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Autore	Bloom David E
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Nota di contenuto	PREFACE; CONTENTS; FIGURES; TABLES; SUMMARY; ACKNOWLEDGMENTS; ACRONYMS; Chapter One THE DEBATE OVER THE EFFECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH ON ECONOMIC GROWTH; THE "PESSIMISTIC" THEORY: POPULATION GROWTH RESTRICTS ECONOMIC GROWTH; THE "OPTIMISTIC" THEORY: POPULATION GROWTH CAN FUEL ECONOMIC GROWTH; THE "NEUTRALIST" THEORY: POPULATION GROWTH HAS NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH; THE IMPORTANCE OF AGE STRUCTURE; Chapter Two DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITIONS AND THE "DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND"; THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION: DECLINING MORTALITY AND FERTILITY; The Demographic "Dividend" Chapter Three CASE STUDIES OF POPULATION CHANGE AND ECONOMIC

GROWTH EAST ASIA; JAPAN; NORTH AMERICA, WESTERN EUROPE, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND; SOUTH CENTRAL AND SOUTHEAST ASIA; LATIN AMERICA; MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA; SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA; EASTERN EUROPE AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION; Chapter Four THE IMPORTANCE OF THE POLICY ENVIRONMENT; HEALTH EQUALS WEALTH; POPULATION POLICY AND THE FAMILY; POLICIES FOR LABOR AND FINANCIAL MARKETS, AND HUMAN CAPITAL; POLICIES FOR THE FUTURE: PLANNING FOR AN OLDER POPULATION; Chapter Five CONCLUSIONS; REFERENCES; ADDITIONAL READING; INDEX ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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#### Sommario/riassunto

There is a long-standing debate on how population growth affects national economies. The authors, led by Harvard economist David Bloom, examine the history of this debate and synthesize current research on the topic. They conclude that population age structure, more than size or growth per se, affects economic development, and that reducing high fertility can create opportunities for economic growth if the right kinds of educational, health, and labor-market policies are in place.

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