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Investigating the Impact of Baby Boom on American Society

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
Master's Degree in Literature and Civilization**

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to:

All people struggling for their Freedom; in Palestine our case

To my beloved parents: Aicha & Bahri

My husband: Halim

Sisters: Sana, Meriem, Souhir, Sara and her sons Iyad & Ihab

Brothers: Ali & Aymen

Aunt Salima & her sons: Bahaa, Ranya, Walaa, & Adam

Best friends; Saida, Ikram, Farida, Samira, & Soumaya

Partner: Rania

& to all my Class colleagues

ASMA

I dedicate this dissertation to:

The one who supported, believed and guided me in this academic journey,

my mother, Wahiba,

the precious soul, my protector whom I rely on, my father, Abd El Kader,

my beloved sister, Leila, for her constant support,

my dear brothers, Amine, Amir, and Abd El Basset,

my nephew Rayan, the light of my life,

my supportive partner, Asma.

Rania

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Abstract

The Baby Boom is a demographic phenomenon marked by the significant increase in birth rates between 1946 and 1964, and it deeply influenced American society. This research aims to identify the causes that lie behind the Baby Boom occurrence and to investigate the extensive impact of this generation on United States history, economy and life. This research is a qualitative study. It uses historical and analytical research methods to investigate those causes and consequences. By analysing crucial events, government records, and academic papers, the study explores how this upraised population affected economic, social, and cultural profile. Economically, the Boomers motivate noticeable development, the rise of housing demand, goods consumption, and educational services. Socially, the Baby Boomers provoke a bright switch in family structure, sex discrimination level, and social movements, hence; rousing cultural transformation. Also, the study checks the long-term impacts of the Baby Boom as the rise of the counterculture in the 1950s to current day challenges faced by ageing adults. The results of this dissertation emphasize the Boomers' constant legacy on American modern society and create predictable future impacts of ongoing demographic trends. This research initiates a deeper understanding of how a single generational cohort can formulate the path of the nation.

Keywords: *Baby Boom, Boomers, Cohort, United States.*

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AARP	The American Association of Retired Persons
CATV	Community Antenna Television
FCC	Federal Cable Commission
FHA	Federal Housing Administration
FPL	Federal Poverty Level
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GI	Greatest Generation or the World War II Generation
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCOA	The National Council on Aging
NDEA	National Defence Education Act
NSDE	National Study Experience
OEO	Office of Economic Opportunity
SAT	Scholastic Assessment Test
SSA	The Social Security Administration
VA	Veterans Administration
VISTA	Volunteers in Service to America

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General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

The post-World War II period in the United States witnessed a noticeable demographic phenomenon known as the Baby Boom. Between 1946 and 1964, the American State experienced an unprecedented surge in birth rates, with about 76 million babies born during this period; around 4.24 million babies per year. This population shift was driven by a blend of factors; such as the return of soldiers from the war, economic prosperity and societal optimism. The Baby Boom profoundly shaped American society, influencing various sides of social, economic, and political life. Comprehending the impact of this demographic phenomenon requires an exploration of its notions and historical roots.

The immediate follow-up of the Baby Boom saw a remarkable switch in the American family structure and consumer behaviour. The influx of young families during the 1950s and 1960s led to the rapid growth of suburban communities, driven by the willingness for homeownership and a helpful environment for raising children. This suburbanization trend coincided with a boom in the housing market, education system, expansion proliferation demands for consumer goods, particularly, those related to adult care and household management. The Baby Boom generation's size progressed through different life stages, they influenced the workforce, educational needs, and employment patterns, creating a ripple effect that shaped the country's economic scene.

In the long term, the Baby Boom generation's impact extended beyond economic factors to include substantial social and cultural transformation. As Boomers entered adolescence and young adulthood, they became central to the cultural revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, challenging traditional norms and advocating for civil rights, gender equality, and Anti-war movements. Their collective influence reshaped American values, enhancing greater shifts in social norms. Furthermore, when the Boomers get aged; their necessities and preferences deeply reverse public policy and health care systems. As well as, retirement planning, elder care, insurance values, and retirement instructions laws. Nowadays, the Baby Boom's legacy is

persistent in shaping American society; because the cohort of employees is retiring, the nation's demographic figure, economic scale, and social and political procedures.

2. Statement of the Problem

The post-World War II baby boom in the United States had different consequences on the country's economic, social, and cultural landscape, although the exact extent of these effects remains unknown. It is critical to investigate how the dramatic increase in births from the 1940s to the 1960s, resulting in the massive "Boomer" generation which transformed American society in areas such as education, the labor market, healthcare, family structures, and broader cultural and political trends. Furthermore, examining the aforementioned categories may aid in understanding how large-scale demographic shifts have an impact on a country's growth and guide future policy decisions about managing big population changes. This generation's impact on American life may be seen as a throwback of the Cold War, as well as the ongoing influence of the Baby Boomers on American society.

3. Research Questions and Research Hypotheses

This study examines the reasons that drove the rise of the Baby Boom generation and its influence on American society. Thus, it attempts to answer a set of questions related to the Baby Boom impact on the United States society. Answering the following questions is the direct purpose of the study:

- a.** What were the institutional reasons that formed the Baby Boom in America?
- b.** How did the Baby Boom generation impact American society over time?

In light of the above-stated questions, it is hypothesized that:

- a. The Baby Boom generation was formed by the American society for social and economic reasons.
- b. The Baby Boom generation had a significant impact on American society, both immediately and long-term.

4. Aims of the Study

The aims of the current study are:

- a. To investigate the causes that lie behind the Baby Boom emergence in the United States.
- b. To Examine the consequences brought by this generation and to determine its immediate impact on the American community, and to detect if Boomers will influence the next generations.

5. Significance of the Study

The significance of the research is apparent in the topic it discusses. It also lies in the importance of relating the past and present of the American cohort's changes. Thus, this study looks for the reasons that the birth surge occurred after World War II. Therefore, highlighting the roots and consequences of this phenomenon might help find authentic answers about the impact drawn by the Boomers in various aspects of American society such as the labor market, consumption, education, insurance, and cultural norms. As the current research demonstrates, the findings of this study may aid a lot of students and researchers in improving their knowledge of the subject at hand, understanding its historical basis, and drawing sound conclusions about its prospects.

6. Research Methodology

This study employs a historical-analytical research design to provide accurate and credible findings and achieve the goals set forth. It is based on qualitative data collection through investigating the causes and consequences of the Baby Boom on American society. The historical design of this study adheres to describing and examining past events to deduce results and gather prospective insight. Differently, implementation of this design can be done by scanning the relevant references like books, journals, videos, and official websites. The analytical side stands on the interpretations of accumulated facts from authentic resources to cope with the stimulators of the phenomenon and get the point from the topic. The powerful point of the historical approach is that it can create a complete image of the field of research owing to a broad range of sources. However, the research contains some limitations such as the hardship of obtaining primary

references and consulting findings and; the use of other resources to audit the data collected in the primary material.

7. Structure of the Study

This dissertation is divided into two chapters. The first chapter is entitled " The Nature and The Reasons of Baby Boom Generation in America". This chapter presents the concept of the Baby Boom generation, and its National Reasons in America, followed by the International Reasons. Furthermore, it focuses on a deep dive into the Baby Boom Characteristics. The second chapter is entitled "The Implications of the Baby Boom System in America. This chapter is set to investigate the immediate and long-term influence of Boomers on American society. In addition, it builds some prospective insights into the American holistic life after this generation retires.

CHAPTER ONE

The Nature and the Reasons for the Baby Boom Generation in America

Chapter One: The Nature and The Reasons for the Baby Boom

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Introduction

This chapter aims to provide information about the Baby Boom. It is divided into three main sections. First, it gives definitions to the main concept which is the Baby Boom. Next, this part highlights the historical roots of the Baby Boom as a phenomenon that occurred in American society. Then, it seeks to identify the national reasons that helped to create that noticeable growth of population in such a period which was labelled by tension and depression all over the world. Finally, this chapter concludes by mentioning the international environment after World War II that helped the Baby Boom to rise.

1-1- The Concept of the Baby Boom Generation

1.1.1 The Definition of Baby Boom

The word " BABY BOOM " is defined by MERIAM WEBSTER as "A marked rise in the birth rate." (Webster, n.d) That means a huge increase in the number of births in certain societies during a period of time.

The Baby Boom phenomenon was characterized by the increase in fertility rates in the Western countries of the mid-20th century. (Britt Slagsvold and Thomas Hansen, 2021) In addition, (Dictionary, 2024) states that Baby Boom is a period during which there is a big increase in the number of births, especially used to refer to the period in the UK and US between approximately 1945 and 1965.

Moreover, the Census Bureau defines the Baby Boom by a set of criteria identifying the beginning and the end of the surge in annual birth between 1946 and 1964, which were both watersheds in the fertility history of the United States. (Hughers & O'Rand, 2004)

To sum up, the Baby Boom is growth of population in a small time range. It refers to a unique period that has shaped the demographic landscape of the United States.

1.1.2 Definition of Generation:

A generation is a group of individuals who were born within a specific period. Each generational interval lasts roughly 20 years, according to most definitions. The average duration between conception and childbearing, or the start of the following generation, is twenty years. Additionally, the twenty-year span shows how to divide an average. The approximately eighty-year human lifespan is shaped into four phases: Youth, emerging adulthood, midlife, and old age. On the other hand, Strauss and Howe claim that the generation is a social category, a generation probably offers a safer basis for personality generalization than such other social categories as sex, race, religion, or age. (Sandeem, 2008) The two authors employ the following division of generation: GI WWII generation (1901-1924), Silent Generation (1925-1942), Baby Boom Generation (1943-1960), Generation X or Thirteen Generation (1961-1981), Millennial Generation or Y Generation (1982-2003), and newest 2004 yet unnamed may be Strauss and Howe called the Homeland Generation. (Strauss & Howe, 1991)

Table 1: Generational Archetypes, according to Stauss And HOWE

"Artists" (e.g. born 1925-1942)	Subtle, have a hard time making decisions, emotionally-drive, often having to deal with feelings of repression and inner conflict. They grow up as over-protected children in a "Crisis", come of age as the sensitive young adults of a "High", turn into indecisive leaders during an "Awakening", and become elder in the midst of an "Unraveling". The Silent Generation (1925-1942) is an example of a generation of this type.
"Prophets" (e.g. born 1946-1964)	Values-driven, high moral standards, self-focused, and willing to do great sacrifices to defend what they believe in. They grow up in the favourable environment of a "High", enter adult life as the young crusaders of an "Awakening", live midlife as moralistic reference figures during an "Unraveling", and are the elderly leaders during a Crisis. The Boomers (born 1946-1964) are an example of a Prophet generation
"Nomads" (e.g. born 1965-1980)	Cynical about institutions, adventurous. They grow up as the underprotected children of an "Awakening", come of age as the alienated young adults of an "Unraveling", become the pragmatic, midlife leaders of a "Crisis" and age into tough, post-crisis elders during a "High". Generation X (born 1965-1980) and the Lost Generation (born 1880-1900) are examples of Nomad generations.
"Heroes" (e.g. born 1980-2000; includes "Millennials")	Conventional, powerful, with a great faith in social institutions, and a profound trust in authority. They grow up protected in the midst of an "Unraveling", become adults and enter the work force as the "Heroic", team-working youth of a "Crisis", become energetic and over-confident lifers during a "High" and turn into powerful elders who are under fire in the next "Awakening". Examples of this generation are the veterans who fought in World War II (born 1901-1924). The current Millennials are expected to become the next generation of this kind, according with these authors.

Note. Reprinted from "Targeting The Millennial Generation" by L. Borges Gouveia, April 2018, *Journal of University of Fernando Pesao*, p,5. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228327903>

1.1.3 The Historical Roots of the Baby Boom Generation

The post-war baby boom triggered curiosity, produced anxiety and excitement, and generated vague new concepts, a great deal of numbering graphics, many uncontrolled experiments, new ways of doing things, and a good deal of rethinking. In this section, it is important to know what is the Baby Boom generation and how it emerged.

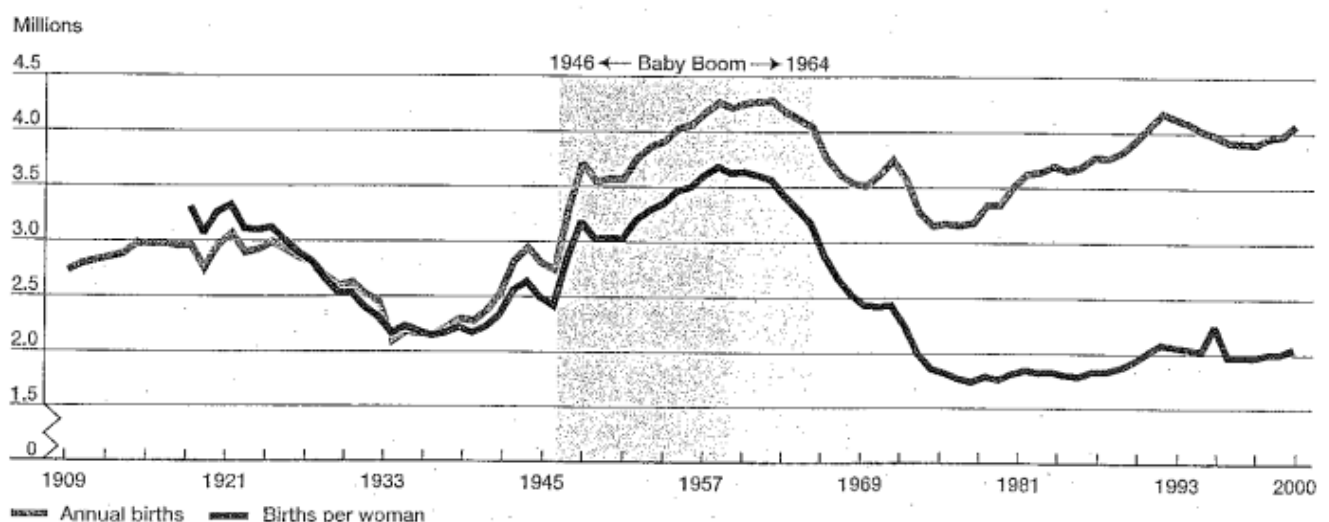
The Baby Boomers referred to a shockwave, the bulge of people after the Second World War. Preceding the boomers; the thirties through the forties, was a period of economic depression and war. The end of World War II marked a turning point. Afterward, many soldiers

returned ready to start families in the US. And so the baby boom began, nearly 20% more babies were born in 1946 than in 1945 in the US. (Generations, 2023)

Hence, population researchers in the years leading up to the Great Depression approached a consensus that the United States had undergone a fundamental demographic shift. In 1928, Pascal K. Whelpton affirmed that "the years of mushroom growth which have been characteristic of the United States in the last century seem to be definitely numbered". Moreover, in 2007, the Social Security Administration (SSA) stimulated the national media that the "Nation welcomed the first baby boomer (Kathleen Casey-Kirschling born on January 1, 1946, at 12:00:01) would soon be applying for Social Security retirement benefits. (Bouk, 2018)

According to the American Census Bureau, the year 1946 was the first year since the Great Depression that the crude birth rate topped 23 per 1,000 births and the first year in which the number of births reached 3 million. So, the baby boom was unexpected as a result of couples "made up" for births and married earlier and starting families more quickly than their counterparts in the 1920s and the 1930s, during the 1950s the average age at which men and women married and a fraction of people who never married dipped lows to historic of postponed during the war. However, births continued to climb and reached a peak in 1957 when 4 million babies were born compared with 2 million born in 1937. (Hughers & O'Rand, 2004)

Figure 1.1 Annual Births and Births per Women, United States 1909-2000



Note: Adapted from annual births and births per woman in the United States between the years 1909 to 2000, by the National Center For Health Statistics. 2024
(<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/index.htm>).

1.2 The National Reasons for the Baby Boom Generation in America:

The Baby Boom generation grew up in a period full of economic, social, and political changes, reinforced by exceptional circumstances and events that shaped a whole generation.

1.2.1 The Socioeconomic Reasons:

- **The Post-War Era:**

After the surrender of both Germany and Japan in August 1945, World War II came to an end. (Goldsmith, 2008) The American soldiers who were trying to recover from the war damage returned home with a sense of hope and desire for stability and a bright future. The post-war era had its role in helping families regain confidence.

- **The Participation of Women in the Labor Force:**

World War II significantly increased female labor demand as women replaced men during the war. This positive effect on female **labor** force participation persisted, retaining a significant portion of the workforce. On the other hand, the role of men as primary breadwinners has changed and this change has affected both their internal and external lives, leading to the slow formation of families and unemployment. (Bavel & Reher, 2013)

- **Healthcare:**

World War II significantly impacted healthcare financing in the United States, with the federal government becoming more involved in healthcare and expanding health insurance coverage for Americans. In 1946, congress granted grants and loans to hospitals and health facilities for modernization and construction. The aged population in the US grew from 3 million in 1900 to 12 million in 1950, with many having low incomes and health insurance. Between 1950

and 1963, the aged population increased from 12 million to 17.5 million, but healthcare costs outpaced income growth. 1965 Medicare and Medicaid programs were established, along with nutritional and social programs by President Lyndon B. Johnson as an act in 1965. (Department of Health and Human Services, n.d)

1.2.2 Political Reasons:

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the " G.I. Bill," was a significant legislation that welcomed millions of World War II veterans into the middle class. Despite the conservative backlash, it expanded the federal government's welfare for veterans, providing low-cost mortgages, loans, unemployment compensation, and tuition payments. The bill aimed to limit veteran's dependence on the state and maintain the conservative, prewar social contract between the federal government and veterans. This act caused stability and comfort in the lives of Americans. Another government policy that helped American society to settle was the Federal Housing Administration established by the National Housing Act in 1934 to offer federally backed insurance for home mortgages made by approved lenders. FHA insurance protected lenders against losses and expanded the pool of potential home buyers. The VA mortgages insurance program in 1944 offered veterans long-term, low-cost mortgages, leading to rapid business growth which enhanced early marriages. (Smith, 2021)

1.3 The International Reasons for the Baby Boom Generation in America:

The United States of America made history by interfering in global conflicts, including the Cold War and the World War, in order to establish its dominance on a worldwide scale.

1.3.1 The Post-War Boom: Setting the Stage for Baby Boom:

The United States imposed an embargo on Japan's oil and demanded withdrawal from conquered territories. Japan refused, leading to the devastating attack on the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The US declared war on Japan, with President Truman using the atomic bomb to end the war. The Americans had a significant advantage in war production,

surpassing Japan by 1942 and 1944, with over 96,000 aircraft and 2,247 warships, enabling them to fight two wars against Germany and Japan. (Federal Housing Finance Agency, n.d)

The war ended with the surrender of Japan, in the early postwar period, the United States was the main economic power and held a nuclear monopoly for a brief time. America emerged as an economic, political, and military superpower. The United States aimed to restore stability and promote peaceful rebuilding and took a leading step "The Marshall Plan" for European recovery. Furthermore, it has impacted global affairs through its influence in the newly founded United Nations and NATO. (McCauley, 2013)

1.3.2 The Cold War and its Influence on American Society (The Cold War Tensions)

After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union, two superpowers with opposing political and socioeconomic ideologies, dominated global affairs. Their internal structures, characterized by democratic policies, totalitarian polities, and command economies, led to ideological division and competition. Both superpowers promoted replicating their systems while resisting expansion, resulting in rivalry in the international system. The Cold War was the most significant political and diplomatic problem. The conflict stemmed from long-standing debates between the United States and the Soviet Union.

During the Cold War, domestic advertising and foreign propaganda often used images of children to present the nation to Americans and potential allies, symbolizing happiness and security through democratic capitalism and vulnerability to communism. In a speech in New York City on October 29, 1948, Truman explained American foreign policy: "...The heart and soul of American foreign policy is peace". "We are supporting a world organization to keep the peace, and a world economic policy to create prosperity for all mankind..." (Ilhan, 1992, p. 197). He has also said: " We have not deserted - we will never desert - the brave man and women who have rallied to the cause of peace and freedom throughout the world. We will not sacrifice them to totalitarian aggression. (Ilhan, 1992, p. 197)

1.4 Deep Dive into the Baby Boom Characteristics

After talking about the generation as a concept and the reasons for its emergence, this part talks about the specifications and characteristics that distinguished The Baby Boom from other generations:

1.4.1 The Rise and Fall of Traditional Institutions: How the Baby Boom Reshaped Society

The Baby Boomers were children of the late GI generation or traditionalists and early silent generation parents, youth for baby boomers was a time of great optimism, baby boomers enjoyed affluent and nurtured lifestyles; especially when they were the first generation who experienced the TV. Boomers are highly optimistic and individualistic, tend to reject authority, and greatly value instant personal gratification. This is the generation that invented the credit card; they were willing to buy on credit and as a result, have tended to under-save for retirement. Unlike their parents who lived well on a single income, most boomers work hard, long hours, have little leisure time, and feel stressed. (Sandeem, 2008)

The great society of the Kennedy-Johnson era also sought to extend the protection of the law and the opportunities of democracy to African Americans, America has yet to achieve full racial equality these changes profoundly altered life for black and white Americans.

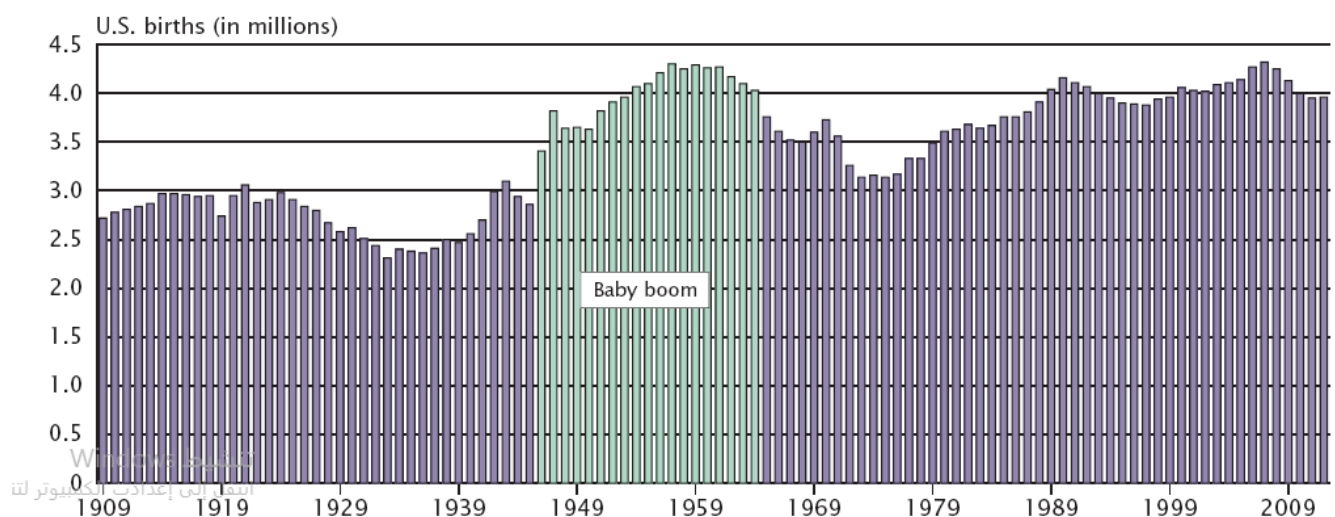
The baby boomers were a fruitful generation. The boomers who were born between usually 1954 to 1956 were called "Alpha Boomers" or leading-edge boomers, those born from the mid-fifties to 1964 and occasionally referred to as the trailing edge boomers, or "Generation Jones". Boomers are some of those people would associate with the 1960s counterculture. They were not usually the ones leading the movements. These were people from older generations, but some participated in the civil rights movements and feminist movements. And as Generation Jones entered adulthood, the West was moving in a more conservative direction. The two cohorts of the

boomers grew up with the threat of nuclear warfare, the Cuban missile crisis, and the Vietnam War. (Generations, 2023)

Distinctions between the baby boom and other generations are two features like the size of the birth cohort and the length of time:

Yearly variations in the size of the baby boom cohort are shown in Figure 2, For each year 1946 through 1964 the number of people, was increased sharply from 2.4 million to 72.5 million baby boomers. (Colby & Ortman, 2014)

Figure 1.2 Number of Births Annual Percent Changing in Number of Births Rate for the United States 1909 to 2012



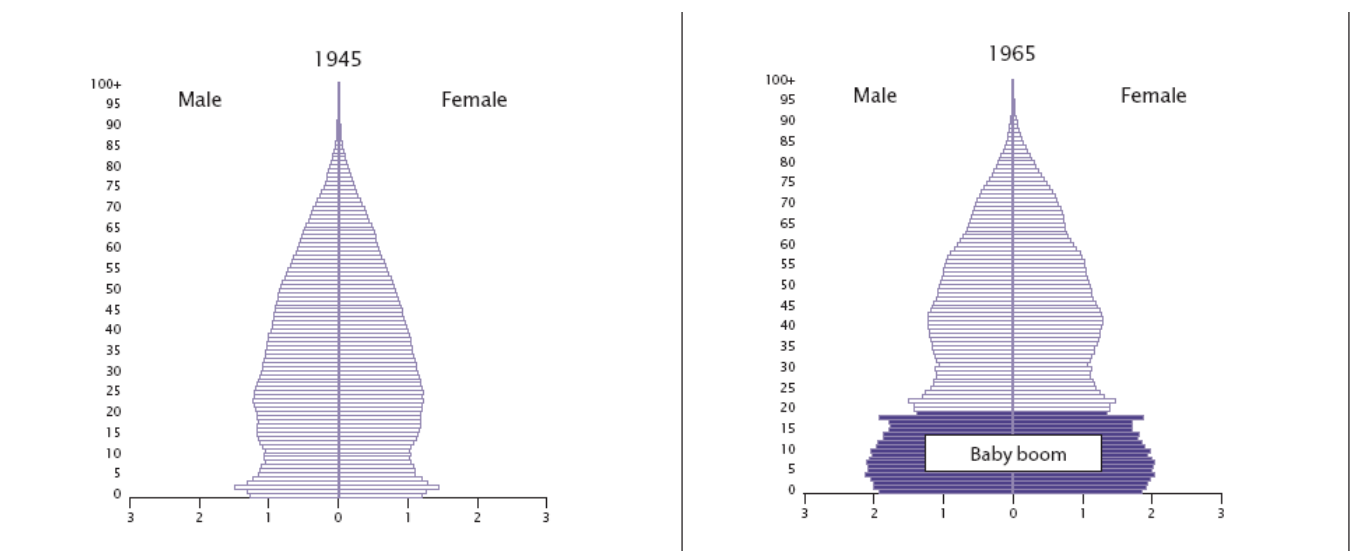
Note. Adapted from The Baby Boom Cohorts in The United States population estimate and projections, by United States Census Bureau, May 2014(<https://www.census.gov/data.html>).

- **Changing age structure and dependency:**

Figure 3 demonstrates a comparison of the population pyramid from 1945 one year prior to the start of the Baby Boom generation and 1965 one year after the baby ended. It begins to reveal the unprecedented effect that this birth cohort had on the age composition of the US population. In the period from 1946 to 1964, consistently large birth cohorts contributed to a

dramatic increase in the youth population. During the baby boom, the average number of annual births was just under 4 million. In comparison, there was an average of 2.6 million births per year in the 19 years before the start of the Baby Boom. The expansion of the youth population is clearly visible in the bulge that forms at the base of the population pyramid for 1965.

Figure 1.3 Age and Sex Structure of the Population for the United States from 1945 to 1965



Note. Adapted from The Baby Boom Cohorts in The United States population estimate and projections, by United States Census Bureau, May 2014(<https://www.census.gov/data.html>).

In addition, beginning in 1945, the youth dependency ratio steadily increased until it reached a peak level in 1964 of almost 67 children aged 0 to 17 for every 100 adults aged 18 to 64. This peak corresponds with the year that the last baby boom was born, which is also the year that the baby boom cohort began to enter the working ages. As the baby boomers transitioned into the working ages, the youth dependency ratio declined (Ortman, 2024). Moreover, the race and ethnic composition of the baby boom population was characterized by a percentage of 90 percent of the population being white. (Colby & Ortman, 2014)

- **Career and job preferences:**

Boomers had common traits such as value education to support their high need for professional identity because they were behind the curve of retirement savings and wanted to continue their highly desired professional identity. But, in terms of career orientation, Baby Boomers tended to highly feel job career-focused, because they expected to have a "stellar career" with the salary, title, and perks that go along with it. They were highly competitive. Boomers value visibility and recognition; though they were not as loyal to one organization as were previous generation. Also, they were not frequent "Job-hoppers", and they tended to feel job change negatively affects one's career. Boomers value face-to-face interactions and are known in the workplace for preferring meetings as a mode of communication. (Sandeem, 2008)

1.4.2 From Post-war Optimism to the New Millennium: The Baby Boom's Social Evolution

The social growth of the Baby Boom generation was a transforming journey that spans from the optimism of the post-war era to the start of the new millennium.

- **Post-War Optimism:**

The post-war era, years after World War II when the American dream was formed. There was a great deal of hope and economic prosperity. People had started to turn to their future and optimize their lives. (Gray, 2000)

- **Cultural Revolution:**

The 1960s and early 1970s saw the second wave of feminism, focusing on women's physical appearance over personal accomplishments, with advertisements promoting superficial rules and duties. However, following their time in the workforce during World War II, women started to have a voice and more influence in society. (Johnson C. , 2017) Media and Feminism had a core relation, women once again found new platforms to present their voice concerning inequality as political positions became more vocal.

- **Technological Advancements:**

The baby boom period in the new millennium saw significant technological advancements in medicine, surgery, electronics, and computing. Medical technology improved techniques, leading to faster recovery and reduced patient trauma. Further, electronics [development](#) advanced, leading to the adoption of smartphones and miniaturized gadgets. Moreover, the advancement of computing technology, including high-speed internet, social media platforms, and e-commerce sites, revolutionized communication and business online. Finally, it has also marked the beginning of the disciplines of surgery and medicine, in addition to the development of microwaves and computers.

- **Globalization:**

Public art has expanded with the globalization of artists and art; it is no longer limited to a monument in the public square or a painting on the wall. Experimental concepts, massive illustrations that fill an entire museum room or sections of expansive public areas, and multi-dimensional artwork that invites the public to interact with them. These are all examples of art installations. These days, a good outcome is achieved by collaboration between the artist, the building architects, or the local craftspeople who produce the components of the art installation. (Sheffield, Korotayev, & Grinin, 2013)

- **The New Millennium:**

As Deborah Gustlin claimed the events of 09/11, the Indian Ocean tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, the Iraq war, and the election of the first African-American president 'Barack Obama' in 2008, in addition to gender issues all contributed to the rise of cultural issues in the 21st century. (Gustlin, n.d)

Conclusion

The baby boom as a birth quake in the United States refers to the unexpected bulge in the mid-twentieth century. So, the people born from 1946 until 1964 called the Baby Boom generation, cohort appeared as a consequence of multifaced factors; containing local reasons, which are social, cultural, economic and economic motives, and others considering the international environment, for instance, the prominent of the United States as strategic pole in the global system, as well as the tension of Cold War. Therefore, the Baby Boom Generation were a unique period in American history, due to the importance of the effects brought by Boomers to American life in all aspects. Based on these reasons, the second chapter analyses the impact of the Baby Boom in the United States.

CHAPTER TWO

Implications of the Baby Boom System in America

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Introduction

The Baby Boom period had been an essential change in the life of American society from 1946 until 1964 in various domains. Especially in the 1960s, the development of technologies and the appearance of social and cultural changes along with economic institutions and political policies enhanced the reshaping of the United States. As a strong power, the US held a significant influence in global affairs as well as in multiple industries for instance entertainment, technology, education, and healthcare. This chapter aims to provide two different levels of Boomers' life starting from the prosperity period of the mid-1940s until 1964. In addition to a long-standing period of diversity.

2.1 Social and Cultural Changes to Reinforce the Baby Boom Generation

The boomers experienced profound shifts in hospital services, healthcare access, insurance values, and retirement laws, all shaping their social and cultural identities throughout the decades.

2.1.1 Hospital Services and Healthcare:

In 1945, Republicans in Congress introduced legislation to increase the number of hospitals in response to President Truman's proposal for a universal healthcare program. Truman proposals watered-down version was drafted by Senators Harold Burton and Lister Hill. The idea was held up in a senate committee. The act's main provision allowed the construction of new hospitals in addition to the expansion of the existing ones, with an annual budget of \$75 million for five years. Additionally, it established a policy target of 4.5 beds for every 1,000 individuals. (Cellucci, Meacham, & Farnsworth, 2019)

New hospital construction was still outnumbered in addition to the already existing facilities. All projects increased from 57.4% in 1966 to 81.9% in 1975, which might account for some of the significant project cost rise. The average project has risen twice as many square feet as the number of beds. This implies that modern hospitals have a greater capacity for equipment

and specialty spaces such as treatment, labs, and x-ray rooms. In addition to the increase in workers, in 1980 a survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that for every \$1,000 in contract cost for hospital construction, around 51.4 hours of labor were produced. This indicates that for every \$1 billion invested in hospital buildings in 1980; employment status would have been generated by 27,129, and 12,850 in the construction sector, and 14,279 in businesses that manufacture and distribute the supplies, machinery, and materials used in the construction. According to the 1975 assessment, building a hospital would have created 21,528 construction employment and 24,256 jobs in allied business. (.Dougherty, 1982)

Medicaid coverage for pregnant women and children was expanded in the 1980s. The most significant of these expansions took place in 1988, 1989, and 1990 when Congress expanded Medicaid coverage to include children up to age six and pregnant women whose household income was less than 133% of the FPL. Additionally, congress-imposed coverage for children between the ages of 6 and 18 at 100% of the federal poverty level. At higher FPL tiers, states were also permitted to offer coverage to certain categories. (American College of Healthcare & American College of Healthcare , 2016)

Table 2. Selected Project Characteristics for Hospital Construction, 1960,1966 and 1975

Characteristic	1960	1966	1975
Number of projects	46	61	90
Floor space (1,000 square feet)	56.5	63.5	163.6
Average total cost	\$1,463,723	\$1,811,459	\$8,097,826
Cost per square foot	\$25.93	\$28.51	\$49.48
Number of beds per project	86	82	128
Cost per bed	\$16,947	\$22,172	\$63,448
Proportion of average total cost for —			
Onsite wages and salaries	28.2	29.6	27.7
Materials, built-in equipment, and supplies	53.2	50.4	42.2
Construction equipment	1.2	1.3	2.4
Residual	17.4	18.7	27.7

Note: Reprinted from Dougherty, D. E. (1982). *Labor and material requirements for hospital construction*. Washington: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1982/03/rpt1full.pdf>

2.1.2 Changes in the Insurance Values and Retirement Laws

A significant portion of the US financial services sector is made up of insurance businesses. Property and casualty insurance companies, which cover the majority of other insurance lines, such as homeowner's insurance, auto insurance, and various commercial lines of insurance bought by businesses, and life and health insurance companies, which frequently offer annuity products, make up the industry. Before 1920, the federal government did not have a regular pension or retirement plan for its workers. Due to changes in state regulations, contributory plans with required deductions began to gain popularity in the 1920s. Retirement programs included 2.7 million workers by 1930, almost 10% of all private wage and salary workers. In 1934, the commission determined that 65 was the appropriate age for retirement. It rejected proposals to lower the retirement age due to financial concerns and to raise it above 65 to secure legislative and public support for old-age pensions during a high unemployment period. Following World War II, pension plans expanded thanks to the tax incentives included in the Revenue Act of 1942. By 1960, 41% of all private wage and salary workers were covered, and by mid-1980, over 50% of them were covered. (Costa, 1998)

2.1.3 The Revision of Educational System: Building Structure-Founding Curriculum

Tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States and its allies in Western Europe grew in the late 1940s following World War II. Even though there was no real fighting, this became known as the Cold War. This impasse went on for many years. The Soviet Union and the United States both had missile development and testing programs. When the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first satellite, in 1957, Americans were worried. There was concern that the Soviet Union's concentration on science and math in the classroom was providing them with a technological edge that may one day be converted into a military one. (Kato, 2024) In 1958, an act was established by the congress that was known as NDEA which provided \$1 billion over four years to be injected into 40,000 loans, 40,000 scholarships, and 1,500 graduate fellowships. Most

of the funds allocated by the NDEA were meant for academically gifted individuals who lacked the financial support to continue undergraduate and graduate degrees. (Jolly, 2009)

Hence, many American schools continued to use "separate but equal" rules to separate students based on race at the beginning of the 1950s. The financing for African-American schools remained unequal. Most educational resources were of poor quality. African American schools and their compensation were noticeably less. School buildings were dilapidated. The Supreme Court decided to hear the case of *Brown vs the Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas* in 1954. The court ruled that because the separated schools were inherently unfair, racial segregation in schools violated the constitution. Innovation in education peaked in the 1960s. To enhance education, schools, and teachers were permitted to experiment with new ideas. Students who faced economic or educational disadvantages were impacted by the biggest changes at the national level. President Lyndon Johnson promoted extensive changes through his "Great Society" and "War on Poverty" initiatives. (Kato, 2024)

The goal of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Act was to enhance the least fortunate schools. Furthermore, the Civil Rights Act has a wide range of effects on education. It has also given similar rights to other groups. The Equal Opportunity in Education Act, for instance, was passed in 1972. Gender discrimination was outlawed in all programs and activities that received funding from the federal government. Opening sports for girls, including those that were formerly reserved for boys. Women had historically fewer employment alternatives as they were mostly found in nursing and teaching. The development of education through the years changed especially in the 1980s when technology played a central role in the education field and information taking. Shift of Culture Trends and Entertainment Preferences. (Kato, 2024)

It's nearly impossible to quantify the impact of rock 'n' roll on American society and culture. The 1950s saw the general public begin to feel the effects of rock 'n' roll. Rock & roll

started to divide and unite people throughout this period. At the same time, it helped dispel some of the stereotypes associated with African Americans, and it set parents, the government, and the media against teens. The impact and message of rock and roll were not suitable for parent's taste. The performers didn't appeal to them. One of these acts of rebellion was the youth's shifting attitudes regarding African Americans. One of the key points that led to the decline of rock 'n' roll was their race. In the 1950s and 1960s rock & roll emerged with artists such as Elvis Presley and Chuck Berry who played a significant role in challenging societal norms. In addition to the dominance of Television as a form of entertainment and the emergence of cable TV in the late 1940s as Community Antenna Television (CATV) in rural areas, providing good reception even in valleys or mountainous areas. The FCC limited cable technology to retransmission for over twenty years. (Curtin & Shattuc, 2009)

However, the 1972 FCC's fourth report and order expanded the number of TV channels for rural and urban audiences. Cable TV also revived independent stations. During the 1950s and 1960s, many independent stations went bankrupt due to UHF transmission technology. As cable became more common, it leveled the playing field, boosting independent fortunes and encouraging investment in new stations. By the mid-1980s, more independents competed for syndicated programming, leading to price increases and discussion about a fourth network. (Curtin & Shattuc, 2009)

Finally, the development of Literature in the United States, and some of the most well-known works of creative writing in American history were published after the Second World War. "To Kill A Mocking Bird" by Harper Lee was released in 1960. Saul Bellow won the Nobel Prize and enjoyed a long-standing career in academia. He was drawing vivid portraits of American city life. The Second World War sparked an American Literary boom. Norman Mailer was raised in New York and rose to prominence in American literary circles while serving in the military during World War. Norman Mailer (1923–2017) was raised in New York and rose to prominence in American literary circles while serving in the military during World War II. Another author whose

works in America broke new ground in terms of "uncovering" details of middle-class American society by John Updike. (O'Hagan, 2019)

2.2 Economic and Political Operations to Secure the Baby Boomers

The Baby Boom generation had made new ways and mechanisms in American life, such as effects on the economic sector and political field.

2.2.1 The Economic Impact :(Labour Force Expansion, Law Market)

Just as the post–World War II, Baby Boom was echoed in a labor force surge, so the ongoing fertility decline presages an evectonal downturn in labour force growth due to a natural increase of the working-age population was at an all-time low (the population of persons aged 15-29 declined in absolute number from 1940 to the mid-fifties). Moreover, younger workers enjoyed an exceptional educational advantage over older workers as a result of the rapid acceleration of secondary schooling between 1920 and 1940 under these conditions a major upswing in the growth of aggregate demand created a solid labor market for younger men. The result was a very rapid growth in their relative income; accomplished by unusually high upward mobility on the occupational scale and a more rapid increase in wages for younger than an older worker in given occupations. (Easterlin, 1968)

The surge has pushed up labor force growth, thereby supplying the labor requirements of the new economic boom. However, household growth correspondingly because compared with labor force entry, household formation tends to occur later and to be spread over a wide range. Furthermore, this upsurge, by producing a sharp rise in the relative number of young adult workers, has led to the deterioration of their relative income position, and through this to a shift toward deferment of marriage.

Even in their peak age of working around age 50 the biggest single category for new worker women, shrank significantly for each succeeding generation. Instead, a new concentration is shown as the dramatic expansion of this category. Some writers called it the "Pink-collar ghetto"

because they absorbed so much of the rapidly expanding female labor force. Though they usually took paying jobs only after their children were well along in school, also the important gains in both managerial and professional jobs trend accelerated when the boomer women with their substantial educational gains came to the scene. The "Pink-collar ghetto" itself began to shrink as a result of computerization, office automation, and other technological changes. So, the occupational distribution of Baby Boom women resembles that of Baby Boom men (except women still tend to have secretarial jobs and men still tend to have the crafts and equipment operators). (Carlson, 2008)

The Baby Boom generation is a new sort of population that has been growing alongside the human population of the United States. We are talking about corporations as “Juridical Persons”. Some of these wraith-like figures would be about the same size as real people they could be, for example, “ shadow individuals” created when a doctor or lawyer or an artist incorporates themselves for the purpose of doing business. Other corporations would stand much larger, including EXXONN, GENERAL MOTORS, the Bank of America, Archer Daniels Midland or the Boeing Corporation. These gigantic specters, even the very largest of them act as great marionettes whose strings invariably can be traced to the hands of human members. Despite that, the survey of consumer finance ratio with target levels reveals that the medium ratio of accumulated wealth is 0.95 for 35 - 44 years old of boomers, so wealth accumulation appears on target while saving rates appear low in comparison to their parents at a similar age and to target retirement wealth suggested by optimal life savings. (Cantor & Yuengert, 1994)

Elwood Carlson (2008) claimed that the mushrooming growth of the new corporate business, pioneered in many cases by baby boom entrepreneurs, provided job growth to absorb America’s expanding population. As the labor force expanded rapidly in the second half of the century. These new companies hired the lion’s share of new workers less than 50 million Americans held paying jobs, and about 60 percent of them worked as employees of established

businesses rather than working for themselves as proprietors, independent contractors, or professionals.

According to the Economic Census Businesses of the United States by the end of the century, the number of working Americans had more doubled to over 120 million people of whom fully three-fourths (about 90 million) worked as employees in business rather than on their own. This means that the number of self-employed workers rose only from about 20 to about 30 million. The bulk of all jobs added to the American economy during these decades of phenomenal growth were created for employees in large and growing companies, and a rising share of those companies were incorporated as juridical persons in their own right.

The role of baby boom in driving the remarkable growth of stock prices over the last five decades as The New York Times wrote (January 5, 1998): "in the 1990's, the performance of the American stock market has been nothing short of amazing, most of that performance has come from demographics, as the baby boom reaches the age when it seems wise to invest for retirement", believers in the effects of demographic on the stock market also predict that an asset meltdown may occur during the period when the Baby Boom sell their assets to pay for retirement. (Carlson, 2008, p. 24)

The large population of the Baby Boom created a need for products, spurring the market supply and innovation. The large population is the main contributing factor to consumerism. One important theory in the economy is to create demand for products, and a larger population means a larger demand. With the population, which is almost one-third of today's American demographic, baby boomers created an astounding demand for everything.

According to United States Car sales were about 5,164,000 in 1961, then the number kept increasing until it reached its peak point at 11,424,000 in 1973. Long story short, in 1945, Americans owned 25 million cars; by 1965 the number had tripled to 75 million. In addition, annual domestic production of automobiles rose from two million in 1964 to eight million by 1955,

While, according to the California Department of Transportation, motor vehicle registration more than doubled, from about 26 million in 1945 to 54 million in 1956. (Cui & Jayasinghe, 2022)

Meanwhile, the GDP has increased and unemployment reduced .population is crucial, but even so, people can not purchase the product if they are impoverished or cannot afford it. Consider the following scenario there are two countries, but one is next to a major highway, and the other is next to a mountain range. The town next to the highway is primarily dependent on agriculture.

The first town gradually builds up and experiences economic prosperity, while the second town never gets given a name. Both baby boomers and those born prior to it are covered by this. The great depression was being experienced by the silent generation, which came before the baby boomers, while they were enjoying the robust domestic economic expansion, which consequently led to a lack of employment opportunities until 1941 when the US required more workers to make military goods. Amadeo claims that from 3.2% in 1929 to 24.9% in 1933, the unemployment rate surged and stayed over 14% until 1940 when the Japanese Air Force attacked Pearl Harbor and formally declared war on the United States. On the other hand, the unemployment rate varied between 3.4% in 1968 and 10.8% in 1982, generally below 12%, over the years 1964 to 1982, which separated the first and the last batches of baby boomers from reaching the age of 18. Similarly, Amadeo said that the dollar's inflation from 1929 to 1933 caused a severe decline in a nation's GDP, which measures the monetary value of its produced products and services. (Cui & Jayasinghe, 2022)

2.2.2 The Government Policies and Decisions

As the population grows, their need for social infrastructures like schools, houses and highways increases dramatically. President Harry S. Truman approved "The Housing Act of 1949", this legislation permits Americans to take along step toward increasing the well-being and happiness of millions of citizens. It was a landmark sweeping expansion of the federal role in mortgage insurance and the construction of public housing, it equips the Federal Government for

the first time with effective means for aiding cities in the vital task of clearing slums and rebuilding blighted areas. It authorizes a comprehensive program of housing costs and raising housing standards. (National Archeive, n.d)

Zhinan and Jayasinghe (2022) claimed that the boomer generation influenced the suburbanization process greatly which in turn led to the development of some policies like the Federal-Aid High Way Act of 1956 legislation signed by President Eisenhower that authorized the construction of a nationwide interstate highway system to improve transportation and promote economic growth. Moreover, the boomers' cohort has witnessed changes and activities dealing with democracy and equality in United States society for instance "The Civil Rights Act of 1964", when Congress passed public law 88-325(78stat.241) which prohibits discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex or national origin in order to end segregation in public places and banned employment racism based on color, nation or sex is considered one of the crowning legislative achievement of the civil rights movement, first proposed by President John F. Kennedy it survived strong opposition from southern members of congress and was signed into law by Kennedy successor Lyndon B. Johnson.

In subsequent years, congress expanded the act and passed additional civil rights legislation such as The Voting Rights Act of 1965 aimed to overcome legal barriers at the state and local levels that prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote as guaranteed under the 15th Amendment to the US. Constitution. The Voting Rights Act is considered one of the most far-reaching pieces of civil rights. (labor Department, 2024)

The United States administration has a holistic view to manage the remarkable growth of citizens number in spite of the political and civil rights reforms, such as the economic policies including; The War on Poverty, it considered as the expansive social welfare legislation introduced in the 1960s by the administration of U.S. Press Lyndon B.Johnson and intended to help end poverty in the United States. It was part of a larger legislative reform program, known as the Great Society, and Johnson wished to make the United States a more equitable and powerful state.

Johnson announced an "unconditional war on poverty in his first State of the Union address, in January 1964. He considered the depth and extent of poverty in the country (nearly 20 per cent of Americans at the time were poor) to be a national disgrace that merited a national response. He identified the cause of poverty not as the personal moral failings of the poor but as a societal failure: " The cause may lie deeper in our failure to give our fellow citizens a fair chance to develop their capacities, in a lack of education and training, in lack of medical care and housing, in a lack of decent communities in to live and bring up their children ". (History, 2018)

The statement of the War on Poverty found its way into law and the creation of new federal programs and agencies. The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was passed by Congress and became law in August 1964. The act created the Office of Economic Opportunity(OEO), which provided funds for vocational training, also created JOB CORPS(a program of job training for low-income at-risk young people) whose function is to train youths in conservation campuses and urban centers, additionally, the Act established VISTA (governmental organization help to fight poverty through working on community projects were illiteracy and lack of housing, poor health, unemployment) as a domestic counterpart to the Peace Corps and Head Start, an early – education program for children of poor families. (Cooley, 2024)

So, the American administration had made intrinsic decisions to keep pace with the changes brought by the baby boom surge.

2.2.3 The Legacy of the Baby Boom Generation

The Boomers are a different generation from other cohorts in their textures, how much they are in harmony, their education level even their historical features:

Daily stress among Baby Boomers has typically been based on the experience and timing of major life events such as marriage, the birth of the child, and retirement. However, studying life events is critical to charting major transitions in life. Daily stressors are known as simple events arising out of day-to-day living such as daily missions; work, and caring for others. Also, may refer to small unexpected events that disrupt daily life, little life arguments with

children. In terms of their physiological and psychological effects, reports of life events may be associated with spikes in arousal or psychological distress that day. In addition, minor daily stressors exert their influence not only by having separate and immediate direct effects on emotional and physical functioning but also by piling up over a series of days to create persistent irritation and frustration. (Almeida, Serido, & McDonald, 2007)

Winterbourne, S.K (2006) states that there is substantial heterogeneity within the Boomer generation, researchers claimed there are multiple classifications to that cohort, some of them categorized into two groups; Early Baby Boomers those born between (1946 and 1954) and Late Baby Boomers as those born between (1955-1964), the first entered adulthood during a time of unprecedented economic growth and prosperity marked by war assassinations and civil unrest, in contrast, the later were welcomed into adulthood by recessions, gas shortages, and nation recovering from defeat. (Whitebourne, 2006)

Historic features as foremost event involved the war in Vietnam and the re-enactment of the Selective Service contributed to the rise in college enrolment for males in the 1960's. Early male boomers entered universities in huge numbers resulting in a corresponding increase in conferred degrees, in 60 past conflicts such as WWII and Korea, return soldiers took advantage (G I BILL) but that trend was not evident for Vietnam-era veterans. The picture of boomers' daily life is taken by historical features of their birth cohort but their placement in a lifetime; currently Baby Boomers are at midlife, and this stage changed due to the shift of family roles and job domains. Thus, named changes may speed up by one's grown children leaving home career opportunities and renegotiating of family's relationship. Moreover, Lachman and James (1997) pointed out that being in the middle often expanded responsibilities for example; caretaking aging parents, which may also contribute to the frequency of the Baby Boom experience.

A recent project called (NSDE) seeks exposure and reactivity to the daily stressor. The NSDE is a telephone diary study of a US national sample of 1.483 adults ranging in age from 25 to 74 years. Interviews occurred over 8 continued nights resulting in 11000 days of

information, the result was only who were born between 1946 to 1964, in a total of 475 respondents (237 early Baby Boom born between 1946 and 1954) and 238 late Baby Boom which the NSDE was drawn it as demographic characteristics. (Whitebourne, 2006)

2.2.4 Rise of Advocacy Groups for Older Adults

Population aging is the result of long-term fertility and life expectancy. The Baby Boom generation was a short-term departure from the trend of low fertility, and it was quickly followed by baby bust. According to ACL (2021) "In the USA the population age 65 and older numbered 54.1 million in 2019, they presented 16% of the population, more than one in every seven Americans. but the older population is beginning to burgeon again as more than two-fifths (41%) of the baby boom generation is now age 65 and older". As the baby boom generation begins to reach traditional retirement age, the pace of population aging will rapidly accelerate by 2025 nearly 1 in 5 Americans will be age 65 over compared to 1 in 8 today. (Munnell, 2004)

So, that led to the formation and growth of various organizations aimed at addressing their concerns, it was a trend of development over time. Owing to demographic shifts, the Boomers face specific challenges including healthcare, affordable housing protection from age discrimination. Furthermore, the Baby Boomers have significant voting power and economic influence. Advocacy groups leverage this to push for policy changes, for that reason, the Boomers generation have a history of activism from their youth continuous into their later years. This activism fuels the formation and support of advocacy groups. Those organizations or collective groups work to promote the interests, rights, and well-being of a particular group or community. For instance:

AARP; perhaps the most well-known organization, offers a wide range of services, including advocacy on healthcare, and social security, it also provides educational resources and community programs. (Ryan & Griffiths, 2015)

Justice in Aging; focuses on legal advocacy to protect the rights of low-income older adults.

NCOA; focuses on improving the lives of older adult especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged, their advocacy includes promoting economic, healthy, and public policy changes. In addition, the Senior Citizens League (TSCL) advocates for policies that improve and protect social security. As well as, Leading Age, Gray Panther (NCOA, 2024). On the other side, the achievements of these groups include; legislative successes (success Lobbies) and raised awareness about issues like elder abuse, and the importance of retirement planning. Also, the precedent agencies provide resources and support systems for older adults; helping them navigate health care, housing, and financial challenges. (Andrews & Edwards, 2004)

In summary, there has been a noticeable increase and expansion in the number and influence of groups that are actively working to advocate for support the older adult demographic, this could be due to factors like the ageing population's increased awareness of elder issues or greater organization and mobilization within the adult community.

2.3 Long-Term Effects of the Baby Boomers: Until 2024

The long-term consequences of baby boomers have resonated through societal institutions, and economic policies, leaving a permanent mark that will continue to influence various aspects into 2024 and beyond.

2.3.1 The "Silver Tsunami": An Aging Population and its Impact

In a unique period in history, with the aging population growing at a rate never seen before between 2010 and 2020. The demographic shifts according to research, by 2050, there will be 82 million members of this group. A 47 per cent rise, a 23% increase in the age group's population share overall. The population of the United States is older than it has ever been. Pension systems are under pressure as well as the ratio of working-age contributions to retirees' changes. Financial hardship will result from the mismatch, which may also affect individual retirement savings habits and financial planning by influencing changes in retirement age. The aging population can result in a declining workforce leading to impede economic development and

productivity in addition to a possibility for technical innovation and development. The reduced labor force effect can be lessened by automation, artificial intelligence, and remote working technologies that would increase and create opportunities for older workers. (Honeycutt, 2024)

The pool of potential family caregivers who are not in the labor force is expected to decrease in tandem with the silver tsunami's predicted growth in the upcoming years. As the Silver Tsunami approaches landfall, American healthcare facilities are being ready more than ever to handle an aging patient population. According to the US Census Bureau, there will be around 50 million Americans living in the country by the year 2050 who are 75 years of age or older. Of these older persons, almost 80% will have at least one chronic illness, and 77% will have at least two. To deliver efficient patient-centered care to this demographic, we must start working immediately to create infrastructures and processes that are based on the needs of each patient. Even though there is currently no government funding structure in place to make home-based medical care a viable model of treatment, it is expected to continue gaining popularity in the US due to advancements in technology and patients' growing desire to age in place. (Shah, 2018)

2.3.2 Shifting Family Dynamics: Multigenerational Households and Caregiving

Multigenerational living has increased dramatically in the United States during the last five decades and shows no indication of slowing. This rise in multigenerational living has been fueled by socioeconomic pressures such as the fast development of the US Asian and Hispanic populations, both of which, like black Americans are more likely than white Americans to live with extended families. By age, young adults have the biggest percentage of these living arrangements, a group that in comparison to previous generations, stays in school longer, postpones marriage, and delays starting their own families.

According to census statistics, living in a multigenerational home appears to provide financial benefits by protecting members from poverty. Families and workplaces will be impacted by the anticipated conflict between the rapidly aging baby boomer generation and women's rising

labor force involvement. The dual responsibilities of providing care and working already present difficulties for workers, especially women. Many workplace expectations are derived from the breadwinner-homemaker paradigm of the 1950s, which presumes that someone is at home taking care of family members. In the 1950s, only 34 percent of women worked outside the house; by 2014 the number had risen to 57%, and the typical family caregiver is now a 49-year-old employed woman. In 2000, 26% of women aged fifty-five and over were employed; by 2014, that number had increased to almost 35%. This indicates a very rapid increase in the proportion of these women in the labor force. The percentage of women in the labor force who are between the ages of fifty-five and sixty-four is expected to increase from 58% in 2016 to 63% by 2024. (Wiggin, 2018)

2.3.3 Retirement and the Labor Force: A Shortage of Workers

The shortage of workers in the US has been a multifaceted issue influenced by demographic, economic, and social factors. In October 2021, the pandemic promoted over 3 million adults to enter early retirement, increasing the number of 55 and older adults leaving the labor force. (Ferguson, 2024) The labor market recovery post-pandemic has seen a significant increase in quits, a trend known as the great resignation or reshuffle, particularly among female and lower-income workers. (Felix, Kosar, & Klaauw, 2024)

The labor force participation rate, a key measure of labor market activity, has been declining since 2001, reaching 66.0 percent in 2007 and 65.4 percent in 2009. The rate has declined further by 2.5 percentage points to 62.9 percent in 2014 and is projected to fall further by 2.0 percentage points to 60.9 percent in 2024. Factors contributing to this downward pressure are age, gender, race, and ethnicity. The labor force participation of women has been declining since 1999, with a peak of 60% in 1999. Men's participation has been steadily declining since the 1940s, with a projected continuation in the next decade. Youth participation, particularly among 16-24-year-olds, has declined due to increased school enrollment. The prime age group, 25_54, has the strongest labor market attachment, but its participation rate declined by nearly 2 percentage points

between 2004_2014. Baby boomers' aging and transition from the prime age group to the 55_64 age group further contribute to this decline. (Toosi, 2015)

2.3.4 The Housing Market and Healthcare Costs: Boomers Downsizing and its Ripple Effects

As the baby boomer generation approaches retirement age, there has been a noticeable trend of downsizing in recent times. Baby boomers are choosing to reduce their houses. This downsizing trend can be due to a number of variables, including a desire for a more manageable living area, financial advantages, and a different lifestyle; with increasing retirement age, the baby boomer population seeks smaller houses. Furthermore, current market conditions, such as rising property prices and mortgage rates, make downsizing an appealing alternative for baby boomers trying to reduce housing costs while increasing financial advantages. Downsizing baby boomers offers financial benefits and lifestyle changes. It allows them to pay off mortgage debt, lower housing costs, and lower utility bills. This simplified lifestyle allows them to focus on hobbies and invest in other areas. (Huff, 2024)Health care has functioned in a fee-for-service payment paradigm, meaning employers and workers pay for the treatment they receive regardless of quality or outcomes. As segments of the health care sector migrate to a value-based approach, defined as improved health outcomes at a reduced total cost. These rising expenses can make healthcare impossible to get even when it is insured, perhaps leading to medical debt or employees avoiding care entirely. (Chase, 2020)

2.3.5 The Boomer Vote: A Power Political Force and Its Priorities

Baby Boomers currently hold the majority of the elected positions in the US government. They hold a great deal of power in the political system, in part because they hold so many offices. Baby boomers hold 230 of the 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives and 60 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate. The office of President Joe

Biden (born in 1942) makes him a member of the even earlier Silent Generation. As a generalization, baby boomers tend to hold relatively conservative viewpoints while they might hold a more liberal position on social issues than earlier generations, they still perpetuated a conservative trend in political partnership whether that be a factor of the cohort effect, aging, or period influences. The baby boom generation has a stronger sense of patriotism, and that is likely to make them value voting as a privilege and a right that they must participate in as productive citizens.

A large portion of the Baby Boom was eligible to be drafted in the Vietnam War, and many baby boomers had parents or older family members who fought in World War two. The social and political culture of patriotism and civic duty was alive and well when this generation was raised and maturing into young adults, and many of those same principles have stuck with them to this day as they enter their 60s and 70s. This generalization is based on generational theories proposed by Karl Manheim in which he proposed that socialization can be a collective experience across groups of individuals in society, and patterns of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours within and across different groups have the potential to merge from these shared experiences. Due to the political environment and the over-wheeling societal ideal to perform one's duty to his country whether that be enlisting in the war or exercising one's right to vote. "I think that the shared experience of boomers has fostered or strong sense of patriotism". (Alexander, 2022)

Voting behaviour and motivations across generations. Boomers make up 230 voting members, 53% in the House of Representatives, down from 270 representatives (62%) in the 17th Congress. In the Senate, Boomers remain the majority 68. Boomers, silent, and silver have the most seats in Congress, though the number of Millennials, and Gen X is up slightly. (<https://PewResearch.org>)

Regardless of the size or political standing of the generation, visible political change can't happen unless these individuals are registered to vote and turn out to vote in elections. Political participation is vital to the role of representation in politics. Registering to vote, educating

oneself on elections, and voting accordingly is vital to political participation. For the 2020 elections, turnout was the highest among baby boomers and declined steadily among younger generations. Almost 80% of the population that is 60 turned out to vote, while roughly 73% of the population aged 45 to 59 turned out from there it only declined 65% of citizens ages 30 to 44 turning out, and just over 50% of 18 to 24 years old voting. However, these turnout rates are some of the highest ever reported for each age demographic with each spiking considerably over average turnout. This is most likely due to the highly controversial 2020 presidential election years and declines in each midterm election. (History, 2023)

Conclusion

To sum up, the Baby Boom has left an unforgettable imprint on society, shaping cultural patterns, economic landscapes, and political agendas. Via enormous numbers and influence, Baby Boomers have motivated changes across different domains, from healthcare and education to labour markets and policymaking.

In response to the growing needs of this demographic cohort, social institutions have adapted, providing suitable services and opportunities for consistent attachment and fertility, and healthcare systems have been restructured to accommodate age-related illnesses.

Economically, the continued participation of Baby Boomers in the labour force has both consolidated industries and posed challenges in terms of succession planning and skills development.

As a look towards the future, the long-term effects of the Baby Boomers continue to unfold. The Silver Tsunami of an ageing population presents both opportunities and challenges, necessitating innovative solutions in health care, housing, and caregiving. the interplay of demographic shifts and societal dynamics underscores the importance of holistic approaches to address the multifaceted needs of older adults. As the Baby Boomers' journey continues, their legacy serves as a testament to the enduring impact of a generation that has shaped the past, present, and future of our world.

General Conclusion

The Baby Boom phenomenon emerged in the U.S. community as a transformative power through its critical influence on America, in particular, and the world in general. From its origins in the post-war era to its continuing impact; the Baby Boom left an indelible legacy that resists resonating until the present day.

The current investigation aimed to explore the origins and roots of the U.S. during a specific period by attempting to illustrate the core reasons and implications of the Baby Boom apparent in short and long-term standing. In addition, it examined the dimensions of the issue which resulted in an understanding of the problem and its ramifications.

In this study, two research questions were examined. The first question discussed the reasons that led to the appearance of the American Baby Boom, the national and international causes of this generation were conducted along with social factors such as the change of family dynamics, and the elevated interests of the American government in the health care system. Thus, the new structure of the community motivated the economic cycle. Hence, those reasons were incorporated by governmental decisions like the GI Bill, which encouraged the growth of this cohort.

The second one investigated the prompt impacts of this phenomenon on American society, which touched on social and cultural inquiries. For instance, the United States reinforced health infrastructures to build hospitals and lower medical service fees, other effects happened in the educational system through numerous acts to overcome the tremendous number of students like the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Act..., As well as, restated the insurance values and retirement laws to rise the job chances. Also, cultural effect's embodiment in the overuse of mass media, for example, TV, musical bands, and Cinema. In addition to the short-term economic and political impacts of the Baby Boom that attempted to ensure sustainable economic growth and political stability through the role of Boomers in labor force Expansion, the law market, and government policies such as the Housing Act of 1949.

Furthermore, the long-range effects produced a new view of American life during the present epoch with predictions of other timelines such as the emergence of the aged population or as it is called "The Silver Tsunami" and their advances into the retirement age; presents opportunities and challenges for the American community. Especially, with the exit of Boomers from the labor force, there are concerns about the labor gap and shortage of workers. However, as the boomers age; there are shifts in family dynamics: housing preferences, and caregiving for elders from healthcare to daily activities. Finally, the Boomer vote continues to be considered a political influence as this cohort remains engaged in electoral processes. The historical and analytical research design was conducted to provide authoritative answers to the previous inquiries. This style of research cooperates with the investigators to describe and analyze ancient events and make predictions. It engaged with looking into accessible sources such as articles, books, reports, journals, and official websites.

The results showed that the Baby Boom played a vital role through its significance as a transformative period in the nation's history. However, understanding its ongoing impact is important for realizing the dynamics of American society. Despite, the modulations of America during World War II; the Baby Boom period enhanced the economic growth, policy-making, cultural legacy, and generational identity. These changes helped reshape the country. In addition to holding a superpower as an economic and military force marked an unforgettable print on a wide range. In addition, the Baby Boom generation broke the rule of unaccepting an African American president by electing a president of African American origins "Barack Obama". In the current period, the Boomers are experiencing an economic diversity that is held up by multiple factors such as occupational diversity, retirement savings, and access to financial resources.

Firstly, it can be presumed that a gap in the labor force and shortage of workers due to the retirement of the aged population could prompt policymakers to consider changes in immigration laws to address labor market needs. Thus, changes in immigration legislation to satisfy labor market demands should be a part of a complete plan that considers the economic,

social, and political ramifications of immigration policy. Secondly, it can be posited that the American strategic role in the world would decline, along with declines in the US Stock Exchange and the American dollar, it would also have a far-reaching impact on geopolitics, economics, and financial markets; leading to the loss of American power.

The limitations faced in this research were the time constraints of the Baby Boom period as it lasted for decades which made it difficult to capture the correct extent of its impact. In addition to the data availability, for example, historical records may be difficult or incomplete to interpret. Finally, the research faced a lack of sources like books, journal articles, and documents.

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ملخص

طفرة المواليد هي ظاهرة ديموغرافية تميزت بالزيادة الهائلة في عدد الولادات في الفترة الممتدة ما بين 1946 إلى 1964 بالولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، حيث كان لها تأثير عميق على المجتمع الأمريكي. يهدف هذا البحث إلى تفصي التأثيرات الواسعة النطاق لهذا الجيل على تاريخ أمريكا، وذلك من خلال تحليل الأحداث المحورية والإجراءات الحكومية والبحوث الأكاديمية التي تناولت هذا الموضوع. تكشف الدراسة معرفة مدى تأثير الانفجار الديمغرافي على الإقتصاد والمجتمع والثقافة الأمريكية. فإقتصادياً، قام جيل الطفرة السكانية بتحفيز الدورة الإقتصادية، وزيادة في عدد طلبات السكن، ورفع الطاقة الإستهلاكية بالإضافة إلى التغير في الخدمات التعليمية. اجتماعياً، أحدث جيل طفرة المواليد تحولاً واضحاً في بنية الأسرة، ومستوى التمييز العنصري بين الجنسين، والمجتمع المدني وبالتالي؛ إثارة التحول الثقافي. فالدراسة تتحقق أيضاً من التأثيرات البعيدة المدى لهذا الجيل، مثل ظهور الحركات المناهضة في الخمسينيات من القرن الماضي والتحديات الحالية التي يواجهها المجتمع الأمريكي المتمثلة في الشيخوخة السكانية. تؤكد النتائج المتوصل إليها على التأثير المستمر لجيل الطفرة السكانية على تركيبة المجتمع الأمريكي الحديث، إضافة على ذلك فنتائج الدراسة تقدم نظرة إستشرافية للتأثيرات المستقبلية للتركيبات الديموغرافية الحالية. تهدف هذه المذكرة إلى معرفة إمكانية تأثير جيل معين على مسار وتاريخ دولة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الانفجار الديموغرافي، الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، جيل، طفرة المواليد.