

## A CONTINENT OF LOSERS - PART I

**Introduction:** *This is a much abbreviated commentary on a theory dealing with reasons for historical and current terrorism by a German social scientist, historian and genocide scholar, Professor Gunnar Heinsohn. You can read a longer and much more detailed version by googling “Continent of Losers” or “Heinsohn”. Part II deals with the role played by religion, ideology and immigration in determining the future of the Judeo-Christian civilizations.*

### THE YOUTH BULGE

A friend in England sent me an English translation of a Danish interview with a German professor, Gunnar Heinsohn. He said that it was interesting but depressing and, at first, I was reluctant to read it – it was about 16 pages long and I have plenty of depressing stuff of my own to read. But then I forced myself to open the attachment and start reading. I haven't regretted it - by page three I was hooked.

The interview was a follow-up of his sensational book, “Söhne und Weltmacht: Terror im Aufstieg und Fall der Nationen” (*Sons and World Domination: Terror in the Rise and Fall of Nations*) published in 2003, became a worldwide best-seller but is still not available in English! The introduction quotes a contemporary German philosopher who feels that this book is as important and groundbreaking as Karl Marx's *Das Kapital*.

By now I was curious – and impressed – so I googled and was even more impressed. Heinsohn is a 63-year old tenured professor at the Bremen University, a sociologist, economist and genocide researcher. He has published dozens of books on the rise and fall of civilizations that range from the Bronze Age, ancient Greece, Middle Eastern and Buddhist societies to the Holocaust and contemporary Europe.

In his 2003 book he presents an explanation for the inexplicable and unanticipated wave of terrorism and violence that is currently afflicting our world: the Youth Bulge.

**The definition and calculation are simple: compare the number of men aged 40-44 to boys aged 0-4. Demographic capitulation is imminent when**

**for every 100 males in the 40-44 age bracket there are less than 80 boys aged 0-4. In Germany the numbers are 100/50, in the Gaza Strip they are 100/464.**

Heinsohn uses the term “demographic capitulation” to characterize the countries that will not be able to resist the pressure of youth bulges from elsewhere. Germany and Japan have capitulated demographically to countries like Muslim Afghanistan (100/403), Iraq (100/351), and Somalia (100/364).

Violence tends to happen when 15 to 29 year olds make up more than 30% of the population. The causes – religion, nationalism, Marxism, fascism - in whose name violence is committed are immaterial. There are 67 countries in the world with youth bulges now - 60 of them are undergoing some kind of civil war or mass killing.

He does not believe that economic aid and hunger relief in countries with large youth populations can prevent wars, social unrest, terror or killings. On the contrary, in some cases, it is the well-intentioned material aid that is the cause of violence. He deplores America’s decision to deploy troops in Iraq or Afghanistan and sees the campaign for intervention in Darfur as useless. He advises that the Palestinians should be told that the West would no longer pay for the unrestricted childbirths that produce 10-children families and condemns the prevalent pet theory of West’s elite that virtually all violence in a belt from Northern Africa to the Philippines - in addition to the spread of terror throughout the rest of the world - is caused by the unsolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Starving people do not fight, they just suffer. But violence is the predictable and unavoidable outcome if young men do get enough to eat, live in a society where there are too many young men who are aware of and resent being denied the recognition and positions that is due them.

In recent years the West has been facing a gigantic youth bulge in large parts of the Muslim world that is going through a population explosion. Over the course of just five generations (1900-2000) the population in the Muslim world has grown from 150 million to 1200 million – an increase of over 800%. By comparison, the population of China has grown from 400 million to 1200 million

(300 %) and the population of India has risen from 250 million to 1000 million (400%).

Between 1988 and 2002, 900 million sons were born to mothers in the developing world and the trouble spots are almost predictable: on the eve of the Taliban takeover in 1993, the population of Afghanistan had grown from 14 to 22 million; Iraq had 5 million people in 1950, but now, in spite of a quarter century of wars, has 25 million; since 1967, the population of the West Bank and Gaza has grown from 450,000 to 3.3 million, with 47% of them under 15!

By the end of this generation, Afghanistan will have as many people under 20 as France and Germany combined. Palestinian violence of recent months and years cannot be explained by Israeli occupation (after all, it began 30 years ago), poverty (the most violent parts of the Muslim world are not the poorest), or humiliation. It is just violence.

Admittedly, the Hitler and Mussolini movements, the early Bolsheviks, the Maoist movement in China and many other wars and mass killings were not the result of youth bulges. But, if the Germans after 1945 had reproduced as they did between 1900 and 1914, then we would have had a German nation of almost 500 million citizens, and we would have now about 80 million German men between 15 and 29 instead of the current 7 million. And we may well ask ourselves whether these 80 million would have been as peaceful as the present 7 million, or would have been blowing themselves up in the formerly German cities of Breslau (now renamed Wroslaw) or Danzig (now Gdansk) that were ceded to Poland in 1945.

Palestinians present an especially telling example: they receive more international help per capita than any other displaced or refugee population in history while the family income is based on the number of children in it. Thus, children are not a burden that has to be supported and paid for – they are an indispensable source of income.

Conversely, Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria, Iran, Turkey, the Emirates and several others have reduced their birth rate to the replacement limit because children have to be supported and paid for. While these countries still have a youth

surplus that was created previously, in a few years these youth bulges will be gone and they will no longer be dangerous.

American welfare changes present an additional example of how a youth bulge may be reduced. In 1935 the U.S. passed the 'Aid to Dependent Children Act' which guaranteed help from the state to every mother with small children in families where the husband had died or was disabled. At the time, it was unthinkable for a woman — whether she was white or black — to become pregnant, hide the identity of the father and then let the public pay for her kids. But in 1965 societal morality had changed; a male in the household of an unemployed mother became a liability while a child — legitimate or not — was a source of income. The number of welfare-dependent American families exploded. From 1965 to 1995 their share rose to 10% of all American families and 15% of the children.

Since most of these dependents were black, there were racist claims that the problem was caused by black genes even though rates of illegitimate and teenage black pregnancies in the first half of the century were comparable to the rate among whites.

In 1997, a new law went into effect. It provided welfare for women and their children for up to five years. The recipient was given the option to take the entire five years at once or in several shorter periods. It was controversial — several top officials in the Clinton administration quit in protest against what they saw as an attack on the weakest, the single mothers and their children. Experts predicted that by 1997-98, the number of adversely affected recipients would grow from 12 million to 14 million. In fact, this prediction turned out to be a case of racism by the well-intentioned and well-meaning liberals who apparently didn't expect rational behavior from blacks. The black girls were smart enough to go on the pill and the welfare-dependent population shrank from 12 million to 4 million making this law the most successful social reform in history.

**END PART I**

