



Intergenerational Equity: A Debate Goes Global

**Steven K. Wisensale, Ph.D.
Professor of Public Policy
University of Connecticut**

What is intergenerational equity?

The fair distribution/redistribution of assets and resources across generations.

Policies as Lightning Rods?



(1965)



(1965)



Cost of Living Adjustment

(1972)

“The Graying” of the Federal Budget and its Consequences for Old-Age Policy” by Robert Hudson, *The Gerontologist*, 1978



“Cost-based and competitive political pressures are now emerging which may threaten both the traditional political resources of the aging and the future expansion and liberalization of old age policy benefits.”

“The Aged as Scapegoat”

by **Robert H. Binstock**, *The Gerontologist*, 1983

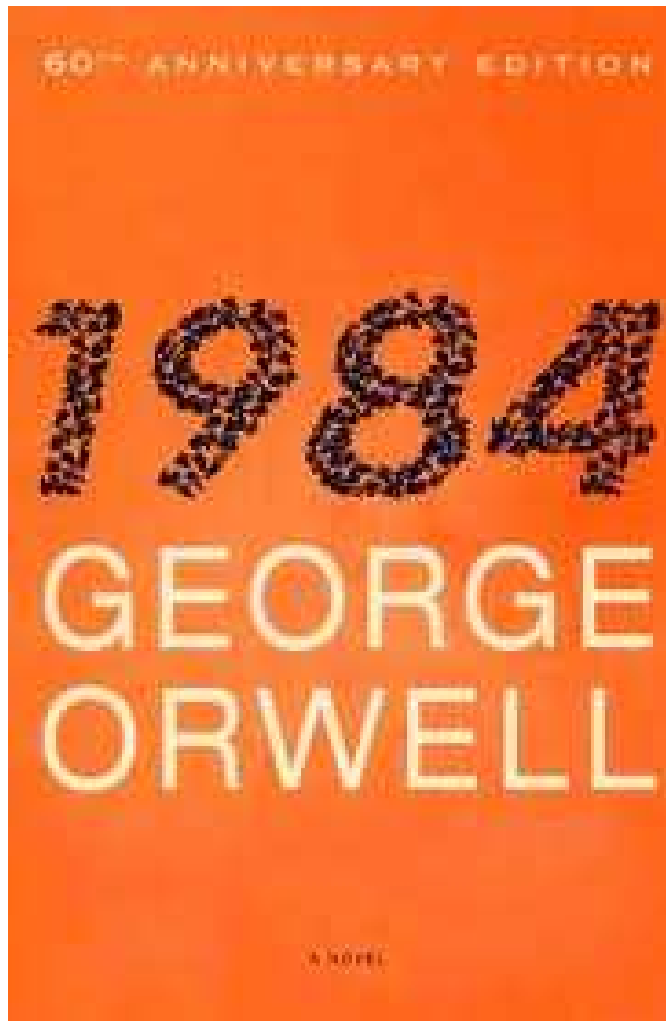


Robert Binstock, former president of the Gerontological Society of America and director of a White House Task Force on Older Americans, discusses ethical and policy challenges that the president will face during his term.

The aged had been stereotyped as poor and deserving to get policies passed.

Later, opponents began to use stereotyping of the aged to attack the very policies designed for them.

That Special Year: 1984



What made 1984 so special?

David Durenberger – Senator, MN
(R) 1978-1995



Created Americans
for Generational
Equity (AGE) with Rep.
James Jones (D-OK)

Samuel H. Preston - Professor of
Demographics – U of Pennsylvania



“Children and the Elderly in the U.S.”
Scientific American, 1984

And one more memory from 1984!



“**The elderly** and terminally ill patients, **have a duty to die and get out of the way...** so that our kids can build a reasonable life.”

Gov. Richard Lamm (D),
Denver, Colorado

March, 1984

Setting Limits: Medical Goals in an Aging Society by **Daniel Callahan** (1987)



Senior Scholar and President
Emeritus of the Hastings Center

“After people have lived a reasonably full life of, say, 70 to 80 years, they should be offered high quality long-term care, home care, rehabilitation and income support, but not extraordinary and expensive medical procedures.”

Kids vs. Canes



"Just what exactly is your generation going to do about my generation's social security?"

CN
COLLECTION

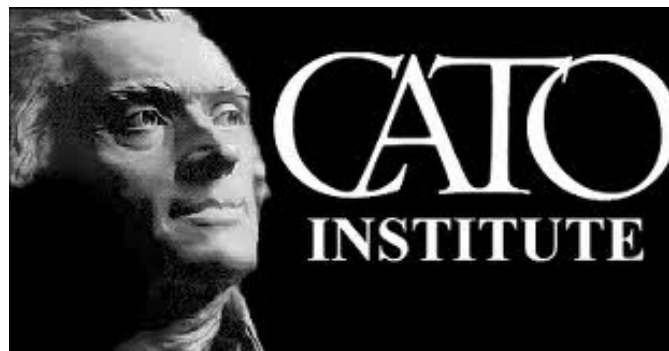
Meanwhile, the Reagan Revolution is underway!



“Government is not the solution; government is the problem”

- Smaller government
- Lower taxes
- Opposed to redistributive policies (from top down)
- Towards privatization
- He saw the “deserving and the undeserving poor.”

Think tanks emerge and are prolific!



Brookings Institution



Intergenerational Equity and The Mainstream Media



"Consuming Our Children" 1988



"The Tyranny of America's Old" 1992



"Greedy Geezers" - 1988

Newsweek

U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

TIME

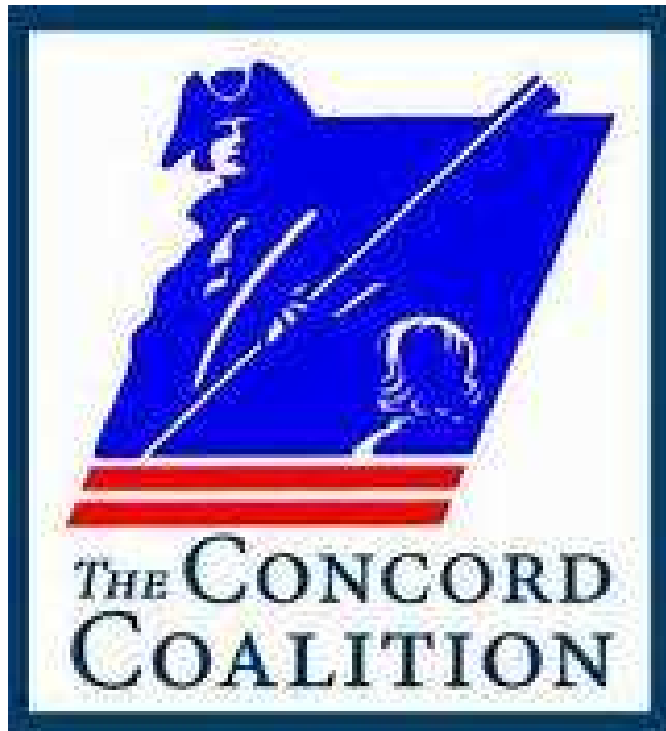


"Victims of the Golden Years: Are Children Shortchanged as Seniors Reap Vast Benefits?" 1995

Strategies and Goals of the Critics?

- 1. To reconstruct Social Security as an unfair intergenerational tax rather than an insurance program.**
- 2. To remake the public images of the elderly in ways that would justify decreased spending.**
- 3. To divert attention away from major tax cuts for the wealthy and the growing gap between rich and poor.**

New Organizations Form



Founded in **1992**, it is dedicated to educating the public about the causes and consequences of federal budget deficits .

**generations
united**[®]

Because we're stronger together[®]

Since **1986** Generations United has focused solely on improving the lives of children, youth and older people through inter-generational strategies, programs and public policies.

But the beat goes on!

After his 2004 victory George W. Bush promised to reform Social Security by privatizing it.

In both the 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns both Social Security and Medicare were framed as being too burdensome for younger generations.

The use of “budget battles” and “entitlements” in the same sentence is commonplace.

Solutions?

Public policies and social programs



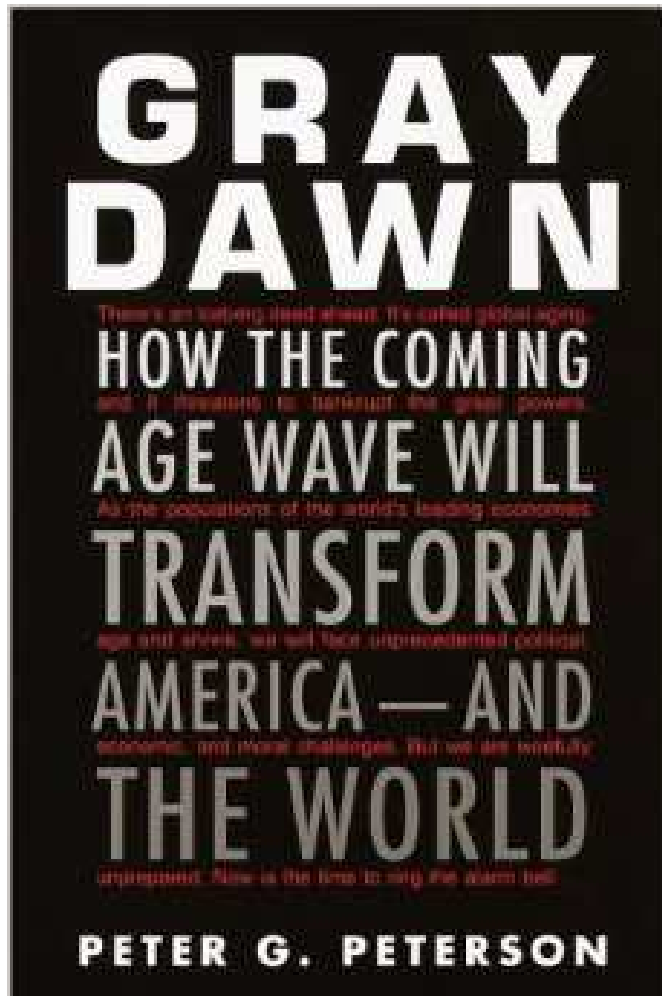
The
Family
and
Medical
Leave
Act

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united**[®]

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The Debate Goes Global



“There's an iceberg dead ahead. It's called global aging, and it threatens to bankrupt the great powers. As the populations of the world's leading economies age and shrink, we will face unprecedented political, economic, and moral challenges.”

Pete Peterson, *Gray Dawn*, 1999

The UN's International Year of Older Persons – 1999
“Towards a society for all ages.”



International Day of Older Persons

1 October, 2013

2013 Theme:

The future we want: what older persons are saying

"By 2050, the number of older persons will be twice the number of children in developed countries, and the number of older persons in developing countries is expected to double. This trend will have profound effects on countries and individuals."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

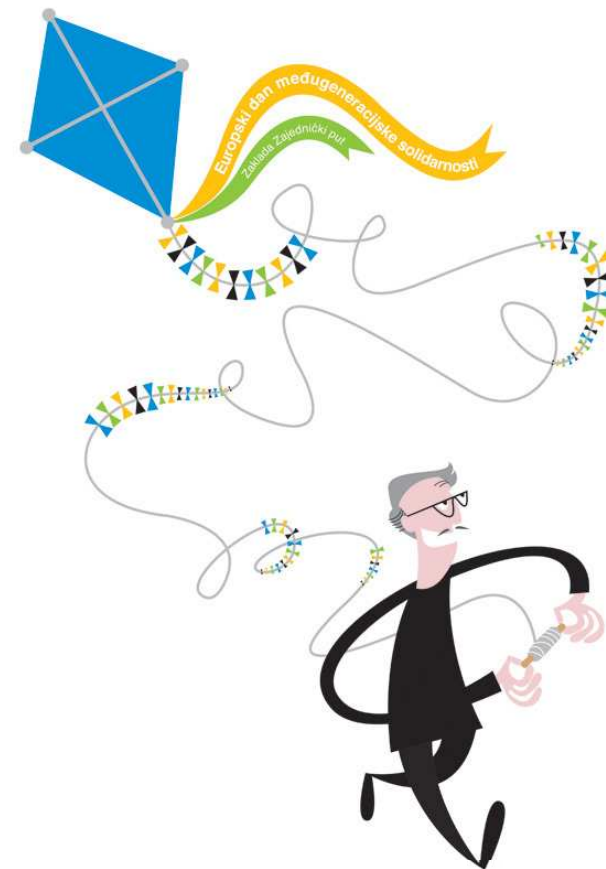
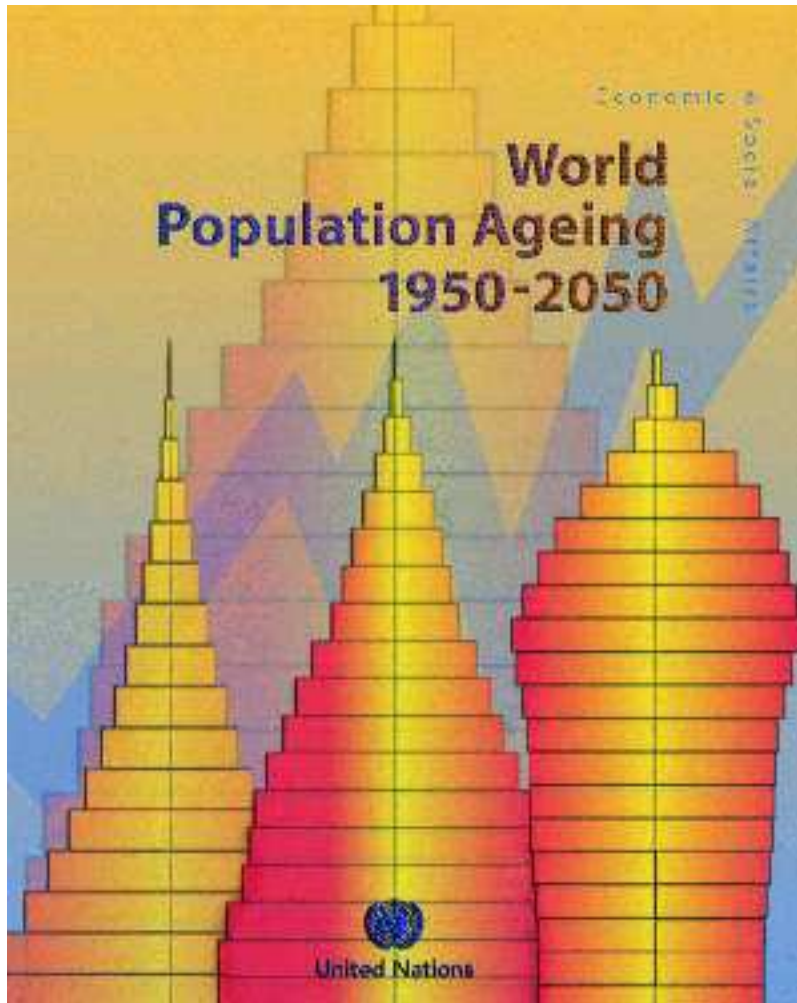


Intergenerational Equity in the EU Or, is it “intergenerational solidarity?”

It emerged in two stages:

1. Concerns over changing demographics and plunging birthrates. How can a smaller, younger population support an expansive welfare state?
2. The economic collapse of 2008. Or, the collision of austerity and solidarity.

European Day of Intergenerational Solidarity



European Year for **Active Ageing**
and **Solidarity between Generations 2012**



A Look at Three EU Countries

France, Germany and Italy



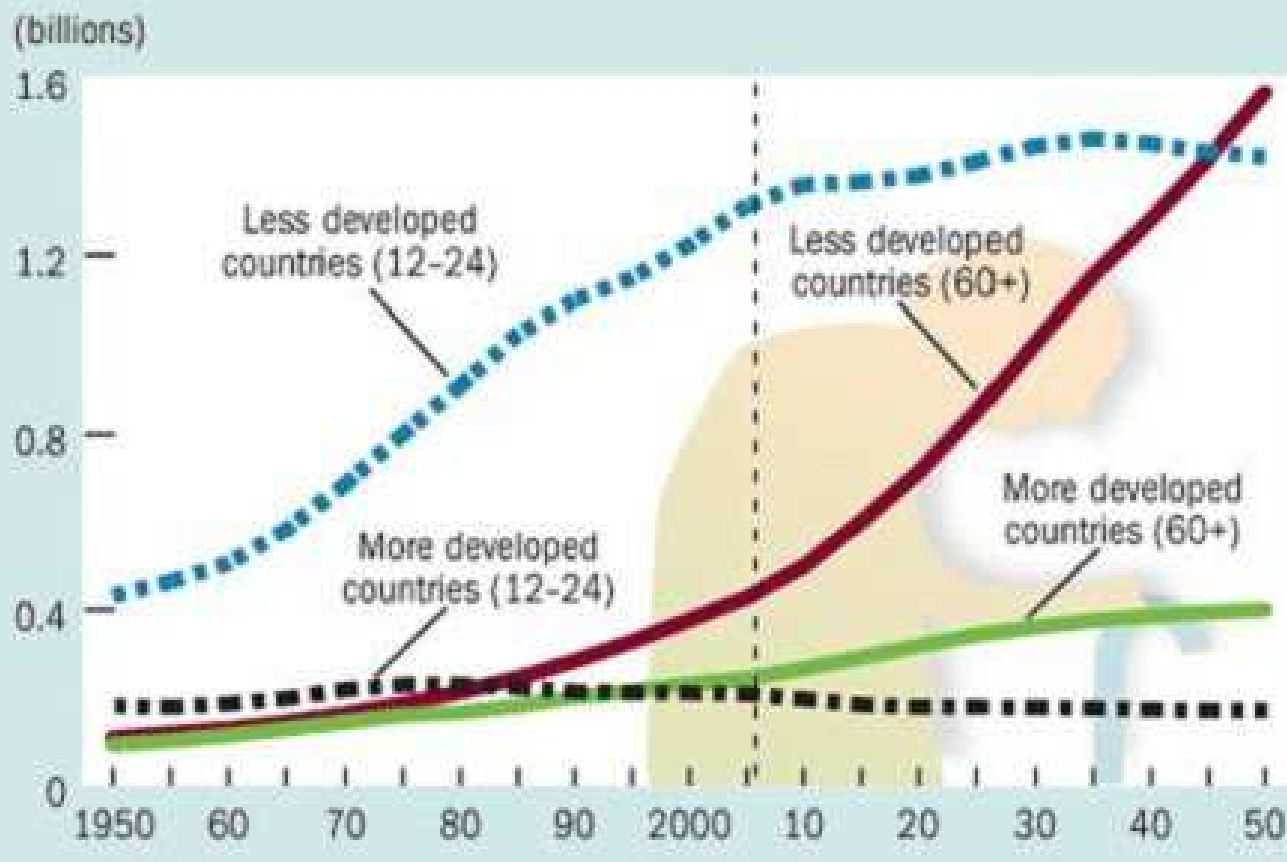
Two common words used in the EU debates: “solidarity” and “sustainability”



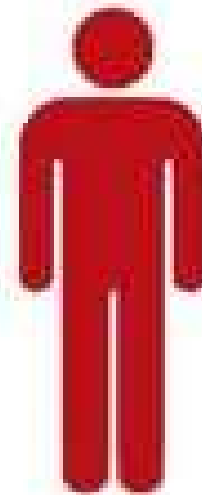
Has Britain
ROBBED
its children?

And what is on the horizon? What about developing countries?

The world's population is aging and, in developed countries, the size of the elderly population has already surpassed that of the 12-24 age group.



by **2050** nearly
one in **five**
people in developing countries
will be **over 60**



The Future?

Creating a framework for analysis

Norm Daniels – Based on the work of John Rawls, Daniels has created a “framework of justice across generations.”

Harry Moody – “Intergenerational equity should not be viewed as the latest buzzword of politics, but rather as a means to keep the debate going and the dialogue responsible so that we can make wise decisions about ourselves and others.”

The End!

Thank you!

Contact information:

steven.wisensale@uconn.edu