

ABORTION WORLDWIDE REPORT: PART VIII

Findings Summary and Recommendations

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The authors' findings, additional conclusions, and recommendations are now given to conclude this Abortion Worldwide Report. To gather the findings in one place, they are listed from all three Major Findings briefs first.

A. Summary of Major Findings

Empirical Findings:

1. Worldwide abortions were low during the 1920s to 1940s (except for 4 countries), but increased rapidly from the 1950s to the 1980s, but declined dramatically after the fall of communism in the early 1990s.
2. Abortion trends vary significantly among countries, but there are common aspects among nations within specific groups and regions.
3. In Western Europe, the rise from low to high abortions is very rapid, but after the first peak, two patterns are evident; some countries continue to rise slowly, while others saw a drop on the order of 50% over the next 40 years.
4. In Eastern Europe, countries show consistent and dramatic drops in abortion following the collapse of communism, ranging from 70 to 90 percent. However, during the period of communist rule, diverse trends are evident.
5. In former communist countries in Europe and Asia, abortions are quite high in most constituent republics though patterns vary; but when communist rule ended, abortions dropped dramatically by 70-90 percent over the following two decades.
6. In the 17 former Soviet republics and other regions, republic-level behavior varied significantly until the mid-1950s. From then to the 1980s there was consistency in sustained high levels of abortion. All republics showed dramatic drops in abortion after the fall of communism, of 70-90%, but only the successor states in Europe have seen declines continue to the present.
7. Other developed countries varied in how rapid they experienced the initial rise in abortion, but after the peak, they either experienced dramatic or modest declines.
8. Developing countries and territories show various trends both in rise time and in whether peak levels are sustained or not; however, they tend to fall into two groups, one with high abortions for decades after the initial peak, and another averaging a 50% decline in the 20-40 years post-peak period.
9. Whether the initial rise is slow or rapid does not predict whether abortions will remain high or drop after the peak.

General Findings:

1. Abortion was prohibited during the 1800s by every nation that made laws pertaining to it.
2. Government attitudes towards abortion first started reversing with the authorization of abortion by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1920.
3. Since 1920, the governments of 142 nations have authorized abortion, either in limited circumstances or on demand (3 later prohibited abortion, and 3 of which no longer exist).
4. When a government authorizes abortion, abortions often increase rapidly to near-peak levels within 5-25 years.
5. The post-authorization rise in abortions is only delayed in cases where the initial authorization is for very limited circumstances, or if the population does not initially embrace abortion.
6. The initial post-authorization rise in abortions has tended to occur more rapidly in recent decades than earlier times.
7. In the absence of policy changes, the level of abortions in a country tends to be stable or change slowly.
8. Policy changes of limited scope occurring after abortions reach peak levels usually have much less impact than initial policies.
9. Policy changes of significant scope occurring after abortions reach peak levels can change abortion levels.
10. Whether abortion levels remain high or decline significantly after reaching peak levels is mostly unpredictable.
11. Once a government authorizes abortion, it never becomes rare, unless they again prohibit or highly restrict it.
12. Government policies, including both laws themselves and the level of enforcement, profoundly affect the level of abortion (excepting limited variations of policy).
13. Claims that global abortion numbers are significantly higher than the known numbers are unlikely to be true.
14. The impact of policies cannot be known if the number of abortions is unknown or inaccurately reported.
15. High levels of abortion have multiple demographic and unintended consequences.
16. The highest levels of abortion ever recorded have occurred in communist countries.
17. Abortion has been authorized and embraced in countries of all religious backgrounds, economic systems, and development levels.
18. Most of the 60 nations that still prohibit abortion are majority Christian.

Greatest Genocide Findings:

1. The Greatest Genocide began when the first nation authorized abortion in 1920, and steadily expanded by the approval of 142 nations.
2. Known worldwide abortions remained comparatively low until the 1950s, then increased exponentially to the 1980s, and peaked in 1983 and 1990 at 27.5 million per year.
3. The majority (73%) of known abortions were committed in Communist countries.
4. Nominally Christian nations account for 13% of known abortions to date.
5. Abortions in countries of mixed or other major religions represent the remaining 14% of known abortions.

6. Current known worldwide abortions are 12.5 million per year.
7. Abortions far exceed the deaths from all wars and democides.
8. Abortion is the Greatest Genocide!

B. Recommendations

The authors make the following recommendations, with the understanding that some are specifically focused on the church and written from a Christian perspective. General recommendations are listed first, and then those specific to individuals, clergy, churches and synagogues, pro-life/family organizations and ministries, and the people and governments of specific groups of nations. General recommendations are as follows:

- Restore honesty, integrity, and respect to discussions, debates, and research regarding the sanctity of human life, abortion, the breadth of human rights, and the purpose and role of civil government and law.
- Seek to ultimately end abortion for all reasons except to save the life of the mother. Understand that if abortion is already authorized that this may be a long, progressive goal to achieve. While many countries or communities may not have a consensus for this fully pro-life goal, most have a consensus against unlimited abortion. Stepwise restoration of a society valuing human life is a legitimate approach (see, Marvin Olasky, 1992, *Abortion Rites: A Social History of Abortion in America*, especially chapter 13).
- Restore each community, city, state, and nation as a culture of life.

Individuals:

- If you have been involved in an abortion, repent and ask God's forgiveness, with the assurance that with genuine repentance the blood of Jesus Christ covers your sin. Abortion is a violation of God's design and Law, but He still earnestly seeks reconciliation with you.
- Encourage women who are considering abortion to cherish the life of the child within them. Many women are victimized by abortion, and do not adequately comprehend, at least until afterwards, that they actually took the life of their baby. Choosing life requires addressing physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of women.
- Use the information in this Report, and other information, to advocate for children in the womb, pregnant women, and the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. This includes influencing and lobbying your civil government officials and legislators, in a respectful, honoring and lawful manner.

Clergy:

- Be courageous to preach, teach, speak up, and stand for the sanctity of human life and for the protection of preborn children and pregnant mothers.
- Deliver a sermon or message, or multiple ones, on these topics every year. Help your congregation to understand what the Bible says about the sanctity of life, the evil of abortion, forgiveness available through Jesus Christ, and how to communicate both truth and redemptive love.
- Be prepared to minister to post-abortive women and men, or to refer them to people or

ministries who are able to do so.

- Lead your church to actively support pro-life ministries such as pro-life clinics and ministries to women in your neighborhood. Find a crisis pregnancy center in your area, talk to them to understand the issues from abortion that are specific to your area, and if appropriate have someone from such a center speak to your church on the issues.

Churches and Synagogues:

- Be “the pillar and support of truth” for your congregations and communities (I Tim. 3:15).
- Establish or faithfully support a crisis pregnancy center and ministry to post-abortive women and men in your community.
- Educate young people about the sanctity of human life, sacred gift of human sexuality to be preserved exclusively within the covenant of marriage, and the evil of abortion – including understanding Biblical and spiritual issues; factual knowledge to dispel misconceptions and misinformation about abortion; and practical guidance in maintaining sexual purity.

Pro-Life/Family Organizations and Ministries:

- Coordinate your work and ministry with local churches.
- Persevere in standing, advocating, and educating for the sanctity of human life, and use this Report in every way that helps you accomplish this and your other goals. Network to obtain and share information, and collaborate to accomplish mutual goals.
- Influence and lobby your civil government’s to protect life and prohibit abortion.

The People and Governments of Nations that Prohibit Abortion:

- Keep standing strong in defense of human life, and do not yield to internal or international pressure to authorize abortion.
- Do not follow the example of developed nations that authorized abortion, like the United States. The USA, the country of the authors of this Report, became great by fearing God, respecting and cherishing human life, upholding marriage as a sacred covenant between one man and one woman, and strongly encouraging that human sexuality be kept within the bonds of marriage. Follow what made us great, not what is destroying us internally.
- Do not yield to pressure from regional and international governmental organizations, and in every inter-governmental meeting, uphold the sanctity of human life and marriage whenever they are put to the challenge. Critically examine the claims from all sides (including our own).

The People and Governments of Nations that Authorized Abortion:

- Recognize the innocent bloodshed on your land, and consider what may be consequences of this offense. This requires rejecting the misinformation that supports and legitimizes abortion, as it obscures the moral, social, physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences.
- Recognize the innocent bloodshed on your land, and consider what may be consequences.
- With the leadership of the clergy and churches, repent for your national sins, particularly of abortion, with the assurance of forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and His mercy in judgment.
- Reconsider your policy on abortion, abolish it, and restore your laws protecting human life the moment of conception to natural death.