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The 2024 UN Demographic Revision: Geopolitical Implications

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Highlights of the 2024 UN Demographic Revision[1]

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Abstract

On 11 July, the United Nations published its new biennial demographic revision. The data can help us answer a wide range of questions, not least how fertility rates are changing, how much divergence we can find among demographic trends in major regions of the world, and how such trends may impact great power politics.

1. Introduction

On 11 July 2024, The United Nations published its new biennial demographic revision. This paper examines some of the revision's most interesting data. The tables are edited to grasp the most interesting trends suggested by the data and give description of trends depicted. As we will see, the data suggests a more rapid fall in fertility rates, than previously thought, which may ease fears of overpopulation, however, may add to concerns in the Western World and East Asia regarding a shrinking workforce and aging population. According to the medium scenario, the population of the world is predicted to peak at 10,289 billion in 2084, and from that point on, it is forecasted to start to shrink, but it will already surpass 90% of this peak level as early as 2042. We will see, however, that it is even possible, that the population may actually peak much sooner, and on a much lower level.

2. Regional Shifts

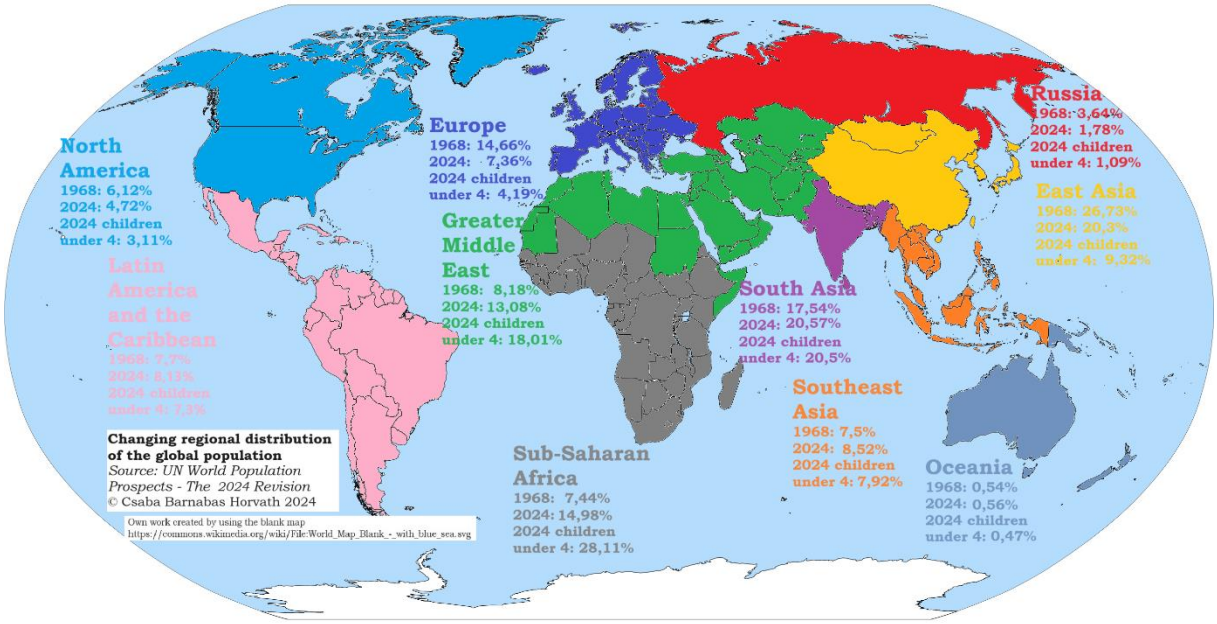
Our first table and the corresponding map show how the global demographic share of the great regions of the World is about to change. Besides UN forecasts for future population, we also included the global share of each region in the number of children under the age of four, ie. in the youngest age group already born. As this age group is already born, this is a somewhat more solid point, than assumptions for the future. On the other hand, the UN - probably rightly - expects fertility rates in high fertility countries to drop more sharply in the future that in low fertility countries, resulting in narrower gaps in the upcoming age groups to be born, and thus may have an overall moderating effect on what figures of this youngest age group suggests. To make macro-regions more aligned with cultural lines, I also included the Greater Middle East and took Russia as a region of its own as opposed to using the UN regions. The table also shows how these differ from the figures forecasted by the previous, 2022 revision.

The declining fertility here is shown by comparing the two tables. While the UN seems to have underestimated the absolute population of the World for the year 2024 by 0,47%, it overestimated the global population of children under the age of 4 for the same year by 1,38%. Although both anomalies are within any reasonable margin of error, the trends are more apparent if we compare numbers in the two tables regarding macro-regions of the World: According to the 2024 revision, in East Asia, the population of this age group is 9,09% lower than forecasted by the 2022 revision, while it is 5,56% lower in Southeast Asia, 4,76% lower in North America, 2,08% lower in Latin-America and the Caribbean, and 1,09% lower in Sub-Saharan Africa. While the difference regarding Sub-Saharan Africa, may fall within the margin of error, the other numbers, especially those regarding East Asia, Southeast Asia, and North America seem to display significantly lower fertility, than the UN estimated in 2022. It doesn't seem to be an exaggeration to state that fertility rates are in a freefall in these regions.

On the other hand, the 2024 estimate for this age group is 2,65% higher for the Greater Middle East than what was estimated in 2022, the only region where the 2024 revision suggests higher fertility, than the 2022 one. How the remaining growth concentrates on Africa and the Muslim World, became even more striking in the 2024 revision. According to the 2022 revision, the Philippines was supposed to be the most populous non-Muslim-majority country outside Africa with a total fertility rate above the 2,1-replacement level, as the revision drastically modified the total fertility rate of the Philippines downwards, however, its TFR also fell below 2,1 by 2024. This leaves only fourteen non-Muslim majority sovereign nations of more than one million inhabitants with a TFR higher than 2,1 outside Africa, namely Bolivia, Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, East Timor, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Panama, Papua New Guinea, and Paraguay. Out of these, Cambodia has the highest population, still with a mere 17 million inhabitants.

Changing share of macro-regions in the global population	1968		1991		2024		2024 childern under the age of 4		2040		2050	
	pop.	share of World	pop.	share of World	pop.	share of World	pop.	share of World	pop.	share of World	pop.	share of World
East Asia	948	26,73%	1390	25,71%	1656	20,30%	60	9,32%	1563	17,04%	1467	15,20%
Europe	520	14,66%	576	10,65%	600	7,36%	27	4,19%	587	6,40%	567	5,87%
Greater Middle East	290	8,18%	548	10,14%	1067	13,08%	116	18,01%	1331	14,51%	1487	15,40%
Latin America and the Caribbean	273	7,70%	451	8,34%	663	8,13%	47	7,30%	717	7,82%	730	7,56%
North America	217	6,12%	280	5,18%	385	4,72%	20	3,11%	414	4,51%	427	4,42%
Oceania	19	0,54%	27	0,50%	46	0,56%	3	0,47%	54	0,59%	57	0,59%
Russia	129	3,64%	148	2,74%	145	1,78%	7	1,09%	138	1,50%	136	1,41%
South Asia	622	17,54%	1036	19,16%	1678	20,57%	132	20,50%	1884	20,54%	1955	20,25%
Southeast Asia	266	7,50%	449	8,31%	695	8,52%	51	7,92%	757	8,25%	775	8,03%
Sub-Saharan Africa	264	7,44%	502	9,29%	1222	14,98%	181	28,11%	1727	18,83%	2053	21,27%
World	3547		5406		8157		644		9172		9654	

Table 1. Regional shifts in the Global population[2]



Map 1. Regional shift in the global population[3]

3. The Top 25

The following table shows how the ranking of the top 25 most populous countries in the world will develop until 2025, and also how the 2024 forecast differs from the 2022 forecast. As we can see, the apparent trend is the rise of Africa and the Muslim World. All countries ranking higher in 2050 than in 2025, are either in Africa, or in Muslim-majority countries. These include Pakistan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, South Africa, and Afghanistan.

On the other hand, even some major countries of the Global South are sliding down the list, such as - again in order of their forecasted populations by 2050 - Indonesia, Brazil, Bangladesh, Mexico, Iran, Turkey, and Thailand, not to mention China, which will maintain its second position for obvious reasons, but the gap between it and India is scheduled to widen to an astonishing 420 million people, or 33% of the then population of China by 2050. This increasingly shows a rift within the Global South, with its more industrialized half, with moderate growth rates, or even decreasing populations, and with its less industrialized half with lower rates.

Russia and Japan, two major powers of the 20th century, will further slide down the list due to their low birth rates. Japan dropped out from the top ten most populous countries in 2020, and Russia is forecasted by the medium scenario of the UN to drop out from the top ten in 2033. It is also interesting to note which countries, that are among the top 25, will drop out from it by 2050, and which countries, that are not among it right now, will emerge into it by that year: The forecasted dropouts, in order of the year of their departure, are Italy, France, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. That three out of the four are European shows the relative demographic

decline of the continent. The only European country that will remain among the top 25 by 2050 will be Germany, albeit predicted to slide down from its current 19th place to the 24th. The four new members of the top 25 club, replacing the four dropouts, in order of their entry, be Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Afghanistan, three of the four being African countries.

rank	2024			2030			2035			2040			2045			2050		
	UN forecast	2022	2024	UN forecast	2022	2024	UN forecast	2022	2024	UN forecast	2022	2024	UN forecast	2022	2024	UN forecast	2022	2024
1.	India	1442	1451	India	1515	1525	India	1568	1579	India	1612	1623	India	1646	1656	India	1670	1680
2.	China	1425	1419	China	1415	1398	China	1400	1373	China	1378	1343	China	1350	1306	China	1313	1260
3.	US	342	345	US	352	356	US	360	363	US	367	370	US	372	376	US	375	380
4.	Indonesia	280	283	Indonesia	292	296	Indonesia	301	305	Pakistan	323	325	Pakistan	346	349	Pakistan	368	372
5.	Pakistan	245	251	Pakistan	274	277	Pakistan	298	301	Nigeria	321	313	Nigeria	350	337	Nigeria	377	359
6.	Nigeria	229	233	Nigeria	263	262	Nigeria	292	288	Indonesia	308	312	Indonesia	314	317	Indonesia	317	321
7.	Brazil	218	212	Brazil	224	216	Brazil	228	218	Brazil	230	219	Brazil	231	219	Ethiopia	215	225
8.	Bangladesh	175	174	Bangladesh	184	186	Bangladesh	191	195	Bangladesh	197	203	Bangladesh	201	209	DR Congo	217	218
9.	Russia	144	145	Ethiopia	149	153	Ethiopia	166	171	Ethiopia	182	188	Ethiopia	198	207	Brazil	231	217
10.	Ethiopia	130	132	Russia	141	142	DR Congo	148	152	DR Congo	170	173	DR Congo	193	195	Bangladesh	204	215
11.	Mexico	129	131	Mexico	135	137	Russia	139	140	Egypt	143	145	Egypt	152	154	Egypt	160	161
12.	Japan	123	124	DR Congo	128	132	Mexico	138	137	Mexico	141	142	Mexico	143	145	Mexico	144	149
13.	Egypt	114	117	Egypt	125	127	Egypt	134	136	Russia	137	138	Russia	135	137	Russia	133	136
14.	Philippines	119	116	Philippines	129	121	Philippines	138	126	Philippines	145	130	Philippines	152	132	Philippines	158	134
15.	DR Congo	106	109	Japan	119	120	Japan	115	116	Japan	111	112	Tanzania	117	117	Tanzania	130	130
16.	Vietnam	101	101	Vietnam	103	104	Vietnam	104	107	Vietnam	105	108	Vietnam	106	110	Vietnam	107	110
17.	Iran	90	92	Iran	93	95	Iran	95	98	Tanzania	105	104	Japan	107	109	Japan	104	105
18.	Turkey	86	87	Turkey	89	89	Tanzania	93	92	Iran	97	100	Iran	98	101	Iran	99	102
19.	Germany	83	85	Germany	83	83	Turkey	91	90	Turkey	93	91	Turkey	95	91	Turkey	96	91
20.	Thailand	72	72	Tanzania	82	81	Germany	82	82	Germany	81	81	Germany	80	79	Uganda	88	85
21.	UK	68	69	Thailand	72	71	UK	70	73	Kenya	75	74	Kenya	80	79	Sudan	84	85
22.	Tanzania	69	69	UK	69	71	Thailand	72	71	UK	71	74	Uganda	80	79	Kenya	85	84
23.	France	65	67	S. Africa	65	68	S. Africa	67	71	S. Africa	70	74	Sudan	77	78	S. Africa	74	79
24.	South Africa	61	64	France	66	67	Kenya	69	69	Uganda	73	72	S. Africa	72	77	Germany	79	78
25.	Italy	59	59	Kenya	63	63	France	66	68	Thailand	71	70	UK	71	75	Afghanistan	74	77

Table 2. Population change in the top 25 most populous countries of the World[4]

4. Peaking

The next question is when the population of each of the top twenty-five countries is scheduled to peak. The table below shows this compared to what the 2022 revision predicted. Here, as a mark of the start of stagnation, I also added the benchmark when the population reaches 90% of its projected peak, as from then on, while there still is some growth, that growth is minimal, and the demographic phase of the given country is closer to stagnation than to robust growth. As we can see, the forecasted date of both the peak and the 90% point receded by a few years in the case of most countries. Also, we can see, that among the top 25 are major countries of the global south, that have been known for years for their demographic explosion, but are now already beyond, or close to the peak, or the 90% point: China and Thailand are already beyond the peak and declining, Brazil, Iran, Turkey, and Vietnam are already beyond the 90% point, while Bangladesh is predicted to reach the 90% point in 2029, India in 2031, Indonesia in 2028, Mexico in 2028, and the Philippines in 2031.

Among the top 25, countries that are predicted not to peak before 2100, and therefore the year of their 90% point cannot be defined either, are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, and Tanzania. With the sole exception of Pakistan, all of them are African countries, although, for South Africa, this continuous growth is only the result of immigration from the rest of Africa, as according to the zero-migration variant of the UN, it would peak in 2064, and reach the 90% point as early as 2030.

When the population of the top 25 will peak	population in millions 2024	peak population according to the 2022 Revision	Year of the peak according to the 2022 revision	Year of 90% of the peak	peak population according to the 2024 Revision	Year of Peak according to the 2024 revision	Year of 90% of the peak
India	1451	1697	2063	2032	1701	2061	2031
China	1419	already peaked	already	already	already	already	already
US	345	394 in 2100, but no peak yet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indonesia	283	319	2060	2028	323	2058	2028
Pakistan	251	487 in 2100, but no peak yet	N/A	N/A	511 in 2100	N/A	N/A
Nigeria	233	546 in 2100 but no peak yet	N/A	N/A	477 in 2100	N/A	NA
Brazil	212	231	2046	already	219	2042	already
Bangladesh	174	207	2061	2032	204	2041	2029
Russia	145	already peaked	already	already	already	already	already
Ethiopia	132	324 in 2100, but not peak yet	N/A	N/A	368 in 2100	N/A	N/A

Mexico	131	144	2052	2024	150	2058	2028
Japan	124	already peaked	already	already	already	already	already
Egypt	117	205 in 2100, but no peak yet	N/A	N/A	202 in 2100	N/A	N/A
Philippines	116	181	2092	2055	135	2057	2031
DR Congo	109	432 in 2100, but no peak yet	N/A	N/A	431 in 2100	N/A	N/A
Vietnam	101	107	2051	already	110	2049	already
Iran	92	99	2053	2023	102	2053	already
Turkey	87	96	2056	2025	91	2047	already
Germany	85	already peaked		already	already	already	already
Thailand	72	72	2025	already	already	already	already
UK	69	72	2055	already	76	2072	already
Tanzania	69	245 in 2100, but no peak yet	N/A	N/A	263 in 2100	N/A	N
France	67	66	2041	already	69	2095	already
South Africa	64	77	2074	2039	94 in 2100	N/A	N
Italy	59	already peaked	already	already	already	already	already

Table 3. When will the population of the top 25 countries peak?[5]

5. Falling Fertility

The following table shows how total fertility rate of the top 25 countries is forecasted to change throughout the decade between 2015 and 2025 according to the 2024 UN forecast. As we can see, TFR is significantly decreasing in all of these countries, doing so by a percentage of double digits in most of these, decreasing by more than 30% in China and the Philippines, and by more than 20% in Turkey, Egypt and Nigeria.

Falling TFR	2015	2025	change
China	1,67	1,02	-38,92%
Philippines	2,83	1,88	-33,57%
Turkey	2,16	1,62	-25,00%
Egypt	3,5	2,71	-22,57%
Nigeria	5,5	4,3	-21,82%
Russia	1,79	1,46	-18,44%
Thailand	1,45	1,19	-17,93%
Iran	2,02	1,67	-17,33%
Ethiopia	4,53	3,81	-15,89%
India	2,29	1,94	-15,28%
France	1,93	1,64	-15,03%

United Kingdom	1,8	1,54	-14,44%
Japan	1,42	1,23	-13,38%
Mexico	2,14	1,87	-12,62%
Pakistan	3,99	3,5	-12,28%
United States	1,83	1,62	-11,48%
Tanzania	5,02	4,47	-10,96%
Indonesia	2,35	2,1	-10,64%
Vietnam	2,1	1,88	-10,48%
Brazil	1,78	1,6	-10,11%
Italy	1,34	1,21	-9,70%
DR Congo	6,44	5,9	-8,39%
South Africa	2,36	2,19	-7,20%
Bangladesh	2,23	2,11	-5,38%
Germany	1,5	1,46	-2,67%

Table 4. The change in fertility in the top 25 countries[6]

6. Fertility rates falling faster than expected

This decrease has been underestimated however, as displayed in our next table that shows how estimated fertility rates for the top 25 countries for 2023, the most recent year that already passed, changed compared to what was forecasted in 2022. As we can see, fertility rates turned out to be lower than expected in most of these countries, with double-digit decreases in China, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Turkey, and more than 5% decrease in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Thailand. The fertility rate was, on the other hand, more than 5% higher than expected in Bangladesh, Mexico, and Pakistan. The significant decrease in the fertility rate of Nigeria, the most populous country of Africa, located in West Africa, the most densely populated region of the continent, could be cause for optimism regarding population pressure in West Africa. What we can conclude from this table is that with a few notable exceptions, the UN is notorious for underestimating the fall in fertility rates.

	TFR in 2123 according to the 2022 revision	TFR in 2023 according to the 2024 revision	difference
Bangladesh	1,94	2,16	11,34%
Brazil	1,62	1,62	0,00%
China	1,19	1	-15,97%
DR Congo	6,05	6,05	0,00%
Egypt	2,84	2,74	-3,52%
Ethiopia	3,98	3,99	0,25%
France	1,79	1,64	-8,38%
Germany	1,53	1,44	-5,88%
India	2	1,98	-1,00%
Indonesia	2,13	2,13	0,00%
Iran	1,68	1,7	1,19%

Italy	1,3	1,2	-7,69%
Japan	1,31	1,21	-7,63%
Mexico	1,79	1,91	6,70%
Nigeria	5,06	4,48	-11,46%
Pakistan	3,35	3,61	7,76%
Philippines	2,69	1,92	-28,62%
Russia	1,52	1,45	-4,61%
South Africa	2,32	2,22	-4,31%
Tanzania	4,59	4,61	0,44%
Thailand	1,32	1,21	-8,33%
Turkey	1,86	1,63	-12,37%
United Kingdom	1,57	1,56	-0,64%
United States	1,66	1,62	-2,41%
Vietnam	1,93	1,91	-1,04%

Table 5. How the UN revised its 2022 forecast regarding fertility in the top 25[7]

7. Overestimated fertility in low-fertility countries?

An interesting aspect of this is that, as the next table shows, an important nuance of the UN forecast is that it expects, that in low-fertility industrialized countries, where fertility has been falling between 2015 and 2023, the decrease of the fertility rate will miraculously stop from now on, and will either stagnate, or even slightly increase in the future. The UN fails to provide a convincing explanation for why it expects this to be a universal trend among low-fertility industrialized countries. Of course, certain events can have such an impact in individual cases, such as a drastic change in family policies, or mass immigration of high-fertility groups.

In the case of Germany, the latter may have slightly increased the total fertility rate in the mid-2010s but then it kept falling again. There is no universal rule, however. Without such a drastic change, the trends from now on should be expected to continue those from 2015 till now. Here, we can also see how fertility rates for these countries may look in 2025, and 2030, should the trends of 2015-2023 be extrapolated.

This suggests that the fertility rate of China may continue to fall even below 1, which was measured for the year 2023, and may be as low as 0,88 by 2025, and 0,64 by 2030. As the fertility rates of Taiwan and South Korea are similarly low, standing at 0,87 and 0,72 respectively in 2023, it is hard to see, without drastic policy or societal changes, what would prevent the Chinese total fertility rate from continuing the 2015-2023 trend. The examples of Taiwan and South Korea suggest, that even if there is some force of nature that spontaneously stops the fall of the fertility rate somewhere, it is way below the current Chinese level of 1, and maybe closer to 0,5, if such a force even exists at all. The issue is similar in the case of the other countries

listed. Should the 2015-2023 trends continue, they will all be below 1,5 by 2030, with Italy, Japan, and Russia closer to 1.

TFR in industrialized low fertility countries	2015	2023	2025 - according to the 2024 UN forecast	2025 -if the 2015-2023 trend is extrapolated	2030 -if the 2015-2023 trend is extrapolated
China	1,67	1	1,02	0,88	0,64
France	1,93	1,64	1,64	1,57	1,42
Germany	1,5	1,44	1,46	1,43	1,39
Italy	1,34	1,2	1,21	1,17	1,09
Japan	1,42	1,21	1,23	1,16	1,05
Russia	1,79	1,45	1,46	1,38	1,21
United States	1,83	1,62	1,62	1,57	1,46

Table 6. Does the UN overestimate fertility in industrialized countries? [8]

8. The Minimalist Scenario

This leads us to our next table, the minimalist scenario. It has become a lasting trend of recent decades for the United Nations to revise fertility numbers downwards with every new biennial forecast. In recent years, fertility rates kept falling further below 1,5. Even in low fertility first world countries, this raises a question of how far will they fall? This also raises doubts about the medium variant of the UN forecast, which keeps assuming that fertility rates in low-fertility countries will not fall further, and will even rebound to some degree. For instance, even though the total fertility rate for China has fallen sharply since the start of our decade, the UN assumes that it won't fall any further from this year on and that it will even start rising slightly, and keep doing so until the next decade.

Notoriously, the UN also keeps underestimating the pace of how fast fertility rates in developing countries will fall. This all may mean that the median figure of the UN forecast may still be an underestimate, and we should pay more attention to the low-fertility-variant among the UN estimates. Moreover, based on discrepancies between the number of BCG vaccines mandatorily given to Chinese infants, and the number of Chinese infants born each year; discrepancies between the number of a certain age group as given by the Chinese Household Registration Database and the claimed number of births in the years when they were supposed to be born; as well as a data leak by the Shanghai Police Department, the author Yi Fuxian arrived at the conclusion that China has massively overreported its population. In reality, he argued, it stood at 1,260 million in 2022, and will be as low as 1020 million in 2050.[9][10][11] If we assume Yi's figures for China, calculated with an even rate of decrease between the 1,020 million figure in 2050 and the 1,260 figure in 2022, and the UN low fertility variant, we get the numbers of a minimalist scenario, displayed for the top 25 countries in the table. This would have some serious consequences

even on the level of great-power games: As early as 2040, the population of India will become one and a half times as numerous as that of China, and due to the aging of China's population, the gap will certainly be much wider among military age men, probably closer to two to one. This would result in a completely different and new reality in great-power dynamics, much earlier than anyone would expect. Given the global level, this minimalist scenario would mean that the population of the World would plateau as early as 2055, at a level as low as 8,821 billion people. In other words, with 8,14 billion people today, we are already standing at 92,28% of the global peak.

rank	2024		2030		2035		2040		2045		2050	
1.	India	1445	India	1503	India	1532	India	1547	India	1553	India	1548
2.	China	1241	China	1186	China	1142	China	1099	China	1059	China	1020
3.	US	345	US	351	US	354	US	355	US	355	US	354
4.	Indonesia	283	Indonesia	292	Indonesia	296	Pakistan	310	Pakistan	327	Pakistan	343
5.	Pakistan	251	Pakistan	273	Pakistan	292	Nigeria	299	Nigeria	317	Nigeria	333
6.	Nigeria	232	Nigeria	259	Nigeria	280	Indonesia	298	Indonesia	298	Indonesia	296
7.	Brazil	211	Brazil	213	Brazil	212	Brazil	210	Brazil	206	Ethiopia	208
8.	Bangladesh	173	Bangladesh	183	Bangladesh	189	Bangladesh	192	Bangladesh	195	DR Congo	204
9.	Russia	145	Ethiopia	151	Ethiopia	166	Ethiopia	180	Ethiopia	194	Brazil	201
10.	Ethiopia	132	Russia	140	DR Congo	148	DR Congo	166	DR Congo	185	Bangladesh	197
11.	Mexico	131	Mexico	135	Russia	137	Egypt	139	Egypt	144	Egypt	149
12.	Japan	124	DR Congo	130	Mexico	137	Mexico	138	Mexico	138	Mexico	137
13.	Egypt	116	Egypt	125	Egypt	132	Russia	133	Russia	129	Russia	126
14.	Philippines	116	Philippines	120	Philippines	122	Philippines	123	Philippines	123	Philippines	123
15.	DR Congo	109	Japan	118	Japan	113	Japan	108	Tanzania	110	Tanzania	120
16.	Vietnam	101	Vietnam	103	Vietnam	104	Vietnam	104	Vietnam	103	Vietnam	102
17.	Iran	91	Iran	94	Iran	95	Tanzania	100	Japan	103	Japan	98
18.	Turkey	87	Turkey	88	Tanzania	90	Iran	95	Iran	95	Iran	94
19.	Germany	84	Germany	82	Turkey	88	Turkey	87	Turkey	86	Turkey	84
20.	Thailand	72	Tanzania	80	Germany	80	Germany	81	Germany	76	Uganda	79
21.	UK	69	Thailand	70	UK	71	UK	71	Kenya	74	Sudan	79
22.	Tanzania	68	UK	70	Thailand	69	South Africa	71	Uganda	74	Kenya	77
23.	France	67	South Africa	67	South Africa	69	Kenya	70	Sudan	74	South Africa	73
24.	South Africa	64	France	66	France	68	Uganda	69	South Africa	72	Germany	73
25.	Italy	59	Kenya	62	Kenya	67	Thailand	67	UK	70	Afghanistan	72

Table 7. The minimalist scenario for the top 25[12]

Conclusion

Today, the two most crucial trends are falling fertility all over the world, and an increasing gap between the demographic profiles of different regions of the world. On the global level, falling fertility rates may ease concerns over overpopulation. As we can see, in this aspect, we can divide the major regions of the world into three categories.

First, those with an ever shrinking share in the global population, if not in absolute numbers, where East Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania and Russia belongs. Second, where the share in global population is sustained: Latin America, the Caribbean, South Asia, and Southeast Asia belonging to this group. Third regions where this share is still robustly growing, consisting of Africa and the Greater Middle East. This may cause a decline in the global influence of both China and the United States, and even that of Russia, while India could be a major winner of the situation.

At this point, Africa and the Greater Middle East are far too fragmented to make it possible to point out powers that could be the winner of their demographic rise. Pakistan, Nigeria, and Ethiopia could be. However, their geopolitical position greatly confines their power. On the other hand, migration pressure from these regions to the rest of the world may increase.

Endnotes

[1] If not stated otherwise, the source of all data in the paper is the database of the *Population Division* of the *Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations* https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/
[2] Own edit based on data from https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/
[3] The map is own work, created by data from https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/ and using the blank map https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:World_Map_Blank_-_with_blue_sea.svg
[4] Own edit based on data from https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/
[5] Own edit based on data from https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/
[6] Own edit based on data from https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/
[7] Own edit based on data from https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/
[8] Own edit based on data from https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/
[9] https://population.un.org/wpp/
[10] https://asialink.unimelb.edu.au/insights/china-is-dying-out
[11] https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/chinese-population-smaller-than-stated-and-shrinking-fast-by-yi-fuxian-2022-07
[12] Own edit based on data from the following sources:
- https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/
- https://asialink.unimelb.edu.au/insights/china-is-dying-out
- https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/chinese-population-smaller-than-stated-and-shrinking-fast-by-yi-fuxian-2022-07

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