

Population Aging In China: Aspects And Implications

Nicholas Eberstadt

Wendt Chair In Political Economy

American Enterprise Institute

eberstadt@aei.org

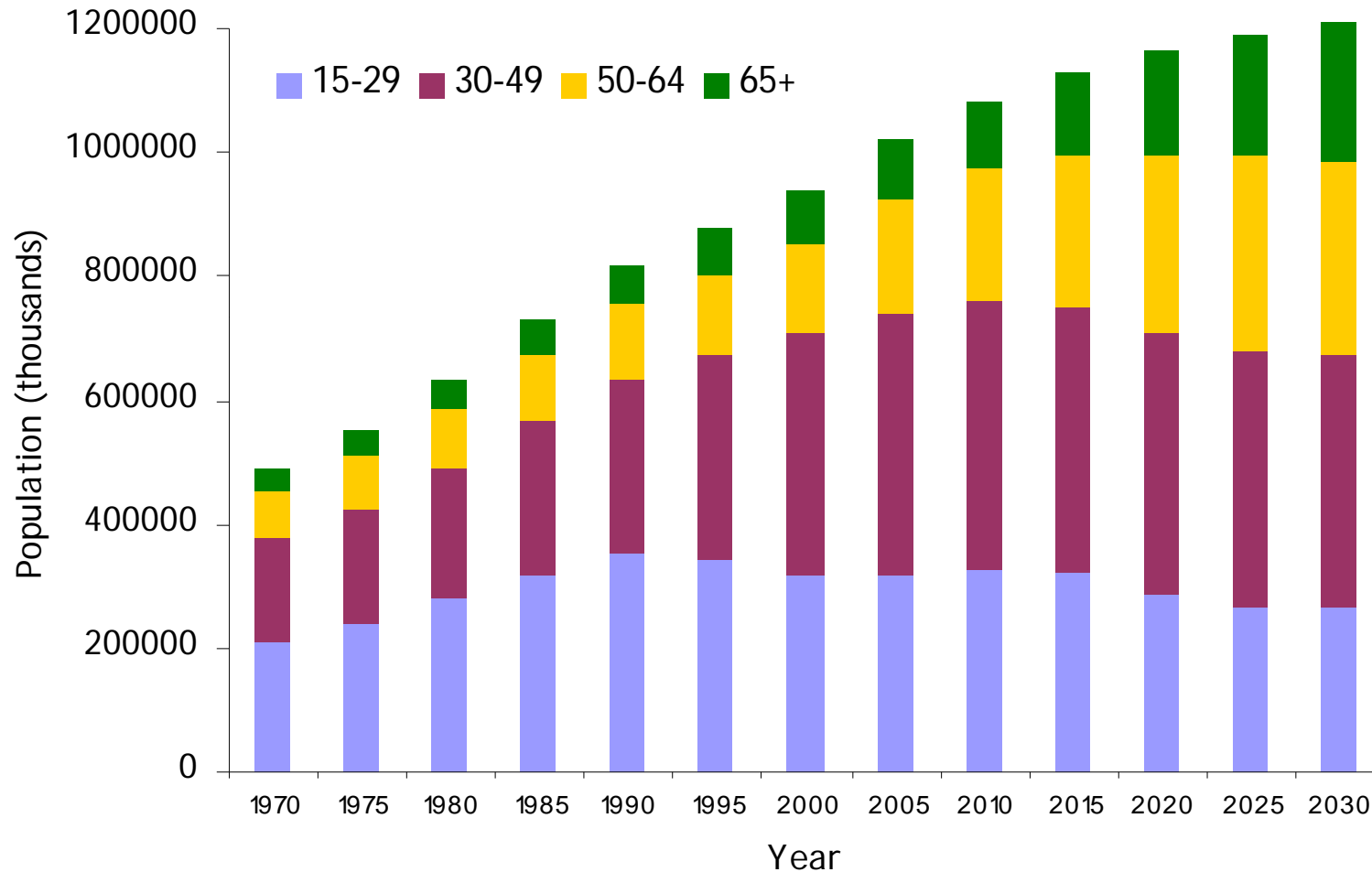
CSIS Global Aging Initiative

Washington, DC

May 19 2009

No Repeat Performances..

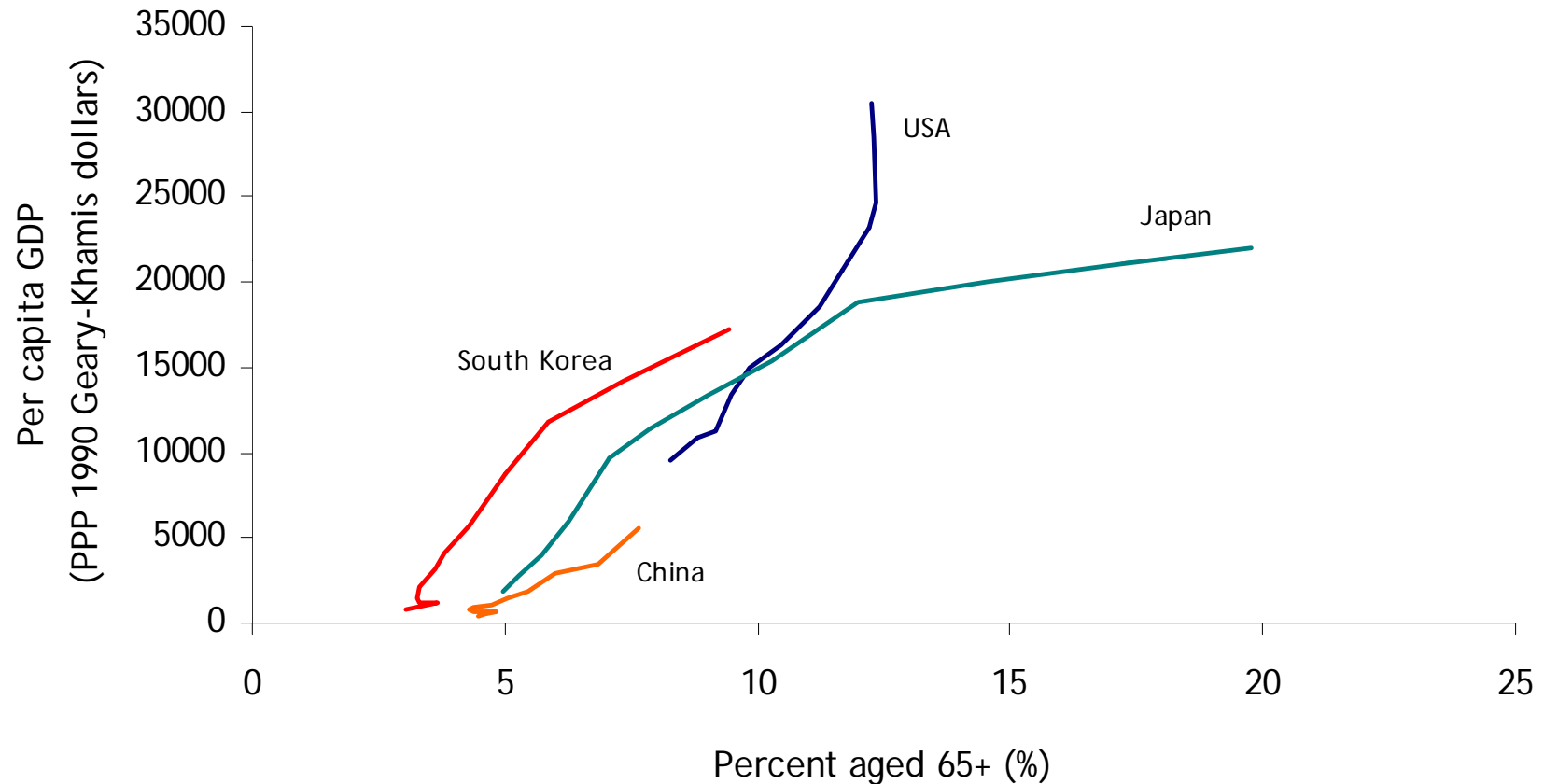
Adult Population 15+ by Age Group: China, 1970-2030 (estimated and projected, thousands)



Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, <http://esa.un.org/unpp>, Wednesday, May 13, 2009; 2:12:34 PM. Note: "medium variant" projections

It's Better To Be Old And *Rich*...

Percent of population 65+ vs. Per capita GDP (PPP):
China and Selected Other Countries, 1950-2005

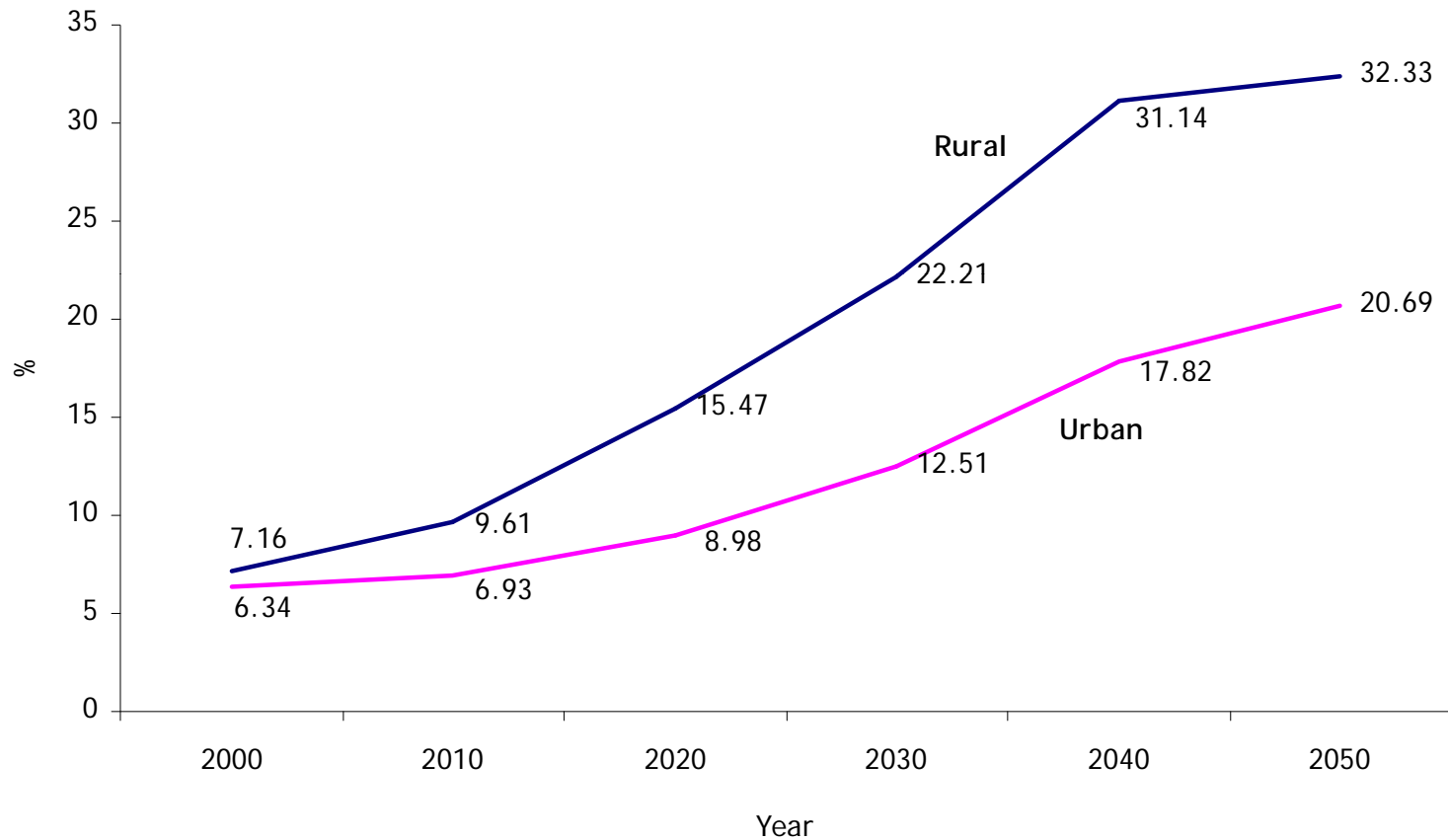


Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision and World Urbanization Prospects: The 2005 Revision, <http://esa.un.org/unpp>, Monday, January 26, 2009; 3:31:49 PM; Angus Maddison, "Per Capita GDP PPP (in 1990 Geary-Khamis dollars)," *Historical Statistics for the World Economy: 1-2006 AD*, table 3, <http://www.ggd.net/maddison/> (accessed January 27, 2009).

Taiwan Population: *Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of China (Taiwan)*, "Table 10. Age-specific distribution of population, dependency ratio, index of aging and median age", available at <http://eng.dqbas.gov.tw/lp.asp?CtNode=2351&CtUnit=1072&BaseDSD=36>.

Retirement Villages?

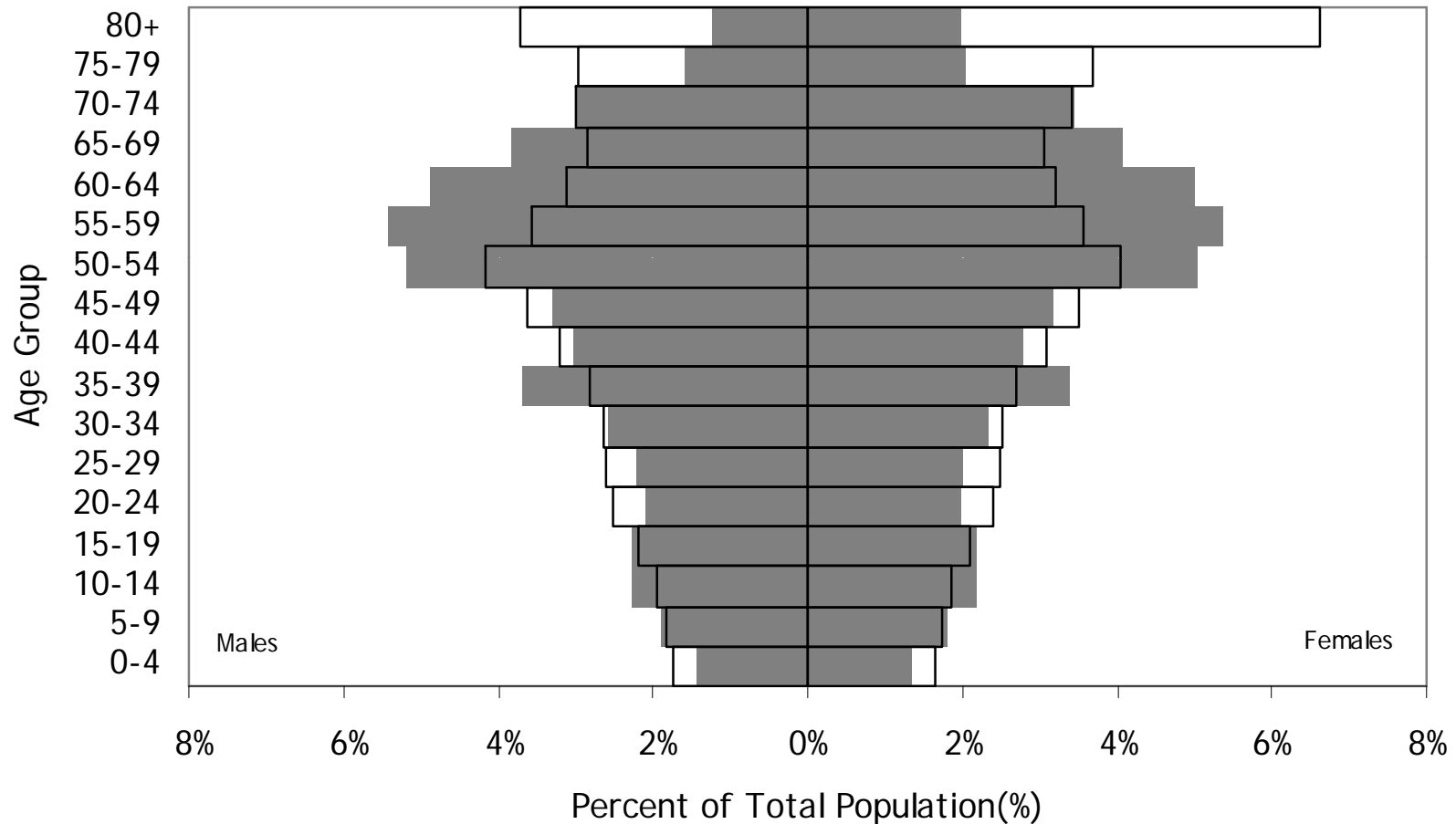
Elderly aged 65+ among rural and urban total population
(%, projected, medium fertility and mortality)



Source: Zeng Yi, Zhenglian Wang, Jiang Leiwen, and Danan Gu, "Projection of Family Households and Elderly Living Arrangement in the Context of Rapid Population Aging in China," *GENUS* (2008).

The Provinces Don't Look So Great, Either

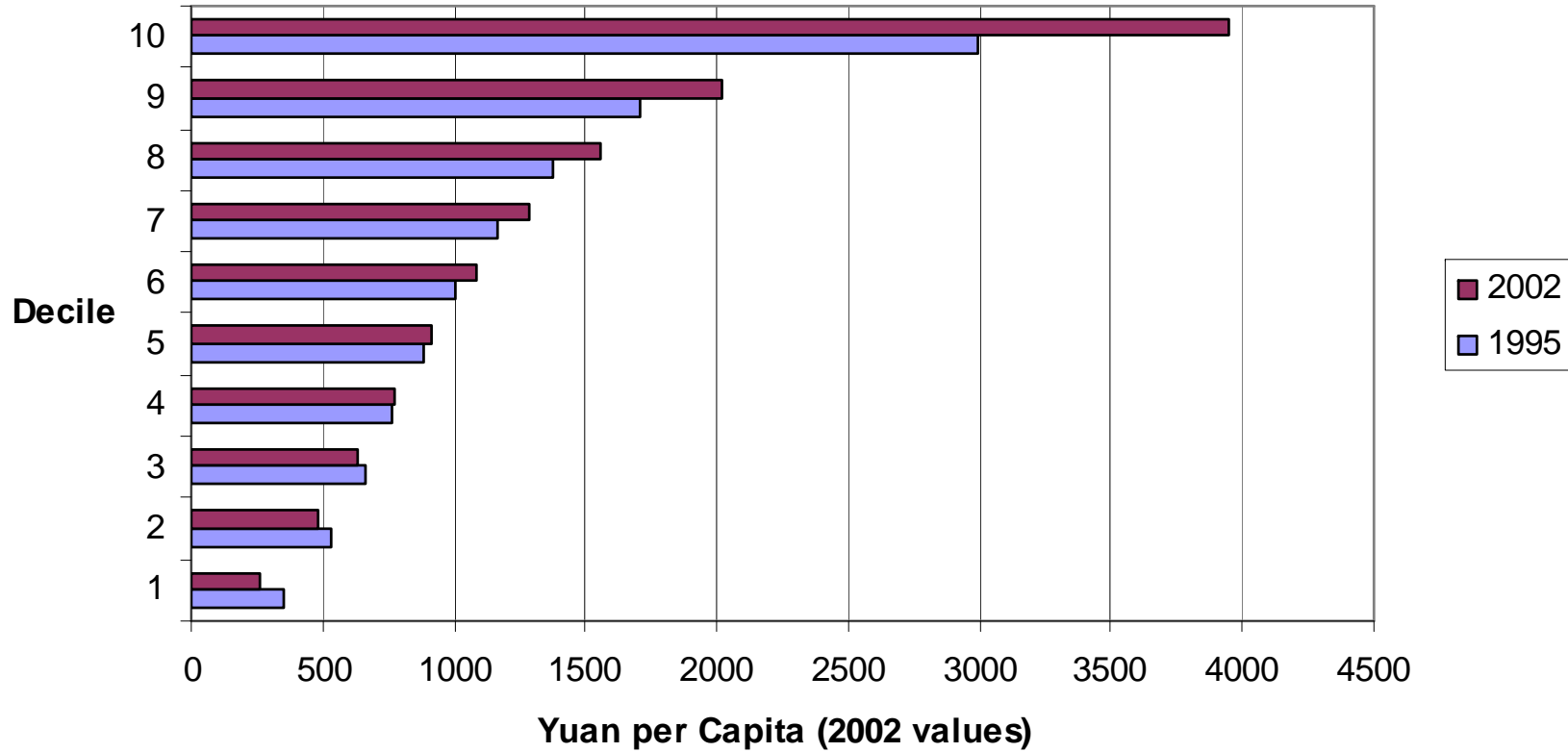
Projected Population Structure, 2025:
Japan (shaded) vs. Heilongjiang Province, China



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base, <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/ipc/idbagg> (accessed July 31, 2008), And U.S. Census Bureau, International Programs Center, unpublished projections.

Calling Dr Marx...Calling Dr. Marx...

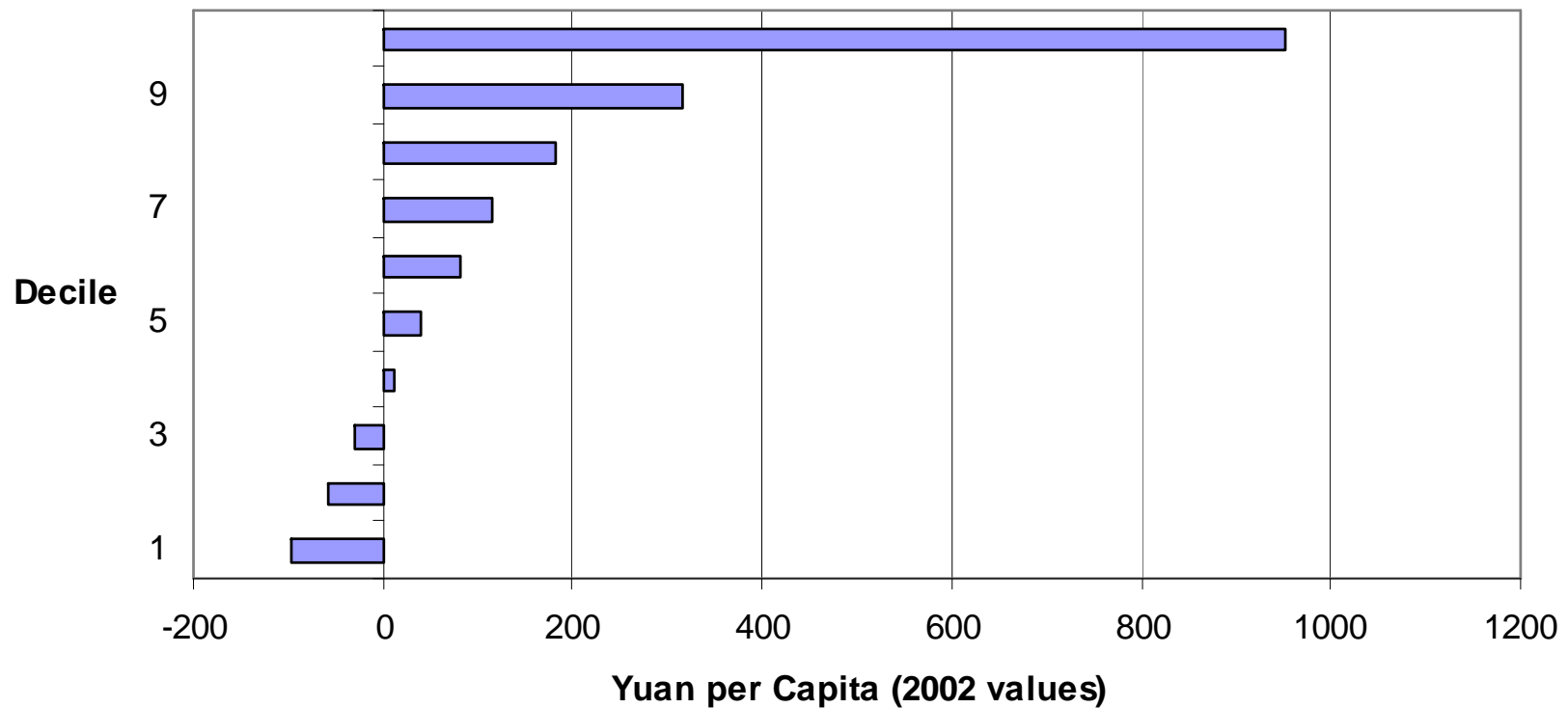
**Wealth By Deciles, 1995 vs. 2002:
China, Rural Households, (2002 constant Yuan per capita)**



Source: Shi Li and Renwei Zhao, "Changes in the Distribution of Wealth in China, 1995-2002, UNU-WIDER, January 2007

Didn't Someone Say "It is Glorious To Get Rich"?

**Absolute Changes in Wealth by Decile, 2002 vs. 1995:
Rural Households, China, (2002 constant Yuan per Capita)**



Source: Shi Li and Renwei Zhao, "Changes in the Distribution of Wealth in China, 1995-2002, UNU-WIDER, January 2007

Bye-Bye, Confucius

Percentage of Age-60 Chinese Women with No Born Sons by Year of Her 60th Birthday: Illustrative Calculations



Notes: Calculations are illustrative, based upon simplifying assumptions: 1. Reported parity distributions in 1990 census are accurate; 2. SRB as in previous graphic; 3. SRB not parity-specific; 4. Childbearing completed by age 35 for the 2025 cohort of 60-year old women; 5) Posits the following distribution of childbearing for the 2025 cohort of 60-year-old women: no children, 3%; one child, 25%; two children, 65%; three or more children, 7%.

Sources: Derived from Feeney et. al. 1993, op cit; China National Bureau of Statistics 2002, op cit.

2500 Years Of Family Tradition Comes To An End

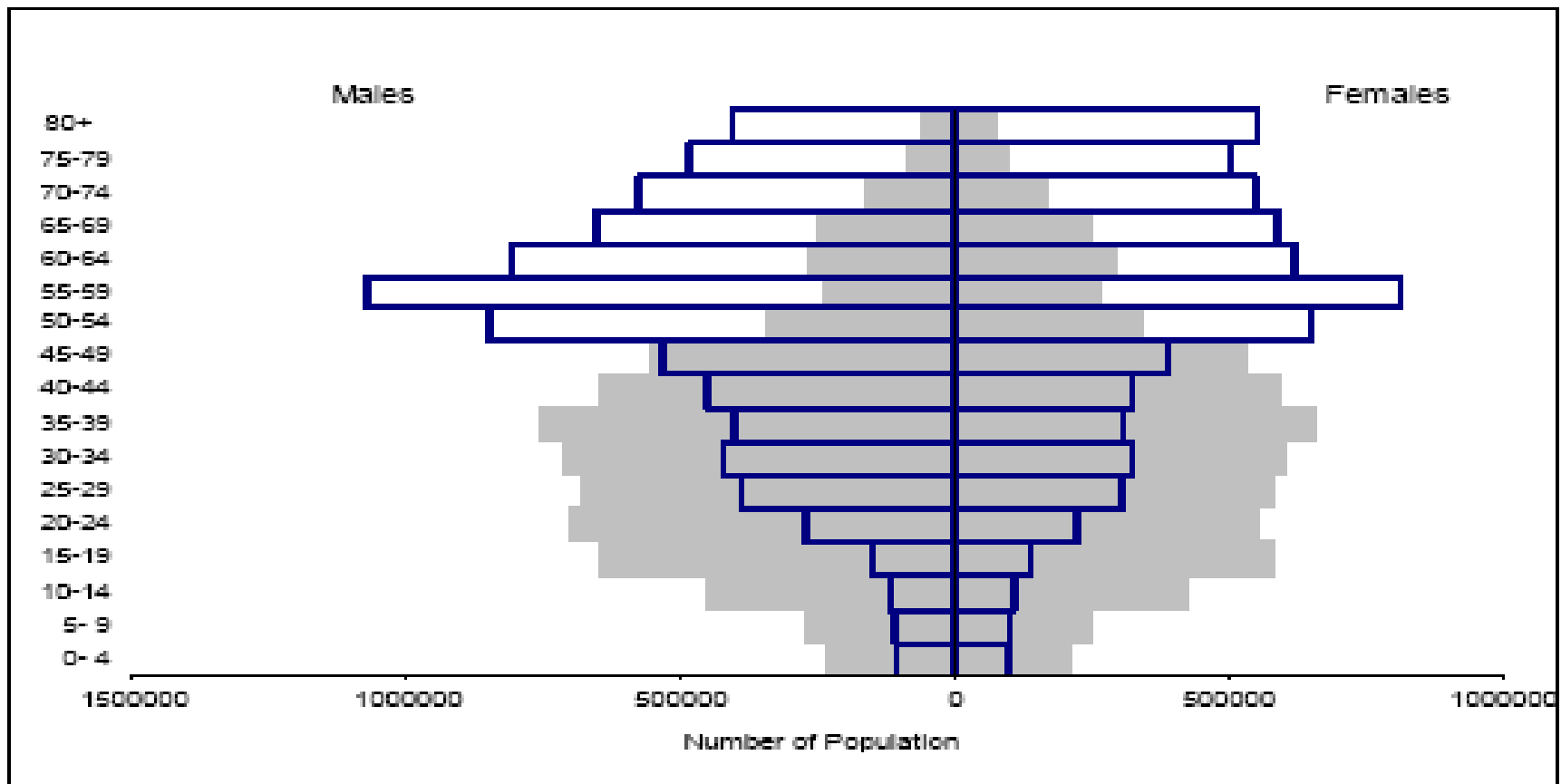
Proportion of single children in China, 2011-2030:
Adult Population, ages 25-49 years (% , projected)

Year	Urban	Rural
2011	24.31	2.73
2015	32.43	4.90
2020	42.50	7.92
2025	53.48	12.25
2030	58.45	16.36

Source: Guo Zhigang, Liu Jintang, Song Jian, "Birth policy and family structure in the future," *Chinese Journal of Population Science* 2002(1): 1-11.

How Do You Say “Necropolis” in Chinese?

Recent (2000) vs. Projected (2040) Population Structure of Beijing



Source: Baochang Gu, “Low Fertility in China: Trends, Policy, and Impact” (Presentation paper, Seminar on Fertility Transition in Asia: Opportunities and Challenges, United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, December 18-20, 2006), http://www.unescap.org/esid/psis/meetings/FertilityTransition/Gu-China%20_SFTA10.pdf (accessed April 17, 2008).