ABORTION WORLDWIDE REPORT: 100 NATIONS, 1 CENTURY, 1 BILLION BABIES

Executive Summary

Thomas W. Jacobson, M.A., and Wm. Robert Johnston, Ph.D.

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The Abortion Worldwide Report is the outcome of many years of tracking international abortions statistics by Dr. Wm. Robert Johnston, who began such tracking in 1983, and Mr. Thomas Jacobson, who began in 2002. They combined their databases, observations and methodologies to produce this Report, which involves many thousands of hours of meticulous research and efforts to ensure the integrity of the data. First motivated by the moral crisis and information shortage represented by abortion, the research quickly became a sobering and sacred task of tabulating how many babies have been exterminated in the greatest deliberate slaughter of human beings in history, far exceeding all wars and democides of what was already the bloodiest century in history.

It was not possible for them to do this without contemplating the basis for respecting human life, scientific and medical evidence, human rights, and the role of civil government and law. Thus, the Report looks at these questions first, then the history of infanticide and abortion, national policies, compilation of abortion data, methodologies for estimating missing year data, the Sacred Accounting itself, global maps and summaries of the policies and data, major findings, and finally, the recommendations. The two addendums contain national graphs and a list of the 450 data sources.

This Report will be useful for nations who prohibit abortion, giving them an abundance of reasons why they should preserve their good policies protecting human life, and not make the same mistake as the United States and most other nations. Nations that authorized abortion, partly or fully, should review the evidence and restore lawful protection of human life from the moment of conception. This Report will also be useful in tracking demographic and other consequences of authorizing abortion.

With 100 countries and other regions represented by 4,915 country-years of reported data and well-vetted estimates, this data set covers abortions in a range of political systems, cultural and religious backgrounds, and time periods. This information consequently has bearing on the policy and health implications of abortion.

Part I begins with asking, "What is the basis for the sanctity of human life?" There was found no philosophical or ethical basis for protecting human life from the moment of conception to natural death, except the Judeo-Christian worldview and natural law and theories consistent with these. The uniform message in the Bible is the inherent value of human life, and the imperative to protect innocent human life. "God created man in His own image" as either male

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or female, and knows and creates every child in the womb.[1] Nowhere else do we find this good news. Secondly, the Creator has written His Law on our hearts, which is why we cherish life, and a woman has a natural instinct to protect her child (Romans 2:14-15). This is the only basis for the sacred worth and inherent dignity of every person, preborn and born, and why we all know we should protect innocent human life.

The scientific and medical evidence for the humanity of the child in the womb is irrefutable. Conception was discovered during the early 1800s. The development of the child is known and has been photographed from the 5th week forward. Ultrasound machines provide live pictures of babies in the womb as young as a few weeks old. Doctors operate on babies while in the womb, and some have been born and survived as early as 22 weeks. It's a baby!

Regarding human rights, all rights endowed by God are inherent and inalienable to every person, beginning with the right to life. Human life should be protected from conception by law. Seven universal principles for discerning and protecting human rights are identified.

The first purpose of civil government is to exercise lawful authority that is delegated by God. The legitimacy of civil government is inseparable from its duties to protect innocent human life and establish lawful justice.

As governments form laws, they should remember that a foremost purpose of law is to protect human life. Thomas Aquinas and Sir William Blackstone rightly observed that "the universe is governed" by the "eternal law"[2] of God; and just human laws conform to the Law of God, which is the only fixed, uniform, and universal legal standard.[3] This gift to all mankind established clear and unchanging standards of right and wrong. It is perfectly consistent with itself, and with a rightly informed conscience. This Law, also written on our hearts, is why every person knows it is wrong to lie, steal, or murder; and why governments have laws against the same.

Part II begins with an overview of the history of infanticide and abortion, and explains why high numbers of abortions were not possible until the 1800s. When abortions increased, 71 nations and territories (most of the world at that time) enacted laws prohibiting abortion. From 1803 to 1918, no government authorized abortion. However, beginning in 1920, governments began to authorize abortion, and 142 have done so through 2016.

Yet why do women abort their children? Identified are some of the sobering reasons and tragic consequences, whether the abortions were voluntary, coerced or forced.

Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt discusses one of the tragic phenomena of our time: worldwide sex-select abortion, which he addresses in his brief herein titled, "The Global War Against Baby Girls."

Part III is the National Policies Protecting Life or Authorizing Abortion table, which is a result of direct research of the laws and policies of nations. For about 60 nations, it differs on one or more policy points with the "World Abortion Policies"[4] chart produced by the United Nations due to slightly different criteria and additional criteria.

Part IV discusses how the abortion data were compiled and from what sources, and general and specific country data issues. The sources were categorized as preferred, acceptable or unacceptable. Preferred data sources are those from official government sources (27.0% of data), and intergovernmental organizations that compile data directly from national governments, including the United Nations (38.0%), and the Council of Europe, European Union, Pan American Health Organization, and the World Bank (8.9%). Acceptable sources included peer-reviewed academic publications containing official government statistics (23.3%), organizations that monitor actual abortion numbers (1.7%), and news media reports of official statistics (1.1%). The only acceptable estimates were from what were considered reliable and extensive government surveys (e.g., South Korea). Estimates based on sampling of a small fraction of a country's population and/or non-empirical assumptions were viewed as unacceptable and were consequently rejected.

There were, of course, missing years of data. To produce complete data sets and cumulative totals for each nation and territory, methodologies were developed that were found to be sufficiently robust, generally yielding estimated errors less than 10-20%. Different methodologies were developed and evaluated for accuracy for three categories of missing year data:

1. Missing data between year of abortion authorization and first reported data;
2. Missing data intermediate to reported data (between reported years);
3. Missing data between most recent reported data and the present (2015).

Part V is the Sacred Accounting Table of the 1 billion babies aborted. This is a sacred accounting because it is records 1 billion human lives tragically and prematurely terminated.

There are 4,915 country-years of data in the Tables, of which 3,596 are actual reported, and 1,319 are estimated, mostly using the methodologies described in Part IV. The nations and territories are arranged by geographic region: Africa, Americas and the Caribbean, Oceania, Asia, and Europe (Tables 1-A, 1-B, 1-C). Annual totals for each region are included for every year from 1921 to 2015, as well as country and worldwide totals. Abortion percent, ratio, and comparison with current population are provided in Table 1-D. The Data Source List of 450 sources is in Addendum II.

Part VI brings together the policy information for 196 nations, and the abortion data for the 100 nations in this Report, in Global Summaries and Maps. The first list contains the policies of the 196, in 6 categories, on 1 page. Next is a table of the 100 nations, territories and other regions included in this Report, from highest to lowest abortion totals; from this table, the top 10 or more may be identified. The global and regional maps, and world graph, provide a visual display of the past and current state of the nations regarding protecting human life or authorizing abortion.

Part VII contains the Major Findings of this research project. The Empirical Findings include a historical overview of general trends, followed by specific trends for 5 groups of countries. The general trend worldwide was low numbers of known abortions during the 1920s to 1940s (except for 4 countries); a rapid increase in abortions from the 1950s through the 1980s; and then a dramatic decline after the fall of communism in the early 1990s.

A principal method used to develop empirical findings was the superposed epoch analysis described in Part IV. A total of 78 countries were separated into 5 groups (i.e., Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Former Soviet Republics, Other Developed, and Developing countries), to identify country abortion trends after authorization. One finding was that, while abortion trends vary significantly among countries, the most predictable pattern was a rapid rise to peak, usually within 10-20 years, once numbers of abortions began rising rapidly. After this peak about half of the countries experienced a significant multi-decade decline in abortion numbers while the others maintained near peak levels. Which of these two behaviors occurs is not well-predicted by a number of factors considered (pre-rise behavior, development status, or world region). The one exception is that countries that have rejected communism have also seen dramatic drops in abortions. (See the Empirical Findings brief for analysis of each of the 5 groups of countries, and the conclusions at the end.)

The General Findings pertain to the history of abortion prohibition and authorization, the impact of government policies, and consequences. The 18 general findings include:

- The initial post-authorization rise in abortions has tended to occur more rapidly in recent decades than earlier times.
- Once a government authorizes abortion, it never becomes rare, unless they again prohibit or highly restrict it.
- The highest levels of abortion ever recorded have occurred in communist countries.
- Abortion has been authorized and embraced in countries of all religious backgrounds, economic systems, and development levels.
- Most of the 60 nations that still prohibit abortion are predominantly Christian.

The Greatest Genocide in history is documented in the final Major Findings brief. This genocide began when the first nation authorized abortion in 1920, and steadily expanded with the approval of 142 nations (although Chile, El Salvador and Nicaragua subsequently prohibited abortion). The first authorization for each country is tracked by decade, as well as cumulative numbers of abortions. For limited reasons or on demand, over 90% of the developed countries have authorized abortion, and 69% of developing countries.

During the 1920s, there were 2.2 million known abortions, almost all in the Soviet Union. Another 12.2 million abortions are known in the 1930s and 1940s. Abortion numbers then increased dramatically, with 39.2 million known in the 1950s, 121.5 million in the 1960s, 169.5 million in the 1970s, and 244.3 million in the 1980s, bringing the total from 1920 to 1989 to 589 million known abortions. Known abortions over time have since declined, with 207.9 million known in the 1990s and 147 million from 2000 to 2009. Through 2015 known abortions worldwide amount to 1,018 million babies' lives lost.

The majority of abortions were committed in communist nations: 739.4 million abortions. The second largest group of abortion nations is nominally majority Christian: 131.2 million abortions. But for Christians to do so is directly contrary to their faith and the Bible. Nations with other majority faiths – Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, or mixed – accounted for 145 million abortions.

Cumulative worldwide reported abortions (over 1 billion) through 2015 were compared to other great death catastrophes. Total deaths for World War I were estimated at 16.5 million; for World War II, at 63.2 million; and for all democides from 1900 through 1999, at 262 million. The average daily death toll during World War I was 6,500, and during World War II was 24,700, both military and civilian. But 34,400 babies are exterminated every day by abortion.

Current worldwide reported abortions are about 12.5 million per year. Claims that global abortion numbers are several times higher than the known numbers are unlikely to be true. In particular, the estimate of 56 million annually by the Guttmacher Institute and the World Health Organization[5] is found lacking in credibility (see explanation in point 13 in General Findings). We acknowledge that there are large numbers of illegal and unreported abortions taking place. The data in this Report covers most of the developed nations of the world with a high degree of completeness. Developing nations are not fully covered, though most of the nations with relatively permissive abortion policies are represented. The GI/WHO estimates are predicated on large numbers of abortions in the developing world, and indeed require the geographic regions of the developing world to have extremely high abortion rates. These rates must be high across all geographic and cultural regions and must exceed those for nations where abortion is legal, widely available, sometimes subsidized, and occasionally forced. Besides being implausible, the GI/WHO estimates are built on methodologies and assumptions that have been refuted in medical literature.

Abortion is the Greatest Genocide in history!

So what are can be done? In **Part VIII**, Major Findings Summary and Recommendations, the authors provide a summary list of the Major Findings, and specific recommendations for individuals, clergy, civil governments, pro-life/family groups, nations that still prohibit abortion, and nations that have authorized abortion.

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[1] Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-2; Psalm 139:13-16; Ecclesiastes 11:5; Isaiah 44:2, 24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; Galatians 1:15.

[2] Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, The Summa Theologica, Questions 90, 91, 93.

[3] Sir William Blackstone, Introduction, Section 2, *Of the Nature of Laws in General*, Commentaries on the Laws of England (1765-1769).

[4] United Nations document ST/ESA/SER.A/302.

[5] Sedgh, G., et al. (2016), Abortion incidence between 1990 and 2014: Global regional, and subregional levels and trends, *The Lancet*, 388(10041):258-267, and supplementary material.