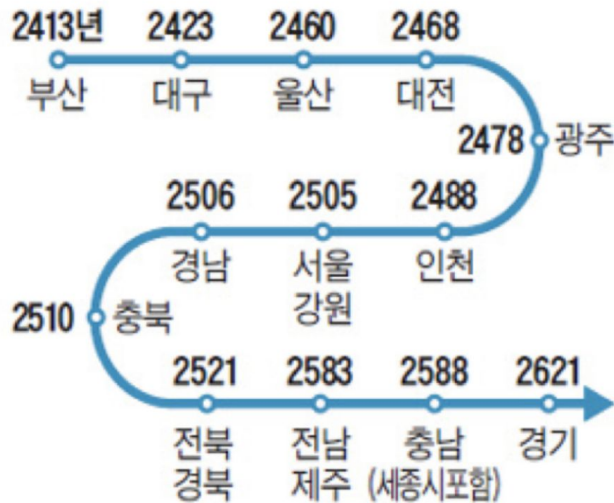
Half the country's municipalities are expected to disappear by 2040

BUSINESS
INSIDER

South Koreans could be 'extinct' by 2750

Elena Holodny Jun. 19, 2015, 11:15 AM

시도별 마지막 생존자가 태어나는 때는
 합계 출산율 1.19명으로, 인구이동이 없는 것을
 전제로 분석



자료: 국회입법조사처

China's rapid population ageing leads to a clear decline – Natixis

FXSTREET

NEWS | Aug 18, 07:16 GMT | By [FXStreet Team](#)

The New York Times

China's Looming Crisis: A Shrinking Population

By STEVEN LEE MYERS, JIN WU and CLAIRE FU **UPDATED** January 17, 2020

Why?



**Demographic
problem**



**Demographic
solution**





Taiwan offers baby bonus to fix plummeting birth rate



“The government had spent 8.364 trillion won (\$7.74 billion) on state-allowance programs for children with young parents, as of 2016,” wrote researcher Choi Hyo-mi in the report.

	Measures Supporting Marriage and Parenthood	2014	Today
Housing	New flat grants	Up to \$60,000	Up to \$80,000
	Income ceiling (for HDB flats)	\$10,000	\$12,000
	Resale flat grants	Up to \$80,000	Up to \$120,000
Preschool	BTO flats with shorter waiting times of 2-3 years	NIL	1,100 flats launched; another 2,000 to be launched in 2019
	Full-day preschool places	About 110,000	Over 170,000
Costs (including healthcare)	Government-supported preschools providing quality and affordable services (Includes Anchor Operators (AOPs), Partner Operators (POPs) and MRC Kindergarten (MKs))	36% of preschoolers enrolled in AOPs and MKs	50% of preschoolers enrolled in AOPs, POPs and MKs (POPs introduced in 2016)
	Baby Bonus Cash Gift, Child Development Account and MediSave Grant for Newborns (Figures apply for 1st, 2nd under children)	Up to \$15,000	Up to \$18,000; includes \$3,000 CDA First Step, given without parents having to save first
	Co-funding for Assisted Reproduction Technology treatments in public hospitals	Up to \$6,300 (fresh); \$1,200 (frozen)	Up to \$7,700 (fresh); \$2,200 (frozen)
Parental Leave and Workplace Support	Total leave in child's first year (Includes Maternity Leave (ML), Paternity Leave (PL), Shared Parental Leave (SPL) and Infant Child Care Leave)	21 weeks, including • 1 week PL • 1 week SPL (shared from ML)	22 weeks, including • 2 weeks PL • 4 weeks SPL (shared from ML)
	Tripartite Standards (TS) to encourage family-friendly workplace practices	NIL	• TS on Unpaid Leave for Unexpected Care Needs • TS on Flexible Work Arrangements (FWAs)
	Proportion of employers providing at least 1 formal Flexible Work Arrangement	47%	53%

SMARTNEWS Keeping you current

Singapore’s “National Night” Encourages Citizens to Make Babies

Singapore’s “unbelievably low birthrates” has inspired “National Night,” a campaign to encourage Singaporean couples to “let their patriotism explode” on August 9.

By Rachel Nuwer
SMITHSONIAN.COM
AUGUST 8, 2012



Page last updated at 09:11 GMT, Wednesday, 20 January 2010

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Printable version

South Koreans told to go home and make babies

By John Sudworth
BBC News, Seoul

South Korean government workers are being presented with an unusual suggestion - go home and multiply.

At 1900 on Wednesday, officials at the Ministry of Health will turn off all the lights in the building.

They want to encourage staff to go home to their families and, well, make bigger ones. They plan to repeat the experiment every



South Korea has one of the world's lowest birth rates



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- 3 BBC News

South Korea Is Trying to Boost its Birth Rate. It's Not Working.

LINDA POON AUG 3, 2018

CITYLAB

The country needs to convince more couples to have children. But its biggest city is no paradise for parents.

Fertility rate dips below 1 in 2018: official

By Yonhap

 The Korea Herald

Published : Jan 18, 2019 - 10:52

Updated : Jan 18, 2019 - 10:52

gn in
The Guardian

Japan shrinking as birthrate falls to lowest level in history

In 2018 there were 921,000 births and 1.37m deaths, with government efforts failing to encourage families to have more children

The Economist

Baby strike

Singapore's government struggles to promote procreation

The city-state has one of the lowest fertility rates in the world

China population crisis: New two-child policy fails to yield major gains



PUBLISHED SAT, JAN 28 2017·7:35 AM EST | UPDATED SAT, JAN 28 2017·7:59 AM EST

China's birth rate falls for 2nd year, two child policy fails to enthuse couples

THE HINDU BusinessLine

PTI Beijing | Updated on January 21, 2019 | Published on January 21, 2019

“The young appear to prefer to invest limited resources and capital on themselves to fully enjoy their life, rather than form a family.”

–Professor Na Eun-yeong, Sogang University

“Perhaps people in Korea are becoming ‘selfish,’ since they do not want children of their own, but expect society to provide more and more children in the hope that their own elderly life will be socially and financially secure”

–Professor Youngtae Cho, SNU



“[A] counter-traditional individualism has liberated young Asian, particularly women, to indulge themselves in the personal pursuit of hedonistic culture, forgoing traditional family values and obligations.”

–Professor Chai-sik Chung, Boston U



Made for minds.

Why Taiwan's single people are a national security threat

Lydia from Taipei and almost all of her friends are single. Sociologist Wen-Shan Yang explains why Taiwan's single culture is putting the welfare of the whole country at risk.

Why has a generation given up on having children?
The Telegraph

The Pope declares couples who choose not to have children are 'selfish' and condemns 'depressed societies' for seeing offspring as a burden **Mail**Online

FLARE ≡

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Are Childless Millennials Selfish A-holes?



www.spendwithpennies.com

パラサイトシングル



草食(系)男子

thejapantimes

NATIONAL

Deputy PM Taro Aso apologizes after blaming childless for rising social security costs and graying population

KYODO, AP, STAFF REPORT

[PRINT](#) [SHARE](#)

ARTICLE HISTORY | FEB 5, 2019



Name	Meaning	No.	item
Sampo sedae	Three giving-up generation	1	Courtship
		2	Marriage
		3	Childbirth
Opo sedae	Five giving-up generation	4	Employment
		5	Home ownership
Chilpo sedae	Seven giving-up generation	6	Interpersonal relationships
		7	Hope



To Encourage More Births, Chinese Specialists Propose Birth Fund, Childless Tax

The proposals triggered a large wave of criticism and sarcasm online.

By [Charlotte Gao](#)

August 17, 2018



하나는 부족합니다

최종까지 가는 경쟁이 없기 때문에 사회적이나 인간의 발달이
느리고 경쟁에서는 패배하는지 이쯤에서 아무도 모르므로
자기 준비력이 필요합니다.



To recap

Population ageing and decline an **existential threat**

Nice governments doing **lots of things** about it

Selfish, hedonistic, pathetic, millennial A-holes* not fulfilling *obligation*

(**especially women*)

Inevitable interactive part

What do governments *want*?

Marriage

Children

Combine work & family

Some care for the elderly

What about *people*?

Marriage

Children

Combine work & family

Some care for the elderly

But starting to change

**Cost of
childcare**

**Cost of
housing**

**Education
expectations
and costs**

**Care
obligations**

**Little
state/
company
support**

**Work
culture**

**Impact on
career**

**Gender
roles**

**Fragile
contracts**

**Getting
decent job**

**“Marriage
package”**

**Loss of
earnings**

**Availability
& quality of
childcare**



Ageing is the problem
Low fertility is the cause
Low fertility is the problem

***The gap between aspirations and outcomes
is a symptom of other institutional
malfunctions***

**“Societies get the fertility rate they
deserve”**

Nico van Nimwegen

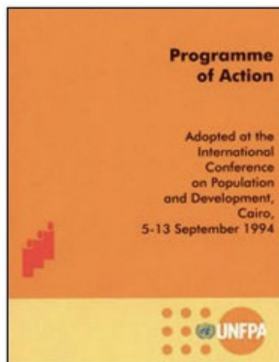
Learning from FP programs*

Multi-dimensional aims and means

Education, health, empowerment. Multiple agencies, stakeholders

Aligned with *aspirations*

Rights-based



“To help couples and individuals meet their reproductive goals in a framework that promotes optimum health, responsibility and family well-being, and respects the dignity of all persons and their right to choose the number, spacing and timing of the birth of their children..”

–Objective 7.14

Meeting individual aspirations (which happen to coincide with the state) rather than ‘using wombs as a vehicle to meet national targets’

Why my hopes are pretty low...





From modernity to...

Postmodernism
(*sorry*)

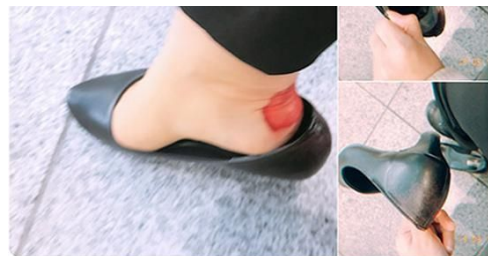
Individualisation
(Beck &
Beck-Gernsheim)

**Infinite
biographies**



“Catching up with ‘compressed modernity’” - How the values of Millennials and Gen-Z’ers could reframe gender equity and demographic systems

Stuart Gietel-Basten^{1,*}



石川優実@#KuToo署名中
@shikawa_yumi

Save

1万人を超えました！
メールアドレスとお名前だけで署名ができます。

問題点:
①性別によって同じ職場で強制される服装が違うこと
②健康を害してまで強制されるマナーとは？

「厚生労働省宛: #KuToo 職場でのヒール・パンプスの強制をなくしたい！」
chng.it/ZCbdL2K @change_jpより



キャンペーンに賛同！
#KuToo 職場でのヒール・パンプスの強制をなくしたい！
change.org

Ryu Ho-jeong

“looked as if she had come to the assembly chamber to collect payment for alcoholic drinks”

Facebook page of
Democratic Party



Wars

Young vs old

Male vs female

Modern (**control**) vs
postmodern (**diffused**)

Combined forces

パラサイトシングル

草食(系)男子

the japan times

NATIONAL
Deputy PM Taro Aso apologizes after blaming childless for rising social security costs and graying population
KYODO, AP, STAFF REPORT
PRINT SHARE ARTICLE HISTORY FEB 5, 2019

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Chipo 세대	5	5	Home ownership
	6	6	Interpersonal relationships
	7	7	Hope

港女聖經

Another reason for my skepticism



**In the multitude of people is the king's
honour: but in the want of people is the
destruction of the prince.**

Proverbs 14: 28

EDITORS' PICK | 29,428 views | Sep 3, 2020, 12:51am EDT

China's Population To Drop By Half, Immigration Helps U.S. Labor Force

Forbes



Stuart Anderson Senior Contributor 

Leadership Strategy

I write about globalization, business, technology and immigration.

Project Syndicate

GDP Fetishism

Sep 7, 2009 | JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ

Productivity...

ONE BILLION



Works [\[edit \]](#)

- *The Rent Is Too Damn High*, Simon and Schuster, March 2012, ASIN B0078XGJXO
- *Heads in the Sand: How the Republicans Screw Up Foreign Policy and Foreign Policy Screws Up the Democrats*, Wiley, April 2008, ISBN 978-0-470-08622-3.^[23]
- "Long Philosophical Rant about *Spider-Man 2*", *Ultimate blogs: masterworks from the wild Web*, Editor Sarah Boxer, Random House, Inc., 2008, ISBN 978-0-307-27806-7
- "The Media", *The 12-Step Bush Recovery Program*, Gene Stone, Carl Pritzkat, Tony Travostino, Random House, Inc., 2008, ISBN 978-0-8129-8036-3
- *One Billion Americans: The Case for Thinking Bigger*, Portfolio Penguin, September 2020, ISBN 978-0-593-19021-0.

MATTHEW YGLESIAS



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[One Billion Americans: The Case for Thinking...](#)

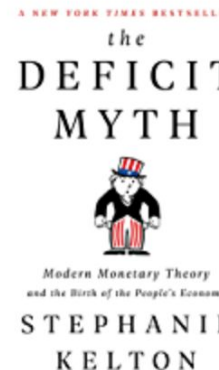
› [Matthew Yglesias](#)

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#2



[The Deficit Myth: Modern Monetar](#)

› [Stephanie Kelton](#)

★★★★☆ 571

Kindle Edition

\$18.99

China's Communist Party has sought to cover up population crisis by obfuscating census data

China is staring at a population crisis. The outcome for it is likely to be much worse than with Japan, perhaps not immediately, but certainly over the next decade. And shrinking populations cannot sustain expansive dreams.

Demographic trends, pronatalism, and nationalist ideologies in the late twentieth century

Leslie King

Confronting the Stigma of Eugenics:

Genetics, Demography and the Problems of
Population

Edmund Ramsden

60 000 RM

Kostet dieser Erbkranke
die Volksgemeinschaft
auf Lebenszeit

*Volksgenosse
das ist auch
Dein Geld*

Lesen Sie

**neues
Volk**

Die Monatshefte des Rassenpolitischen Amtes der NSDAP



EUGENICS ON THE RISE: A REPORT FROM SINGAPORE

C. K. Chan

1980s

Fertility, mortality, migration, and population scenarios for 195 countries and territories from 2017 to 2100: a forecasting analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study

Stein Emil Vollset, Emily Goren, Chun-Wei Yuan, Jackie Cao, Amanda E Smith, Thomas Hsiao, Catherine Bisignano, Gulrez S Azhar, Emma Castro, Julian Chalek, Andrew J Dolgert, Tahvi Frank, Kai Fukutaki, Simon I Hay, Rafael Lozano, Ali H Mokdad, Vishnu Nandakumar, Maxwell Pierce, Martin Pletcher, Toshana Robalik, Krista M Steuben, Han Yong Wunrow, Bianca S Zlavog, Christopher J L Murray



THE LANCET

Fertility rate: 'Jaw-dropping' global crash in children being born



By James Gallagher
Health and science correspondent

THE SUNDAY TIMES

**Demographic apocalypse:
collapsing birth rates will
turn our world upside down**

"Suddenly, we're now seeing this sort of turning point where it is very clear that we are rapidly transitioning from the issue of too many people to too few."

Christopher Murray, 2020

We must be on our guard

Too many mistakes made in the past

People treated as **units of production**

Restricting access to **family planning?**

Aggressive prortalism?

UNDERSTAND THE “PROBLEM”

