

Population Policies

Limiting Population Growth (Anti-Natalist Policies)

China's One-Child Policy

Most couples limited to having only one child.

Couples having more than one child risk:

Heavy fines

Loss of apartments, electricity turned off, etc.

Forced abortion

Effects of the One Child Policy

Growth rate dropped dramatically

Aging Population (skewed dependency ratio)

Preference for male children has led to:

Selective abortion of females

Abandonment of female children

Gender imbalance (117 males/100 females) 45 mil. male surplus

4 – 2 – 1 problem

4 Grandparents are supported by

2 Parents who will be supported by only

1 Child

Children no longer want to have more than one child.

Promoting Population Growth (Pro-Natalist Policies)

Patriotism: Some countries promote population growth as a way to make their country “strong.”

USSR: Mother Heroine program honored women who had 10+ children

France: Gov't “advertising” aimed to keep French birthrate comparable to the UK and Germany

Economic Incentives: Some countries use direct and indirect economic incentives to promote childbearing

Russia:

Give Birth to a Patriot on Russia Day (Prizes)

Cash payments (about \$11,000 USD) for second child

France:

Generous maternity leave and job protection for women

Increasing monetary allowances for families (more children, more money)

Free daycare

USA:

Reduced taxes for families

Increased social benefits (AFDC, Medicaid, etc.)

Subsidies (Daycare, tuition, etc)

Pronatalist programs have had limited success