

3-1-2012

Review of Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History, by Dagmar Herzog.

Dennis G. Hodgson
Fairfield University, hodgson@fairfield.edu

Archived with permission from the copyright holder.

Copyright 2012 Wiley and Population Council.

Link to the journal homepage: (<http://wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/padr>)

Repository Citation

Hodgson, Dennis G., "Review of Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History, by Dagmar Herzog." (2012). *Sociology & Anthropology Faculty Publications*. 50.
<http://digitalcommons.fairfield.edu/sociologyandanthropology-facultypubs/50>

Published Citation

Hodgson, Dennis. Review of Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History, by Dagmar Herzog. *Population and Development Review* 38, no. 1 (March 2012): 177.

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Sociology & Anthropology Department at DigitalCommons@Fairfield. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sociology & Anthropology Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Fairfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@fairfield.edu.

ranging from debt jubilees to food co-ops and community gardens. A prolific and well-informed writer, Heinberg is with the Post Carbon Institute, a think tank concerned with energy scarcity and climate change. Index.—G.McN.

DAGMAR HERZOG

Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History

New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011. 238 p. \$85.00.

Demographers' interest in sex tends to focus on its connection with reproduction. Yet the twentieth century is most notable for being a period when that connection weakened considerably for both individuals and societies. When sex and reproduction are only rarely associated, it affects how individuals think and feel about sex. When divorced from reproduction, sex assumes a more fluid character. Whom one has sex with, what one does sexually, and what one hopes to gain from that activity become subjects of individual choice; heterosexual and homosexual sex become more comparable behaviors. Herzog presents a well-documented overview of how Europeans have changed—for example, how they have thought and felt about sex in the face of the twentieth century's wars and mass disruptions, waves of sexual liberalism and conservatism, recognition of homosexuals in the public arena, outbreaks of sexually transmitted diseases, and shifts in state policy about contraception, abortion, prostitution, and pornography. This broad treatment of sexuality is especially useful for demographers seeking to understand twentieth-century European fertility trends. Many are likely to think of the century as a period of progressive liberalization with respect to sex and birth control, but Herzog documents a different story. The liberal, bohemian interwar period of greater gender equality and sexual freedom was followed by a swing back to patriarchal norms in many fascist states where contraception was criminalized in pursuit of higher fertility. Likewise the pursuit of domesticity that typified the two decades after World War II, as war-ravaged societies tried to put the horrors of the recent past behind them, was followed by a sexual revolution, roughly from 1965 to 1980. Such oscillations have not ended. Many of the former Eastern Bloc countries have experienced a "new conservatism" since the breakup of the Soviet Union, as both churches and conservative nationalists question the liberal abortion policies and high female labor force participation common under communism. Herzog's story of sexuality in twentieth-century Europe is one of overall liberalization, but it is a nuanced story full of "ambivalences and backlashes" that warns against predicting a future that simply follows prior trends.—D.H.

CHARLES TELLER AND ASSEFA HAILEMARIAM (EDS.)

The Demographic Transition and Development in Africa: The Unique Case of Ethiopia

Springer, 2011. 388 p. \$171.36.

With a population of about 83 million, Ethiopia is the second largest African country. It is also one of the poorest and most rural, ranking well below average for Africa on most development indicators. The percentage of illiterate women and the level