

## Lesson 2: Subjects vs. Objects

### PURPOSE

To enable students to accurately recognize when policy respects or disrespects human dignity.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand universal, intrinsic and inherent human dignity as the foundation of human rights.
2. Recognize violations of human dignity and human rights in development policies implementing population control programs.
3. Understand what is a person-centered approach to development.

### MATERIALS & RESOURCES

- [Video](#): Obviously Thanos is Evil. He's also Wrong.
- Who Won the Bet of the Century?
- William McGurn: Economic Foundations of Population Control Policies
- William McGurn: Consequences of Population Control Policies
- Person-Centered Approach to Development handout

### VOCABULARY

- Treating persons as subjects: valuing persons for their intrinsic worth
- Treating persons as objects: using persons for personal pleasure or benefit; or sacrificing them for the sake of ideology or the collective
- Population control policies: policies which aim to alleviate poverty and achieve development by reducing the number of people instead of reducing poverty

**PROCEDURE**

**Step 1:** Review the previous lesson. Review the three powers which all living beings share and three which only humans and animals share. Recall that the powers to think and choose are specifically human powers. Ask students to define human dignity and its three characteristics. Highlight why the UDHR is truly universal and that human dignity is the basis for human rights, asserted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and not the other way around. Emphasize this by writing the following statement on the board:

Human rights are a legal reflection of the preexisting reality of each person's inherent dignity.

**Step 2:** Recall that in Grade 11, the class learned that some political systems like Nazism, Fascism or Communism, treat persons as objects and thus violate their dignity. Today, the violation of human rights still occurs. This happens when programs and policies are used to promote agendas which are contrary to human dignity. In this lesson, the class will learn about the history and implementation of population control policies.

Write the definition of population control policies on the board:

Population control policies: policies which aim to alleviate poverty and achieve development by reducing the number of people instead of reducing poverty

Population control policies are a result of a belief that large populations are the cause of poverty and lack of access to resources in some nations. Based on this belief, population policies aim to limit the number of people in order to achieve economic growth and development.

These policies stem from the theory first developed by the British economist Thomas Malthus (1766–1834) who believed that the number of people would grow faster than food production, leading to widespread famine and disease. He said: “The power of the population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man.”<sup>2</sup> However, Malthus did not predict that human ingenuity would increase food production. So, the population did grow but so did the creative expertise to produce enough food for everyone. In consequence, Malthus’ predictions never came to pass. And yet, Malthusian thinking has informed many population control policies in countries around the world.

<sup>2</sup> Malthus, Thomas Robert (18 January 2010). *An Essay on the Principle of Population*. Oxfordshire, England: Oxford World's Classics. p. 13.

## TOTALITARIAN POLICIES AROUND THE WORLD

**1. China:** In order to respond to increasing population growth and to ensure sufficient food supply and economic growth, China initiated its controversial one-child policy in the latter part of the 1970s. The policy restricted Chinese couples, particularly those residing in urban areas, to having only one child. It is estimated that it has prevented about 400 million births between 1979 and 2011. Evidence of forced abortion, forced sterilization, and infanticide is well-documented. Non-compliance with the policy results in punishments such as fines, loss of benefits, more expensive obstetric care, and even the loss of employment for government workers. Women who determine the sex of the fetus is female often choose to abort in order to ensure that their one child will be a boy.<sup>3</sup> In 2016, China adopted a two-child policy, and the current three-child policy was announced on 31 May 2021 at a meeting of the Chinese Communist Party. Despite the change in policy, the fundamental human rights concerns remain.<sup>4</sup>

**2. India:** India's population grew significantly, accompanied by a sharp decline in mortality, in the second half of the twentieth century. In the face of the perceived challenges associated with population growth, and encouraged by aid loans amounting to tens of millions of dollars from the World Bank, the Swedish International Development Authority and the UN Population Fund, India embarked on an ambitious population control program. In the 1970s Prime Minister Indira Gandhi undertook a gruesome sterilisation campaign. In one year alone, 6.2 million people were sterilised. In 2014 a two-child family planning policy was implemented in about 11 states.<sup>5</sup> Current and aspiring politicians running in these states can be disqualified if they have more than two children. Current legislation aims to bar those with more than two children from applying for government jobs, seeking promotions or benefiting from any government subsidies, while people with only one child and couples who get sterilised would be eligible for more benefits, including free healthcare and education. Prenatal sex-selection aborting female children is illegal but remains an all-too common practice.<sup>6</sup>

3 China's one-child policy : the government's massive crime against women and unborn babies : hearing before the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, One Hundred Twelfth Congress, first session, September 22, 2011., available at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-112hrg68446/html/CHRG-112hrg68446.htm> (last visited Dec 1, 2022).

4 China Says It Will Allow Couples to Have 3 Children, Up From 2, The New York Times, May 2021, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/31/world/asia/china-three-child-policy.html> (last visited Dec 1, 2022).

5 Ramya Jawahar Kudekallu, India's Forced Sterilization Practices Under International Human Rights Law, *Völkerrechtsblog*, 10.03.2022, doi: 10.17176/20220310-120951-0., available at <https://voelkerrechtsblog.org/indias-forced-sterilization-practices-under-international-human-rights-law/> (last visited Dec 1, 2022).

6 What is two-child policy? What Assam and Uttar Pradesh have proposed, *Hindustan Times*, Jul 10, 2021, available at <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/what-is-two-child-policy-what-assam-and-uttar-pradesh-have-proposed-101625911705691.html> (last visited Dec 1, 2022).

**3. Vietnam:** Beginning in the 1960s, Vietnam enforced the official policy of “một hoặc hai con” which means “one or two children”. Current policy states that each couple and individual has the right to have one or two children, with exceptional cases determined by the Government. There is evidence that the government of Vietnam is currently involved in coercive reproductive health programmes in the Central Highland Mountains. The government has stated that they offer “incentives and fines only” but documented cases show that women were told surgical sterilization was a way to save themselves, so that they would have enough to eat. Women report being threatened that if they do not undergo the surgery.<sup>7</sup>

**4. Cambodia:** A report issued by the government of Cambodia states that a “specific recommendation for advocacy is to promote a small family norm to help reduce fertility and population growth rates and improve levels of human resources development.”<sup>8</sup>

**Step 3:** Show the [video](#) “Obviously Thanos is Evil. He’s also Wrong” and watch it together as a class. Lead the class discussion by asking students to explain what the Simon–Ehrlich wager was all about and why Thanos is wrong. Provide an explanation based on the text [Who Won the Bet of the Century?](#). Afterwards, give the text to students so they can recall the explanation.

**Step 4:** Divide the students into groups. Ask half of the groups to read the text by [William McGurn](#), [Economic Foundations of Population Control Policies](#), and the other half the text by the same author, [Consequences of Population Control Policies](#). After reading the text, groups should discuss the questions associated with the text. After the groups finish reading and discussing, ask them to present their conclusions to the rest of the class. The teacher should lead the discussion on the basis of the Answer Key provided with the texts.

**Step 5:** Recall the definitions of treating persons as objects and as subjects:

Treating persons as subjects: valuing persons for their intrinsic worth

Treating persons as objects: using persons for personal pleasure or benefit; or sacrificing them for the sake of ideology or the collective

7 Knudsen, Lara (30 June 2006). *Reproductive Rights in a Global Context: South Africa, Uganda, Peru, Denmark, United States, Vietnam, Jordan* (1 ed.). Vanderbilt University Press. pp. 139–168. ISBN 978-0-8265-1528-5.

8 Sustainable Development White Paper, World Youth Alliance, available at [https://www.wya.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Sustainable\\_Development\\_White\\_Paper.pdf](https://www.wya.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Sustainable_Development_White_Paper.pdf) (last visited Dec 1, 2022).

Highlight that population control policies violate human dignity because they treat human persons as objects instead of subjects. Such policies operate on the premise that people are objects that should serve economic development, instead of the other way around. Cambridge economist Amartya Sen, warned that developed nations were exhibiting a dangerous tendency to approach population issues with a mentality that “treats the people involved not as reasonable beings, allies faced with a common problem, but as impulsive and uncontrolled sources of great social harm, in need of strong discipline.”

Sen, who won the Nobel Prize for his works on inequality and world hunger, charged that international policy makers, by giving priority to “family planning arrangements in the Third World countries over other commitments such as education and health care, produce negative effects on people’s well-being and reduce their freedoms.”

Population control policies are not just ethically, but also economically flawed; they understand human persons as a burden on economic development. On the contrary, human ingenuity and creativity is the source of economic development. Many economists, theorists and academics are working to debunk the problematic historical idea that persons in developing nations are liabilities rather than assets. As such, developmental policies are now turning to focus on the seven forms of capital needed for human ingenuity to flourish.

Access to these seven forms of capital is essential to the achievement of prosperity:

### **CONVERT TO INVERSE TRIANGLE**

1. Natural endowments such as location, subsoil assets, forests, beaches, and climate.
2. Financial resources of a nation, such as savings and international reserves.
3. Humanly made capital, such as buildings, bridges, roads, and telecommunication assets.
4. Institutional capital, such as legal protections of tangible and intangible property, efficient government departments, and firms that maximize value to shareholders and compensate and train workers.
5. Knowledge resources, such as international patents, and university and think tank capacities.
6. Human capital, which represents skills, insights, capabilities.
7. Culture capital, which means not only the explicit articulations of culture like music, language, and ritualistic tradition but also attitudes and values that are linked to innovation.

Give students the [Person-Centered Approach to Development](#) handout so they can later recall the seven forms of capital needed to achieve development.

**Step 6:** Summarize. Recall the Simon-Ehrlich wager and what it was about. Recall the definition of population control policies and some examples of such policies. Highlight the economic and ethical problem with population control policies.

## Who Won the Bet of the Century?<sup>9</sup>

*The Population Bomb*, written by Paul and Anne Ehrlich in 1968, is the classic work promoting the idea that the Earth is overpopulated and that overpopulation will lead to humankind's demise. The Ehrlichs were alarmists; the front cover stated, "Population Control or Race to Oblivion?" and "While you are reading these words four people will have died from starvation. Most of them children."

In 1980, Paul Ehrlich and Julian Simon, then an environmental economist and Professor of Business Administration at the University of Maryland, made a famous wager about the prices of commodity metals over the next ten years. In 1990, Simon won the Simon-Ehrlich wager, as he correctly predicted that the prices of the five selected metals would decrease, instead of increase, which was Ehrlich's prediction. Ehrlich had argued that overpopulation was leading to depletion of the Earth's resources, and Simon countered that human ingenuity would create substitutes as necessary. The result of the wager was an indication that resources are not as scarce as Ehrlich had claimed, given that the population increased by 800 million while the amount of metals on the planet did not increase. A New York Times article explains the reason Simon won:

"Prices fell for the same Cornucopian reasons they had fallen in previous decades – entrepreneurship and continuing technological improvements. Prospectors found new lodes [...]. Thanks to computers, new machines and new chemical processes, there were more efficient ways to extract and refine the ores for chrome and the other metals. For many uses, the metals were replaced by cheaper materials [...]."<sup>10</sup>

Julian Simon explained that humans are able to discover "new deposits, new ways of extracting the resource, and new substitutes for the resource." He continued, "And the more people there are, the more minds that are working to discover new sources and increase productivity, with raw materials as with all other goods."<sup>11</sup>

This anecdote about the Simon-Ehrlich wager demonstrates that humanity's creativity is the Earth's greatest resource. This requires optimism about people and their ability to contribute to the good of society, instead of an alarmist or fear-mongering view that a growing population can only result in increased poverty or the depletion of natural resources.

9 World Youth Alliance White Paper on Sustainable Development, available at [https://www.wya.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Sustainable\\_Development\\_White\\_Paper.pdf](https://www.wya.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Sustainable_Development_White_Paper.pdf) (last visited Nov 22, 2022).

10 Betting on the Planet by John Tierney, *The New York Times*, Dec. 2, 1990, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/1990/12/02/magazine/betting-on-the-planet-505690.html> (last visited Nov 28, 2022).

11 The Ultimate Resource 2 by Julian Lincoln Simon.

Julian Simon found that “[t]he most important economic effect of population size and growth is the contribution of additional people to our stock of useful knowledge. And this contribution is great enough in the long run to overcome all the costs of population growth.”<sup>12</sup> This basic theory—that humans are creators and problem-solvers and respond to challenges with their creativity, rather than continuing to “destroy” – highlights the incredible value of humanity. This human creativity can provide limitless opportunities to eliminate poverty and poverty-induced problems.

Human creativity is evident in many areas, and the pattern is the same: as population increases, at times, there are short-term negative effects as existing resources are overtaxed. Then, human ingenuity steps up and presents new solutions. For example, in the area of food supply, a growing population drives up prices in the short run because of increased scarcity, but these higher prices attract potential entrepreneurs who create new solutions, which then cause prices to decrease. The supply of food then increases, despite the claims of many, who, like Ehrlich, argue that “the world is rapidly running out of food.” The creativity which solved the food crisis came from improvements in agricultural knowledge due to research and increased infrastructure as well as better transportation networks, which delivered food more efficiently. An increase in population also corresponds to an increase in agricultural output because of an increase in farmed land. The increase in the amount of farmland is the natural response to the need for more food as the population grows. Stories of population growth leading to a subsequent agricultural boom abound. This pattern has occurred in Ireland, China, and Burma. The amount of available arable land is ever increasing because people can improve poor land and reclaim wasteland for useful purposes. This increases productivity of food per unit of land, which yields more crops, and results in less additional land needed for farming.

Furthermore, when the population or the income level of a country grows, demand increases for the invention and development of capital goods such as machinery, tools, and factories. While demand increases due to a larger population, supply does as well, because there are more potential inventors and developers of the needed capital goods. Since people need tools to create other goods, the introduction of capital goods facilitates the creation and provision of goods and services to the population.

Obviously, economic growth needs to be sustainable and take into account the environmental and social aspects of growth. Increase in efficiency of production should and often is accompanied by the improvement of the production process in terms of it having a less negative impact on the environment. Human ingenuity is capable of both producing economic growth and doing it in an environmentally friendly and socially responsible way.

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<sup>12</sup> *ibid.*



**William McGurn: Economic Foundations of Population Control Policies<sup>13</sup>**

By any measure, the future for this Asian country looked bleak. Enormously overcrowded, its normal population had skyrocketed, increased not just by a naturally high birthrate but also by revolution in a neighboring country – forcing thousands of desperate refugees upon its borders. Lacking natural resources and utterly dependent upon its unpleasant neighbor for water and food, the country’s situation had deteriorated so badly that a local UN official declared the only way for it to survive would be with massive Western aid. An American newspaper proclaimed the country to be “dying”, and the government itself inclined to despair.

[...]

“The problem of a rapidly increasing population,” the government lamented, “lies at the core of every problem facing the administration.” These words might describe dozens of countries around the world today. In fact, they were written in the 1950s about Hong Kong – the same British colony that today has become a synonym for dynamism and development, with a per capita gross domestic product eclipsing Mother England’s. Indeed, at the very moment these government reports were being written, Hong Kong was on the cusp of a general Asian economic boom that would see real income per capita in Japan and the Four Tigers (Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, and South Korea) quadruple from 1960 to 1985. Though many observers felt as the American journalist John Robbins did in 1959, when he asserted that “Hong Kong’s state of supersaturation” may be “a portent of things to come throughout Asia,” the apocalypse they predicted never came to pass. Instead, Hong Kong witnessed the greatest economic boom of its history, and now boasts a population of more than six million people – about five times the number the Hong Kong government in 1954 declared to be its “carrying capacity”.

Though there are parts of Hong Kong that rank among the most densely packed areas in the world, it remains a peaceable and safe city – a fact not unrelated to the tangible sense of opportunity granted by its (presently) open economic system. The lesson Hong Kong teaches is that there is no fixed level of resources, no natural capacity, no predefined limit to what people might do if given the opportunity to exercise the real factors in development: enterprise, creativity, and risk [...]. In the dismal abacus of our day, when a pig is born in China, national wealth goes up; when a child is born, it goes down.

[...]

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<sup>13</sup> The Population and the Wealth of Nations by William McGurn, *First Things*, available at <https://www.firstthings.com/article/1996/12/004-population-and-the-wealth-of-nations> (last visited Nov 22, 2022).

When the push for reducing population growth began in the 1950s and 1960s, it owed much to this reduction of the human being to a collection of animal appetites and urges. The philosophical father to this school of thought is, of course, Thomas Malthus, who argued in his *Essay on the Principle of Population* (1798) that “the perpetual tendency in the race of man to increase beyond the means of subsistence is one of the great general laws of animated nature which we can have no reason to expect will change.” The catastrophes Malthus predicted never came to pass, but his brand of pessimism nonetheless continued.

William Vogt, in his best-selling book, *Road to Survival*, attributed Asia’s population growth to “untrammeled copulation” by “the backward billion”, while A. J. Carlson warned in a 1955 article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that “if we breed like rabbits, in the long run we have to live and die like rabbits.” Everywhere the distaste for human beings was on display – joined to the notion that the poorer parts of the world were dragging down richer.

[...]

Amid all the headlines predicting famine and chaos, there appears an astounding paragraph written in 1957 by Isamu managing director of Toyo Menka Kaisha. Inverting the usual way of looking at population and economics, he showed himself far more astute than many experts when he wrote:

“Instead of thinking our population is too large for our economy; I believe it is more correct to say the scale of our economy is too small for our population. Instead of surplus, unwanted persons, we should view our people as our most valuable natural resource. This is not only the humane but the realistic view. The Japanese people are hard working, energetic and resourceful, with a high level of education, skills, and competence. We are at the beginning of revolutionary industrial changes among which the recent achievements in synthetic chemistry and the potentialities in the peaceful use of atomic energy are mere portents. These new discoveries indicate clearly that in the economy of the future, whose beginnings are already among us, the economic resources which count will not be natural ones but human-intelligence, skill, and foresight.”

[...] in most cases it is the economists who have maintained faith in human ingenuity and initiative and who have rejected counsels of despair and control. The majority of them have never been found on the front lines of the movement for population control. And the reason is that the best economists spend their lives emphasizing that economic life is not about numbers, but about the triumph of the human mind when given the freedom to innovate and respond.

It is the market economist who argues for hope, who points to creativity when others push for control, who recognizes that people are good, in a fundamental, real sense: assets, not liabilities.

[...]

Certainly in a world where many still go hungry at night there is much to be done. But instead of looking for ways to reduce the number of those seeking to take their place at the table, we should look for ways to eliminate the perverse policies that prevent a bigger banquet.

### **QUESTIONS FOR A DISCUSSION:**

How do economic theories underpinning population control policies understand the relationship between population growth and economic development? What is the problem with this understanding?

Did population growth trample economic development in Hong Kong and East Asian countries? Explain.

**Answer Key for the teacher**

- 1. How do economic theories underpinning population control policies understand the relationship between population growth and economic development?** Population control policies are rooted in the economic theory first propagated by Thomas Malthus and later supported by a number of intellectuals. Thomas Malthus argued in his *Essay on the Principle of Population* (1798) that “the perpetual tendency in the race of man to increase beyond the means of subsistence is one of the great general laws of animated nature which we can have no reason to expect will change.” In essence, his theory claims that population grows more than it can produce goods for its subsistence. This development should eventually result in world hunger, but this prediction never came to pass since humans were finding more efficient ways to produce food and other goods. These theories view human persons as a burden to development, while in fact the opposite is true. Human persons and their ingenuity are the source of economic growth through creative finding new ways to increase efficiency of production. Instead of surplus, unwanted persons, we should view our people as our most valuable natural resource.
- 2. What is the problem with this understanding? Did population growth trample economic development in Hong Kong and East Asian countries? Explain.** Population growth did not trample economic development in Hong Kong and East Asian countries. On the contrary, Hong Kong has become a synonym for dynamism and development, with a per capita gross domestic product eclipsing England’s. Hong Kong was on the cusp of a general Asian economic boom that would see real income per capita in Japan and the Four Tigers (Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, and South Korea) quadruple from 1960 to 1985. Though many observers felt as the American journalist John Robbins did in 1959, when he asserted that “Hong Kong’s state of supersaturation” may be “a portent of things to come throughout Asia,” the apocalypse they predicted never came to pass. Instead, Hong Kong witnessed the greatest economic boom of its history, and now boasts a population of more than six million people -about five times the number the Hong Kong government in 1954 declared to be its carrying capacity.”

**William McGurn: Consequences of Population Control Policies<sup>14</sup>**

[...] the idea that nations could become rich only if they moved to control their population rates became an article of faith among Western and Western educated intellectuals in Asia – a faith backed up by aid dollars linked to the willingness of recipient countries to develop control measures. In the Philippines, for example, the U.S. Agency for International Development obtained a provision in the Marcos-era constitution granting the state authority over population levels. The Western missionary fervor once directed at Christianizing Asia has been channeled, in the second half of the twentieth century, into proselytizing for fewer Asians.

Despite its notable failures, moreover, population control has become orthodoxy in a number of states, especially China. Through the 1950s, Maoist doctrine held large populations to be assets, with increased size corresponding to increased output. In this Mao was right, as the subsequent development of its neighbors demonstrates. Where Chinese communism erred was not in its estimation of the Chinese but in its estimation of communism.

This is not the place to discuss the well-documented horrors of population control in Asia: the forced abortions, sterilizations, and even infanticides. I want to suggest, however, that these horrors are a direct consequence of the idea that development requires poor nations to limit their populations – which also explains, I believe, the pronounced indifference in the West to practices that would provoke outrage were they applied to people in Scarsdale or San Francisco instead of Shanghai and Bombay. Without the economic imperative underlying population control, the abuses have no rational motivation [...].

Most of the freer Asian countries at one time or another adopted policies penalizing large families or offering incentives to small families, whether through the tax code or through benefits like preferential housing and jobs. And over the years most of these nations have succeeded in lowering their total fertility rates. From 1953 to 1993, the annual number of births per thousand people in Taiwan dropped from forty-five to sixteen and the average number of children in a Taiwanese family dropped from seven to 1.7 (below the number for the U.S., Britain, and even China). With increased average life spans, it means a grayer and grayer Taiwan: In 1994 people over sixty-five years old accounted for only 7 percent of the population; by 2036 the figure will be three times as large – which means a smaller percentage of workers. In response to such trends, Singapore has already shifted from promoting smaller families to promoting larger ones. It is in China, however, where population control has been stringent, that two nasty side effects appear most clearly: the world's most rapidly aging society and a dangerously skewed ratio between boys and girls. [...]

<sup>14</sup> The Population and the Wealth of Nations by William McGurn, *First Things*, available at <https://www.firstthings.com/article/1996/12/004-population-and-the-wealth-of-nations> (last visited Nov 22, 2022).

The demographic shifts are obvious to the most casual visitor. In the Temple of Heaven Park in Beijing, there are legions of adults for each child. [...] China already has the largest number of elderly in the world, and the projections of the number of workers compared to the number of retirees are stark. The Chinese Statistics Bureau reports that in 1987 the number of people over sixty years were 13.5 percent. As the effects of the one-child program make themselves felt, however, the numbers leap dramatically: to 23.8 percent in 2020, 36 percent in 2030, and 44.9 percent in 2050 - when more than 400 million Chinese will be over sixty years of age, and there will be almost one retiree for every two workers. The Japanese are already paying higher taxes imposed by leaders worried about their own graying society. But Japan's problems pale beside China's, which is nowhere near as wealthy, about ten times more populous, and aging at a much faster clip.

The practice of sex selection creates related problems. Within Asia generally, there exists a strong cultural preference for sons. [...] In China the combination of this bias in favor of sons and the one-child policy has in practice meant the aborting of many fetuses simply because they are girls. The result is that whereas the normal relationship is 104 to 107 boys for every 100 girls born, China now sees 119 boys born for every 100 girls. (Other Asian countries have corresponding figures: 114 in South Korea, 110 in Taiwan, and as many as 112 in India.) This shift too will begin to make itself felt [...] with harrowing ramifications for social order.

**QUESTIONS FOR A DISCUSSION:**

Explain how population control policies influenced population aging?

How did population control policies influence the male-female ratio in the countries which implemented them?

**Answer Key for the teacher**

1. **Explain how population control policies influenced population aging?** McGurn describes how population control policies affect demographic trends in the future:

“From 1953 to 1993, the annual number of births per thousand people in Taiwan dropped from forty-five to sixteen and the average number of children in a Taiwanese family dropped from seven to 1.7 (below the number for the U.S., Britain, and even China). With increased average life spans, it means a grayer and grayer Taiwan: In 1994 people over sixty-five years old accounted for only 7 percent of the population; by 2036 the figure will be three times as large - which means a smaller percentage of workers. In response to such trends, Singapore has already shifted from promoting smaller families to promoting larger ones. China, where population control has been stringent, has the world’s most rapidly aging society.

In the Temple of Heaven Park in Beijing, there are legions of adults for each child... China already has the largest number of elderly in the world, and the projections of the number of workers compared to the number of retirees are stark. The Chinese Statistics Bureau reports that in 1987 the number of people over sixty years was 13.5 percent. As the effects of the one-child program make themselves felt, however, the numbers leap dramatically: to 23.8 percent in 2020, 36 percent in 2030, and 44.9 percent in 2050 - when more than 400 million Chinese will be over sixty years of age, and there will be almost one retiree for every two workers. The Japanese are already paying higher taxes imposed by leaders worried about their own graying society. But Japan’s problems pale beside China’s, which is nowhere near as wealthy, about ten times more populous, and aging at a much faster clip.”

2. **How did population control policies influence the male-female ratio in the countries which implemented them?** McGurn describes how population control in Asia led to a disproportionate girl-boy ratio:

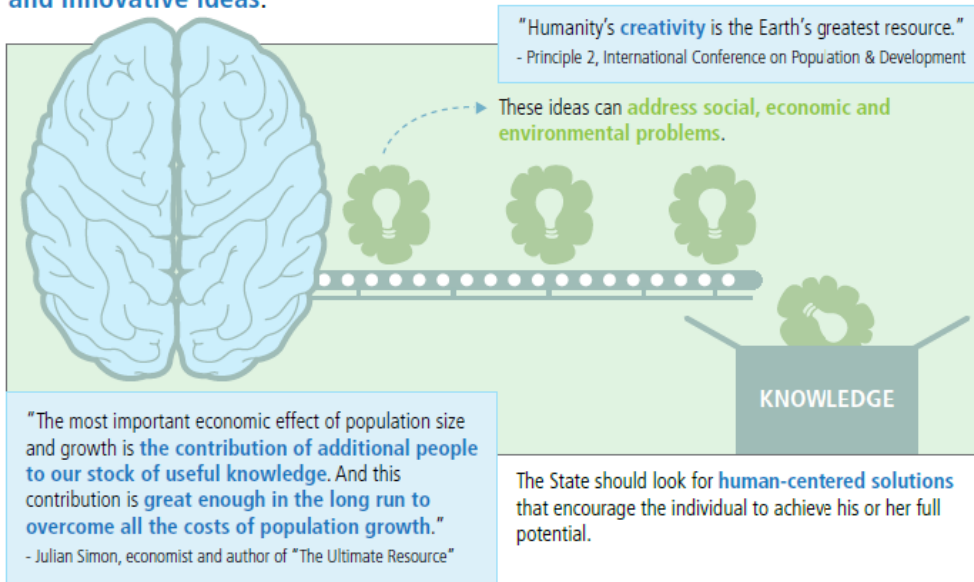
“The practice of sex selection creates related problems. Within Asia generally, there exists a strong cultural preference for sons, based on the not irrational idea that sons support their parents in old age and carry on the family name. In China the combination of this bias in favor of sons and the one-child policy has in practice meant the aborting of many fetuses simply because they are girls. The result is that whereas the normal relationship is 104 to 107 boys for every 100 girls born, China now sees 119 boys born for every 100 girls. (Other Asian countries have corresponding figures: 114 in South Korea, 110 in Taiwan, and as many as 112 in India.) This shift too will begin to make itself felt when whole generations of boys suddenly find themselves unable to find wives, with harrowing ramifications for social order.”

**Person-Centered Approach to Development**

What is the  
**REAL SOLUTION?**

✓ **PEOPLE**

People are **problem-solvers**, not problems. The human mind is a **factory for creative and innovative ideas**.



According to international entrepreneur and government advisor Michael Fairbanks there are

**7 FORMS OF CAPITAL**

- |                    |  |                     |  |
|--------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>LOWER FORMS</b> | <b>1 NATURAL ENDOWMENTS</b><br>Forests, beaches, climate, location, etc.   | <b>HIGHER FORMS</b> | <b>5 KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES</b><br>International patents, universities, etc.  |
|                    | <b>2 FINANCIAL RESOURCES</b><br>Savings, international reserves, etc.  |                     | <b>6 HUMAN CAPITAL</b><br>Skills, insights, capabilities, etc.   |
|                    | <b>3 HUMAN-MADE CAPITAL</b><br>Buildings, bridges, roads, telecommunication, etc.  |                     | <b>7 CULTURE CAPITAL</b><br>Music, language, attitudes and values linked to innovation, etc.   |
|                    | <b>4 INSTITUTIONAL CAPITAL</b><br>Legal protections of tangible and intangible property, efficient government departments, firms that compensate and train workers, etc. |                     | <b>In order to be prosperous, people should focus on cultivating these forms of capital and transforming lower forms to higher forms of capital.</b> |

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