

Human Progress

# DOOMSLAYER

a newsletter that cuts through the gloom



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## People Are the Ultimate Existential Resource

The economist Julian Simon argued that humans are the ultimate resource. More humans means more brain power, which leads to more innovation and less scarcity.

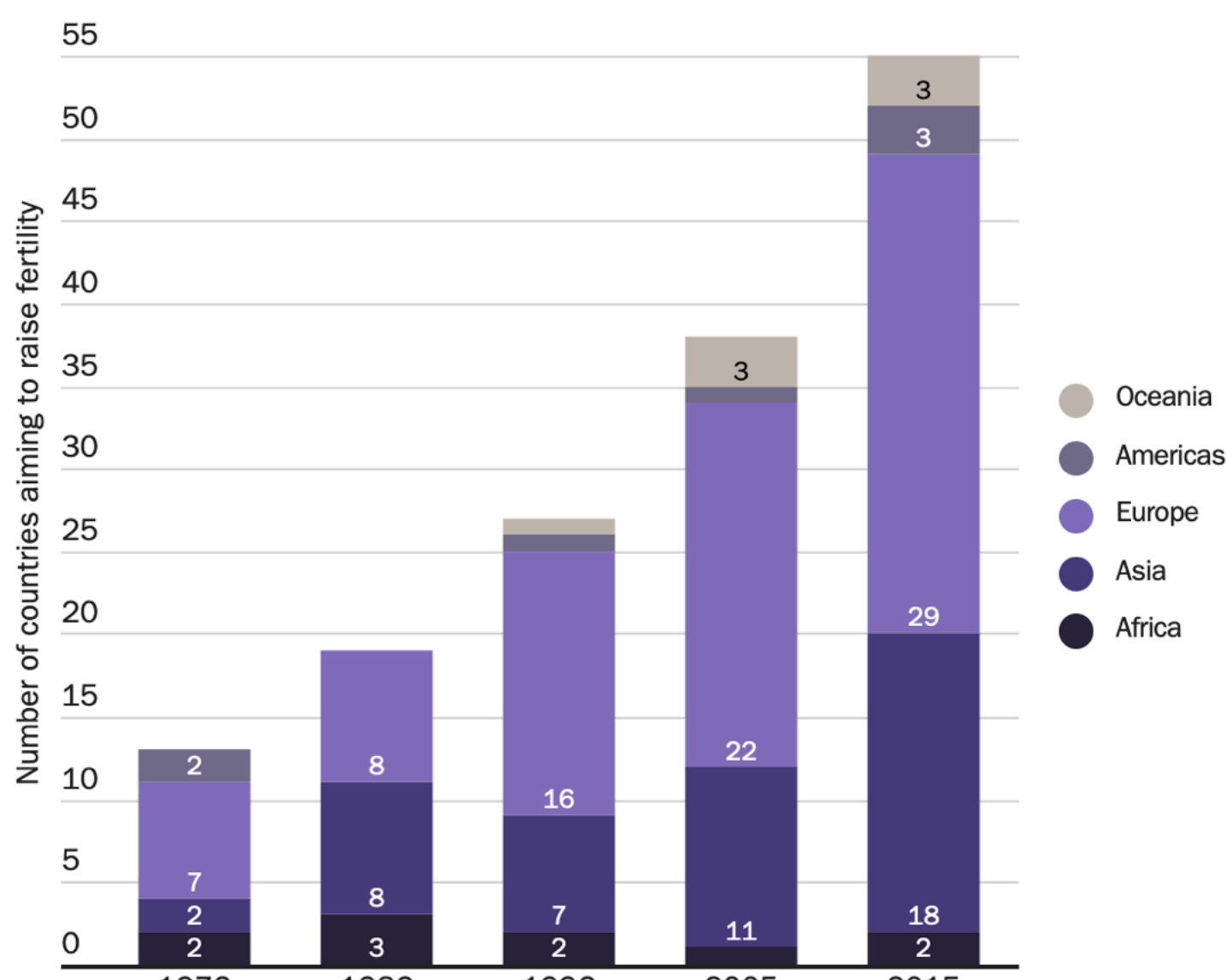
However, there is another factor to consider: our need for meaning.

As birth rates fall, it's crucial to recognize the profound role of family and social connections in providing purpose and motivating efforts to enhance human flourishing.

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Figure 1

**Number of countries with “raising fertility” as an explicit policy objective continues to grow**



Source: Tomáš Sobotka, Anna Matysiak, and Zuzanna Brzozowska, “Policy Responses to Low Fertility: How Effective Are They?,” United Nations Population Fund Working Paper no. 1, May 2019, p. 8.

Note: Some numbers were updated using the United Nations’ World Population Policies Database, last updated in 2015.

As demographic decline sets in, policies aimed at boosting birth rates are becoming increasingly popular. Unfortunately, many pro-natal initiatives have taken the form of expensive government programs with little effect on fertility.

In her policy analysis from last year, Human Progress managing editor Chelsea Follett suggests a better place to start: get rid of the many rules that make raising children more difficult and expensive than it should be.

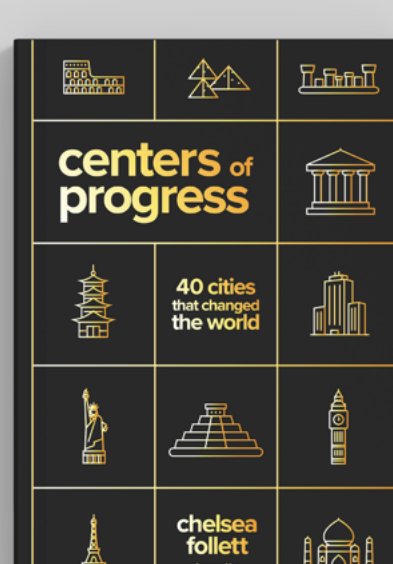
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