

AIM: How do governments influence / control population size?

General Methods of population control (could be to decrease or increase population):

1. **family planning initiatives / education (to reduce populations)**
2. **\$\$\$ (rewards to have babies or fines if you have too many)**
3. **incentives – either given or taken away
(free medical care, free education, discounted housing, food allotments)**
4. **contraception / abortion – made available or made illegal; sometimes even forced**
5. **marriage age – raise to reduce population; lower to increase population**
6. **immigration laws – strict v. loose policies**

A side-by-side comparison of TFR rates as influenced by government policies

CHINA	
Year	TFR
1970	5.8
1981	2.1
2018	1.6

INDIA	
Year	TFR
1980	5.3
1981	3.5
2018	2.3

RUSSIA	
Year	TFR
1970	2.2
1981	1.1
2018	1.6

CHINA

1979 - China One Child Policy (not technically a written law, but strictly adhered to in locations)

- targeted at 50% of the population that lived in urban areas
- many exclusions (rural areas, multiple births, parents were single children, first child was a girl)
- enforced by individual cities and towns in different ways
- if not followed could face: hefty fines, higher taxes, forced sterilization, family-members detained, children banned from education, property and homes confiscated

Has led to – disproportionate male/female ratio, lack of workforce in growing economy, lack of caregivers

2016 - Two Child Policy enacted because of emerging industry and need for workers and caregivers of older population

INDIA

1952 -- 1st government established national family planning (but wasn't very effective)

- cultural, social, and religious norms prevailed
- India is culturally/ethnically/and religiously diverse and communication/mutual understanding was difficult
- lacked incentives
- poor administration and lack of funding

1970-2016 -- coerced (basically forced) sterilization of women and men

withheld irrigated water, food rations, salary from those who didn't comply

RUSSIA

1991 - collapse of Soviet Union in 1991 caused a sharp decline in birthrates, high mortality rates, and increases in emigration

- monetary bonuses for 2nd and 3rd child (\$9000+)
- "prizes" of Russia's National Day -- cars, appliances, electronics ("have a baby win a fridge")

IRAN

1967 - "birth control is a human right" campaign

Early 1980's -- Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's supreme leader, dismantled family planning program and promoted a "baby boom" to produce soldiers for war against Iraq

Late 1980's -- made contraception readily available to curb population growth that the economy could not support

2012-2014 - new supreme leader promoting population growth for aging society

- cut budget for family planning / free contraception and made any type of sterilization illegal

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THAILAND

1971 - very effective, aggressive family planning program with strong government oversight

- cut TFR from 6.4 → 2.0 in just 15 years (7 → 1.5 in 26 years)
- supported by Thai Buddhists and taught in sermon
- family education and clinics -- handed out birth control -- "Cops and Rubbers" day

JAPAN

- present TFR = 1.4

- marriage age -- under 20 need parental consent - might have to change?
- very strict immigration laws -- quietly loosening requirements
- may need to improve women's rights in the workforce