

ABORTION WORLDWIDE REPORT:
1 CENTURY
100 NATIONS
1 BILLION BABIES

THOMAS W. JACOBSON & WM. ROBERT JOHNSTON

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ABORTION WORLDWIDE REPORT:

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Introduction, Acknowledgments & Editors

Thomas W. Jacobson, M.A., and Wm. Robert Johnston, Ph.D.

Searching for the dead from an earthquake or tsunami, accounting for the dead on a battlefield, and caring for the wounded and dying are sacred duties. In such moments of grave sorrow, our hearts are deeply impacted, and the best of our humanity – of us being created in the image and likeness of our Heavenly Father – comes forth in great splendor. This was evident during recent years in countless international responses to tragedies anywhere in the world, declaring, “We cherish life!” This beauty in mankind was also evident after World War II, following the deaths of 60 million people, when nations unified to declare “the inherent dignity” of every person, and affirm, “Everyone has the right to life” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

Beginning two centuries ago, when abortions first became safer for the mother, the nations of the earth rallied to protect innocent preborn children and pregnant mothers by enacting laws prohibiting abortion; not one nation authorized the practice between 1803 and 1919 A.D. However, in 1920, the first nation authorized abortion, and currently 136 nations have done so through 2016. What is the result? The Greatest Genocide in history, which is documented in this Abortion Worldwide Report that systematically tracks the deaths of over 1 billion babies, in 100 nations, territories and other regions. Accounting for these lives has been a sacred duty.

The authors/editors present this Report as a Sacred Memorial to the lives of every baby exterminated through abortion. Their lives matter! They shall not be forgotten! We hope that the response to this Report will be numerous national and international movements to end elective abortion and restore the sanctity of human life, especially in the womb, in every nation. It is time to end the slaughter of the innocents!

We thank the National Right to Life Committee, Regent University, and Human Life International for cosponsoring the Report, and Family Research Council for hosting the preliminary launch event. For their vital contributions, we thank Professor Jeffrey Brauch, J.D., Brian Clowes, Ph.D., Nicholas Eberstadt, Ph.D., Arina Grossu, M.A., M.S., Dean Michael Hernandez, J.D., Cynthia L. Hildebrand, Rev. Gerald D. Jacobson, Dr. Michael D. Jacobson, D.O. MPH, Randall O’Bannon, Ph.D., and S. Ernie Walton, J.D. In addition, this project would not have been possible without the faithful financial support of contributors to the Global Life Campaign.

Mr. Jacobson and Dr. Johnston are the principal authors and editors of the Report. Dr. Eberstadt wrote the brief on sex-select abortion. Drs. Clowes and O’Bannon reviewed the data

compilation, methodologies and major findings. Drs. Brauch, Clowes, Hernandez, Jacobson, O'Bannon, and Walton, and Arina Grossu, reviewed one or more briefs or parts, and provided insightful feedback improving the Report. My father, Gerald Jacobson, provided continuous encouragement, wise counsel and support, and Cynthia Hildebrand has been a great assistant.

The Report is posted in its parts on: www.GlobalLifeCampaign.com. Supporting data, working papers, and other material are posted on both the GLC website and www.Johnstonsarchive.net. For questions, please email: info@GlobalLifeCampaign.com.

Thomas W. Jacobson, M.A., the Project Director, is the Executive Director of the Global Life Campaign. Formerly, from 2001-2010, he served as Representative to the United Nations for Focus on the Family, meeting with ambassadors, diplomats, and officials from 110 nations, and authoring 80 policy briefs. He began compiling abortion data on countries in 2002, and created one of the two databases from which he and Dr. Johnston teamed up to create this Report. Mr. Jacobson earned a M.A. in Public Policy from Regent University, a B.A. in Psychology from George Fox College, and a diploma in Biblical Studies from Lutheran Bible Institute. He lived in Brazil for four years, and has traveled to many nations, including meeting with government officials in 18 nations.

Wm. Robert Johnston, Ph.D., is the curator of Johnston's Archive, and a leading expert on worldwide abortion numbers. He maintains one of the most comprehensive compilations of abortion data, more complete than any other online database. Dr. Johnston is a research physicist working in the field of space physics. He earned a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Texas at Dallas, an M.S. in Physics from the University of Texas at El Paso, and a B.A. in Astronomy from the University of Texas at Austin. He began collecting international abortion statistics in 1983, and then began posting compilations online at Johnston's Archive in 2001. Currently (2016), this abortion data collection includes 511 web pages representing abortion data for 112 countries and 26 territories or regions of special status, including sub-national region data for 49 countries. These draw on a database of over 91,000 data values compiled from over 1,500 sources (<http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion>).

ABORTION WORLDWIDE REPORT:

1 CENTURY, 100 NATIONS, 1 BILLION BABIES

Executive Summary

Thomas W. Jacobson, M.A., and Wm. Robert Johnston, Ph.D.

The Abortion Worldwide Report is the outcome of many years of tracking international abortions statistics by Dr. Wm. Robert Johnston, who began such tracking in 1983, and Mr. Thomas W. Jacobson, who began tracking statistics and policies in 2002. They combined their databases, observations and methodologies to produce this Report, which involves many thousands of hours of meticulous research and efforts to ensure the integrity of the data. First motivated by the moral crisis and information shortage pertaining to abortion, the research quickly became a sobering and sacred task of tabulating how many babies have been exterminated in the greatest deliberate slaughter of human beings in history, far exceeding all wars and democides of what was already the bloodiest century in history.

It was not possible for them to do this without contemplating the basis for respecting human life, scientific and medical evidence, human rights, and the role of civil government and law. Thus, the Report first examines these questions, and then the history of child sacrifice and abortion, national policies prohibiting or authorizing abortion, impacts of abortion, compilation of abortion data, methodologies for estimating missing year data, the Sacred Accounting itself, global maps and summaries of the policies and data, major findings, and recommendations. The last two parts give words of truth and hope to individuals, parents, clergy, officials and others, and address the accountability of individuals and nations to Almighty God. Finally, two addendums contain 78 national graphs and a list of 450 data sources.

This Report will be useful for nations who prohibit abortion, giving them an abundance of reasons why they should preserve their good policies protecting human life, and not make the same mistake as the United States and other nations. Nations that authorized abortion, partly or fully, should review the evidence and restore lawful protection of human life from the moment of conception. This Report will also be useful in tracking demographic and other consequences of authorizing abortion.

With 100 countries, territories and other regions represented by 4,915 country-years of reported data and well-vetted estimates, this data set covers abortions in a range of political systems, cultural and religious backgrounds, and time periods. This information consequently has bearing on the policy and health implications of abortion.

Part I begins with asking, “What is the basis for the sanctity of human life?” There was found no religious, philosophical or ethical basis for protecting human life from the moment of conception to natural death, except in the Bible, natural law and theories consistent with both. A uniform message in the Bible is the inherent value of human life, and the imperative to protect innocent human life. “God created man in His own image” as either male or female, and knows and creates every child in the womb.¹ Nowhere else do we find this good news. Secondly, the Creator has written His Law on our hearts, which is why we cherish life, and a mother and father have natural instincts to protect their children. This is the only basis for the sacred worth and inherent dignity of every person, preborn and born, and why we all know we should protect innocent human life.

The scientific and medical evidence for the humanity of a baby in the womb is irrefutable. Conception was discovered during the early 1800s. The development of the child is known and has been photographed from the 5th week forward. Ultrasound machines provide live pictures of babies in the womb as young as a few weeks old. Doctors operate on babies while in the womb, and some have been born and survived as early as 22 weeks. It’s a baby!

Regarding human rights, all rights endowed by God are inherent and inalienable to every person, beginning with the right to life. Human life should be protected from conception by law. Seven universal principles for discerning and protecting human rights are identified.

The first purpose of civil government is to exercise lawful authority that is delegated by God. From that authorization, the legitimacy of civil government has been inseparably linked to its duties to protect innocent human life and establish lawful justice.

As governments form laws, they should remember that a foremost purpose of law is to protect human life. Thomas Aquinas and Sir William Blackstone rightly observed that “the universe is governed” by the “eternal law”² of God; and just human laws conform to the Law of God, which is the only fixed, uniform, and universal legal standard.³ This gift to all mankind established clear and unchanging standards of right and wrong. It is perfectly consistent with itself, and with a rightly informed conscience. This Law, also written on our hearts, is why every person knows it is wrong to lie, steal, or murder; and why governments have laws against the same.

Part II begins with an overview of the history of human sacrifice, child sacrifice and abortion, and explains why high numbers of abortions were not possible until the 1800s. When abortions increased, 71 nations and territories (most of the world at that time) enacted laws prohibiting abortion. From 1803 to 1919, no government authorized abortion. However, beginning in 1920, governments began to authorize abortion, and as of 2016, the total is 136 nations.

Yet why do women abort their children? Identified are some of the sobering reasons and tragic consequences, whether the abortions were voluntary, coerced or forced.

Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt discusses one of the tragic phenomena of our time: worldwide sex-select abortion, which he addresses in his brief herein titled, “The Global War Against Baby Girls.”

Part III is a table of the National Policies Protecting Life or Authorizing Abortion, which is a result of direct research of the laws and policies of nations. For about 60 nations, it differs on one or more policy points with the “World Abortion Policies”⁴ chart produced by the United Nations, either to more accurately reflect the actual policies or due to slightly different criteria and additional criteria.

Part IV discusses how the abortion data were compiled and from what sources, and general and specific country data issues. The sources were categorized as preferred, acceptable or unacceptable. Preferred data sources are those from official government sources (27.0% of data), and intergovernmental organizations that compile data directly from national governments, including the United Nations (38.0%), and the Council of Europe, European Union, Pan American Health Organization, and the World Bank (8.9%). Acceptable sources included peer-reviewed academic publications containing official government statistics (23.3%), organizations that monitor actual abortion numbers (1.7%), and news media reports of official statistics (1.1%). The only acceptable estimates were from what were considered reliable and extensive government surveys (e.g., South Korea). Estimates based on sampling of a small fraction of a country’s population and/or non-empirical assumptions were viewed as unacceptable and were consequently rejected.

There were, of course, missing years of data. To produce complete data sets and cumulative totals for each nation and territory, methodologies were developed that were found to be sufficiently robust, generally yielding estimated errors less than 10-20%. Different methodologies were developed and evaluated for accuracy for 3 categories of missing data:

1. Missing data between year of abortion authorization and first reported data;
2. Missing data intermediate to reported data (between reported years);
3. Missing data between most recent reported data and the present (2015).

Part V is the Sacred Accounting Table of the 1 billion babies aborted. This is a sacred accounting because it records 1 billion human lives tragically and prematurely terminated.

There are 4,915 country-years of data in the Tables, of which 3,596 are actual reported, and 1,319 are estimated, mostly using the methodologies described in Part IV. The nations and territories are arranged by geographic region: Africa, Americas and the Caribbean, Oceania, Asia, and Europe (Tables 1-A, 1-B, 1-C). Annual totals for each region are included for every year from 1921 to 2015, as well as country and worldwide totals. Abortion percent, ratio, and comparison with current population are provided in Table 1-D.

Part VI brings together the policy information for 196 nations, and the abortion data for the 100 nations in this Report, in Global Summaries, including a list, tables, maps and graphs. The first list contains the current policies of 196 nations, in 6 categories, on 1 page. This is followed by 7 maps: 1919 A.D. world map showing abortion prohibitions; 2016 world map showing current policies; and 2016 policy maps for Africa, Americas and the Caribbean, Asia, Europe,

and Oceania. Next is a table of the 100 nations, territories and other regions included in this Report, from highest to lowest abortion totals; from this table, the top 10 or more may be identified. At the end of that table is a world map showing the 100 in the AWR database. Next are a graph of Abortions Reported Worldwide, 1921-2015, and a decade-by-decade table of cumulative abortions; followed by the same graph colored differently to show the distribution of abortions by country and groups of countries; with a colored world map identifying the nations on the next page. Then the same abortion data is displayed in 3 graphs by various groupings of nations to identify differing patterns. Next are 5 world maps that track abortion percentages for the years 1956, 1970, 1985, 2000, and 2014. The final world map shows the demographic impact of abortion.

Part VII contains the Major Findings of this research project. The Empirical Findings include a historical overview of general trends, followed by specific trends for 5 groups of countries. The general trend worldwide was low numbers of known abortions during the 1920s to 1940s (except for 4 countries); a rapid increase in abortions from the 1950s through the 1980s; and then a dramatic decline after the fall of communism in the early 1990s.

A principal method used to develop empirical findings was the superposed epoch analysis described in Part IV. A total of 78 countries were separated into 5 groups (i.e., Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Former Soviet Republics, Other Developed, and Developing countries), to identify country abortion trends after authorization. One finding was that, while abortion trends vary significantly among countries, the most predictable pattern was a rapid rise to peak within 5-25 years (usually 12 or less) once numbers of abortions began rising rapidly. After this peak about half of the countries experienced a significant multi-decade decline in abortion numbers, while the others maintained near peak levels. Which of these two behaviors occurs is not well predicted by a number of factors considered (pre-rise behavior, development status, or world region). The one exception is that countries that have rejected communism have also seen dramatic drops in abortions. (See the Empirical Findings brief for analysis of each of the 5 groups of countries, and the conclusions at the end.)

The General Findings pertain to the history of abortion prohibition and authorization, the impact of government policies, and consequences. The 18 general findings include:

- The initial post-authorization rise in abortions has tended to occur more rapidly in recent decades than earlier times.
- Once a government authorizes abortion, it never becomes rare, unless they again prohibit or highly restrict it.
- The highest levels of abortion ever recorded have occurred in communist countries.
- Abortion has been authorized and embraced in countries of all religious backgrounds, economic systems, and development levels.
- Most of the 60 nations that still prohibit abortion are predominantly Christian.

The Greatest Genocide in history is documented in the final Major Findings brief. This genocide began when the first nation authorized abortion in 1920, and steadily expanded with the approval of 142 nations (although Chile, El Salvador and Nicaragua subsequently prohibited

abortion; and Czechoslovakia, the U.S.S.R., and Yugoslavia no longer exist). The first authorization for each country is tracked by decade, as well as cumulative numbers of abortions. For limited reasons or on demand, over 90% of the developed countries have authorized abortion, and 69% of developing countries.

During the 1920s, there were 2.2 million known abortions, almost all in the Soviet Union. Another 12.2 million abortions are known in the 1930s and 1940s. Abortion numbers then increased dramatically, with 39.2 million known in the 1950s, 121.5 million in the 1960s, 169.5 million in the 1970s, and 244.4 million in the 1980s, bringing the total from 1920 to 1989 to 589.1 million known abortions. Known abortions over time have since declined, with 207.9 million in the 1990s, and 147 million from 2000 to 2009. Through 2015, cumulative known abortions worldwide total 1,018 million babies' lives lost.

The majority of abortions were committed in communist nations: 739 million abortions. The second largest group of abortion nations is nominally majority Christian: 131.2 million abortions. But for Christians to do so is directly contrary to their faith and the Bible. Nations with other majority faiths – Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, or mixed – accounted for 148 million abortions.

Cumulative worldwide reported abortions (over 1 billion) through 2015 were compared to other great death catastrophes. Total deaths for World War I were estimated at 16.5 million; for World War II, at 63.2 million; and for all democides from 1900 through 1999, at 262 million. The average daily death toll during World War I was 6,500, and during World War II was 24,700, both military and civilian. But 34,400 babies are exterminated every day by abortion.

Current worldwide reported abortions are about 12.5 million per year. Claims that global abortion numbers are several times higher than the known numbers are unlikely to be true. In particular, the estimate of 56 million annually by the Guttmacher Institute and the World Health Organization⁵ is found lacking in credibility (see explanation in point 13 in General Findings). We acknowledge that there are large numbers of illegal and unreported abortions taking place. The data in this Report covers most of the developed nations of the world with a high degree of completeness. Developing nations are not fully covered, though most of the nations with relatively permissive abortion policies are represented. The GI/WHO estimates are predicated on large numbers of abortions in the developing world, and indeed require the geographic regions of the developing world to have extremely high abortion rates. These rates must be high across all geographic and cultural regions and must exceed those for nations where abortion is legal, widely available, sometimes subsidized, and occasionally forced. Besides being implausible, the GI/WHO estimates are built on methodologies and assumptions that have been refuted in medical literature.

Part VIII contains a summary list of the Major Findings followed by recommendations, including specific recommendations for individuals, clergy, civil governments, pro-life/family groups, nations that still prohibit abortion, and nations that have authorized abortion.

Part IX, having reflected on the tragedy of abortion and desiring a better future, provides words of truth and hope for individuals (including post-abortive girls and women), parents, clergy and churches, and those serving in civil government, including legislators and parliamentarians, heads of state, officials, judges, diplomats, and military. Each part begins with recognizing the reality of who God created and calls each person and institution to be, then identifies specific sins related to abortion, calls to repentance, and concludes with a word on forgiveness.

Part X is a final word of truth and hope to people and nations that provides an understanding of how God Almighty views each nation and this Great Genocide, and what we should now do to have hope for a restored future. The Bible contains the only historical record of nations that gives us an accurate understanding of how God relates to, and blesses or judges them based on His sovereign will and choice, and their righteousness or wickedness. Thus, this part begins with a review of the recorded history of nations in the Bible, which reveals that idolatry is connected to immorality and child sacrifice, or directly with child sacrifice. The whole question of “why human sacrifice” is addressed, followed by the serious issues of innocent bloodshed, murder, curses, the necessity of justice, and the possibility of redemption. Since the first murder, when Cain killed Abel, innocent bloodshed pollutes and brings a curse upon the ground where it is shed and the guilty person(s). God requires justice to remove this bloodguiltiness, which can also be removed through repentance and the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. The Bible is clear about the accountability of individuals and nations to Him, and He always judges for innocent bloodshed if there is not full justice according to His Law or repentance, though His judgments may be delayed for years or generations because of His great mercy. Meanwhile, it is possible to discern indicators of Him withdrawing His presence, peace and protection, as well as evidences of His divine judgments. To give hope, examples are provided from United States history of leaders in generations past who accurately discerned national sins and corresponding national calamities. The closing reveals the only hope that any individual or nation has for restoration and a blessed future.

Addendum I contains abortion graphs for 78 nations and territories.

Addendum II is the Data Source List of 450 sources, arranged by nation, general, and world.

Abortion is the Greatest Genocide in history! Let us now end the Genocide!

Endnotes

¹ Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-2; Psalm 139:13-16; Ecclesiastes 11:5; Isaiah 44:2, 24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; Galatians 1:15.

² Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Law, The Summa Theologica*, Questions 90, 91, 93.

³ Sir William Blackstone, Introduction, Section 2, *Of the Nature of Laws in General, Commentaries on the Laws of England (1765-1769)*.

⁴ United Nations document ST/ESA/SER.A/302.

⁵ Sedgh, G., et al. (2016), Abortion incidence between 1990 and 2014: Global regional, and subregional levels and trends, *The Lancet*, 388(10041):258-267, and supplementary material.