

PROPHETIC PYRAMIDS By Si Frumkin

My columns on the “Continent of Losers” have resulted in an unexpectedly voluminous (and very gratifying) reaction from readers and others. There were requests for copies, for permissions to reprint and distribute, intelligent comments and hardly any disagreement with the “Youth Bulge” hypothesis of Professor Gunnar Heinsohn that I described.

For those who may have missed it, here is the gist of that theory: professor Heinsohn argues that wars, insurrections, contemporary and historical terrorism, and internal violent insurrections are the result of a surplus of 15- to 29-year old men in the total population; a malignant “Youth Bulge” that is created when that surplus is more than 30%. Heinsohn is a historian and economist at the University of Bremen in Germany, specializing in the rise and fall of cultures, genocide and the Holocaust. His book, *“Söhne und Weltmacht”* (*Sons and World Power*), has been a bestseller in Europe for several years and was translated into many languages – *but not English!* I came across it in an interview for a Danish magazine that was translated into English and, frankly, it blew my mind. I fully agree with one of the reviewers who felt that this was a book that was potentially as important as Marx’s *“Das Kapital”*. I should add that it is also much more readable – just 180 pages in the German version I got on Amazon.

Also, if you have missed it, you can contact me for a copy of the articles via email or snail mail as listed in my *“Graffiti for Intellectuals”* or by going to my website at **“sifrumkin.com”**.

If the “Youth Bulge” theory is correct, it can be used as an indicator of possibly unavoidable future threats by looking at a list of countries where the younger population is already exceeding the 30% benchmark, or those where the birth rate guarantees that there will be a “Youth Bulge” 10-20 years from now. It can also show what countries will be powerless to resist the inflow of outsiders because their own shrinking young population will be unable to resist the inflow of strangers.

Heinsohn cites the enormous increase in the young populations of some of the Moslem states, especially among the Palestinians, where enormous international

financial support assures that children are not a burden but rather a source of income – the more children, the greater is the subsidy. As a result, the Gaza Strip has 464 boys aged 0-4 for every 100 men in the 40-44 age bracket, about ten times that of Germany's 50:100!

There is a wonderful tool that is available to all who use a computer. It shows the absence or presence of the "Youth Bulge" in every country on earth. Simply Google the **U.S. Census Bureau International Data Base** and click on the "population pyramids" option. You can choose any country and any year you want to see and, I am sure, the results will impress you as they did me.

Here is an example: In 1975, Lebanon had an enormous Youth Bulge and in the fifteen years to follow there were bloody civil wars, internal strife, the Israeli invasion, and hundreds of thousands of victims. Now compare it to the 2007 pyramid and see that the bulge had shrunk. There are mass demonstrations and political disagreements but there is very little bloodshed.

On the other hand, Iraq, in spite of Saddam's murderous policies, the war with Iran, the two Gulf Wars and the current troubles, has experienced a net gain of population. Its 2007 pyramid shows a Youth Bulge that rivals that of the West Bank and the 1975 Lebanon.

It is more than interesting that while Iran's 15-29 population is marginally high and may be somewhat volatile, the country's fertility rate has been dropping dramatically and within a few years the Iranian bulge will have passed.

North Korea also has a diminished birth rate, possibly because of its genocidal internal policies. It only has a disproportionate surplus in the 35-49 category – an age that is historically not conducive to dysfunctional violent behavior.

The population pyramids also suggest that neither Venezuela and Mexico, nor post-Castro Cuba will turn to violence in the foreseeable future.

So what should we fear? The pyramids for India and Pakistan are quite similar; both show troublesome Youth Bulges. Furthermore, both are nuclear powers capable of tragic missteps that could have unpredictably tragic consequences and both exhibit almost constant internal unrest that could unpredictably turn into something much more serious.

In his book, Heinsohn creates a table of 124 countries with populations of over 650,000 children. Forty nine countries are not endangered by Youth Bulges while seventy five have already exceeded the critical proportion of children and young men. The table also lists the number of wars and armed conflicts in all countries since 1945 – and the correlation of Youth Bulge and deadly violence is unmistakable. It is a frightening picture.

I can only hope that someone in Washington – and our main information media - is aware of Heinsohn's theory and will be moved to explore and evaluate it in order to apply its conclusions to our foreign policy decisions.

The hordes of angry, irrational and violent young men are growing. They are eagerly drifting to ideologies that justify irrational behavior. We may already be too late to stop the Youth Bulge tsunami.