Bare Branches: The Security Implications of Asia’s Surplus Male Population

Hudson, Valerie M and den Boer, Andrea (2004) Bare Branches: The Security Implications of Asia’s Surplus Male Population. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, USA, 329 pp. ISBN 0-262-08325-6. (The full text of this publication is not currently available from this repository. You may be able to access a copy if URLs are provided)

Abstract

What happens to a society that has too many men? In this provocative book, Valerie Hudson and Andrea den Boer argue that, historically, high male-to-female ratios often trigger domestic and international violence. Most violent crime is committed by young unmarried males who lack stable social bonds. Although there is not always a direct cause-and-effect relationship, these surplus men often play a crucial role in making violence prevalent within society. Governments sometimes respond to this problem by enlisting young surplus males in military campaigns and high-risk public works projects. Countries with high male-to-female ratios also tend to develop authoritarian political systems. Hudson and den Boer suggest that the sex ratios of many Asian countries, particularly China and India -- which represent almost 40 percent of the world’s population -- are being skewed in favor of males on a scale that may be unprecedented in human history. Through offspring sex selection (often in the form of sex-selective abortion and female infanticide), these countries are acquiring a disproportionate number of low-status young adult males, called "bare branches" by the Chinese. Hudson and den Boer argue that this surplus male population in Asia’s largest countries threatens domestic stability and international security. The prospects for peace and democracy are dimmed by the growth of bare branches in China and India, and, they maintain, the sex ratios of these countries will have global implications in the twenty-first century.

Item Type: Book

Subjects: J Political Science > JA Political science (General)

Divisions: Faculties > Social Sciences > School of Politics and International Relations

Depositing User: Alison Webster

Date Deposited: 19 Dec 2007 18:32 UTC

Last Modified: 15 May 2014 15:38 UTC

Resource URI: https://kar.kent.ac.uk/id/eprint/846 (The current URI for this page, for reference purposes)

Export to: RefWorks | EPrints3 XML | BibTeX | CSV

Demographic security addresses the security aspects of: • A population’s size, age structure, geographic distribution, or ethnic composition; and. • Changes in these demographic conditions and interactions among them, including migration, population growth, shifts in the age structure, and changing location and proportion of ethnic and religious groups. Richard P. Cincotta is senior research. associate at Population Action. (2004). Bare branches: The security implications of Asia’s surplus male population. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Mesquida, Christian G. & Neil I. Wiener.