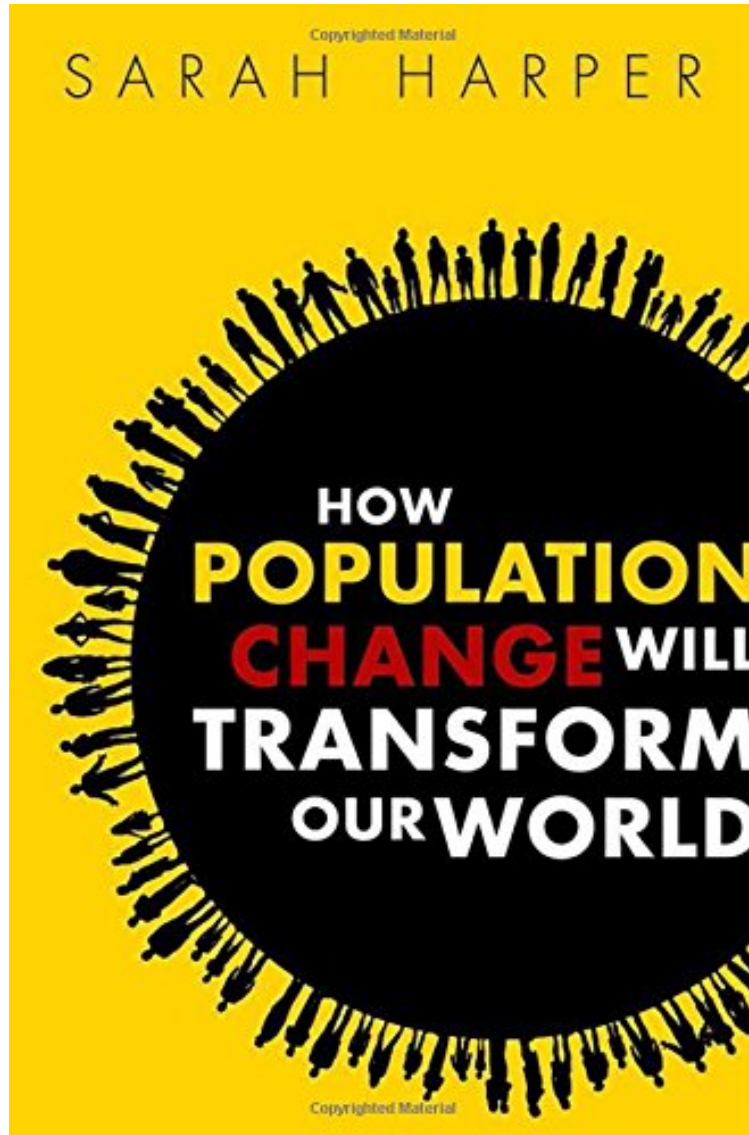


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How Population Change Will Transform Our World

Sarah Harper

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Sarah Harper : How Population Change Will Transform Our World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How Population Change Will Transform Our World:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A delightful overview of the changing nature of population age structure regionally and globallyBy Steven Miller (SMU, Singapore)This is a delightful book. The author Sarah Harper is a demographer and Professor of Gerontology at Oxford, and focuses on population ageing and the social implications of demographic change. In an earlier part of her career, she was a BBC reporter, and she has a great sense

of how to communicate complex ideas to non-specialist audiences. This book helps you to understand the changing age composition of populations within specific countries, within major geographic regions, and across the entire world. It has just the right combination of supporting visual information (charts, tables) and very clear explanatory text. The book is not written as a textbook. Rather, it is written as a coherent story that combines the hard scientific data and supporting empirical analysis with carefully selected vignettes of individual people and individual countries. In other words, Sara has very carefully crafted this book so you get both the important data and the important message. The big idea is that she helps all of us non-specialist in this area understand how demographers look at the age structure of populations in terms of the proportion in the following three categories: 0 to 14 (the young), 15 to 64 (mostly comprised of those of working age), 65 and older (the older and old). She clearly explains the complex and inter-related reasons why populations eventually shift from having a high proportion in the young to later on having a high proportion of working age, and finally a high proportion of old. She provides a lot of insight as to why different countries and regions experience this transition at different rates, and why some countries and regions have progressed along very different trajectories though they started off at a common starting point. We are all aware that individuals are living longer. Through this book, Sarah helps us to understand the implications of entire population cohorts (not just individuals) living longer. If you want to have a wonderful guided tour for non-specialist on the importance of changing population trends, then get this book and read it. It really is a delightful read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A "must read" for those who care about their future and the future of society. By Andrew Ward This is a masterful sweep over the landscape of the major demographic change that is going on all over the world from one of the world's leading researchers on the topic. Written in a very accessible and engaging way, this book will give you a great overview of one of the fundamental megatrends that will, as the title says, transform the world over the coming decades, as well as the enormous challenges and opportunities that confront many nations as their populations age.

Predicting the shape of our future populations is vital for installing the infrastructure, welfare, and provisions necessary for society to survive. There are many opportunities and challenges that will come with the changes in our populations over the 21st century. In this new addition to the 21st Century Challenges series, Sarah Harper works to dispel myths such as the fear of unstoppable global growth resulting in a population explosion, or that climate change will lead to the mass movement of environmental refugees; and instead considers the future shape of our populations in light of demographic trends in fertility, mortality, and migration, and their national and global impact. How Population Change Will Transform Our World looks at population trends by region to highlight the key issues facing us in the coming decades, including the demographic inertia in Europe, demographic dividend in Asia, high fertility and mortality in Africa, the youth bulge in the Middle East, and the balancing act of migration in the Americas. Harper concludes with an analysis of global challenges we must plan for such as the impact of climate change and urbanization, and the difficulty of feeding 10 billion people, and considers ways in which we can prepare for, and mitigate against, these challenges.

"...provides a powerful reminder that debates over immigrations, social welfare, and inequality will intensify in the decades ahead." -- Foreign Affairs About the Author Sarah Harper, Professor of Gerontology at Oxford University and Director of the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing Sarah Harper (MA (Cantab.) Cambridge; DPhil (Oxon) Oxford) is Professor of Gerontology at Oxford University and Director of the Oxford Institute of Ageing, a multi-disciplinary research unit concerned with the implications of population ageing, and director of the Clore Programme on Population-Environment Change. Her research concerns globalization and global ageing, and the impact of population change, in particular the implications at the global, societal and individual level of the age-structural shift from predominantly young to predominantly older societies. She has authored, edited and contributed to several books, including *Families in Ageing Societies* (Editor, OUP, 2004), *Ageing Societies: Myths, Challenges, and Opportunities* (Hodder Arnold, 2005) and *Is the Planet Full?* (Contributor, OUP, 2014). She is also the editor of the *Journal of Population Ageing* (Springer).