Population Studies > A Journal of Demography Volume 64, 2010 - Issue 1

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Subreplacement fertility in the West before the baby boom: Past and current perspectives

Ian Van Bavel

Pages 1-18 | Received 01 Oct 2008, Accepted 01 Aug 2009, Published online: 29 Dec 2009

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Abstract

Between 1920 and 1940, fertility dropped below replacement level in many Western countries. In today's scholarly literature, the drop is usually explained as a temporary reaction to the exceptional conditions of the inter-war period. This paper confronts that

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Notes

- 1. Jan Van Bavel is at Interface Demography, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, BE-1050 Brussels, Belgium. E-mail: Jan.VanBavel@vub.ac.be
- 2. I would like to thank the following colleagues for their helpful comments on earlier versions of this paper: Hans-Peter Kohler, Ron Lesthaeghe, David Reher, TomአSobotka, Frans van Poppel, and Chris Wilson. I am also very thankful to the four anonymous reviewers for their exceptionally thorough reports and many good suggestions. This paper would not have been written without a grant from the Research Foundation of Flanders (FWO-Vlaanderen).



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