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Yves Charbit (ed.). 2021. Dynamiques démographiques et développement. ISTE Éditions, 282 pages. English edition: Demographic Dynamics and Development, Wiley, 272 pages
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► **To cite this version:**

Jasmine Kahou Nzouyem. Yves Charbit (ed.). 2021. Dynamiques démographiques et développement. ISTE Éditions, 282 pages. English edition: Demographic Dynamics and Development, Wiley, 272 pages. Population (English edition), 2023, Book Reviews, 78 (3-4), pp.519-521. 10.3917/popu.2303.0563 . hal-04556616

HAL Id: hal-04556616

<https://hal.science/hal-04556616>

Submitted on 23 Apr 2024

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Yves Charbit (ed.). 2021. *Dynamiques démographiques et développement*. ISTE Éditions, 282 pages. English edition: *Demographic Dynamics and Development*, Wiley, 272 pages.

The authors of the chapters in this collective volume, edited by Yves Charbit, set out to understand the relationship between demography and development. Can the demography of a country be the cause of its underdevelopment? To explore this issue, Charbit begins by presenting the theoretical framework and the various models of the processes at work in demographic dynamics, setting out the principal concepts used to define demographic transitions. In the introduction, he shows that the varying population growth rates on different continents mean that the world population can no longer be viewed from a single general angle. Today, he observes, in terms of annual growth, we must 'contrast the virtual stagnation of developed countries (0.26%) against the dynamism of developing countries (1.26%)'. And he notes a contrast within sub-regions: in Middle Africa, annual population growth is 3.05%, while in southern sub-Saharan Africa it is 1.39%. A similar contrast is seen in Asia: population growth in Western and Central Asia is 1.64%, versus 0.40% in East Asia.

In the first chapter, on the demographic transition, Maria Eugenia Cosio Zavala divides the world population into six transition groups based on their current demographic situation. She considers the demographic transition 'complete' when mean life expectancy exceeds 70 years and fertility is at or below 2.1 children per woman.

Chapters 2 (Vincent Turbat) and 3 (Latif Dramani) analyse perspectives and policies around a first demographic dividend (economic growth resulting from a relative increase in the working-age population with respect to the population of dependent persons, namely the youngest and oldest) in sub-Saharan Africa. In Turbat's view, the 'demographic window of opportunity' opens when the working-age population begins to increase more quickly than the young population due to declining fertility. It is the combination of health and population policies, employment policies, and socioeconomic policies that together allow populations to enjoy the benefits of this first demographic dividend. The primary obstacle to their success is the dominance of informal work, often very poorly paid, on the labour market.

Chapters 4, by Yves Charbit, and 5, by Aisha Dasgupta, analyse the role of fertility and nuptiality in the demographic transition. Fertility and nuptiality behaviours are defined by economic, social, and cultural determinants. The authors highlight the notion of gender inequalities in the domains of nuptiality and fertility. While women in Europe and North America have autonomy in marriage and the choice of a spouse, in developing countries the family circle generally plays a key role. Sexuality continues to be largely controlled by men, and this male domination has implications for the acceptance of contraceptive methods. While in some countries, contraception has contributed to decreasing fertility, in others there is no direct relationship between the two. Differing

fertility behaviours (age at marriage, birth spacing and terminal contraception) explain this contrast between countries.

Maryse Gaimard shows in chapter 6 that mortality is linked to the health status of a country's population and its level of development, with differences that result in inequalities across continents and sub-regions. Changing life expectancy offers a measure of decreasing levels of mortality around the world. While life expectancy is higher in developed than in developing countries, it has progressed more quickly in the latter (29 vs. 14 years). However, increasing life expectancy does not necessarily mean that health conditions are improving everywhere and for everyone and in the same way. It is universal access to healthcare systems, particularly in countries where access remains highly unequal, that will determine how global mortality evolves in the future.

Chapters 7 (by Leslie Page Moch) and 8 (by Serge Feld) are devoted to the study of international migration. The history of migration in western Europe offers insight into the factors that determine migratory movements. Initially, migration was dominated by local migration systems within a particular region. These circular systems then evolved into systems of chain migration, where the first to arrive would help others who followed to make the move. Forced migration systems were then grafted onto these other forms. Migration almost everywhere in the world has been largely intracontinental, with large flows within Latin America especially. The top destination of intercontinental migration is Europe, with the search for employment likely being the main driver of these flows.

The final chapter, by Frédéric Sandron, is devoted to population ageing, a phenomenon no longer exclusive to developed countries; populations in the developing world are now also growing older. Decreasing mortality and fertility are the main drivers of population ageing. Between 2019 and 2050, the fastest growth in the population aged 65 or older will be in sub-Saharan Africa. The countries in this region will have less time to prepare for the economic and social consequences of population ageing.

The approach taken in the book is mainly descriptive, with analyses of levels and recent trends at the scale of major blocs of countries (developed vs. developing countries), sub-regions, and individual countries. This geographical breakdown shows that demographic changes are not independent of the socio-economic, cultural and political context of each country. But the use of the term 'developed countries' in the book seems to be based on a narrow and partial definition of development, based on economic data—and the size of GDP—while neglecting the question of human development. Moreover, 'developing countries' today are very heterogeneous, so it is difficult to analyse them as a uniform 'bloc'.

Charbit concludes that it is difficult to define a direct link between demography and underdevelopment, as both depend on many external factors to which the leaders of different countries assign varying degrees of priority. Challenges of health, education and employment remain crucial for developing countries:

studying these domains in more depth might perhaps have helped the authors to explore the issues at stake more fully. The economic growth of developing countries is held back by their choice of development model: that is, the mobilization of endogenous and/or exogenous resources, the priority given to the agricultural and/or industrial sectors, and the need to regularize the informal sector and involve it in the development process. It is also important to recognize the deteriorating terms of exchange for the products of agriculture and mining, upon which these economies are particularly dependent.

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Translated by Paul Reeve