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Review of The Other Population Crisis: What Governments Can Do about Falling Birth Rates.

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chapters deal with statistical analysis, how to ensure that the experiment underlying the evaluation exercise does not fall apart or become corrupted, and the analysis and application of results. It was refreshing to see an entire chapter devoted to the crucial yet subtle concept of statistical power, under-appreciated in this age of off-the-shelf data sets with observations in the hundreds or thousands and consequent waste of ink on triple asterisks.

The presentation is clear and filled with examples. In the Introduction, brief text boxes summarize what each chapter aims to do, providing the reader with a clear roadmap. The authors, at MIT, are regarded as leaders in the application of RCTs to development, and the depth of their experience is apparent. Incorporating an RCT component is a decided plus in the bidding process, and that, if nothing else, will ensure the utility of this volume to many working in development.

The limitations of the approach are manifest. Some are ethical—for example, withholding the treatment can be morally unacceptable. Some are common-sense—the RCT approach does not travel well to conflict zones and fragile states, which is where the worst problems and riskiest development interventions are to be found. RCTs are *budgetivore*, as the French say: they eat budget. Is it really worth running an experiment in the middle of a project? These reservations aside, and leaving entirely apart the contested political economy of foreign aid, this volume is a useful contribution.—L. MacK.

STEVEN PHILIP KRAMER

The Other Population Crisis: What Governments Can Do about Falling Birth Rates

Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press with Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013. 172 p. \$29.95 (pbk.).

The author, a historian and professor of grand strategy at the Eisenhower School of the National Defense University, thinks that most developed countries, and an increasing number of developing countries, are likely to experience population decline as their fertility falls significantly below replacement levels. A few with “robust welfare states and high birth rates will become the exceptions, like islands in a sea of depopulation” (p. 138). Kramer sees no invisible hand working to stabilize fertility. He envisions a world where globalization is lowering wages, inequality is increasing, elites are disassociating themselves from their national identities, and neoliberal policies are dismantling the welfare state that alone can provide couples with the secure environment needed for parenthood. Using five case studies, Kramer identifies the policy factors that encourage or discourage replacement fertility. He considers Sweden and France two successful “islands” that share certain policy positions. Both have moved most of the economic burden of raising children from the individual to society in ways that allow women to simultaneously work and have children. With universal rather than means-tested programs, they produce “high-quality” children by assuring them access to good housing, nutrition, health care, and education. Kramer traces the origins of this successful pronatalist recipe to the research undertaken by Gunnar and Alva Myrdal in Sweden during the 1930s and contends that it still has great contemporary relevance. If couples

are going to willingly undertake parenting in societies that highly value individual economic success, they must be assured of significant societal help in the endeavor. In the twenty-first century, demographically successful societies will be those that develop an institutional commitment to redistributing significant resources to children. In the chapters on Sweden and France, Kramer traces the historical events that led these two societies to make such a commitment. In the chapters on Italy, Japan, and Singapore he offers cautionary tales of the many ways in which governments can fail to provide the institutional setting that allows couples to reproduce themselves. In Italy the presence of an ineffective state, reliance on the family as a major welfare agent, and past fascist support for pronatalist policies have forestalled any implementation of a successful pronatalist strategy. Japan has officially adopted pronatalist policies but has failed to adequately implement them as its national debt has risen. Additionally, a strong cultural opposition to gender equity makes developing an avenue for women to pursue rewarding careers and have children unlikely. Both Italy and Japan are likely candidates for falling into Lutz's "low fertility trap" according to Kramer. Singapore is portrayed as an activist state with substantial resources and a history of implementing policies, often with a eugenic bent, aimed at influencing its citizens' fertility. But Kramer thinks that developing an effective pronatalist strategy is unlikely because of Singapore's strong commitment to free market capitalism and its worry that providing all citizens with the means of reconciling family and work might result in differential fertility that upsets its delicate ethnic balance. He doubts whether immigration will offer Singapore an effective alternative.— D.H.

ROBERT A. MCLEMAN

Climate and Human Migration: Past Experiences, Future Challenges

New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014. xviii + 294 p. \$39.99 (pbk.).

The relationship between climate change and migration has long attracted extravagant and ill-founded claims of massive future human displacement through droughts and floods. McLeman is scornful of those forecasts. He writes: "I look forward to the day when scholarly articles on climate change and migration no longer feel a need to include a discussion of the environmental refugee scholarship...." What chiefly is missing in such work is close attention to adaptation—how communities, households, and individuals actually respond to rising vulnerability, where permanent relocation is typically a least-favored, last-resort option. McLeman charts how climate conditions feed through a complex social system, with adaptation potentially occurring at various levels of social organization. The wide ranges of time scale and spatial extent that have to be considered complicate the picture: climate changes encompass both "sudden onset events that cause localized pulses of distress migration" and regime shifts unfolding over decades or centuries altering the habitability of whole regions. Succeeding chapters focus on extreme weather events, river valley flooding, and sea-level rise. Case studies are presented of Hurricanes Katrina and Mitch in the US, floods in the Brahmaputra and Yangtze river basins, and droughts in