



Demographic Transition in Muslim Countries

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Take-home Messages ...

- **Muslims constitute around 23 % of the world Population, and their population is still growing**
- **Muslim high population growth has lead to young age structure and demographic dividend**
- **Major social and demographic change including educational advancement have been made in Muslim countries though there exists diversity**

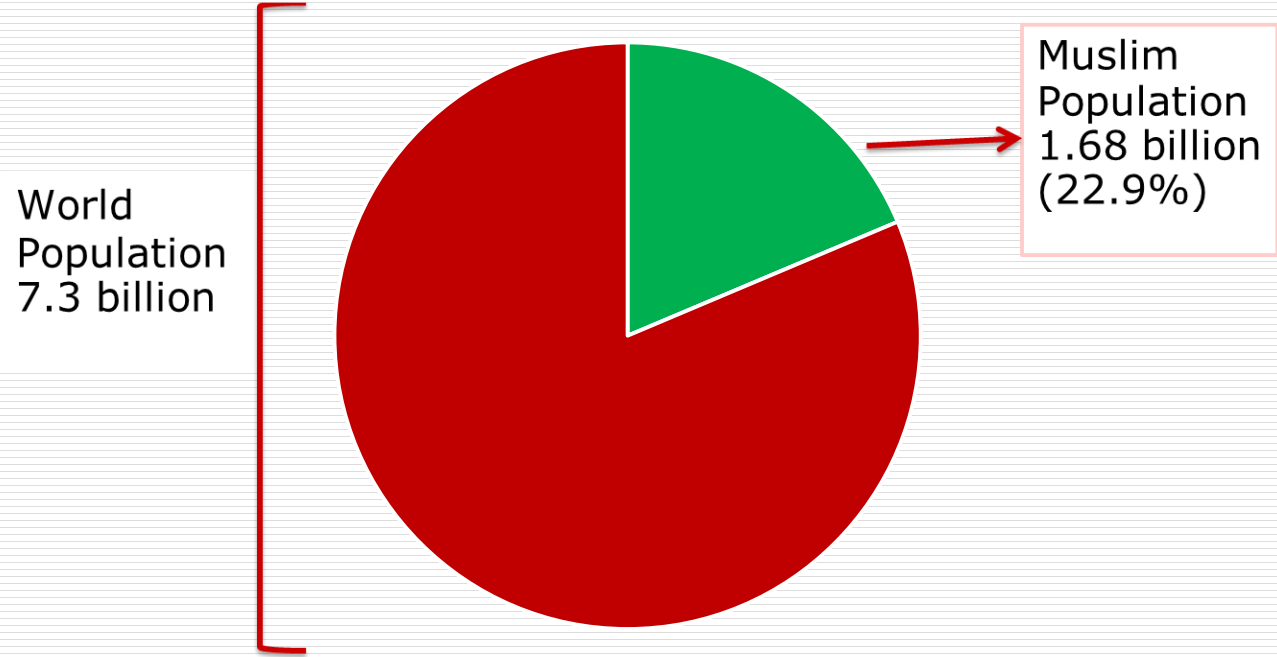
Take-home Messages

- Demographic dividend, despite being an exciting opportunity, is a profound challenge for these countries.**
- Investment in women's human capital (education and health) has important implications for maximizing the benefits of the dividend**

Outline

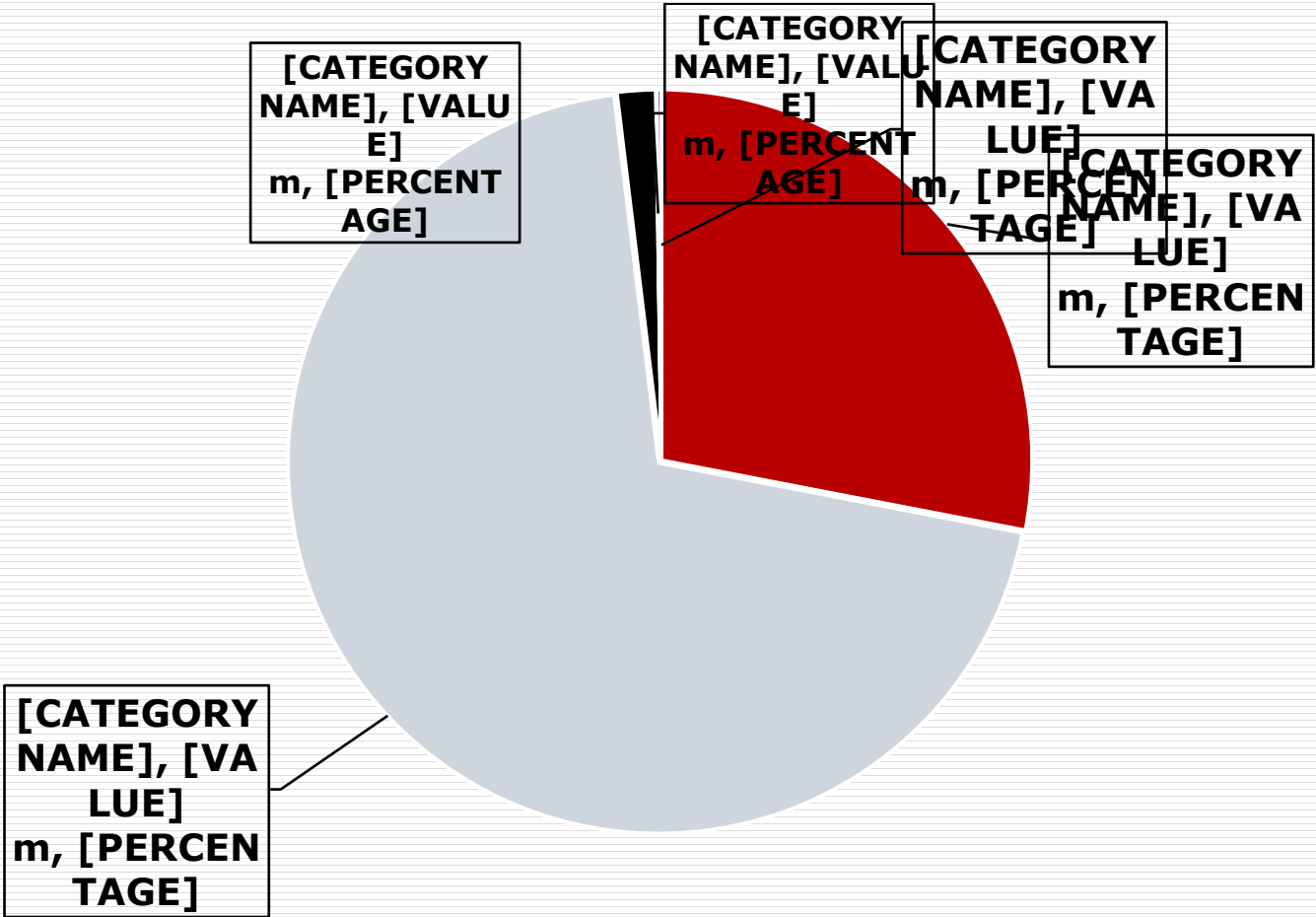
- **Take home messages**
- **Size and Distribution of Muslim Population**
- **Fertility and mortality transitions**
- **Social, economic and political changes**
- **Population composition and demographic dividend**
- **Conclusions: The way forward**

Size of Muslim Population in the World, 2015



Sources: United Nations (2015), *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

Regional Distribution of Muslims, 2015



Countries with the Largest Number of Muslims, 2015

Country	Number of Muslims (million)	Percentage of Population that is Muslim	Percentage of World Muslim Population
Indonesia	227.12	88.2	13.49
Pakistan	181.91	96.3	10.80
India	175.68	13.4	10.43
Bangladesh	144.17	89.6	8.56
Nigeria	91.83	50.4	5.45
Egypt	86.56	94.6	5.14
Iran	78.63	99.4	4.67
Turkey	77.03	98	4.57
Algeria	38.81	98	2.30
Iraq	36.04	99	2.14
Morocco	33.96	99	2.02
Ethiopia	33.66	33.9	2.00
Afghanistan	32.40	99.7	1.92
Saudi Arabia	30.56	97	1.81
Uzbekistan	28.70	96.3	1.70
Yemen	26.56	99.1	1.58
China	22.02	1.6	1.31
Niger	19.52	98.6	1.16
Malaysia	18.30	60.4	1.09
Syria	17.06	92.2	1.01

67.56
%

15.60
%

Muslims are defined as a unique *Ummah* nation

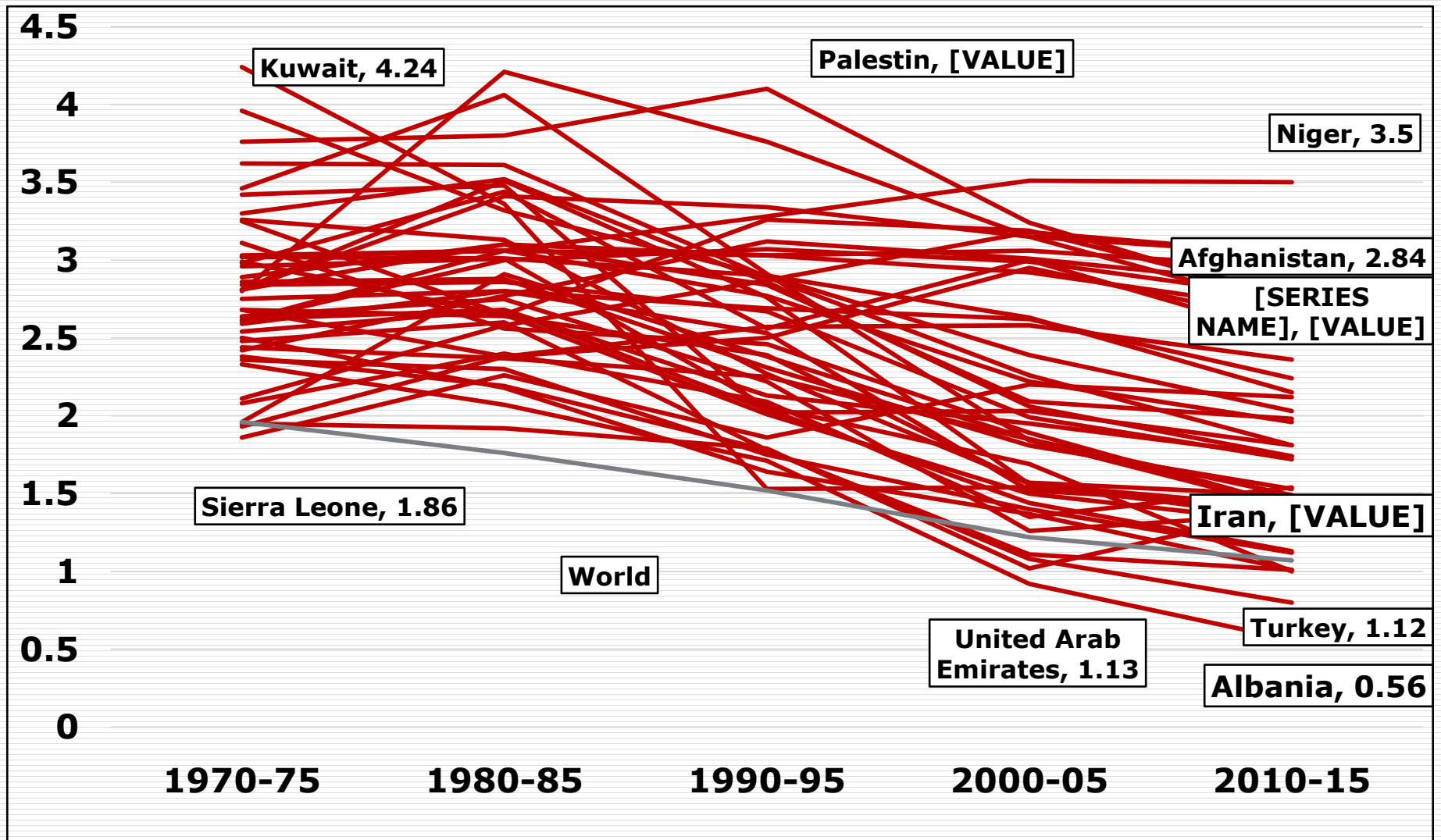


Muslim Populations: Unity in Diversity

- Muslims are defined as a unique *ummah* nation,
- but are in some ways very heterogeneous:
 - Shia and Sunni sects
 - Speak dozens of languages, &
 - Exhibit many cultures through the 300 or so ethnic groups to which they belong
- It is important to note the diversity of those groups, and the rich tapestry of cultures which have embraced Islam.

Population Dynamics in Muslim countries

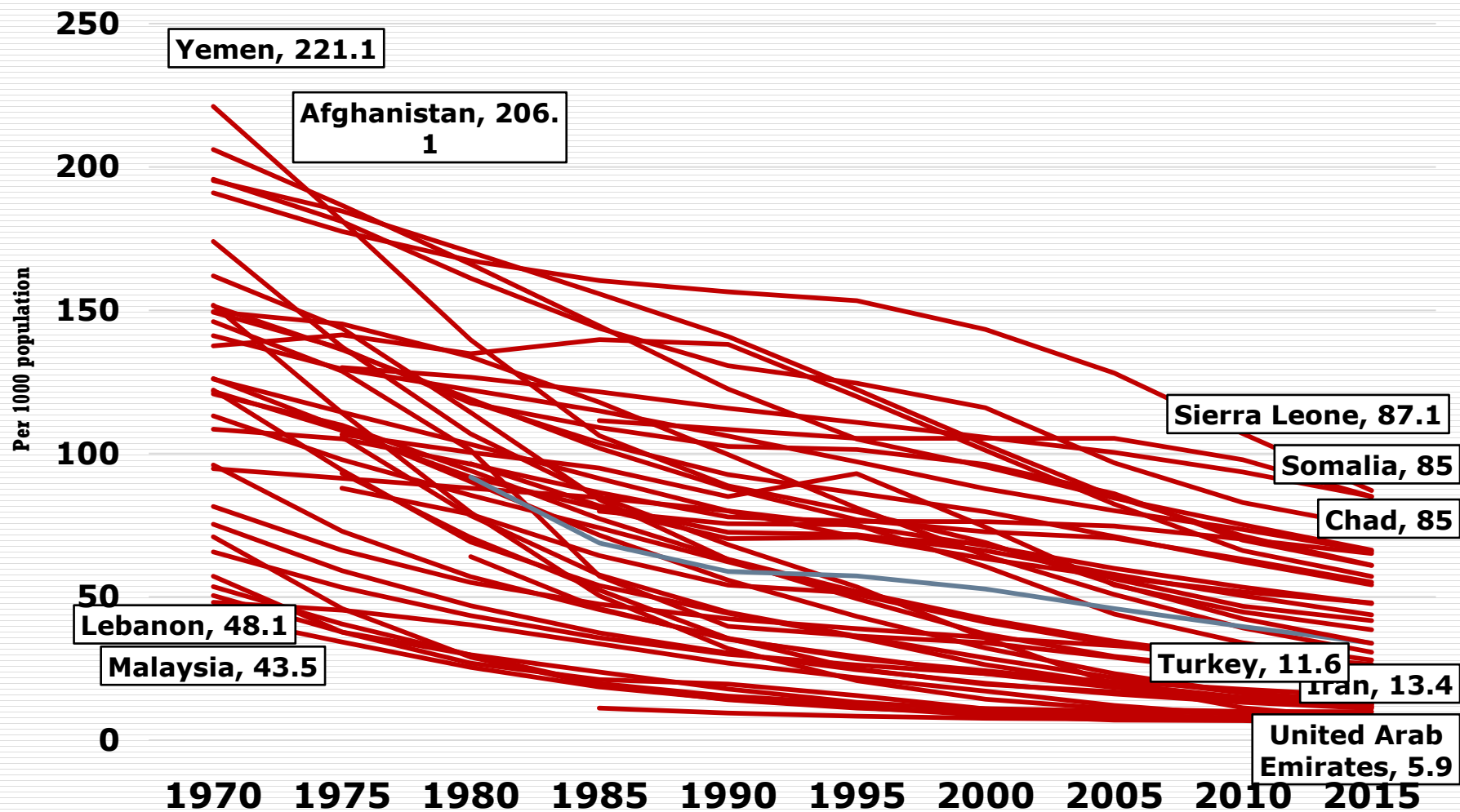
Rate of Natural Increase (%) in Muslim-majority countries, 1970-75 to 2010-2015



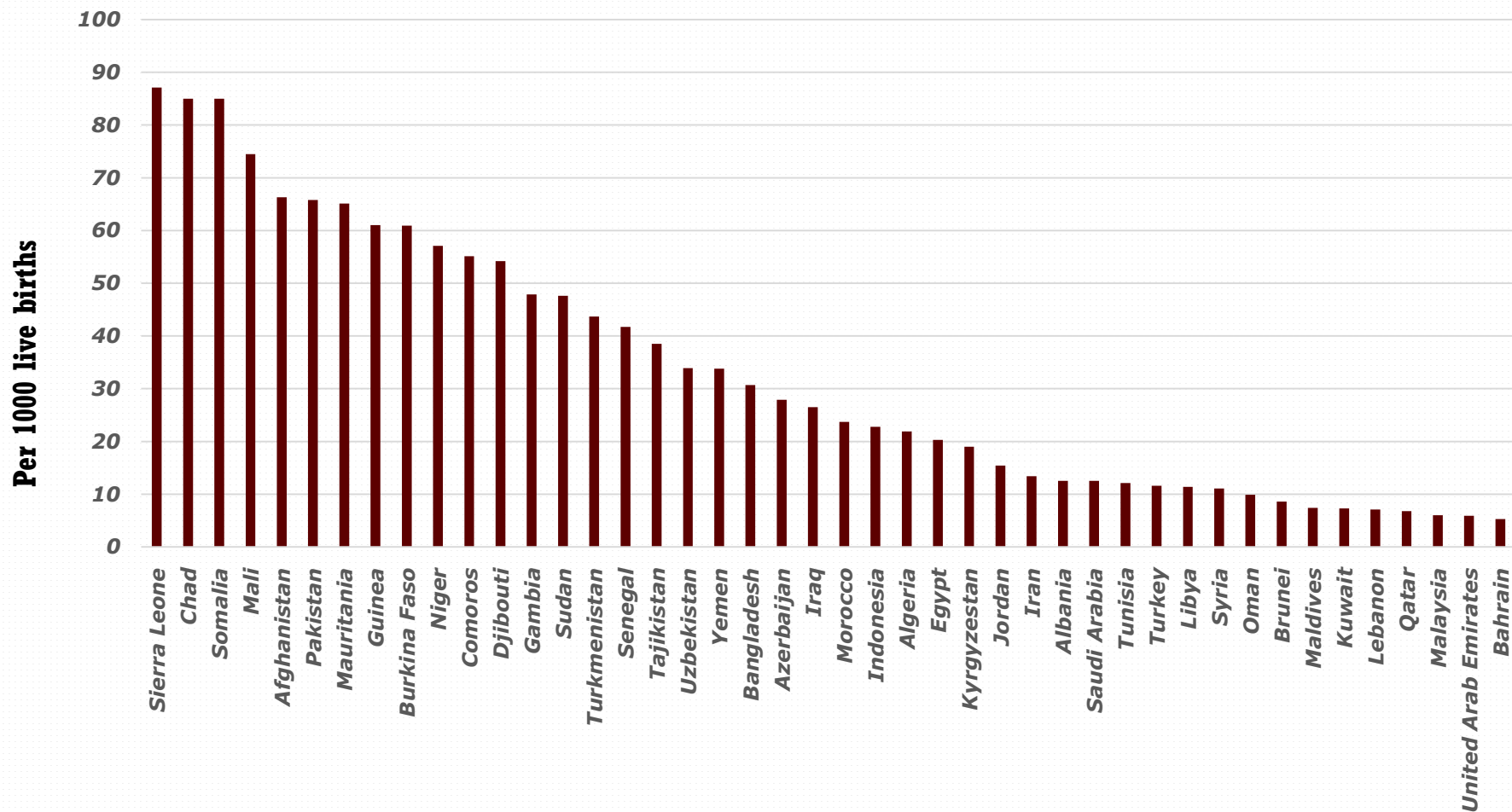
Why Population growth is high in Muslim-majority countries?

- **Mortality has declined rapidly**
- **Fertility has been high until recently, assumed to be due to Islam's religious teachings but it is not confirmed**
- **The impact of population momentum has also influenced population growth rate in some countries**

IMR trends in Muslim-majority countries 1970-2015

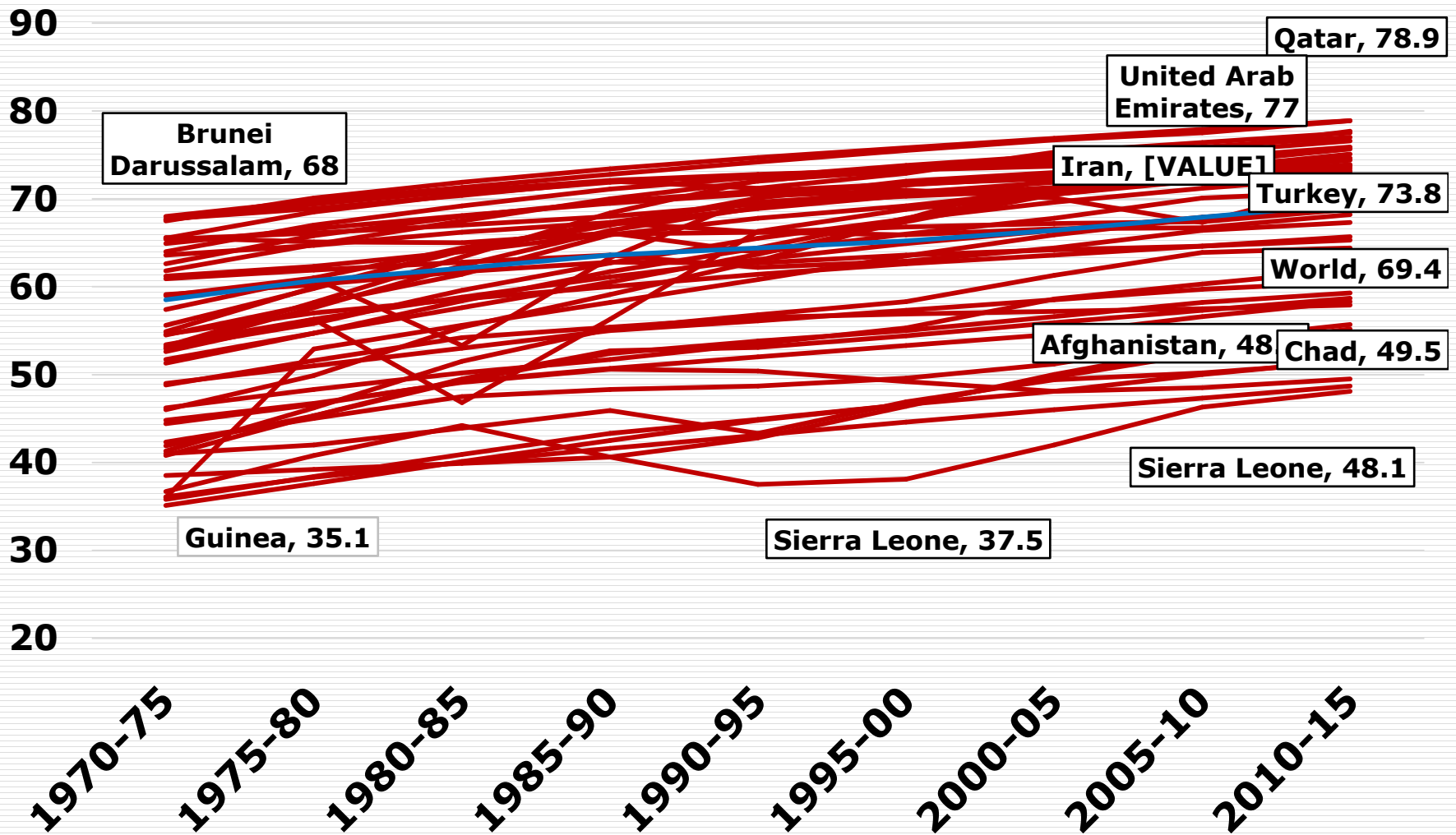


Infant Mortality Rate in Muslim-majority countries 2015

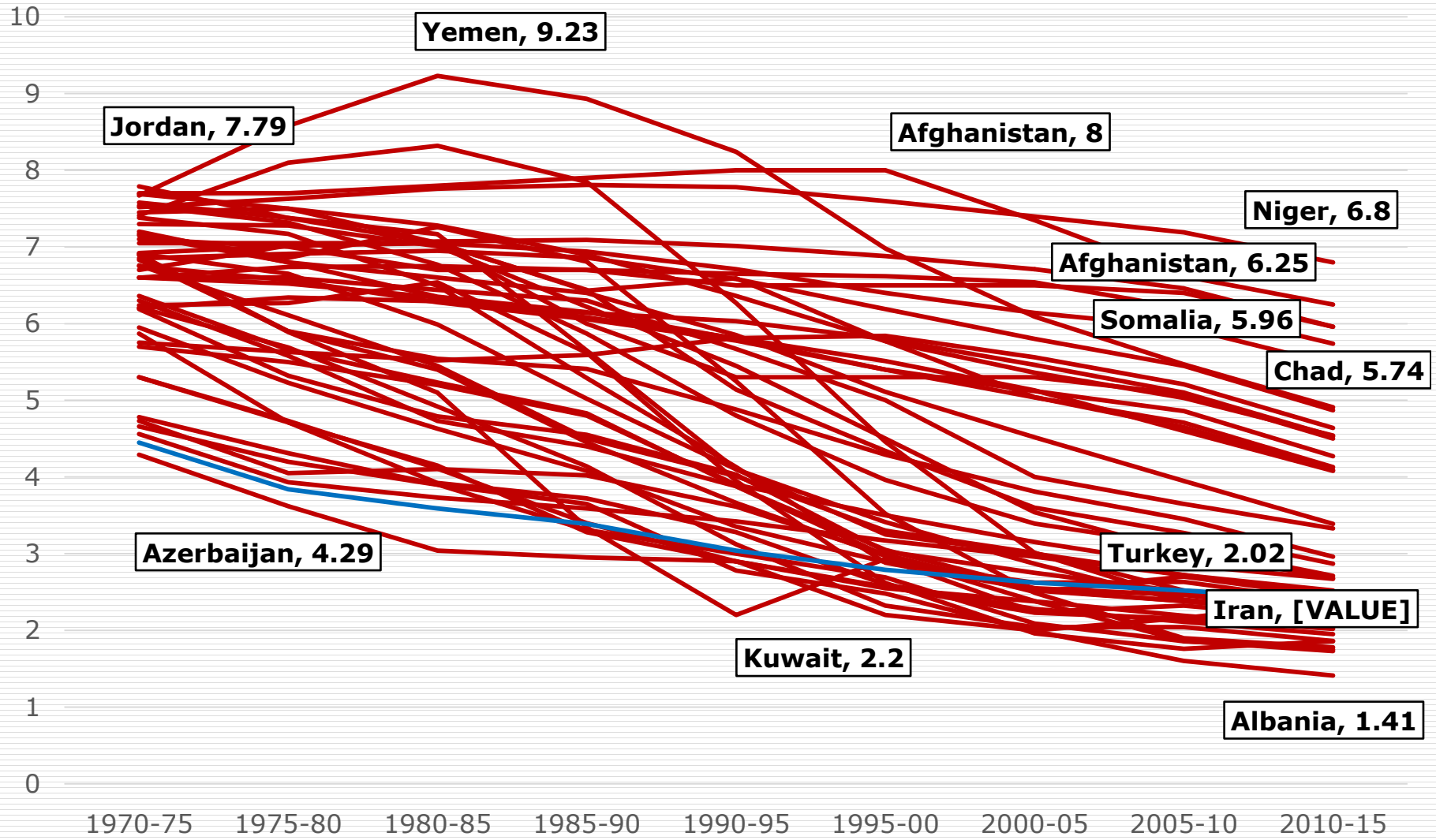


Source: The World Bank, <http://data.worldbank.org/>, 2016

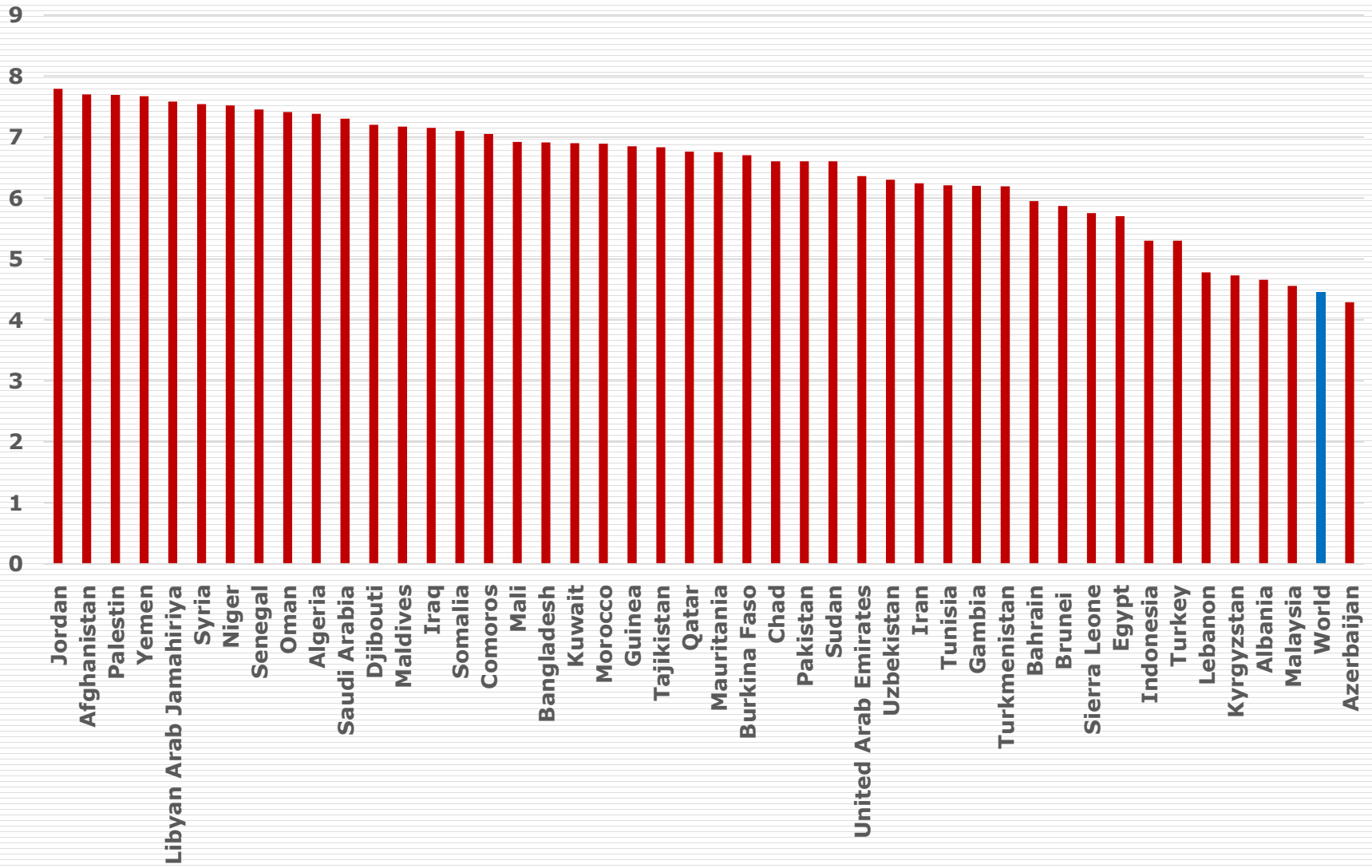
e0 Trends in Muslim-majority countries, 1970-2015



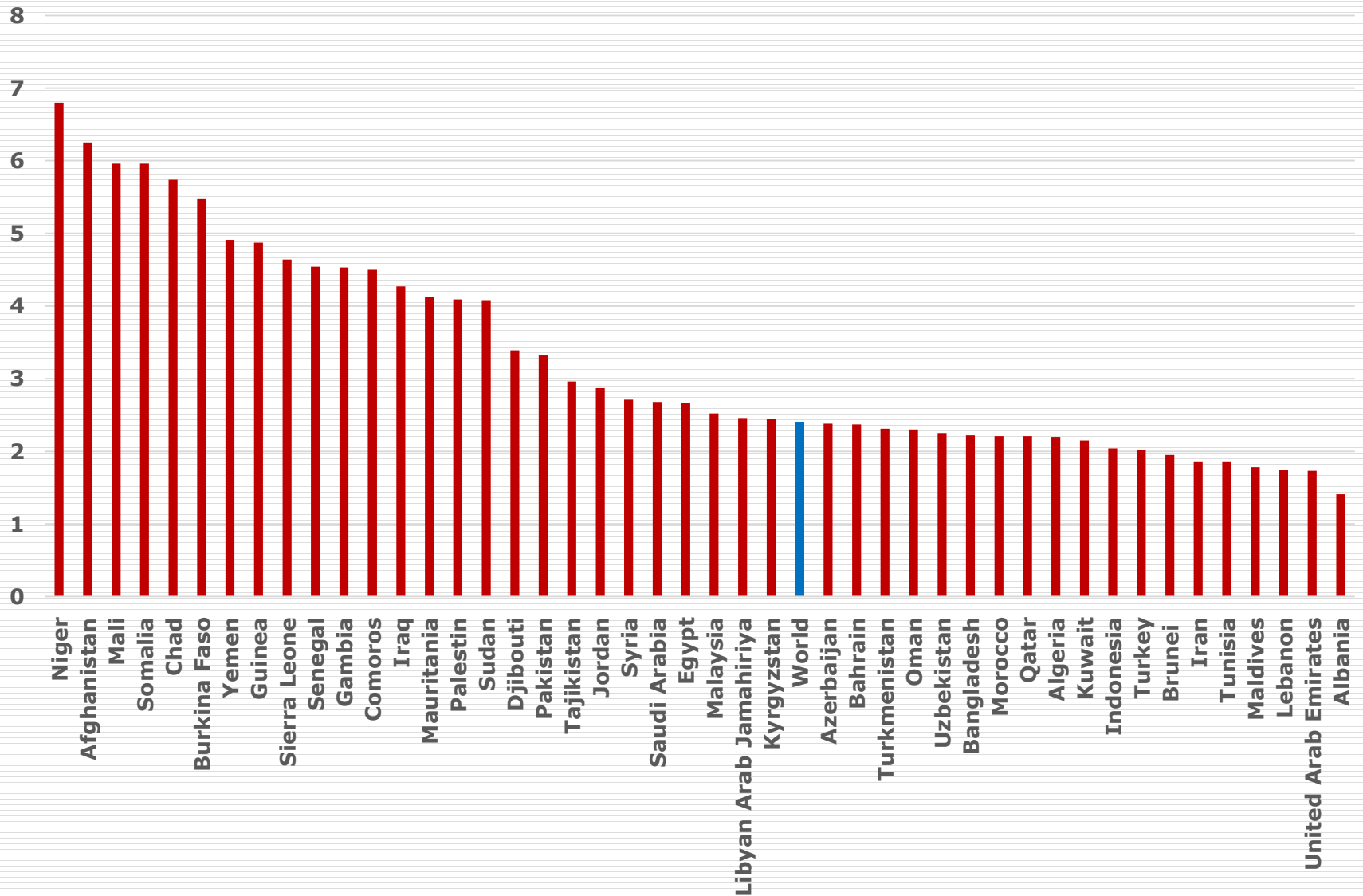
TFR Trends in Muslim-majority countries, 1970-2015



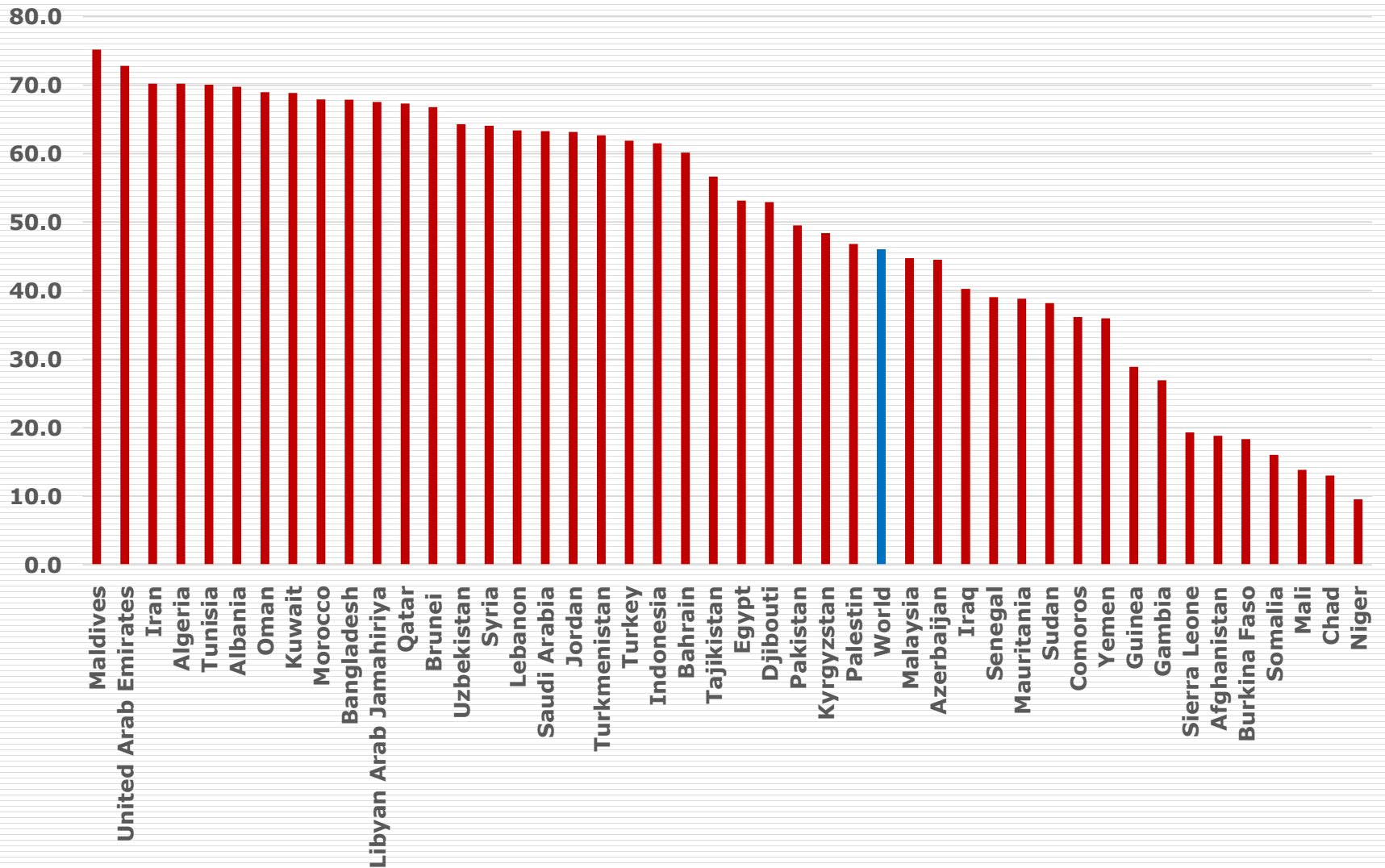
Total Fertility Rate For Muslim-majority Countries 1970-75



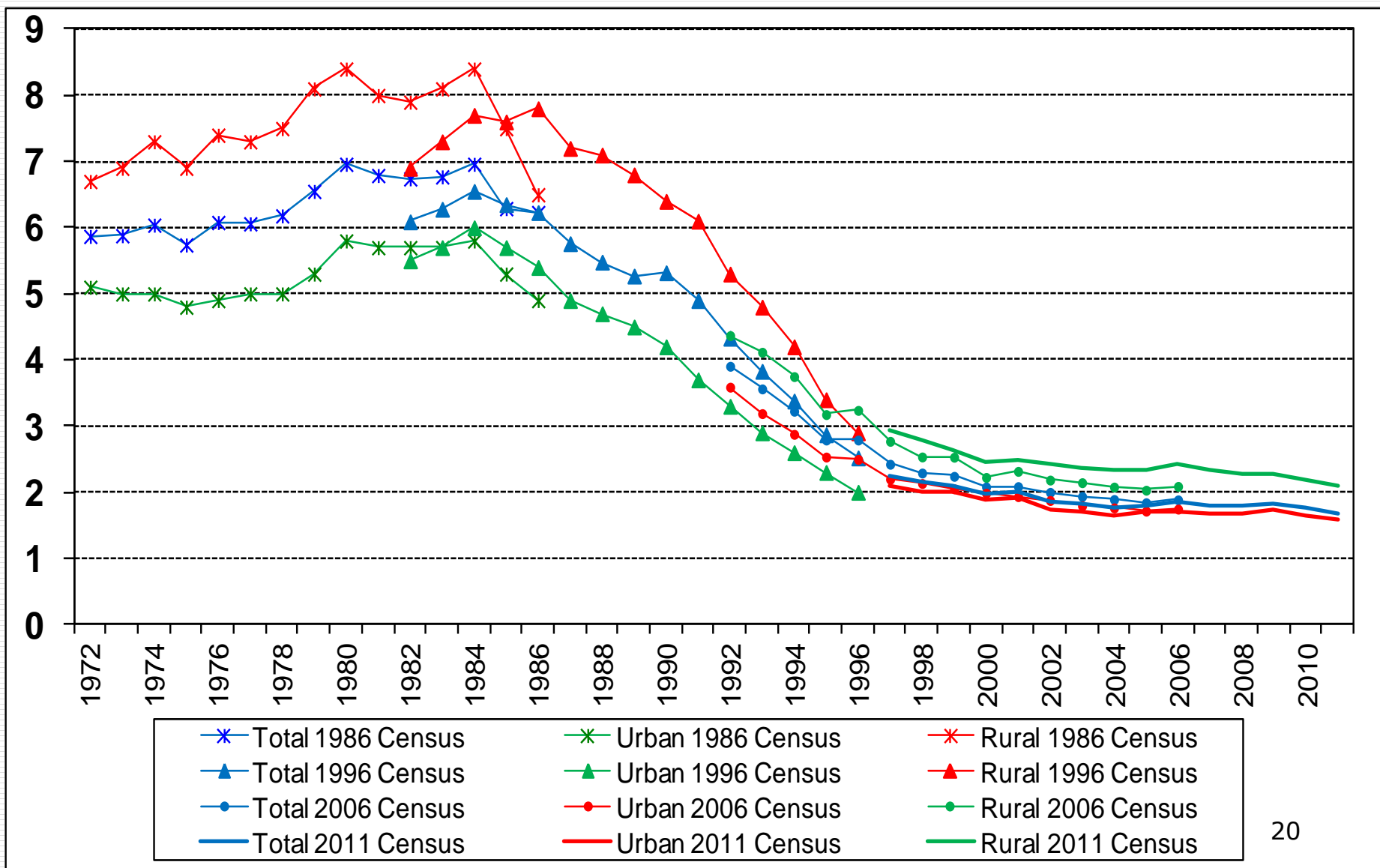
Total Fertility Rate For Muslim-majority Countries 2010-15



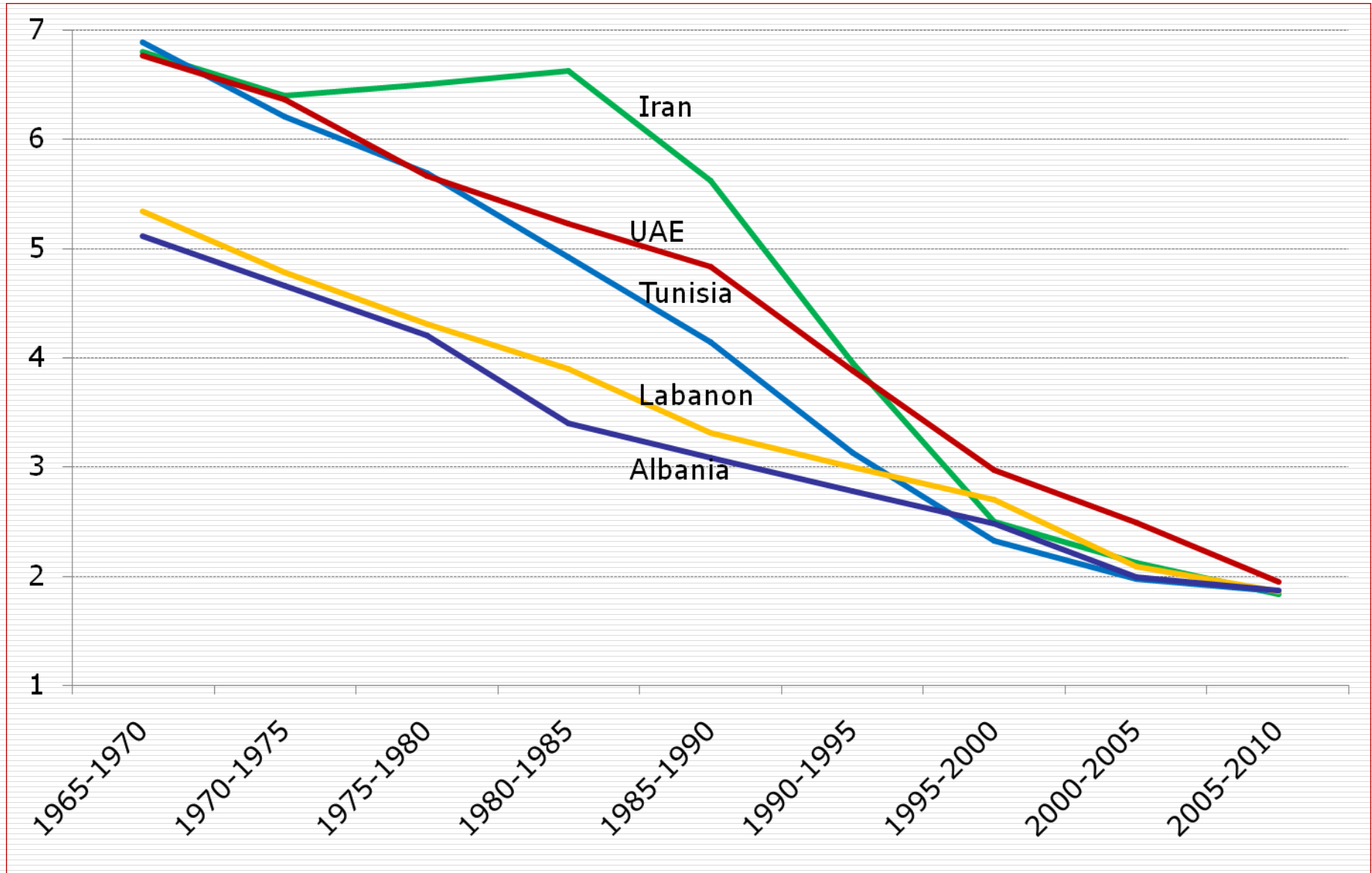
Decrease of Total Fertility Rate (%) in Muslim-majority Countries 1970-2015



Total Fertility Rates – Iran, 1972-2011

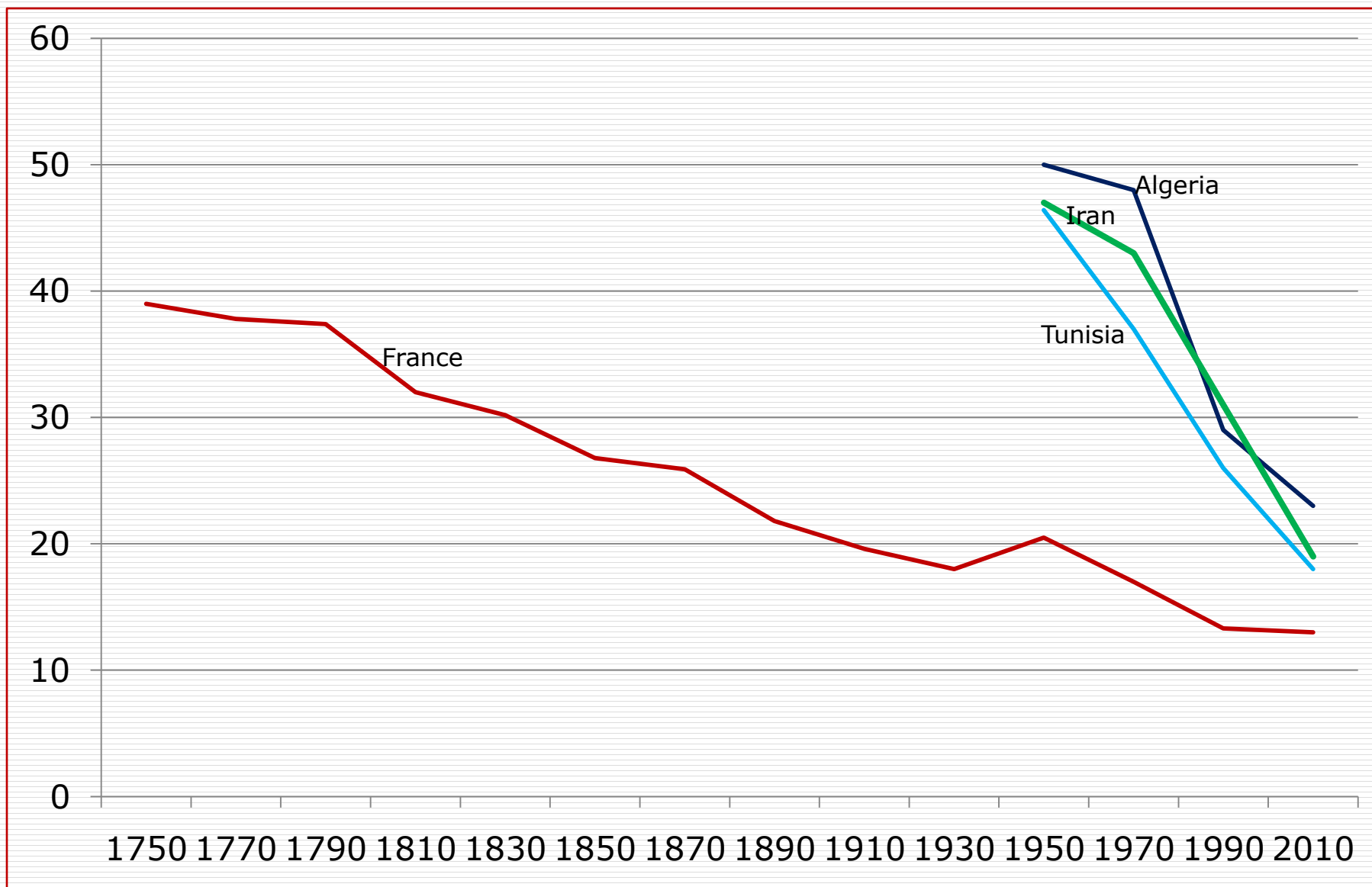


Below-replacement fertility in Islamic Countries, 1965-2010



Source: Based on UN, World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, <http://esa.un.org/unpp>

Fertility Transition (CBR) in France, Iran, Algeria and Tunisia



Source: Based on Donald Rowland, PRB 2010 and World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision

Pace of demographic, social changes and reactions in Europe and Muslim countries

Countries	Demographic transition	Social change	Reaction
Developed countries and Europe	Slow	Slow	Gradual adaptation
Developing and Muslim countries	Fast	Fast	Anxiety and conflict

Reversal of anti-natalist policies in Iran and Turkey

□ Iran

- Debate by the Parliament since 2011
- The 2014 decree by the Supreme Leader on the new pronatalist policy. The statement is comprehensive and is being translated into the sixth Five Year Development Plan

□ Turkey

- Promoting higher fertility since 2012
- Economic incentives for families to have more children

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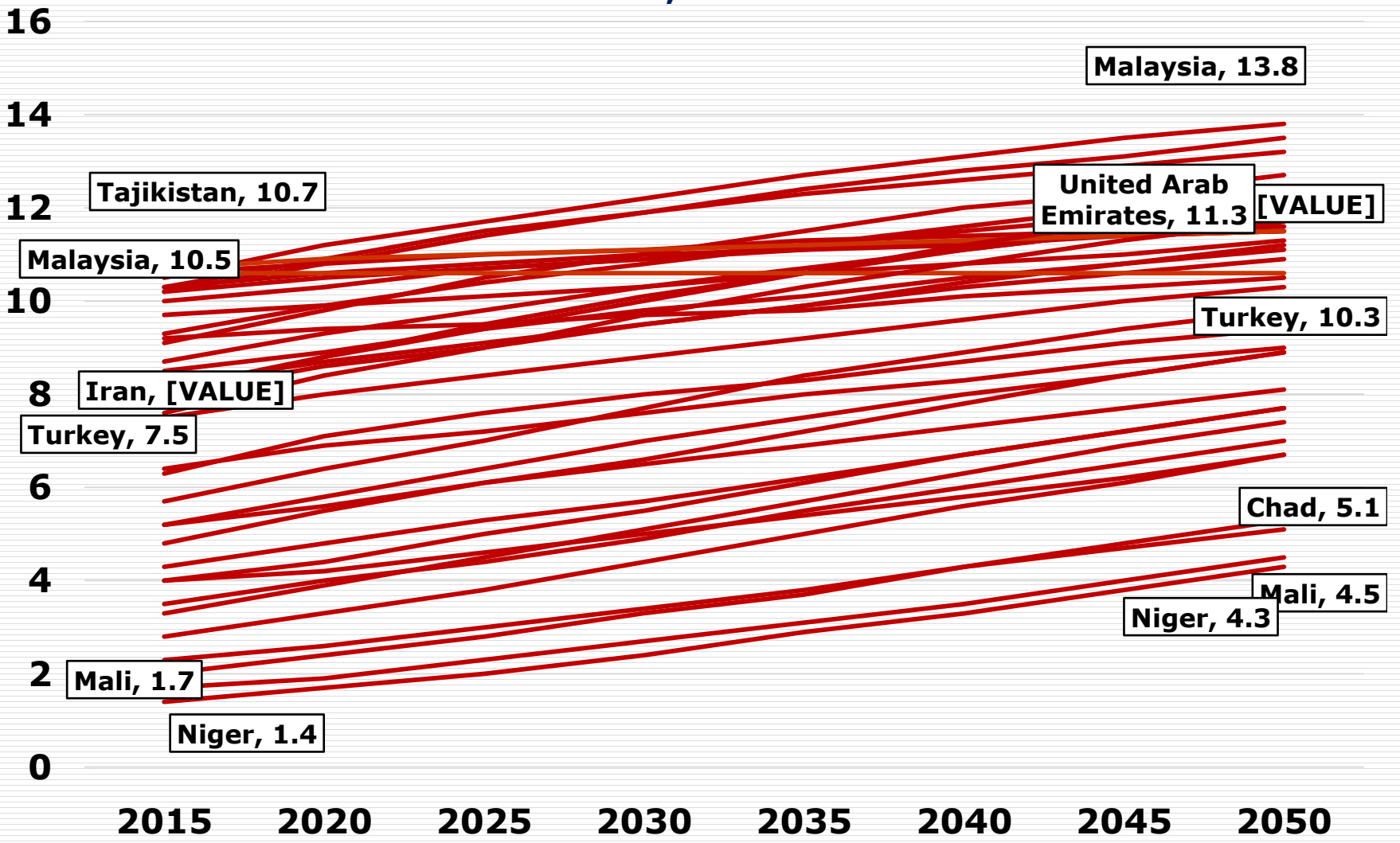
The Fertility Transition in Iran

Revolution and Reproduction

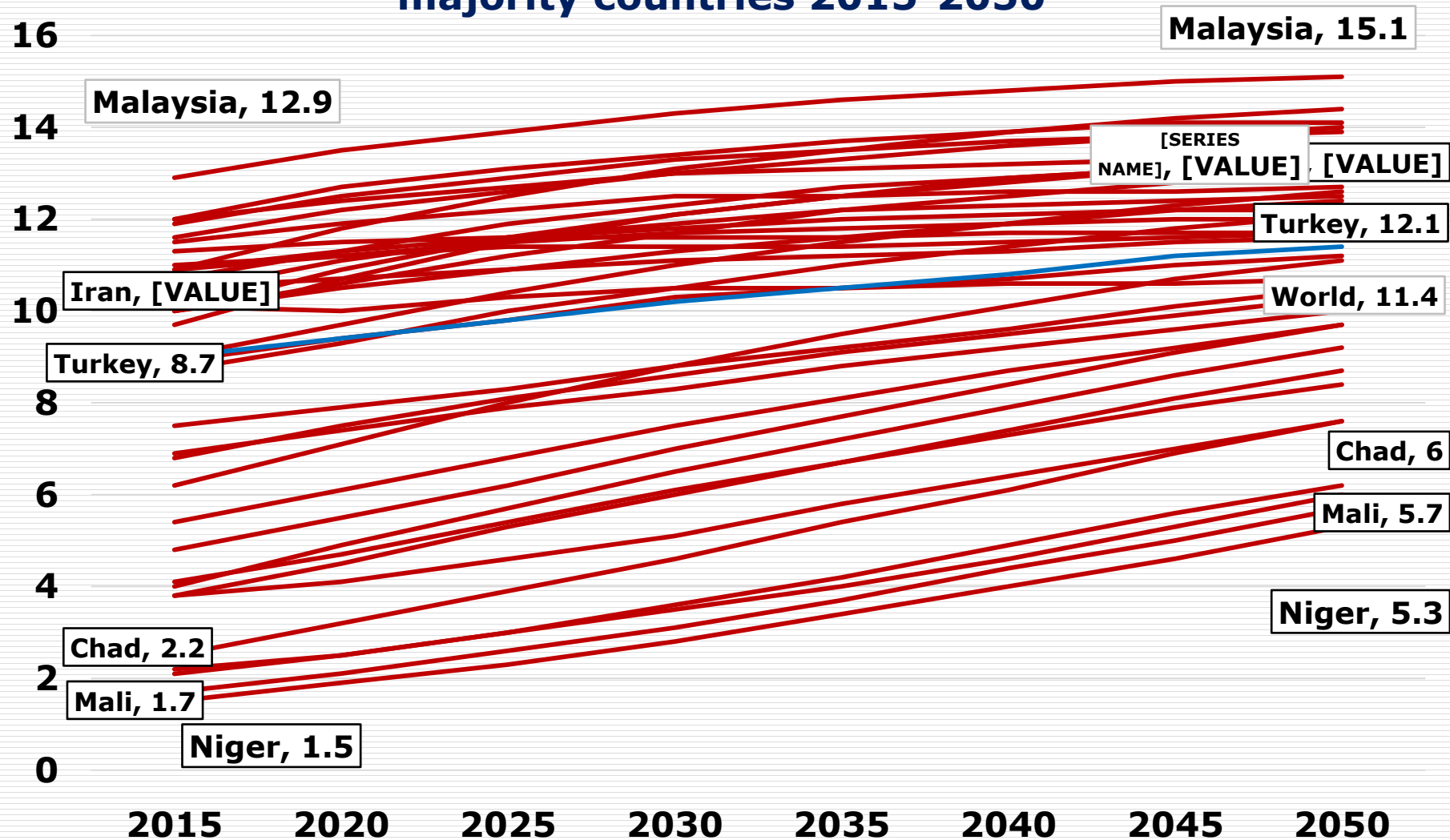
 Springer

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES

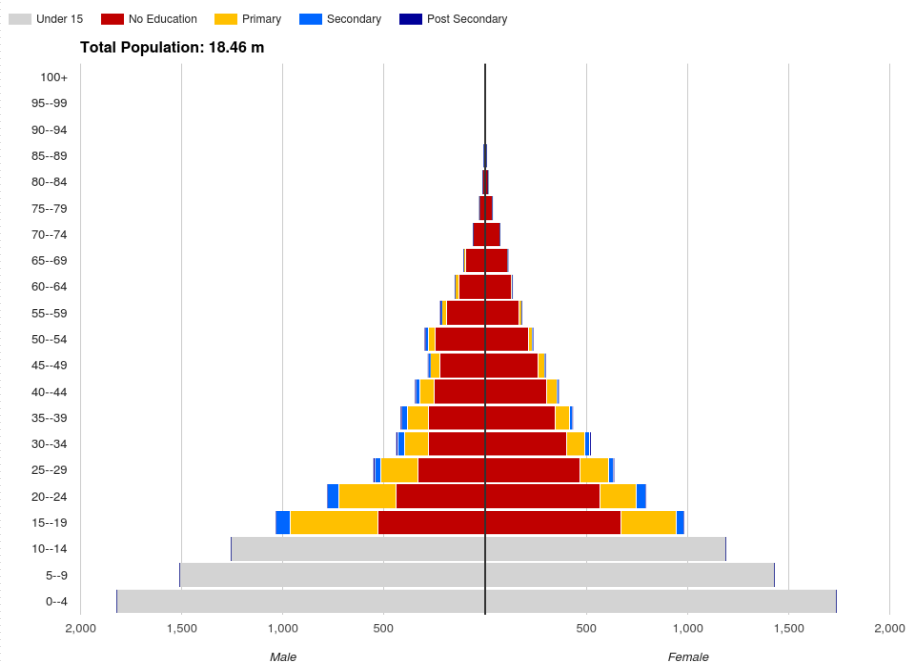
Trends of Mean Years of Schooling for all ages in Muslim-majority countries, 2015-205



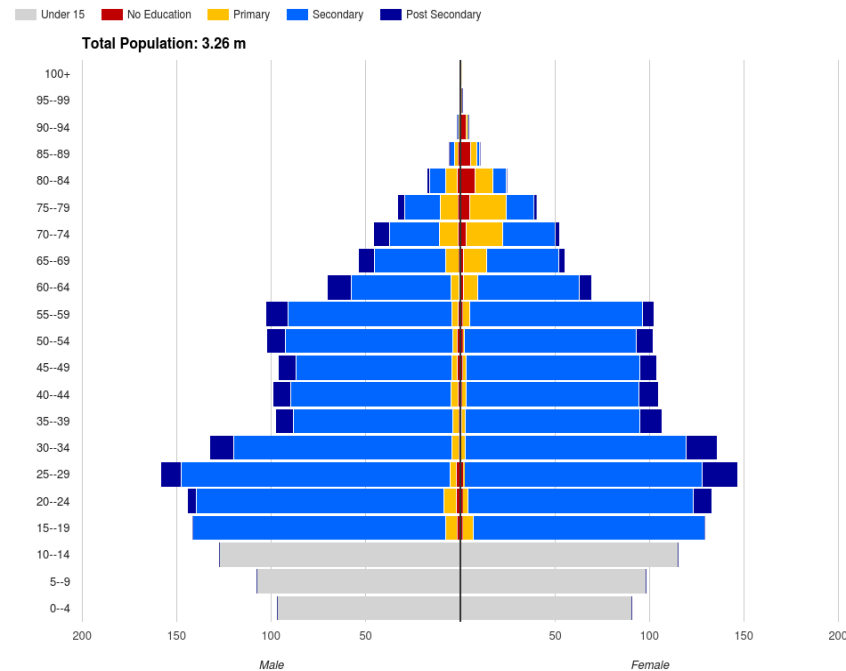
Trends of Mean Years of Schooling for females (20-39) in Muslim-majority countries 2015-2050



Age pyramid by Education for countries with highest and lowest TFR (2015)



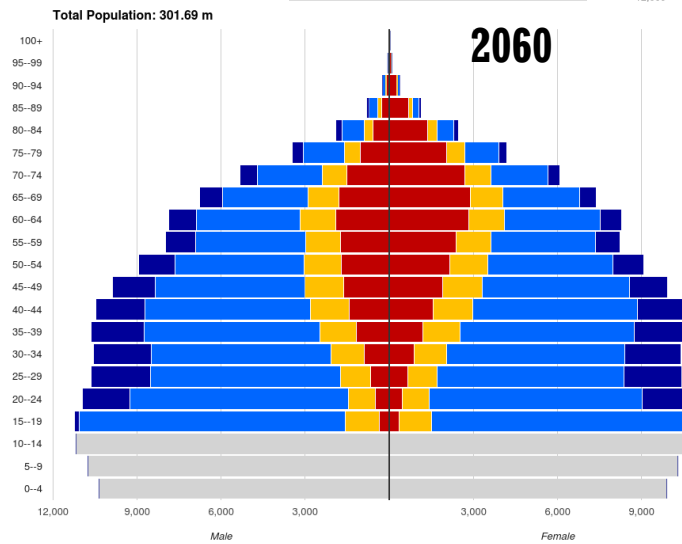
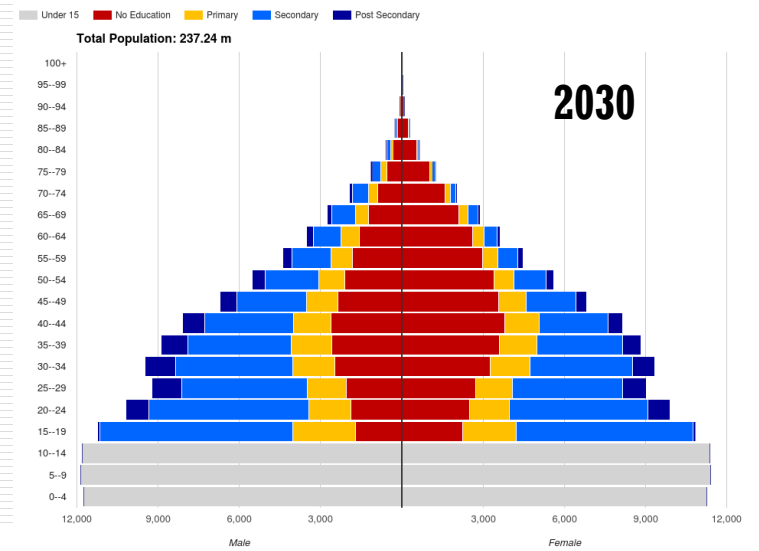
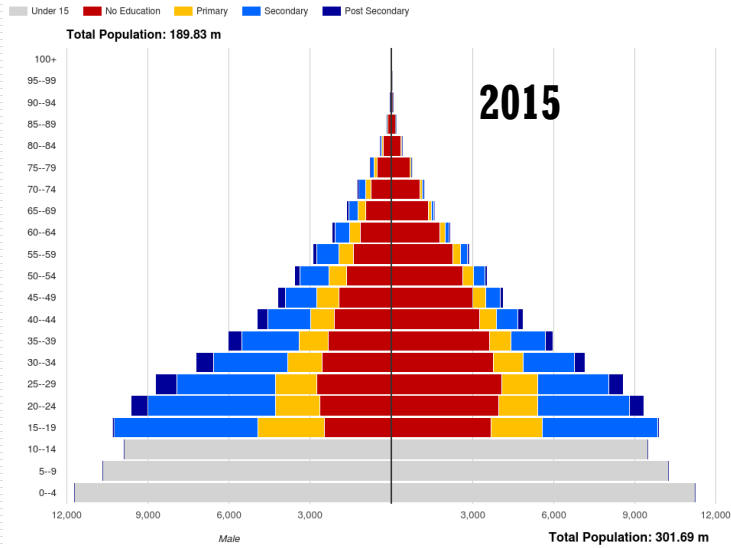
Niger (TFR 6.8)



Albania (TFR 1.4)

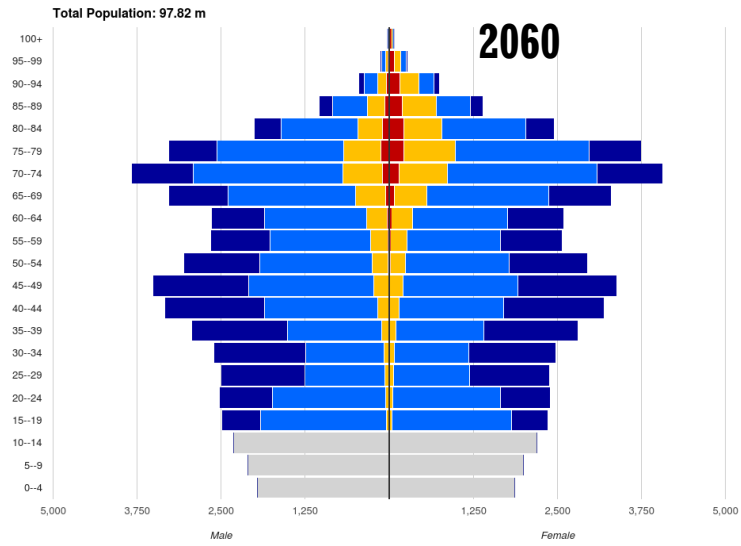
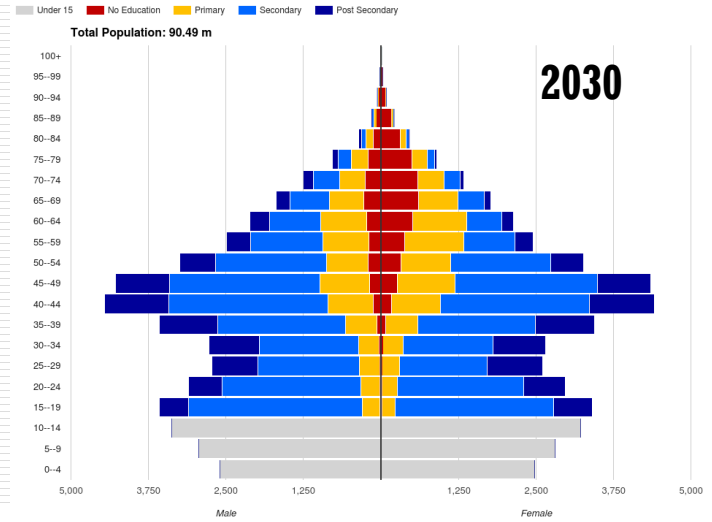
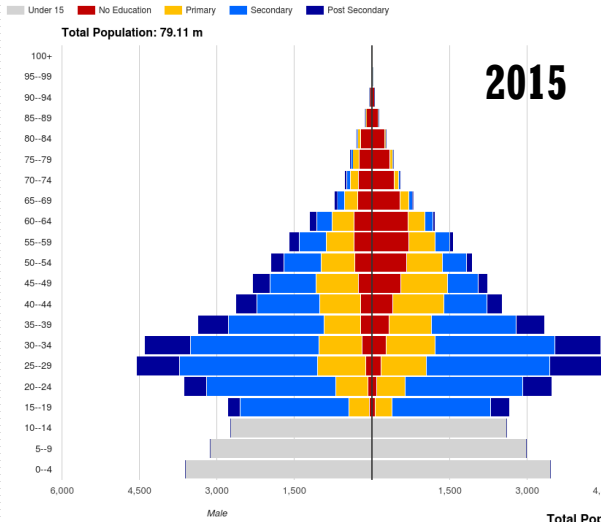
Source: Wittgenstein Center, <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/>

Pakistan

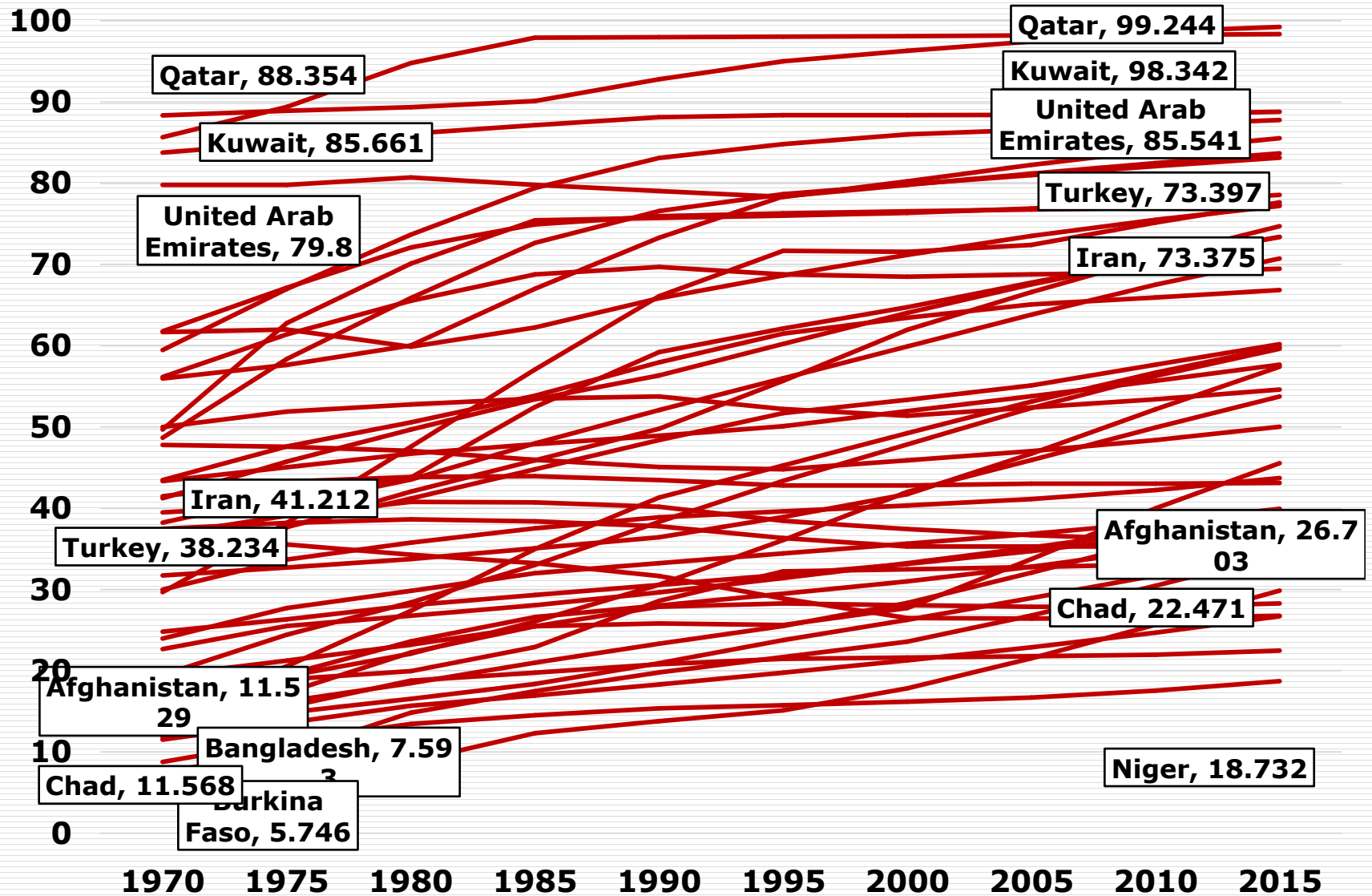


Source: Wittgenstein Center, <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/>

Iran



Trend of Urban Population (%) in Muslim-majority countries 1970-2015

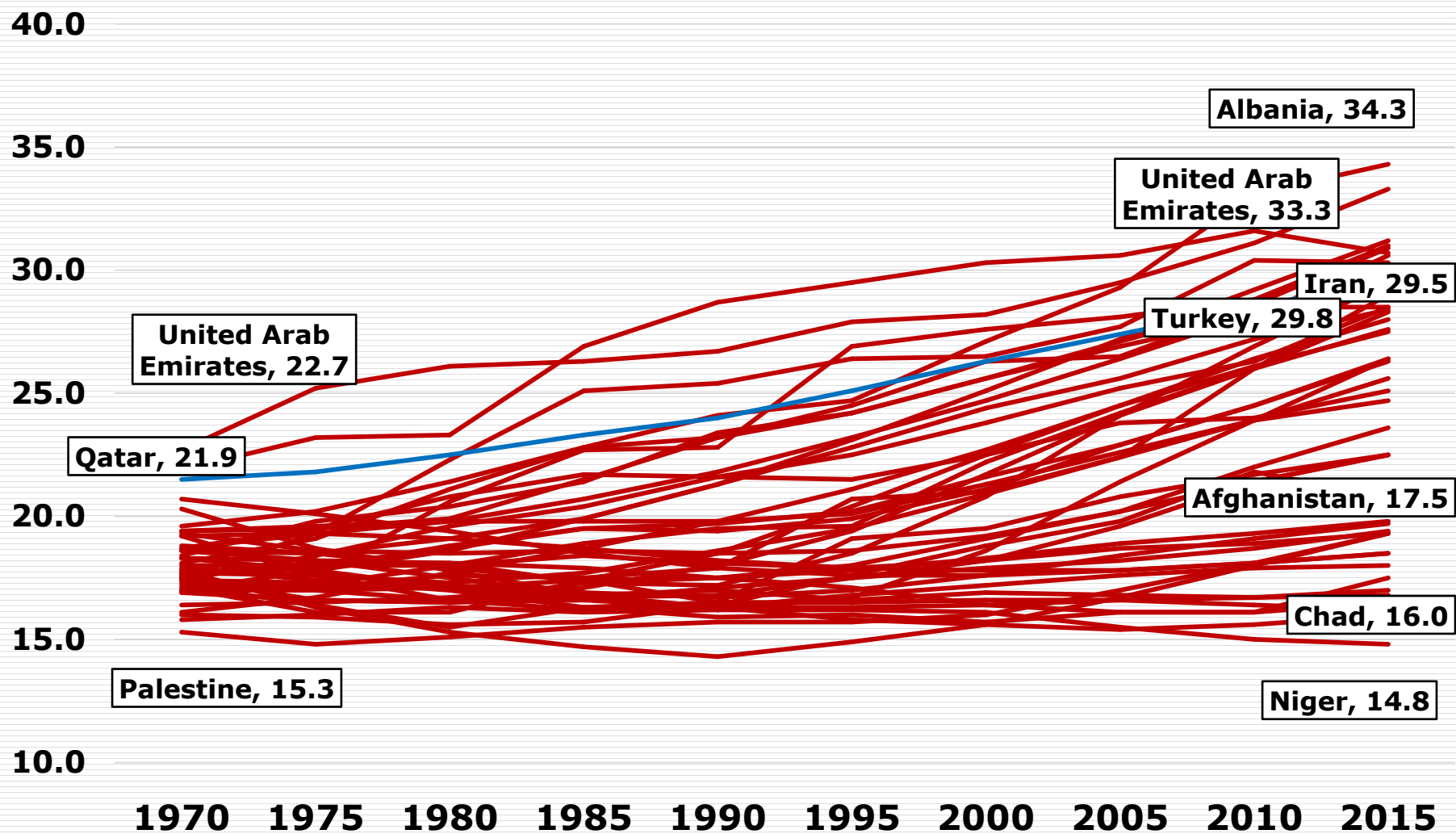


Age Structure of Muslim countries

- Muslim populations generally characterized by a young age structure.**
 - Effect on labour migration**
 - High dependency ratios because of earlier high fertility**
 - Task of providing universal basic education**
 - High potential for further population growth: population momentum.**

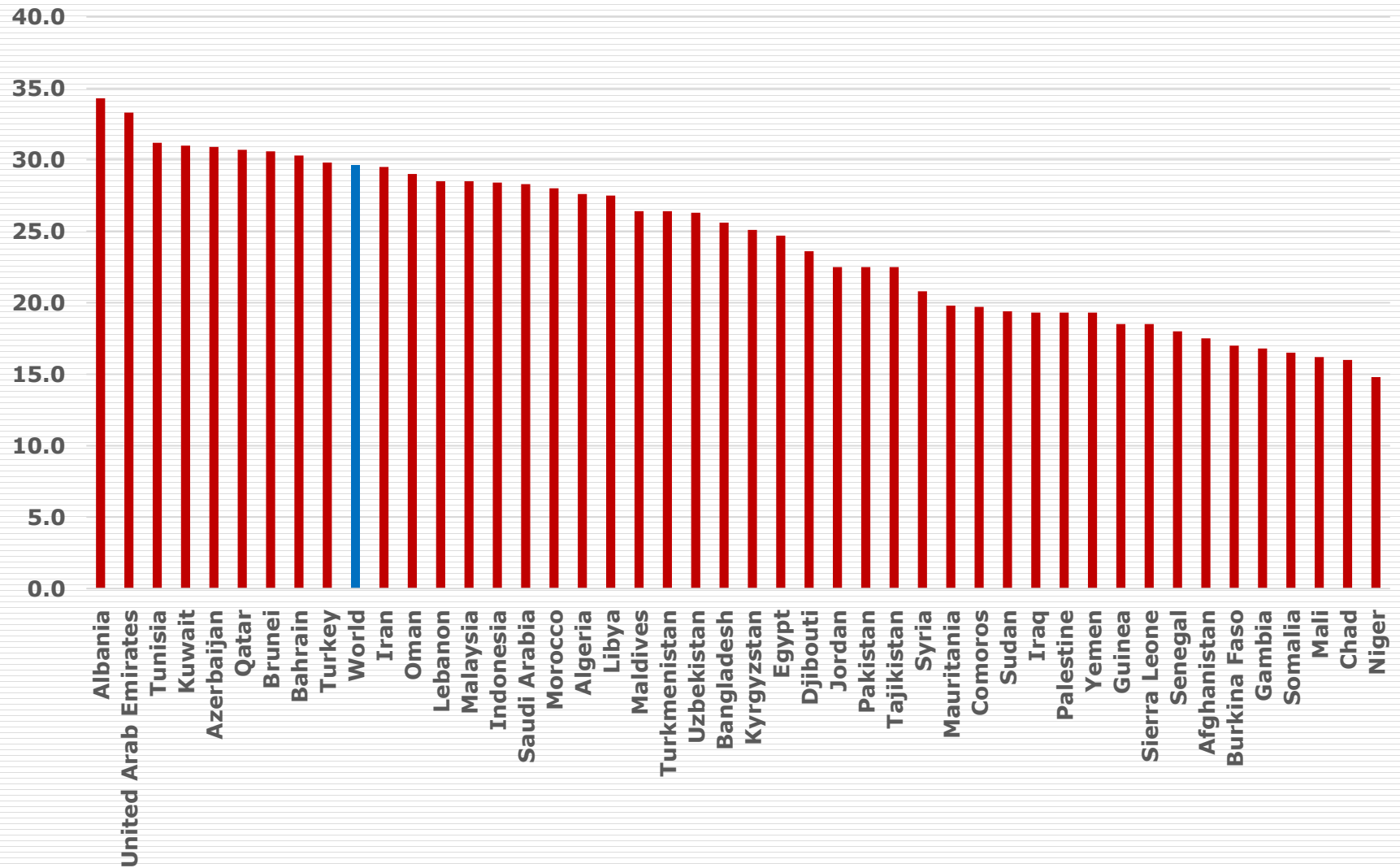
- Ageing has not proceeded very far but will do so rapidly from 2030**

Trend of Median Age in Muslim-majority countries 1970-2015



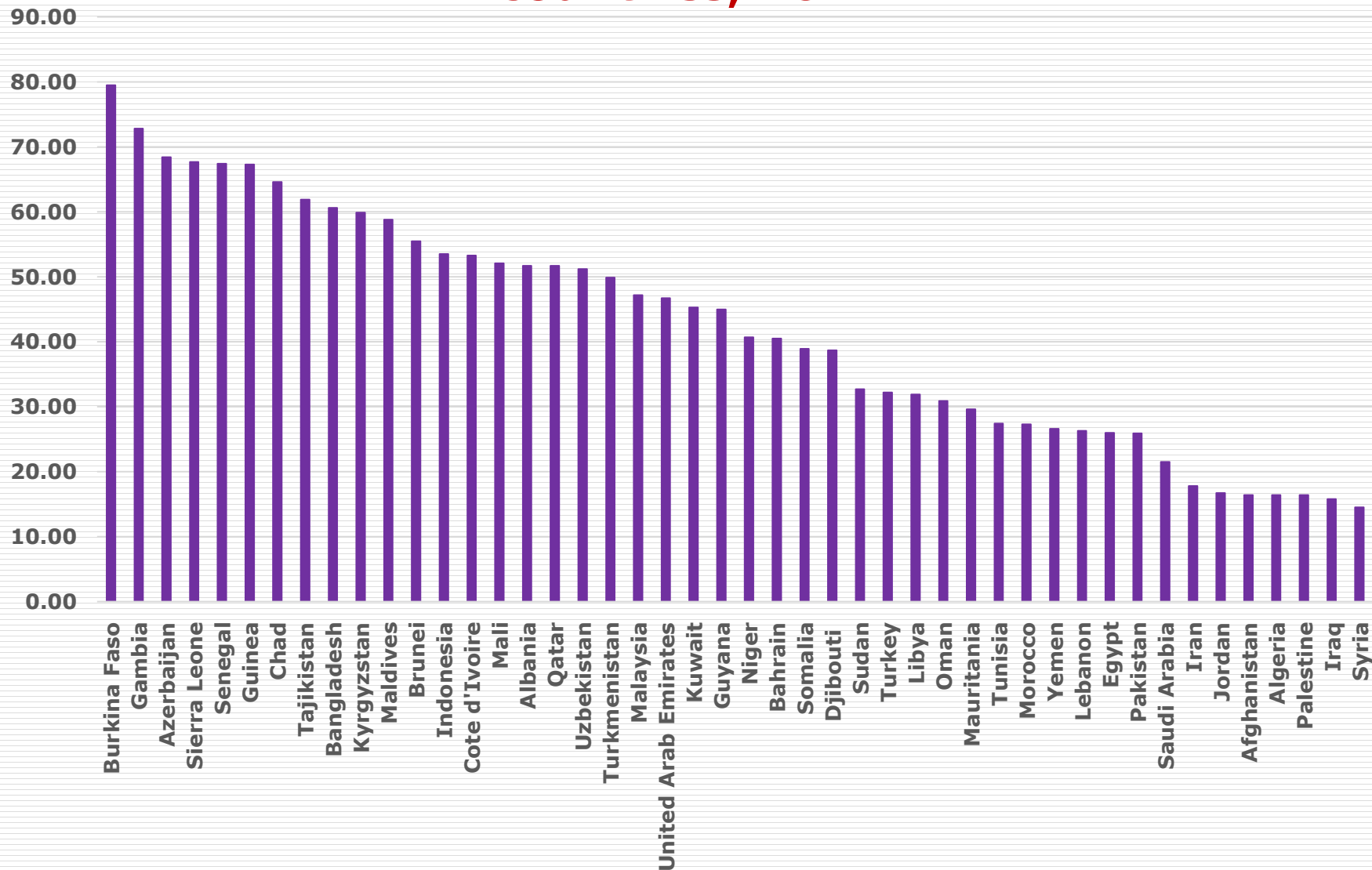
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>

Median Age in Muslim-majority countries 2015



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>

Female Labor Force Participation (%) in Muslim-majority countries, 2014



**Youth unemployment rate
particularly that of women
is high in Muslim countries**

Muslim countries need to capture the demographic dividend before it is too late

- Key factors driving economic growth must be addressed now:**
 - Expansion of education (private sector skills fitting the needs of a global economy)**
 - Creation of job opportunities**
 - Amelioration of the investment climate through strong governance and political transparency**

Ref: Groth and Sousa-Poza, 2012

The challenges at hand are heavy in consequences

- ❑ Demographic dividend, despite being an exciting opportunity, is also a profound challenge.
- ❑ Gaps in education, skills and job opportunities must be addressed immediately, especially for young people and women.
- ❑ Consequences of not meeting these needs are already being seen in the revolutionary waves rippling throughout the Muslim world.

Ref: Groth and Sousa-Poza, 2012

Selected References

- **Abbasi-Shavazi, M.J., and Torabi, F. 2012, Education and fertility in Islamic countries, In Hans Groth Alfonso (eds), *Population Dynamics in Islamic Countries*, Springer, pp. 43-62.**
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- **Torabi, F. and Abbasi-Shavazi, M.J., 2015, Women's Human Capital and Economic Growth in the Middle East and North Africa. *Journal of International Women' s Studies*, 16(3), 237-261.**