

America's Golden Years?  
U.S. Security in an Aging World

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## Aging in the Great Powers: Britain, China, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, and USA

- By 2050, at least 20 percent of the citizens in all these states will be over 65.
- In Japan more than one out of every three people will be over this age.
- China alone in 2050 will have roughly 330 million people over 65.
- Germany, Japan, and Russia are going to experience massive population contractions.

# Something New Under the Sun

- Societal aging is a product of two long-term demographic trends: decreasing fertility rates and increasing life expectancies.

## Fertility Rates by Country

Country	Years 2005-2010	Below Replacement Since:
Japan	1.32	1975-80
Germany	1.36	1970-75
Russia	1.44	1965-70
China	1.64	1990-95
United Kingdom	1.77	1970-75
France	1.83	1975-80
United States	2.07	1970-75

## Percentage of People over 65 by Country

Country	1950	2000	2050
USA	8.3	12.4	21.2
Russia	6.2	12.4	23.1
UK	10.8	15.8	23.6
France	11.4	16.1	24.9
China	4.5	7.0	25.6
Germany	9.7	16.3	30.9
Japan	4.9	17.2	35.6

## The Costs of Population Aging

- Graying populations are likely to slow states' overall economic growth.
- $\text{GDP} = \text{Number of workers} \times \text{average productivity}$
- Aging affects both of these variables.

## Changes in Working Age Populations, 2005-2050

Country	Percent Change
United States	17
United Kingdom	5
France	2
China	-19
Germany	-25
Russia	-27
Japan	-32

# Predicted Public Benefits to Elderly as a Percent of GDP

In addition to slowing economic growth, an even more important economic effect of social aging is the strain that it places on governmental resources.

- Pay-as-you-go Pension Systems
- Health Care Costs



## Predicted Public Benefits to Elderly as a Percent of GDP

Country	Increase in Public Elderly Care, 2000-2040	Total Public Commitments, 2040
France	14	30
Japan	15	27
Germany	11	26
United States	11	20
United Kingdom	6	18

# Pax Americana Geriatrica

Population aging in the great powers will be a potent force for the prolongation of U.S. power dominance

- “Guns vs. Canes”
- Increasing Money for Military Personnel, Not Weapons
- Aging in the United States: Bad, But Better Than the Rest

# Potential Costs for US Security Due to Population Aging

- Less “Burden Sharing”
- Some “Crowding Out,” even for the US

# America's Golden Years?

- Both the opportunities and challenges for U.S. security in an aging world are substantial.