

THE FUTURE
POPULATION OF
EUROPE
AND THE SOVIET
UNION

By FRANK W. NOTESTEIN
AND OTHERS

LEAGUE
ii. A. 2
1944
30626

LEAGUE OF NATIONS, GENEVA



ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND TRANSIT
DEPARTMENT

The Future Population
of Europe
and the Soviet Union

Population Projections
1940-1970

BY

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LEAGUE OF NATIONS, GENEVA, 1944

Series of League of Nations Publications

II. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL

1944. II.A. 2.

PREFACE

IN January 1939 the Council of the League of Nations, in execution of a resolution adopted by the Assembly, appointed a committee to study demographic problems in their economic, financial and social setting, and to submit a report on the subject which might be of practical value to governments in the determination of their policies.

This committee met a few months later and approved a general plan of work, proposing to concentrate at first on the three following groups of questions :

(a) The problems which present themselves in countries with rapidly increasing populations ;

(b) The problems which present themselves in countries with or threatened with diminishing population ; and

(c) The problems which present themselves in countries with a population which is small relatively to the productive area or to the natural resources.

After the outbreak of war it proved impossible to convene the committee, and for a time there were grounds for fearing that the whole undertaking would have to be postponed indefinitely. This would have been all the more regrettable as there has been little systematic international analysis of demographic phenomena similar to the analysis of economic phenomena that has been made by the League during the last twenty years, and such an analysis is as essential for the determination of policies after this war as it was before the war. Fortunately, owing to the courtesy and helpfulness of President Harold W. Dodds of Princeton University, these fears have proved groundless ; for he was good enough to arrange for the University's Office of Population Research, under the direction of Professor Frank W. Notestein, to undertake an extensive programme of research and analysis for the League.

This present volume on the Future Population of Europe and the Soviet Union is the first of a series now in course of preparation. As will be seen from the Table of Contents, it deals not only with population projections, but *inter alia* with two of the

[4]

three questions to which priority was given by the Demographic Committee.

The thanks of the League are due at once to President Dodds for the arrangement he was good enough to make, to Professor Notestein and his colleagues who have undertaken the arduous work involved, and to the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Milbank Memorial Fund for the financial support which in one manner or another they have afforded.

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December, 1943

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Few books are the exclusive work of their signers, and this one is less so than most. It represents the joint efforts of almost the entire staff of the Office of Population Research, carried on in close cooperation with the Economic, Financial and Transit Department of the League of Nations. The writers are particularly indebted to Dr. Alexander Loveday, Director of the Economic Department of the League, at whose suggestion the project was undertaken. He has given invaluable counsel and criticism at all stages of the work, while according such complete freedom to the writers as to exempt him from all responsibility for any errors of fact or interpretation.

One of the authors is in the unusual position of being chiefly responsible for the core of subject matter of the study without having participated in either the interpretation or the presentation of the material, indeed, without having had an opportunity to read the manuscript. Lt. (j.g.) Ansley J. Coale, U.S.N.R., formerly of the Office staff, is almost exclusively responsible for developing the methods by which the population projections were obtained and for supervising their computation. His entry on naval service made impossible further participation in the work. The other authors have worked in such close collaboration that the analysis and interpretation throughout must be considered the joint product of their efforts. They gratefully acknowledge the assistance of their staff colleagues: Dr. Frank Lorimer, for the basic data relating to the Soviet Union and for his many valuable suggestions; Dr. Kingsley Davis, for criticism of sections of the manuscript; and the statistical and secretarial assistants who carried the heavy burden of detailed work with ability and diligence. Special thanks are also due to Dr. David V. Glass, formerly of the London School of Economics, for his helpful suggestions, the use of unpublished bibliographical material, and of unpublished population projections of his own construction.

Finally the authors wish to express their appreciation to the Carnegie Corporation of New York and to the Milbank Memorial Fund for financial support that made this study possible: to the Carnegie Corporation for substantial grants made the University specifically in support of the cooperative project of the Office and

the League of which this study is one result; and to the Milbank Memorial Fund for special assistance on this project and for the regular support it has given the Office since its inception. It is to be understood, of course, that neither foundation is author, owner, publisher, or proprietor of this report or is to be understood as approving by virtue of its grants any of the statements made or views expressed in it. In all matters of fact or interpretation the authors alone are responsible.

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December, 1943

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	3
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	5
CHAPTER	
I. The Approach to the Problem	15
The Problem	15
Assumptions	19
Procedures	21
Mortality	22
Fertility	28
The Population Projections	36
II. The Pattern of Population Change in Europe	44
The Continent	44
Regions and Countries	48
Conclusion	69
III. The Demographic Effects of War and Their Relation to Population Projections	72
The Nature of Population Losses Resulting from War	73
World War I	74
World War II	83
War and Vital Trends	90
War and Age Structure	94
Conclusion	106
IV. Changing Age Structures, 1940-1970	108
V. Manpower	117
Relation of Population in Productive Ages to Labor Force	117
Trends in Total Manpower, 1940-1970	119
Changes Within the Male Labor Force	125
The Aging Labor Force	128
Regional Changes in Manpower Potential	131
Effects of War and Migration on Manpower	137

VI. Women: Demographic and Economic Potential	139
Trends in the Number of Women, 1940-1970	139
The Economic Role of Women	141
The Reproductive Role of Women	143
The Balance of the Sexes	145
Responsibility for Child Care, 1940-1970	149
The Competing Roles of Women, 1940-1970	150
VII. The Burden of Dependency: Youth versus the Aged	153
Changes in Productive and Dependent Ages	154
Implications of the Shifting Balance of Dependency	159
The Effects of War, Migration, and Population Policy	162
VIII. The Next Decades	164
The Problems of Population Pressure	165
Emigration	169
Industrialization	170
The Problems of Population Decline	173
Immigration	173
The Reduction of Mortality	175
Population Policy	176
APPENDIX I. Methodological Notes	183
Mortality	183
Fertility	189
The Base Populations and Their Projections	197
APPENDIX II. The Historical Development of Population Estimates	199
Curves of Growth	199
Component Projections	200
Comparison of Various Projections with Those of This Report	207
APPENDIX III. Selected Bibliography on Population Pro- jections with Special Reference to Europe	219

APPENDIX IV. Population Projections for Europe and the
U.S.S.R. at Five-Year Intervals, 1940-
1970 235

TABLES

	PAGE
1. Population of Europe, 1900-1970	45
2. Population Projections for Europe and the U.S.S.R. at Five-Year Intervals, 1940-1970	56
3. Estimated Population Deficits as Result of World War I	75
4. Population Growth in Europe, 1900-1930	82
5. Rates of Natural Increase per 1,000 Inhabitants in European Countries, 1938-1942	87
6. Population Deficits as the Result of War and Vital Trends, England and Wales and Germany	93
7. Number of Men Aged 15-64 by Regions: 1940, 1955, and 1970	120
8. Rank Order and Number of Men 15-34 Years of Age in 1921, and as Projected for 1940, 1955, and 1970, for the Ten Most Populous Countries of Europe	134
9. Formulas for Mortality Projections (10,000 ₁ q _x): Males and Females	186
10. Summary of Sources, Years Covered, and Basic As- sumptions of Projections Presented in Figures 54 and 55	212

FIGURES

	PAGE
1. Net reproduction rates by country, about 1930-1935 (Map)	18
2. Basic curves for the projection of mortality for females of selected age groups	23
3. Number of survivors observed in 1929-1931, and number "predicted" by projecting mortality from the life table of 1900-1902, for white males of the original registra- tion states of the United States	24
4. Illustrations of the "prediction" of recent life expect- ancies at birth from past mortality tables by the method used to project mortality, for selected countries	25
5. Trends of observed and projected life expectancies at birth for males, by country, 1875-1970	27
6. Fertility rates projected for Sweden and the U.S.S.R., 1940-1970	33
7. Trends of observed and projected gross reproduction rates, by country, 1920-1970	34
8. The male population of England and Wales by age, pro- jected for 1940, 1955, and 1970	37
9. Age distributions in 1970, and vital rates, 1934-1969, for projections of the population of England and Wales, on the basis of: (1) a declining population, obtained by the standard procedure of this report, and (2) a population that remains stationary from 1946.5 to 1970	40
10. Per cent change in population, by country, 1900-1910 (Map)	50
11. Per cent change in population, by country, 1910-1920 (Map)	50
12. Per cent change in population, by country, 1920-1930 (Map)	51
13. Per cent change in population, by country, 1930-1940 (Map)	51

14. Regional classification of Europe and the U.S.S.R., and approximate date of maximum population projected for each country in the period 1940-1970 (Map)	54
15. Per cent change in projected population, by country, 1940-1950 (Map)	54
16. Per cent change in projected population, by country, 1950-1960 (Map)	55
17. Per cent change in projected population, by country, 1960-1970 (Map)	55
18. Population trends of demographic regions, 1900-1970	58
19. Absolute and per cent change from 1940 to 1970, in projected total population of European countries	59
20. Population trends in selected countries, 1800-1970	63
21. Absolute and per cent distribution of the population, by region, at intervals from 1900 to 1970	69
22. Birth rates in selected countries, 1900-1938	91
23. Prewar and postwar age pyramids for Sweden, by single years of age	95
24. Prewar and postwar age pyramids for England and Wales, by single years of age	96
25. Prewar and postwar age pyramids for Germany, by single years of age	97
26. Age pyramids for Germany and England and Wales on various assumptions regarding war and vital trends, 1925 and 1926	100
27. Age pyramids for Germany and England and Wales on various assumptions regarding war and vital trends, 1940 and 1941	101
28. Age pyramids for Germany and England and Wales on various assumptions regarding war and vital trends, 1950 and 1951	103
29. Age pyramids for India, 1931, and for England and Wales, 1841 and 1931	110

30. Age pyramids of projected population for Northwestern and Central Europe and for Europe excluding the U.S.S.R., 1940 and 1970	112
31. Age pyramids of projected population for Southern and Eastern Europe and for the U.S.S.R., 1940 and 1970	113
32. Absolute and per cent change from 1940 to 1970, in the projected population of broad age groups, by major regions	115
33. Number of males in productive ages, 15-64, by country, as projected for 1940 and 1970	121
34. Absolute and per cent change in male population in the productive ages, 15-64, for countries of Europe, as projected 1940-1955 and 1955-1970	122
35. Male entrants to the productive ages, 15-64, per 100 departures, as projected for the period 1940-1945 (Map)	124
36. Male entrants to the productive ages, 15-64, per 100 departures, as projected for the period 1955-1960 (Map)	124
37. Male entrants to the productive ages, 15-64, per 100 departures, as projected for the period 1965-1970 (Map)	125
38. Males of specified ages per 100 of corresponding ages in 1940, as projected for major regions	126
39. Age distribution of males in the productive ages, 15-64, by major regions, as projected for 1940, 1955, and 1970	129
40. Regional distribution of males in the productive ages, 15-64, as projected for 1940, 1955, and 1970	132
41. Number of men in prime military ages, 15-34, by country, as projected for 1940 and 1970	133
42. Number of men in prime military ages, 15-34, and ratio to 1940, by major regions, as projected 1940-1970	135
43. Ratio of projected population of 1970 to that of 1940 by age and sex, by major regions	140
44. Per cent change from 1940 to 1970 in projected number of women 20-34 years of age, by country	144

45. Deviation of number of males from that of females of corresponding age in 1940, 1955, and 1970, for Europe and the U.S.S.R.	146
46. Sex ratio at each age in Germany, 1910, 1933, and 1970; and in Sweden, 1910, 1930, and 1970	146
47. Number of children per 1,000 women 15-44 years of age, by major regions, as projected for 1940, 1955, and 1970	149
48. Per cent distribution by broad age groups of the population of England and Wales, 1841-1970, and of Germany, 1871-1970	154
49. Number of persons under age 15 and at 65 and over per 100 persons aged 15-64, by major regions, as projected 1940-1970	156
50. Per cent of the population under age 15 and at 65 and over, by country, as projected for 1940 and 1970	158
51. Agricultural workers per square kilometer, and wheat yields: France, Germany, and countries of Eastern Europe	167
52. Illustration of the method of projecting mortality rates: males 30-34 years of age	184
53. Actual and computed height-slope relations of fertility	191
54. Comparison of population projections for various countries of Europe	208
55. Comparison of population projections for Italy and Poland	209