

Second Demographic Transition: concepts, dimensions, new evidence

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Motto for transition studies:

☞ ‘... to study the subject within the context of ‘national history’ ... is decidedly the wrong framework for so international and pan-European a phenomenon’.

☞ [Jonathan I. Israel in: *Radical Enlightenment*, Oxford University Press (2001)]

First use of concept

- ✿ In conversation: Brussels - 29 August 1985
(Van de Kaa and Lesthaeghe (Eds) planning a book supplement to M. & M.)
- ✿ In publications: Lesthaeghe and Van de Kaa in
'*Two demographic transitions?*' pp 9-24 in
Population Growth and Decline, Deventer, 1986
- ✿ Van de Kaa: '*Europe's Second Demographic Transition*', Washington, DC 1987

...so few from so many ...



Germination of ideas(Lesthaeghe)

- ✿ -1980 (on social control of human reproduction), *PDR*
- ✿ 1982 (on modes of production...), *Population* (with Wilson)
- ✿ 1983 (on century of demographic and cultural change in Western Europe), *PDR*
- ✿ 1985 (on value orientations ...), *IPD*-(WP 85-7)

Germination of ideas(Van de Kaa)

- ✿ -1978 (on recent fertility trends in Western Europe), *NIDI, W.P. 11* (published in Hiorns (ed), *Demographic Patterns...*, Taylor&Francis, London, 1980)
- ✿ -1985 (on demographic behaviour and perspectives) in; *The Future of the Western Family*, North Holland Publishers, Amsterdam
- ✿ -1985 (during preparation PRB-bulletin, begun at NIDI 18 December 1985)

Parallel and influential ideas:

- ✿ Sauvy: 1960, 'une transition altruiste' *Cahiers Ined, PUF*
- ✿ Ariès: 1980, 'two motivations', 'enfant roi', *Höhn&Mackensen (eds) and also PDR*
- ✿ Festy: 1985 'golden age of marriage', *C. of Europe study* and also his 1979 *Cahiers Ined 85, PUF*
- ✿ Schmid, 1984, 'on background', *C. of Europe study*
- ✿ Roussel, 1983, *Futuribles*, 1985, *Population*, more

Initial focus of concept

- ⌘ Simultaneity of fertility decline
- ⌘ No end to transition, below replacement
- ⌘ Sequential movement family formation indicators
- ⌘ Change contraceptive practice (2nd révolution)
- ⌘ Spreading over Europe/stage in countries
- ⌘ Value change as prime mover

Broadening of concept

- ✂ Changes also affect mortality and migration
- ✂ Influence structural, cultural, technological factors- from exploration to explanation
- ✂ Nature of decision making process
- ✂ Options: when used to create sequences?
- ✂ Uncertainty about spreading over Europe
- ✂ Relevance for Eastern Europe & elsewhere
- ✂ Contraception; quantum and tempo changes

Explorations

- ✿ Demographic aspects per se (their interrelations, effect postponement, timing, decomposition, childlessness, life course)
- ✿ Gender roles; labour force, education, being a parent
- ✿ Value change, life styles, aspirations, costs
- ✿ Relation to broader processes in society (world views)
- ✿ Effects on different age groups/elderly
- ✿ Policy impacts-attitudes of the public

Further explorations

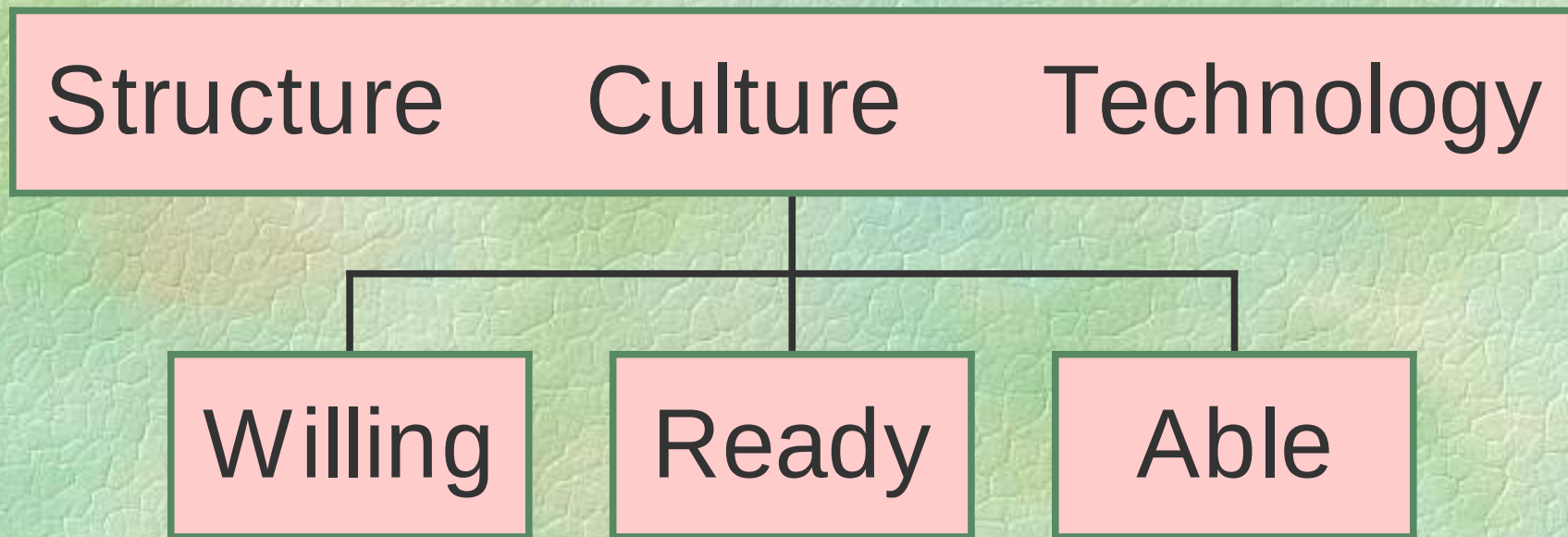
- ✂ Regional cultural aspects
- ✂ Genetic influences
- ✂ Convergence and divergence
- ✂ Psychological aspects
- ✂ Catalytic role contraception
- ✂ Destandardisation of life courses
- ✂ Apparent anomalies

Explanations

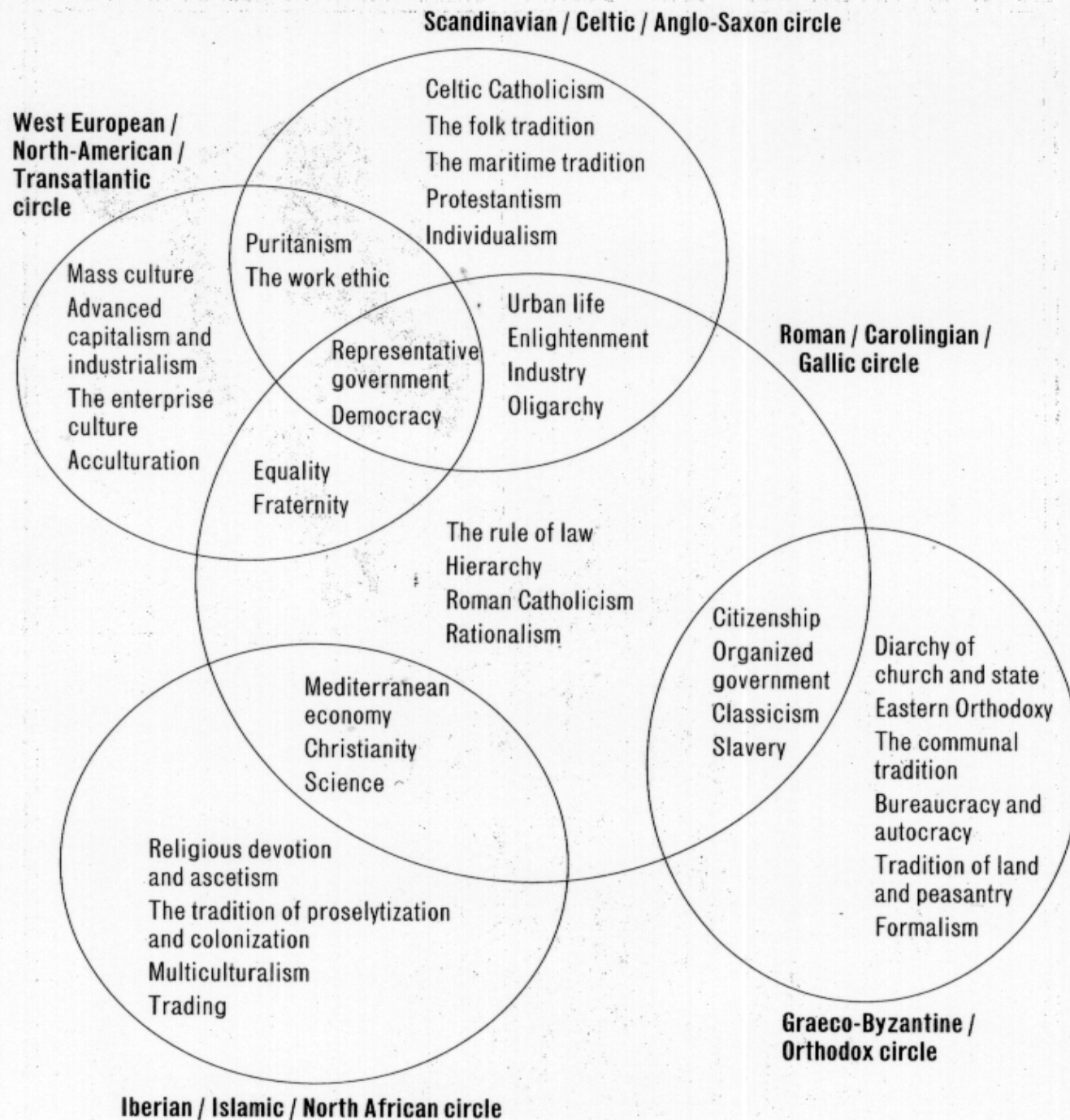
- ✂ Ready, willing and able - diffusion
- ✂ Human capital, risks of commitment
- ✂ Macro-micro linkages
- ✂ Social integration/-exclusion/-interaction
- ✂ Crisis conditions
- ✂ Post-materialization/ post-modernization
- ✂ Stage civilization

Social Change

Macro-micro relationship



Europe's Cultural Circles: an Interpretation (after M. Shennan)



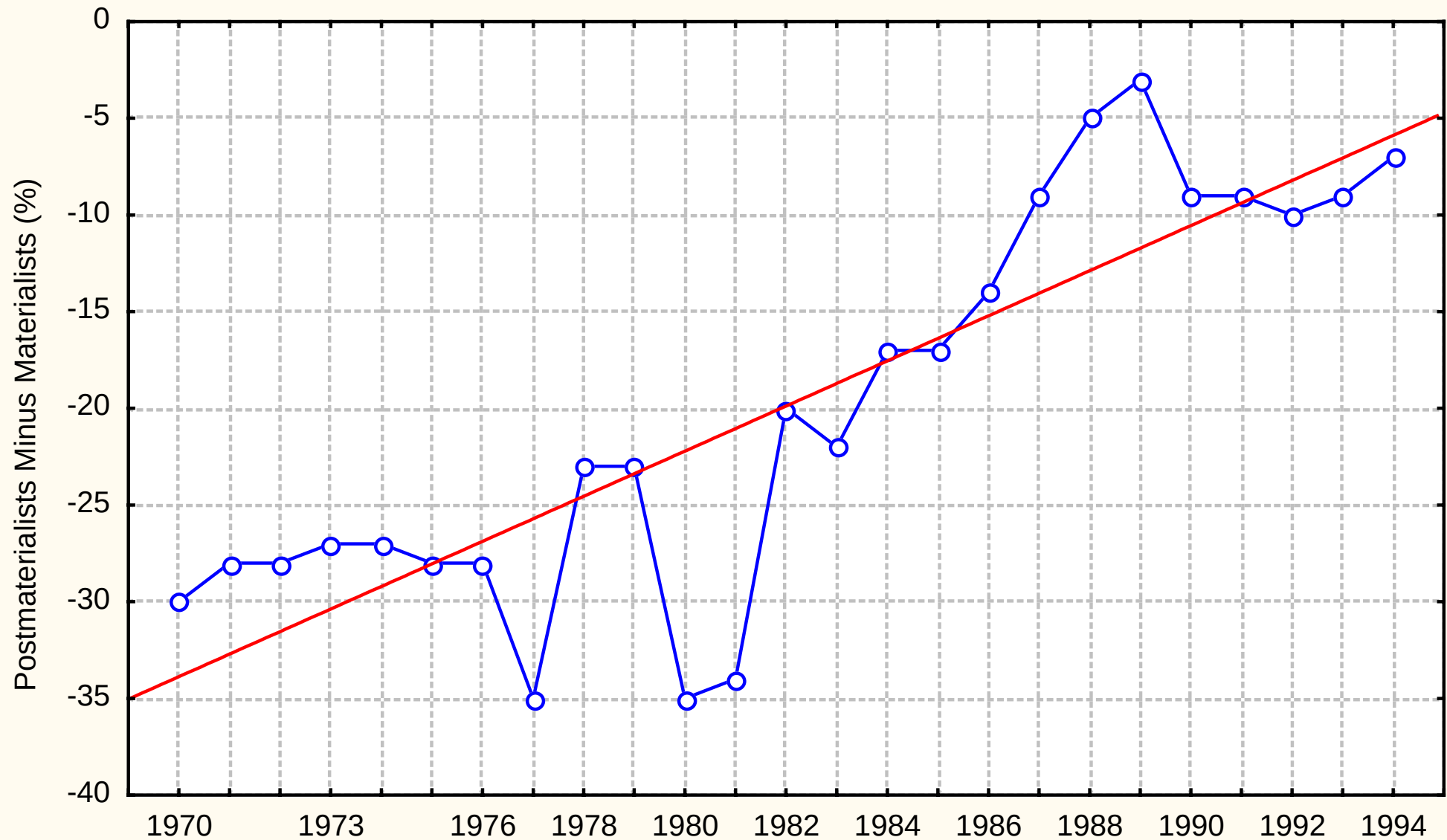
Europe's Cultural Circles

Source:
Davies 1997

Postmaterialism -Postmodernism

- ✿ Shift from emphasis on economic and physical security to individual self-expression and quality of life
- ✿ narrower concept than postmodernization
- ✿ well documented
- ✿ Elusive concept, but central incredulity of meta-narratives which underpin progress and modernity
- ✿ favour diversity, emancipation, freedom
- ✿ determine own life style, pattern relations

From Materialist to Postmaterialist



From Modern to Postmodern

- Two demographically relevant interpretations:

 - Postmodernism as a **World View**

 - Postmodernism as a **New Historical Era**

- Not well documented, but broad ideational shift evident, would fit idea Second Transition extremely well

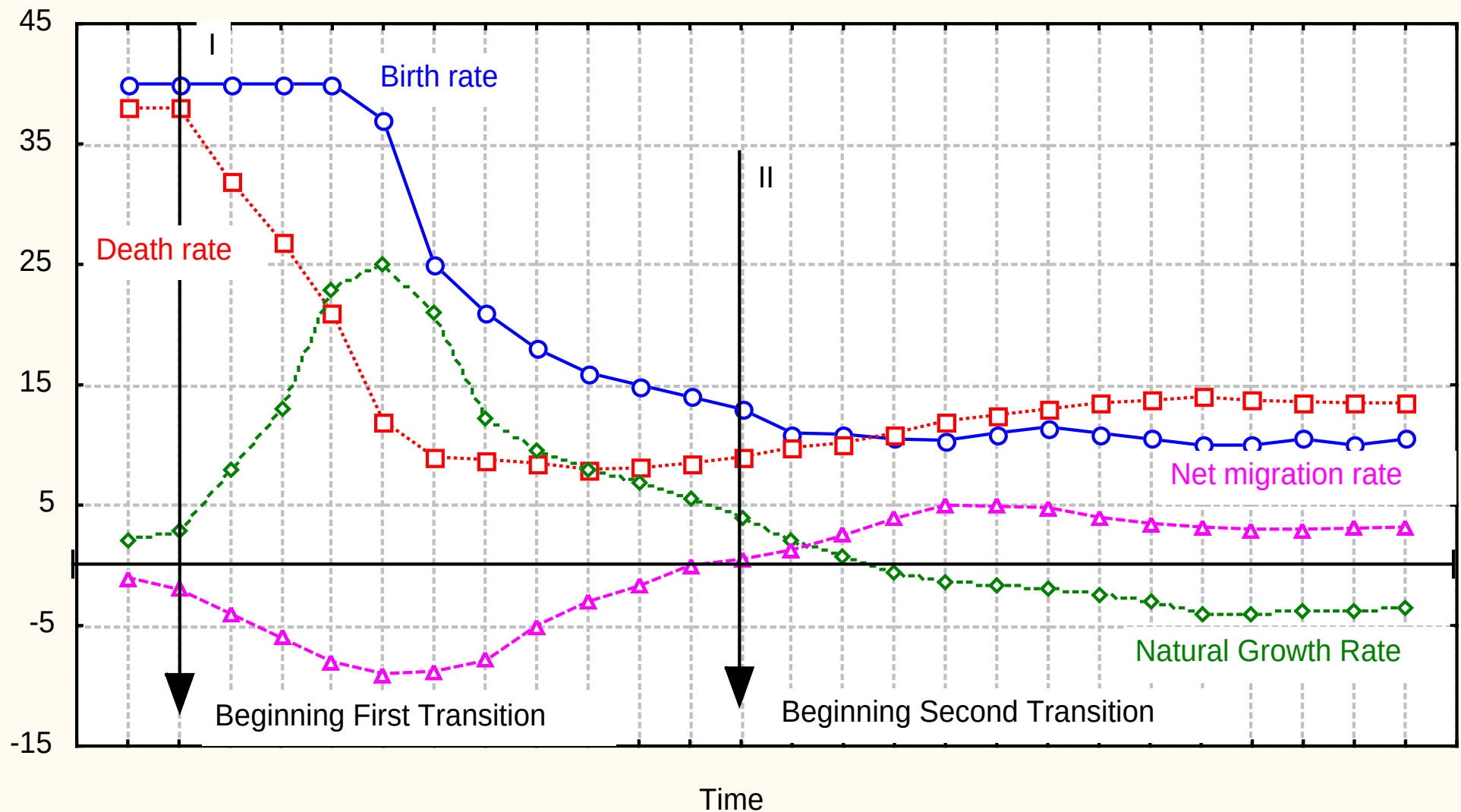
The Rise and Fall of Civilizations

- 1. Mixture
- 2. Gestation
- 3. Expansion
- 4. Age of conflict
- 5. Universal Empire
- 6. Decay
- 7. Invasion

Mortality Change created
Disequilibrium and
First Demographic Transition

Fertility Change created Second
Demographic Transition and
New Disequilibrium

Model of First and Second Demographic Transitions



Which taboos will have to be broken well before 2025?

- ✂ Using 10% of reproductive capacity is insufficient
- ✂ Social measures cannot solve labour shortages
- ✂ Migrants are no substitutes for births
- ✂ There is no lid for Europe's 'honey pot'
- ✂ Stretch boundaries of Europe to the limit