

NATIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY FROM A DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE

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This paper explores the importance of a national economic strategy from a demographic perspective for sustainable economic growth. It highlights the significance of considering changing age composition, gender balance, and ethnic diversity of the population to identify potential opportunities and challenges. The paper emphasizes the need to address aging population concerns to mitigate negative effects on economic growth, such as increasing healthcare costs and decreasing the labor force. Encouraging diversity and inclusion through policies and initiatives can also help ensure all members of society have equal access to opportunities and contribute to the economy, resulting in a more inclusive and robust economy.

Keywords: National economic strategy; demographic perspective; aging population; diversity and inclusion; sustainable economic growth.

INTRODUCTION

Belarus has been facing a demographic challenge in recent years due to a declining population. The country's national economic strategy focuses on increasing the birth rate, promoting immigration, and retaining skilled workers. Belarus has implemented policies such as financial incentives for families to have more children, reducing the retirement age to encourage older workers to stay in the workforce, and streamlining the immigration process for highly skilled workers. However, these policies have not been very successful in reversing the population decline.

China, on the other hand, has a different demographic challenge. The country has a large aging population and a shrinking workforce. China's national economic strategy focuses on increasing the labor force participation rate, promoting innovation and automation to improve productivity, and reducing the retirement age to allow older workers to continue contributing to the economy. China has also implemented policies such as the two-child policy to increase the birth rate and attract highly skilled workers from overseas.

1. People are the most neglected factor when analyzing economic trends.

When the peripheral countries of the world market system denounce the exploitation and evils of the countries at the center of the system, they usually use the most obvious and quantifiable commodities, always emphasizing that the latter covet their rich natural resources, as if the latter's abundance stems from the violent plundering, stealing and fraud of the global natural resources. But there is an elusive dark line beyond the surface, and if the corresponding

foreign economic policies are designed and implemented along the lines of resource thinking, the peripheral countries will be poorer and more decayed because the underlying philosophy is putting the cart before the horse.

The average human life span is not longer than 100 years at the longest, but the economic fundamentals will not change in a short period of time. One cannot look at what the country has been plundered by other countries from the perspective of one generation, but rather take a long-term view and place the country among the world market system, where the economic class of a country depends on what it delivers and acquires to the world market system, and not simply on the number of people or the stock of natural resources comparison.

The source of wealth is in fact human capabilities and needs rather than the accumulation of things, and the extraction of resources from the center of the system to the periphery is primarily in the extraction of its human elements rather than the plundering of resources that is commonly thought of. There is indeed a relationship of extraction, exploitation and dependence between the center and the periphery, but it is not the flow of things but the flow of people that plays the key role, i.e., the center draws valuable human capital and elite class from the periphery, thus leading to the low competitiveness of the peripheral countries. Emphasizing step-by-step openness, it argues that the international competitiveness of most of its nationals should be raised by gradually picking up the pieces in openness through infrastructure development, industrial policy, and education policy.

2 The importance of boosting domestic demand for China and Belarus

China, after a new era, has managed to break away from being an agricultural country, a "factory of the world" based on its population and resources, allowing both domestic and foreign markets to serve as engines of sustainable economic growth; China's strategic vision is aimed at the Russian-Belarusian-Central Asian region, trying to create a new world market system, bypassing the United States.

Unfortunately, due to the epidemic of globalization and the emergence of regional conflicts between Russia and Ukraine, especially in the context of counter-globalization, China has lost its external economic engine and can only cooperate with Belarus in regional trade; internally, it is faced with rebuilding confidence in the market to cope with the U.S. siege on China, but this is not enough; it is more important to explore the purchasing potential of its own people and open the fountainhead of economic development. Let the national consumption continue to grow. Even if China and the United States fail in the future great power competition, China will slowly build up its ability to resist by virtue of its own huge economic volume and existing population to gain regenerative power; the United States is in a downward cycle, the gap between

the rich and the poor and the racial divide is intensifying, especially the white group as the mainstream voice of the fertility rate is lower than that of Latin American ethnic groups, the fragmentation between countries is bound to cause economic development obstacles. The fragmentation of the country is bound to create obstacles to economic development, and if it suffers a severe blow, I am afraid it will be difficult to recreate the status of the United States in its glory days.

Belarus is affected by geopolitics, although itself in the European hinterland, but there are barriers to cooperation with the EU countries, the economy is influenced by Russia, and its own manufacturing capacity is weak, the economic development of its own resistance, the urgent need to find economic growth fulcrum, break through the dilemma. Relying on foreign investment or assistance for a short period of time is effective, but it is not a long-term solution, and the country itself will be in a passive situation, losing its blood-making function and difficult to turn over, how to exploit the advantages of the purchasing power of the Belarusian people, to put the human factor in the first place to consider.

The purchasing power per capita in China has increased from \$5,343 in 2011 to \$10,839 in 2020, which shows that instead of quantitatively increasing the purchasing power of individual people, it is better to segment the purchasing stages of people in terms of quality, so that different economic policies can be developed according to the age of the population, strengthening individual purchasing power and thus boosting domestic demand, which in turn will lead to a virtuous economic cycle.

3 How to analyze population in economic terms.

How does the center-periphery relationship lead to the periphery being locked in poverty and backward underdevelopment? It is mainly because of the loss of people. This drain is manifested in three ways:

One, the loss of blood from the periphery due to the movement of human and financial capital from the elite population to the center;

Second, the dumping of high-quality and inexpensive industrial manufactured goods by virtue of their own technological and intellectual advantages takes up the demand (market space) of people in the peripheral regions;

Third, the development and export of resources in the periphery squeeze the development space of local people, the so-called resource curse.

Mainstream economists since Adam Smith have looked to factors outside the economic system to explain poverty, emphasizing the scarcity of natural resources and human nature's lack of foresight.

Creating a dynamic market economy and controlling population have become the two main foundations of strategies to overcome poverty and underdevelopment. The human factor is precisely the biggest variable for the long-

term development of the economy, and the human factor is more than just the surface population size, dividing this factor into four age levels (mainly affecting the demand level) from the age stratum, young + youth + middle age + old age, and from the labor quality level it can be divided into elite labor population and general. The division between the two is different, and the sectors of the economy affected and the magnitude of the effect are also different (mainly affecting the supply level).

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of the population has not always remained high. Once a society modernizes, especially when the educational level of its female population rises, fertility declines almost irreversibly and rapidly.

The long-term decline in fertility brings with it a number of problems, of which the aging of fewer children is the most important trend. It has a slow but irreversible shaping effect on economic growth, aggregate demand, industrial structure, interest rates, exchange rates, inflation, and even business patterns and political climate. Simply put, the challenge of an aging society with fewer children is not a shortage of labor (because there are technological advances that bring about technological substitution for labor), but a shortage of aggregate demand, which leads to excess capacity. Inflation will remain low until deflation. Belarusian birth rate data for all years (per 1,000 population) range from 2010: 10.8 to 2019: 9.9, and China's birth rate per 1,000 population was 12.57 per 1,000 in 2010 and 2020: 10.48 per 1,000, and will continue to go lower in the future. However, this is a necessary path of social transformation. The approach of relying on a single labor force for heavy physical labor and thus increasing family income in the agricultural and pre-industrial era is no longer feasible in industrial societies, and the emergence of mechanization in post-industrial societies to replace a single simple labor force to improve production efficiency and replace a low-quality labor force that relies on birth rate growth with mechanization has become the mainstream of society, which reinforces the need to tap into the single human purchasing. This reinforces the necessity of tapping into the purchasing power of a single person.

(1) The human factor from the production side

Educational training and family planning are technical solutions offered by American economic scientists, and technical solutions are always easier than political solutions. The above American thinking is characterized by a dichotomy between the quality and quantity of the population, arguing that quantity should be sacrificed to improve quality. According to this logic, the larger the population, the higher the cost of education for the entire population at the government level, and the dilution of educational resources for the elite workforce, to the detriment of economic development, so the few resources that are available are tilted to target a small group of people and control the number of people receiving higher education.

Quality and quantity are not mutually exclusive, but mutually reinforcing. Human ability and creativity do not originate from individual talent, but are the product of intra-group interaction, from the division of labor, cooperation and competition among people, from the exchange and sharing of knowledge and the related investment behind it.

Aggregation of population leads to growth in per capita wealth: the larger the population, the higher the density of aggregation, the easier it is to become rich, all things being equal, because it allows for a larger division of labor and cooperation, a larger market, more competition, and a greater return on the investment required for technological innovation. Numerous facts from today's world economy prove that the scale and agglomeration effects make economic activities more environmentally friendly overall, with more resource and energy savings and faster technological progress. This development model was evidenced in the early stages of China's development.

(2) The consumption side looks at the human factor Human consumption depends on two major elements

The former is social in nature, while the latter is mainly biological in nature.

Cash flow can be derived from savings, income or credit, and if we break down the cash flow income of the population by age and average it, we find that it is an imperfectly symmetrical parabola with 55-60 years as its apex. This reflects the basic fact that people in this age group hold the most information, power and resources in the hands of normal societies. Of course, major technological revolutions and industrial changes may cause the sudden rise of relatively young groups that temporarily change the shape of this curve. Life's desires, on the other hand, trend downward from beginning to end: young children are curious about the whole world and have no concept of risk and cost; the older people get, the less various hormones related to vitality are secreted, the more puritanical people behave, and the progressively less interested and impulsive they are about the world. These two trend lines are superimposed to take the low value, which is the consumption curve of a person's life.

The human lifetime is divided into four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter. The spring population refers specifically to young children and adolescents who are not working and are still net consumers, with a general age division of 0-24 years. In an agricultural society, one is a worker after the age of 16, but in a modern industrial civilization, one starts to work only after graduating from college at the age of 23. As a transitional society, China's end-of-spring population figures are in rapid flux. The fall population refers specifically to the 45-64 year olds in the transition between middle age and old age, a group whose willingness to consume and demand is largely in de-

cline, but whose income peaks all through their lifetime and is the main contributor to savings. The summer population of 24–44 year olds, on the other hand, is characterized by a simultaneous expansion of income and spending, while the winter population after age 65 is characterized by a simultaneous contraction of income and spending, both of which have a relatively negligible impact on interest rates. Through this simplification, a value can be extracted from the complex statistics, which I call the "population spring-to-autumn ratio", i.e., the ratio of the spring population to the fall population size in a society. The trend of interest rates.

From the experience of Belarus, education does help and can improve the competitiveness of the educated group in the global market. But education alone cannot achieve development. An extreme example is that North Korea used to have a higher level of education than South Korea for a long time, but the difference in development performance between the two sides is huge. The level of access to education must be commensurate with the country's stage of development and economic structure in order to improve the overall competitiveness of the workforce with half the effort. The result of investing limited capital and manpower in a few elites in a lagging country is to facilitate their personal migration to the center of the system, not necessarily to drive the poor in the home country to wealth. The quality and education of a population is a consequence of development rather than its precondition. It must be combined with a strong and competent government, the right industrial structure, and other factors to create a comparative advantage in certain tradable goods, thus starting a virtuous cycle of continuous upgrading. China's family planning policy has finally been changed and birth control has been progressively liberalized, in line with the basic political economy principles of Marxism and people-centeredness, as well as the popular will and the trend of the times.

CONCLUSION

Although the prototype of the parallel system has not yet been formed, it is different from the bipolar pattern of the U.S.S.R. at the last fork in the road of world civilization, with the addition of many third-party countries other than the U.S.S.R. and China as participants. The new system will be formed under the balance of multiple players. Both China and Belarus belong to the lower strata of the world market system in terms of economic model. After the global epidemic, China's rapid economic development came to an abrupt halt, followed by a slow recovery, while Belarus was affected by the regional conflicts in Russia and Ukraine, and its economy suffered a severe blow. The economies of both countries have been affected to varying degrees in the short term.

There is no denying that China and Belarus are under siege by upper echelon countries such as the United States and Europe and can only get a respite when their opponents are light on their feet, but in the long run, it is not that there is no chance of a turnaround. The important thing is to capture these factors and use them skillfully to turn them into advantages. The main thing is to dig inward into the dynamics of economic growth, seize the core human factor line, and develop an economic policy that suits you.

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