Assignment #4

Comparative population policy – Israel v. France

Describe the comparative fertility policy experiences of Israel and France in terms of their expected (and actual) growth effects.
France & Israel : pro natalist population policy

• What is pro natalist policy?

• A pro natalist policy is a population policy which aims to encourage more births through the use of incentives.
Why use a population policy?

In most developed countries the decline in fertility and the increase in longevity has raised three concerns for the future:

• The decrease in the supply of labor.
• The socioeconomic implications of ageing.
• The long term prospect of population decline and demise.
• Internal concerns tied to the states existence.
The French policy

• In 1939 the French passed the “code de la famille” – a complex piece of pro natalist legislation.

• Offered cash incentives to mothers who stayed at home to care for children.

• Subsidized holidays.

• Till 1967 banning the sale of contraceptives.
French government incentives:

- Payment of up to 1640 $ to couples having third child.
- Generous maternity grants.
- Family allowances to increase the purchasing power of three-child families.
- Maternity leave on near full pay ranges from 20 weeks for the first child to 40 or more for a third.
- Full tax benefits to parents until the youngest child reaches 18.
• 30% fare reduction on all public transport for 3 child families.
• Pension schemes for mothers / housewives.
• Child orientated development policies e.g. provision of day nurseries and more.
• Depending on the family income, childcare costs from virtually nothing to around 500 euro a month for the most well-off.
• Nursing mothers are encouraged to work part-time or take a weekly day off work.
• Social protection benefits for the families in Europe. (in % of GDP)
The Israeli policy

• Promoting population growth and settlement as a prerequisite for security and economic development.
• Keeping balance between Jewish and Arab populations within the state of Israel.
• Keeping balanced age composition in Israel.
• Developing Israeli society to high levels of life quality and competitiveness in the global context.
• Ensuring a stable Jewish majority in a democratic State in the long run.
• Encouraging aliyah and the absorption of new immigrants through innovative concepts and procedures.

• Creating conditions to deter emigration and strengthening the link between Israelis abroad and the parent country.

• Providing continuing support to public health and longevity.
Israel government incentives:

- Child subsidies program - child allowance program that ranks among the most generous in the world. Modest monthly payments are made to families with one or two children under age 18, but the payments for each child from the fourth up are substantial.

- Since 1975, the National Insurance Institute (NII) has annually allocated more than 1.6 percent of GDP to this program.
• “credit point formula”
• Creating and supporting anti-abortion rules by the government and encouraging women to avoid abortions.
• Investing in daycare institutions for children and allowing free education.
• In early times (round 1950’s) there even was a one time premium for mothers of over ten children.
Israeli child compensation program over the years
## Total Fertility Rates 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1 Countries</th>
<th>TFR</th>
<th>Group 2 Countries</th>
<th>TFR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States (2002)</td>
<td>2.01</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>1.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>1.99</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>1.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>1.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>1.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>1.76</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>1.76</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>1.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>1.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>Hong Kong SAR</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada (2002)</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population in France in recent years

- Total fertility rates in France declined from the 1960’s to the 1990’s
- 1960: fertility rate – 2.73
- 1992: fertility rate – 1.73
- 2007: fertility rate – 1.98 children born/woman (baby boom)
- Aging population
A temporary additional fertility (*baby-boom*) which first rejuvenates the population...
...but 40 years later makes it older
Total Fertility Rates Israel 1949-2004

- Jews born EuAm
- Jews born AsAf
- Jews born Israel
- Muslims
- Christians
- Druzes
Isreali analysis

• Israeli case is quite unique. In terms of the country’s total population, Jews and Arabs together, the TFR has been fairly stable and stands today at about three children on average. Overall fertility has been perfectly stable since the mid 1970s.

• TFR of this second and third Israel-born generation has remained absolutely flat since 1960 for more than forty years.
Whereas most of the world has experienced decreasing fertility during the past half century, Israel has experienced a puzzling mix of trends. Completed fertility has decreased sharply in some ethnic-religious groups (Mizrahi Jews and non-Bedouin Arabs) and increased moderately in other groups (non-ultra-orthodox Ashkenazi and Israeli-born Jews). In a phenomenon that can only be described as a reverse fertility transition, fertility has increased substantially (from about 3 to 6 children per women) among ultra-orthodox Ashkenazi and Israeli-born Jews.
in spite of tremendous cultural and socioeconomic transformations in Israeli society under the impact of repeated wars and security problems, millions of immigrants, and speedy technological advances. Such pattern is absolutely unique for a developed country and points to a confluence of different modes of family planning within a stable model which is intermediate between the higher past family norms that prevailed among Jews in Asia and Africa and the lower patterns of many contemporary developed countries.
TABLE 1. INTENDED NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY SELF-ASSESSED RELIGIOSITY, JEWISH MEN AND WOMEN MARRIED OR IN STABLE RELATIONS - ISRAEL, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religiosity self-assessment</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most religious (Haredi)</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National religious</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secular</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIGURE 1. CORE JEWISH POPULATIONS (THOUSANDS) 1970-2020

Legend:
- Red: USA
- Blue: Israel
- Green: Rest of World
## Facts and figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Israel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death rate</td>
<td>8.55 deaths/1000 Population (2007)</td>
<td>5.2 deaths/1000 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth rate</td>
<td>0.588% (2007)</td>
<td>1.541% (2012)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Immigrants and growth in population in France:

• It is often claimed that the French fertility rate is due to “recent” foreign population.

• As it happens the foreign population brings a large contribution to births but a limited impact on fertility.

• Since the immigrants have arrived at an earlier age they resemble more native French women in terms of fertility.