



What to Expect When No One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster

By Jonathan V. Last

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Look around you and think for a minute: Is America too crowded?

For years, we have been warned about the looming danger of overpopulation: people jostling for space on a planet that's busting at the seams and running out of oil and food and land and everything else.

It's all bunk. The "population bomb" never exploded. Instead, statistics from around the world make clear that since the 1970s, we've been facing exactly the opposite problem: people are having too few babies. Population growth has been slowing for two generations. The world's population will peak, and then begin shrinking, within the next fifty years. In some countries, it's already started. Japan, for instance, will be half its current size by the end of the century. In Italy, there are already more deaths than births every year. China's One-Child Policy has left that country without enough women to marry its men, not enough young people to support the country's elderly, and an impending population contraction that has the ruling class terrified.

And all of this is coming to America, too. In fact, it's already here. Middle-class Americans have their own, informal one-child policy these days. And an alarming number of upscale professionals don't even go that far—they have dogs, not kids. In fact, if it weren't for the wave of immigration we experienced over the last thirty years, the United States would be on the verge of shrinking, too.

What happened? Everything about modern life—from Bugaboo strollers to insane college tuition to government regulations—has pushed Americans in a single direction, making it harder to have children. And making the people who do still want to have children feel like second-class citizens.

What to Expect When No One's Expecting explains why the population implosion happened and how it is remaking culture, the economy, and politics both at home and around the world.

Because if America wants to continue to lead the world, we need to have more babies.

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Editorial Review

From Bookforum

The UN projects that world population, currently around seven billion, will peak over the next eighty-five years between ten billion and twelve billion people before starting a long and inexorable decline. Which is, Last argues, precisely the *real* cataclysm humanity faces. An extremely sharp writer with a great eye for telling details and revealing anecdotes *What To Expect When No One's Expecting* is a rich and detailed read, well worth the price of admission just for Last's cogent summarizing of long-term demographic trends.

—Nick Gillespie

Review

"A powerful argument that the only thing worse than having children is not having them. I'm reading *What To Expect When No One's Expecting* aloud to the three little arguments for birth control at my house in hope they'll quit squabbling and making messes and start acting so cute that all my neighbors decide to conceive."

—**P.J. O'Rourke**, Author of *Holidays in Heck*

"This book explodes old ways of thinking. Not moralizing, not blaming, Jonathan Last peers methodically ahead at the cold consequences of plunging global birth rates: aging and ever smaller national populations, the fatal destruction of the financial premises of the welfare state, disappearing military strength. He describes the comfortable, happy childlessness chosen by more and more highly educated couples—lives of personal contentment, yes, but with unutterably sad national consequences. We are left to draw conclusions ourselves: The use of sex is not simply personal; the future of the whole human race hangs on it. Those who missed Ben Wattenberg's *The Birth Dearth* (1987) have another chance to be shaken awake by the earthquake rumbling louder and faster beneath us."

—**Michael Novak**, recipient of the Templeton Prize (1994), and author of *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism*

"Jonathan Last provides us with a well-written, well-argued description of one of the most profound, yet poorly understood phenomena of the 21st century: the world worldwide fall in birthrates and attendant rapid aging of the human population. He masterfully describes the key facts and concepts any literate person should know about the sea change in global demography and speculates wisely and soberly about the implications for the future of humanity. Avoiding the alarmism, sexism, and racial chauvinism that mars so much other writing on this subject, Last is an insightful and trustworthy guide."

—**Phillip Longman**, Senior Fellow of the New America Foundation and author of *The Empty Cradle: How Falling Birthrates Threaten World Prosperity And What To Do About It*

"Jonathan Last's writing matches his reasoning: as clear as a shot of gin, and just as bracing. America is changing more quickly than ever before, and this book explains why. A terrific, important read."

—**Tucker Carlson**, Editor of *The Daily Caller*

"Jonathan Last's pulled off an amazing feat. He's written a book that's at once lively and profound, that deals

with weighty matters with a light touch, and that explains a complex subject clearly. It might make you laugh, it could make you cry--but above all it will make you think."

—**William Kristol**, Editor, *The Weekly Standard*

"Imagine a merger of Mark Steyn and David Brooks with a Supreme Court imposed page limit."

—**Hugh Hewitt**, Host, The Hugh Hewitt Show

"The Malthusian paranoia of a coming population boom has nothing on the reality of a coming population implosion. Frankly it kinda makes a girl want to procreate."

—**S.E. Cupp**

About the Author

Jonathan V. Last is a senior writer at the *Weekly Standard*. His writings have been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *New York Post*, *Claremont Review of Books*, *First Things*, *The Week*, *Salon*, *Slate*, *TV Guide*, and elsewhere. He writes a weekly column on politics, "One Last Thing," for the iPad newspaper *The Daily*.

He is a regular commentator on both television and radio and has appeared on ABC, CNN, Fox News Channel, PBS, NPR, CNBC, Sky News, and the BBC.

He blogs at JonathanLast.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Phyllis Baudoin:

This *What to Expect When No One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster* book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is actually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This particular *What to Expect When No One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster* without we understand teach the one who reading through it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't always be worry *What to Expect When No One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster* can bring any time you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even phone. This *What to Expect When No One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster* having good arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

Evelyn Roberts:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be upgrade about what going on or data even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which can be always change and progress. Some of you maybe may update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *What to Expect When No*

One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Bessie Kraft:

Do you really one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt when you are in the book store? Make an effort to pick one book that you just dont know the inside because don't ascertain book by its include may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are frightened that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside appearance likes. Maybe you answer might be What to Expect When No One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster why because the amazing cover that make you consider concerning the content will not disappoint a person. The inside or content is fantastic as the outside or maybe cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

Crystal Lavigne:

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