

For Immediate Release
May 19, 2010

Contact: Sarah Snyder
Phone: (202) 347-9767
Email: media@nbr.org

*** Crisis in Russia: Demographics Reveal Grim News ***

Seattle, WA — The National Bureau of Asian Research has released a report, “Russia’s Peacetime Demographic Crisis: Dimensions, Causes, Implications” that reveals that Russia’s demographic vital signs portend crisis. The population has been battered by plummeting post-Soviet fertility rates, poor health outcomes, world-leading infant mortality rates, and decreasing life-expectancy – all of which have tremendous implications for the future stability and prosperity of the country.

“Russia’s Peacetime Demographic Crisis: Dimensions, Causes, Implications” is a comprehensive, up-to-date examination of Russia’s demographic challenges. The report, authored by Nicholas Eberstadt of the American Enterprise Institute, uses a series of detailed metrics to assess Russia’s current demographic challenges and examines the implications for Russia’s domestic and international priorities. The first section of the report looks at fertility, health, mortality, and migration trends “by the numbers.” The second section examines Russia’s demographics “beyond the population count,” investigating key attributes of Russia’s human resources, including population aging, education and labor productivity, and social capital.

Eberstadt’s conclusions are grim, and reveal the severity of the potentially irreversible challenges facing the collective human resources of the Russian Federation. Eberstadt shows that despite the government’s predictions, Russia’s population will continue to decline in the years ahead. These demographic abnormalities will persist because, as Eberstadt argues, “in modern Russia the abnormal has become the new norm.” The demographic malaise has notable consequences, including the dreadful downturn for quality of life in Russia. The crisis also bodes poorly for Russia’s military, economic, and diplomatic goals, which are on a collision course with the country’s impending demographic realities.

Nicholas Eberstadt holds the Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy with the American Enterprise Institute. He is also a senior adviser to the National Bureau of Asian Research. He can be reached at <eberstadt@aei.org>.

For more information or to download a copy of the report, visit www.nbr.org.

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