



Reproductive States: Global Perspectives on the Invention and Implementation of Population Policy

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When it comes to governments role in personal matters such as family planning, most bristle at any interference from the State on how to exercise their reproductive rights. Chinas infamous one child policy is a well-known example of reproductive politics, but history is filled with other examples of governmental population control to advance its interests. *Reproductive States* is the first volume of a collection of case studies that explores when and how some of the most populous countries in the world invented and implemented state population policies in the 20th century. The authors, scholars specializing in reproductive politics, survey population policies from key countries on five continents to provide a global perspective. Regardless of the type of government or its cultural history, many of these countries have developed similar policies to control their populations and attempt to combat social problems such as poverty and hunger. However, the common denominator is that states have used womens bodies as a political resource. Far from being just an overseas problem, this volume illustrates how other countries have developed their strategies in response to goals and tactics driven by the United Nations and the United States. Due to fears of a post-World War II population bomb and uncertainty of how to deal with the worlds poor after the Cold War, the U.S. and the Soviet Union led the charge among nations to devise strategies to control their populations, but in different ways. The U.S. and some European countries pressed the poor and ethnic minorities to limit reproduction. Chinas one child policy targeted all ranks of society, while Soviet women (who already had few rights) were under surveillance through state-planned services such as medical care and commodity distribution to detect pregnancy. Interweaving biopolitics, gender studies, statecraft, and world systems, *Reproductive States* offer reflections on the outcome of such policies and their legacies in our day.

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