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’.

First use of concept

❖ In conversation: Brussels - 29 August 1985
(Van de Kaa and Lesthaeghe (Eds) planning a book supplement to M. & M.)


...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)


-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
- Ariës: 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—从 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

Structure    Culture    Technology

Willing    Ready    Able
Europe’s Cultural Circles: an Interpretation (after M. Shennan)

Scandinavian / Celtic / Anglo-Saxon circle
- Celtic Catholicism
- The folk tradition
- The maritime tradition
- Protestantism
- Individualism

Puritanism
- Mass culture
- Puritanism
- The work ethic
- Republican government
- Democracy
- Equality
- Fraternity

Roman / Carolingian / Gallic circle
- Urban life
- Enlightenment
- Industry
- Oligarchy

Citizenship
- Organized government
- Classicism
- Slavery

Graeco-Byzantine / Orthodox circle
- Diarchy of church and state
- Eastern Orthodoxy
- The communal tradition
- Bureaucracy and autocracy
- Tradition of land and peasantry
- Formalism

Iberian / Islamic / North African circle
- Mediterranean economy
- Christianity
- Science
- Religious devotion and asceticism
- The tradition of proselytization and colonization
- Multiculturalism
- Trading

West European / North-American / Transatlantic circle
- Advanced capitalism and industrialism
- The enterprise culture
- Acculturation

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

The graph illustrates the transition from materialist to postmaterialist orientations over the years. The x-axis represents the years from 1970 to 1994, while the y-axis shows the percentage difference between postmaterialists and materialists. The data points show a general upward trend, indicating an increasing shift towards postmaterialist values.
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

![Graph showing demographic transitions](image)

- **Birth rate**
- **Death rate**
- **Net migration rate**
- **Natural Growth Rate**

Time:
- Beginning First Transition
- Beginning Second Transition
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