





# Path dependence

Fertility changes will occur within a preexisting institutional, cultural, and historical setting

Fertility and institutional background evolve together

# Key Issues affecting Fertility

Easy entry into adult roles

Finishing school

Getting a job

Establishing an independent household

Reconciliation of parental and work roles



# Key Issue +: Childcare' Parental Lea\*e' Child Allowances

- "u! sidi8ed childcare 567
  - 9pen during wor&ing and commuting hours
  - : igh ; uality' for children of all ages
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# Key Issue =: Marriage & Childbearing Lin &

- Strong disapproval of non-marital childbearing 51 << 7
  - Effects on other mothers and children
  - May delay childbearing



# Key Issue -: Primary and "econdary /ducation

- "chool pro\*ides lunch and long school hours 567
- 3fter1school programs 567
- : igh le\*el of e2pectation for parentx in\*ol\*ement 517
- : igh le\*el of demand and cost for after1 school pri\*ate lessons 517

# Key Issue ? : tertiary / education

- Relative ease of returning to education after discontinuing 567
- Rigid ranking of colleges and universities' strongly linked to employment opportunities 517
- : high cost 517

# Key Issue A: Gender Considerations

- Gender equality in the sharing of housework and family care 567
- High level of gender equality in work place 567

# Economic Development Gender and Fertility

- In general, negative correlation between GDP per capita and period fertility
- Positive correlation for GDP per capita above the threshold
- Exceptions due to gender equality
  - France and Australia C higher fertility
  - Japan and Singapore C lower fertility
  - All have similar GDP per capita

# Key Issue E: Immigration

- Migrants tend to have slightly higher fertility than native populations' ! ut the overall effect is small 567
  - Migrants tend to be at peak childbearing ages
  - Many wait to have children until they settle in the destination country

. o Policies Ma&e . ifference<

## Indirect Policies

In France, Singapore, Republic of Korea, many policies have demographic motivations

Many policies in Southern Europe motivated by gender and employment considerations have demographic effects because they promote work-family reconciliation

Many policies designed as anti-poverty measures have demographic effects

# Institutions and Family Policy

Institutional context presents a potentially important constraint on what is seen as possible policy innovations

: history and cultural heritage' family system'  
labor market' educational system' housing  
market' gender equality



# Policy Making

- Communicating research findings to policy makers

Role of media

- Political considerations
  - Balancing interests of elderly and young adults
  - Public responsibility for individual well-being
  - Fiscal burden