



HAL
open science

General de Gaulle, Alfred Sauvy and the French Institute for population studies (INED) (1945-1962)

Gérard-François Dumont

► **To cite this version:**

Gérard-François Dumont. General de Gaulle, Alfred Sauvy and the French Institute for population studies (INED) (1945-1962). *Les Analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2014. halshs-00996755v2

HAL Id: halshs-00996755

<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-00996755v2>

Submitted on 4 Apr 2020

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Les analyses



Publication dirigée par
Gérard-François Dumont

de POPULATION
& AVENIR

La revue des populations et des territoires

Mai
2014

<https://www.population-et-avenir.com/les-analyses-de-population-avenir/>

General de Gaulle, Alfred Sauvy and the French Institute for population studies (INED) (1945-1962)

by

Rector **Gérard-François DUMONT**

Professor at Sorbonne Université,
President of the Association Alfred Sauvy

Gerard-Francois.Dumont@wanadoo.fr

General de Gaulle, Alfred Sauvy and the French Institute for population studies (INED) (1945-1962)

Gérard-François DUMONT

Abstract

In accordance with General De Gaulle's wishes, the French Institute for population studies, INED (*Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques*) has been both a public think-tank and an instrument of family policy action – at least during the 17 years when it was led by Alfred Sauvy. To document what could *a priori* be regarded as an idle assertion, we first examine the double decision made by de Gaulle when he created this institution and put Sauvy at its head.

We also look more closely at the line adopted by INED and its journal, which was launched as early as 1946; two of its commitments are of particular relevance, in view of their close links with family policy considerations. We will then recall how the reputation of INED fulfilled General de Gaulle's expectations, and relate two episodes of exchanges between de Gaulle and Sauvy, in the 1950s. Finally, an evocation of the evolution of INED after de Gaulle will help better understand the previous period.

Keywords

Demography ; migration ; Institut national d'études démographiques ; INED ; De Gaulle ; family policy ; Alfred Sauvy

Résumé

L'Institut national d'études démographiques a été, selon le souhait du général De Gaulle, un lieu de réflexion et un instrument d'action de la politique familiale, au moins durant toute la période de 17 années (1945-1962) où son directeur a été Alfred Sauvy. Pour démontrer ce qui pourrait être jugé *a priori* comme une simple affirmation, il convient d'abord de préciser la double décision du Général fondant cet institut et nommant son premier directeur.

La ligne de l'Ined et de sa revue, créée dès 1946, devra ensuite être précisée. Deux engagements de l'Ined doivent particulièrement être présentés, dans la mesure où leur lien avec la politique familiale est étroit. Puis, après avoir rappelé combien la notoriété de l'Ined a répondu au souhait du général de Gaulle, les deux épisodes relatant les deux échanges des années 1950 entre ce dernier et le directeur de l'Ined méritent d'être relatés. En conclusion, l'évolution de l'Ined après le général de Gaulle permet de mieux comprendre la période antérieure.

Mots-clés

Démographie ; Immigration ; Institut national d'études démographiques ; INED ; De Gaulle ; politique familiale ; Alfred Sauvy

To cite this version :

Pour citer cette publication :

Dumont, Gérard-François, « General de Gaulle, Alfred Sauvy and the French Institute for population studies (INED) (1945-1962) », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, mai 2014, p. 1-22, ISSN 2552-2078

General de Gaulle, Alfred Sauvy and the French Institute for population studies (INED) (1945-1962)*

Gérard-François DUMONT

Summary

THE CONTEXT OF THE CREATION OF INED.....	5
DE GAULLE ESTABLISHES INED... ..	7
... AND CHOOSES ITS FIRST DIRECTOR.....	8
A CREATION THAT FITS INTO THE "NATIONAL RECOVERY"	10
A JOURNAL FOR A SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL DEMOGRAPHY.....	12
INED ENGAGED AGAINST MALTHUSIANISM AND LOOKING AT THE INFLUENCE OF LEGISLATIONS ON FERTILITY.....	13
THE ENORMOUS PRESTIGE OF INED	15
MAINTAIN FAMILY POLICY, AS IMMIGRATION DOES NOT REPLACE IT.....	16
DE GAULLE AND THE "RISE OF YOUTH"	19
INED AFTER DE GAULLE'S PRESIDENCY.....	20

* **In french (en langue française)** : « Le général de Gaulle, Alfred Sauvy et l'Institut national d'études démographiques (1945-1962) », », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, mai 2014.

In accordance with General De Gaulle's wishes, the French Institute for population studies, INED (*Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques*) has been both a public think-tank and an instrument of family policy action – at least during the 17 years when it was led by Alfred Sauvy. To document what could *a priori* be regarded as an idle assertion, we first examine the double decision made by de Gaulle when he created this institution and put Sauvy at its head. We also look more closely at the line adopted by INED and its journal, which was launched as early as 1946; two of its commitments are of particular relevance, in view of their close links with family policy considerations. We will then recall how the reputation of INED fulfilled General de Gaulle's expectations, and relate two episodes of exchanges between de Gaulle and Sauvy, in the 1950s. Finally, an evocation of the evolution of INED after de Gaulle will help better understand the previous period.

De Gaulle's role in the creation of INED was essential, and very directly linked to family policy concerns. It finds its basis in the General's determination to revitalise French demographics: in 1945, the population in mainland France was less numerous than at the beginning of the 20th century, in spite of the progress in sanitation and hygiene observed in the meantime. De Gaulle's objectives were in line with a national awareness which emerged at the end of the 1890s, more specifically in 1896, with the creation of an association for the increase of the French population. The *Alliance nationale pour l'accroissement de la population française*¹ was founded by the statistician and medical practitioner Jacques Bertillon and the medical Nobel prize winner Charles Richet, and counted many famous members, such as Émile Zola. It endeavoured to stimulate a trend of public opinion aimed at both reducing mortality, through better hygiene and sanitation, and encouraging fertility. Essential in this respect was the role of its vice-president Adolphe Landry (1874-1954), a former minister of the Third Republic, for many years the mayor and MP for the Corsican town of Calvi, and the author of seminal demography works such as *La révolution démographique*². This movement helped encourage the State to develop a family policy, leading *i.a.* to the adoption, in 1939, of a Family Code, and to

¹ It later became the *Alliance nationale contre la dépopulation* by a decree of 15 June 1953, and then *Population & Avenir* by a decree of 3 November 1983.

² 1934, re-published by INED, 1982.

the establishment of a specialised high level committee (*Haut comité à la famille*).

In 1945, de Gaulle, as Head of the temporary French government, confirmed the significance he attributed to family matters and demographics³ by creating on 12 April 1945 a committee (*Haut comité de la population et de la famille*) of which he personally chaired⁴ six meetings between April and July 1945.

The context of the creation of INED

In this context where population and family matters were of great concern at the highest level of the State, several additional elements contributed to the comparatively rapid creation of a French institute for population studies, the *Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques*. The first element was the decision to be made about a foundation launched by Marshal Pétain. As Head of State, Pétain had quoted the decrease of French fertility as the first cause of the debacle. Hence, by a law of 13 November 1941, the Vichy government created a foundation for the study of human problems (*Fondation française pour l'étude des problèmes humains*), aka *Fondation Alexis Carrel* as it was directed by the medical Nobelist. The foundation, which combined biology and social sciences and favoured social medicine and economics, was instituted in the autumn of 1942. After the Liberation, as Alain Drouard⁵ wrote, "the temporary debarment of Alexis Carrel by the Liberation government on 21 August 1944 directly raised the question of the survival of this important official institution of the Vichy government, which still counted over 250 employees in January 1944 and had large means at its disposal⁶. Indeed, although it had lost its director, the foundation had not been dismantled by the Liberation government. So, during several months, the situation remained unclear. On the one hand, the government did not know what to do with an

³ Cf. in particular the journal *Espoir*, n° 21, December 1977.

⁴ Debré, Robert, « Le général de Gaulle et la natalité française », *Espoir*, Journal of the Charles de Gaulle Institute, December 1977.

⁵ Drouard Alain, « La création de l'INED », *Population*, 47th year, n°6, 1992, pp. 1453-1466.

⁶ As well as its own budget of 40 million francs in 1942, the foundation had offices and laboratories at its disposal, both in Paris and in the Paris region. Cf. Drouard, Alain, « Une inconnue des Sciences sociales. La Fondation A. Carrel 1941-1945 ».

institution accused of collaborationism": on the other, as Alfred Sauvy noted⁷, "it could not lay off civil servants nor overlook population questions and the need to encourage fertility". Therefore, this institution, which could not be maintained because it was collaborationist, was very much coveted by a number of republican or communist personalities.

The second element was that a man, esteemed by General de Gaulle⁸ as well as by many others because of his fundamental role in the decree-laws of 1939 aimed at establishing the family policy, had made himself available: this man was Alfred Sauvy. At the beginning of 1945, the minister of Public Health, François Billoux, member of the French Communist Party (Pcf), offered him a high level administrative post, that of Secretary General in charge of family affairs and population. On the advice of Pierre Mendès France, who rightly considered that he was made more for research than for administration, Alfred Sauvy refused. On 19 October 1945, in a dramatic turn of events, François Billoux suppressed the General Secretariat for family affairs and population. De Gaulle decided to change the government, thus reducing the risk of François Billoux opposing the current projects, and examined the possibility of creating a demographic research institute. On reflection, he accepted the solution advocated by Robert Debré, *i.e.* to create a national institute for population studies, taking over one of the offices of the Alexis Carrel Foundation and the small portion of its employees dealing with population matters. De Gaulle's populationist determination, his interest in building an immigration policy combined with his desire to ensure an institutional role for Sauvy, this "humanist in the Land of Numbers"⁹, were decisive.

⁷ Sauvy, Alfred, « Politique de la famille et études démographiques depuis un demi-siècle », *Economie et humanisme*, 251, 1980, pp. 27-33.

⁸ The later achievements of Alfred Sauvy show how right General de Gaulle (already) was to appreciate this man, who left us a monumental work, still relevant; cf. Dumont, Gérard-François, « Pour répondre aux défis du XXI^e siècle : la pensée d'Alfred Sauvy », *Population & Avenir*, n° 708, mai-juin 2012.

⁹ Hecht, Jacqueline, « Alfred Sauvy, le maître que nous avons perdu », 15 janvier 1991.

De Gaulle establishes INED...

To transform the Foundation for the studies of human problems, which the Pétain government had installed, in Sauvy's words, "to give themselves a clear conscience"¹⁰, seemed the best way. A legal Order was therefore prepared to create a national institute, the *Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques*, which would succeed the foundation, excluding the biology section as well as that of architecture and urbanism. According to one of Alfred Sauvy's memoirs, *De Paul Reynaud à Charles de Gaulle*, the adjective "demographic" appeared at the time as a neologism, as it was not commonly known. Alfred Sauvy relates that the two State councillors in charge of studying the draft legal Order "burst out laughing" when they read the name of the institute, in particular the word "démographique". After they had examined it with what Sauvy describes as "the jaded expression of those who have seen it all", the Order became law on 24 October 1945. It was signed by General de Gaulle, "By the temporary Government of the French Republic", Charles Tillon, "Minister of Aeronautics, interim Minister of Public health", and René Pleven, "Minister of Finance".

This Order, which consists of only nine brief articles, covers hardly more than a page. As indicated in article 1, the *Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques* is a public establishment "endowed with financial autonomy". This is a recognition that autonomy is a condition for the independence of research and, at the same time, the warrant of its efficiency. Another very important article, the longest one although it is only six lines long, is article 2, which describes the missions of the new institute:

"Article 2. — The *Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques* is responsible for studying population questions under all their aspects.

To this end, the Institute collects all useful documentation, launches surveys, carries out experiments and monitors experiments implemented in other countries, examines all the material and moral means which could

¹⁰ Sauvy, Alfred, *De Paul Reynaud à Charles de Gaulle*, Paris, Calmann-Lévy, p. 178.

contribute to the quantitative growth and qualitative improvement of the population, and ensures the propagation of demographic knowledge”.¹¹

The meaning of article 2 is perfectly clear: the mission is not only to analyse population matters from all angles, but also to examine all the possible means to help increase the population of France, including family policies as part of these means. In other words, the aim is to develop a scientific discipline, demography, but as an applied science which can help boost the demographic vitality of France. With this new institution, France is a pioneer, as there is no strictly comparable establishment anywhere else at the time. It is true that France, in view of the specific trend of its population trajectory, especially in the last century and a half, is in a unique situation in Europe and the world at large¹².

... and chooses its first director

Ten days after the date of the Order, by a decree of 3 November 1945 discussed in the Council of Ministers, Sauvy is nominated Director of INED, a post that he will occupy until 1962. During this whole period, the personality of its founder, economist, statistician, demographer, but also chronicler and author, will imprint its mark on the institution, on both its scientific orientations and its methods of work.

The General de Gaulle’s legal Order has created the conditions for a possible success of INED, first of all because it gives the director full autonomy. In the wording of article 3 of the said Order, the Board “assists” the director and is therefore not above him. Its first President is in fact Adolphe Landry, with whom Alfred Sauvy maintains close relations¹³. In parallel, the Order creates a Technical Committee, whose role is to assist the director on scientific aspects, by regularly giving opinions and advice,

¹¹ Order (*Ordonnance*) published in: *Population*, n° 1, 1946, p. 187-188. This text was then, logically, complemented by a decree in the State Council (*décret en Conseil d'Etat*) of 11 February 1946 and an ordinary decree dated the same day, which respectively fixed its administrative and financial regime and the status of its personnel. The Institute is placed under the financial control of the State, as provided for by the decree of 25 October 1935.

¹² Dupâquier, Jacques, *Histoire de la population française*, Paris, PUF, volume 4, 1988 ; Dumont, Gérard-François, *La population de la France, des régions et des Dom-Tom*, Paris, Éditions Ellipses, 2000.

¹³ Cf. Sauvy, Alfred, « Adolphe Landry », *Population*, vol. 11, n° 4, 1956, pp. 609-620 and Dumont, Gérard-François, « Adolphe Landry et Alfred Sauvy, deux grands démographes du XX^e siècle », September 1997.

not by imposing binding directives. Moreover “the Committee members are appointed in their personal capacity and not as representatives of organisations. In this way, high level scientists whose main activity lies at the frontiers of demography may nevertheless be associated to the effective direction of the work”¹⁴.

Another element in the conditions of success for Sauvy’s INED derives from a flexible administrative environment. Sauvy can hire whom he likes, which means retain talent, without the multiple constraints that administrations’ love of procedure has engendered since. And Sauvy demonstrates a very special ability to surround himself with high quality people, regardless of his psychological or political preferences. Thus he endeavours to give INED a very strong multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary character, by gathering researchers with very diverse trainings and backgrounds.

In 1949, there are only about thirty researchers, but their diversity makes it possible to embrace the multiple aspects of population issues. As Secretary-General Roger Peltier underlines¹⁵, most of INED researchers “come from the major State, university and *Grandes écoles* recruitment competitions. They count, among others, a member of the State Council, several teaching fellows, in law, history and philosophy, five former students of *Ecole Polytechnique*, an engineer, a medical doctor, an anthropologist, a geneticist, doctors and bachelors of law, science and literature”.

“The recruitment of the project directors and their colleagues is very strict. The scientific qualifications must be impeccable; strong notions of a second subject matter are required in most cases, as well as a working knowledge of at least one foreign language. Qualifications and efficiency are constant preoccupations, at all levels”.

“The gathering, within the same organisation, of lawyers, economists, mathematicians, demographers/statisticians, biologists, psychologists, sociologists, historians, expected to work as a team, is probably a formula rarely seen anywhere else in the world. The basic concepts of scientific research are thus revisited. Partitions are removed between hitherto

¹⁴ Peltier, Roger, « L’Ined, Organisation, travaux et résultats », *Population*, vol. 4, 1949.

¹⁵ Peltier, Roger, « L’Ined, Organisation, travaux et résultats », *id.*

isolated disciplines, which mostly used to ignore each other and now see both their data and their results systematically confronted.” This helped overcome the vast difficulty of bringing high quality, highly trained people, with an independent mind and a concern for their own carriers, to work together towards a common end.

It is also worth underlining the intelligence of the work method. For example, Alfred Sauvy led a weekly meeting, every Thursday at 9 am¹⁶. He raised relevant questions which built synergies among apparently separate competencies. Peltier also explained: “A programme presents a summary of the institute’s activities as well as a review of work in progress. To this end, it differentiates finalised projects from current research or simple proposals. Annotations include a chronological record, the description of the work, the name of the person or persons in charge, the starting date, the projected – and eventually final – closing date, and the purpose: reporting to the public authorities, article or brochure. The programme indicates, at all times and on a monthly basis, the state of progress of each item. Well in sight at the entrance of the institute, it is a useful source of information for visitors”.¹⁷

The framework for thought and principles which guide INED activities are stated in the introduction to the first issue of its journal, *Population*. Although unsigned there is no doubt that it was written by Sauvy.

A creation that fits into the "national recovery"

This text first pays tribute to the decisions of July 1939 in which Sauvy participated: “in July 1939 was promulgated the Family Code, which introduced in our institutions, and in particular in our public finances, measures which were so innovative that only the approach of critical events could overcome the traditional forces of inertia.”

¹⁶ As Alain Girard recalled in *L'Institut national d'études démographiques. Histoire et développement*, Paris, Ined, 1986.

¹⁷ Peltier, Roger, « L'Ined, Organisation, travaux et résultats », *Population*, vol. 4, 1949.

“In April 1945 was instituted the General Secretariat for family affairs and population, a measure which was followed in November 1945 by the replacement of the Ministry of Public health by a Ministry of Population, renamed in January 1946 Ministry of Public health and Population. Thus, for the first time in France, an official institution was put in place to take constant action in favour of the recovery of the French population, in both quantity and quality. This action was led in three directions: sustaining and increasing fertility, reducing mortality and sickness, organising immigration rationally.”

The creation of INED thus took place in the context of a high ambition for France, i.e. national recovery: “The creation of a specialised institution, responsible for looking into the whole question of populations, and especially the French population, appeared as an essential condition for national recovery.”

INED must not act in isolation, its researchers wallowing in exchanging analyses inaccessible to the *vulgum pecus*. It must be both scientific and pedagogic, as Sauvy underlined:

“The *Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques* must answer two concerns:

- be a research organisation whose work has an indisputable scientific basis and is led with total objectivity;
- ensure that the knowledge already acquired is disseminated as widely as possible. This educational mission is no less important than the other one, such is the depth of general ignorance of facts which are yet well established.”

With this aim, as soon as 1946, Sauvy endows the Institute with a scientific journal, *Population*, of which he is the main editor and where the introductory paragraphs cited above can be found.

A journal for a scientific and useful demography

These paragraphs are complemented by a presentation of the editorial line which Sauvy assigns to the journal. Its “main object is to broadcast the institute’s findings. It is not directed only to specialists, but also to all those who are concerned by great questions of national interest.” This is confirmed by the wide range of subjects: the decrease of birth rates, ageing populations, economic questions, immigration...

For example, already in the first issue, the role of family policies is underlined in an article entitled “Salaries and family allowances”, which starts with these lines: “Family allowances have become an indispensable complement to salaries. Without bringing it to the level of a childless worker, they improve the condition of the worker in charge of a family and thus contribute to reduce infant mortality and maintain, if not increase, fertility.”¹⁸

Thanks to its actuality and its quality, the journal rapidly gained a large audience both in France and abroad. The actuality derived from the fact that it could publish the results of studies without delay, as Sauvy did not, and never would, create an editorial board, as is commonplace in scientific journals. Moreover, in each number, he published an editorial entitled “Facts and issues of the day”¹⁹.

Population also owed its quality to Sauvy, who vetted all the draft papers. Once he had decided to publish an article, he would not hesitate to himself rewrite whole passages, deleting laborious turns of phrases and those convoluted arguments which scientists often delight in. He also wrote a short foreword presenting each article.

In addition, in conformity with General de Gaulle’s thought and a number of his writings and speeches, INED presented itself as anti-Malthusian.

¹⁸ Quillon, Bernard, *Population*, n°1 1946.

¹⁹ *Population*, n° 2, 1946, pp. 197-202.

INED engaged against Malthusianism and looking at the influence of legislations on fertility

In this context, we wish to quote two papers. The first one appeared in the year 1946, a year in which the French birth rate went up to a level unseen since 1903, and also the year when the law on social security completed the implementation of a family policy initiated by the decree of November 1938, followed by the Family Code and the Vichy legislation.

Alfred Sauvy wrote in his “Facts and issues of the day” chronicle: “the outstanding fact, which dominates the French picture in the year 1946, is the strong recovery of fertility. Mr Bourgeois’s paper on the current population situation contains interesting developments on the importance of this phenomenon and its immediate causes. We will limit ourselves here to a reminder that this is due, for a large part, to the return of prisoners and deportees, which constitutes an incidental peak comparable to that of 1920, but also results from a real increase in fertility observed in France in the last four years, contrary to projections and to the precedent of 1914-1918. This victory of the forces of life at one of the most sensitive moments of our history is a comforting symptom”²⁰.

Alfred Sauvy remains prudent, however: “It is difficult, at this stage, to make inferences on the deep causes of this unexpected upturn, as the detailed statistics which can bring very instructive precisions have not yet been established for 1943 and the following years. However, it already seems that the institution of the Family Code in 1939 has had a beneficial influence, by tipping the scales favourably in the numerous cases when parents had not quite taken their decisions and the difficulties of family life made them hesitate. To this element, specific to France and a few other countries, other reasons must be added to explain the general increase of birth rates observed during the war in most of the infertile populations”.

²⁰ *Population*, n° 2, 1946, pp. 197-202.

“The many plausible explanations can be classified in two groups: circumstantial, incidental, temporary factors, such as a sudden increase of nuptiality, hitherto hampered by the world economic crisis of 1929, and durable factors, less easy to circumscribe.”

“If only the first factors were at work, we would observe the return of a secular trend of lower fertility, after a temporary interruption. If, on the contrary, the durable factors play a role, then the upturn in birth rates would mark an inversion of this underlying trend, with considerable effects on the economic, social and political developments in nations.”

“Without venturing to rule on this important question, we are personally inclined to think that the Malthusian forces will be felt unless they are countered by public intervention?”²¹

With such a statement, Alfred Sauvy implicitly approved General de Gaulle for continuing the decisions of former governments, including of the French State. At the same time, he underlined the necessity of pursuing this course by fighting what he called “the Malthusian forces”.

This struggle which was deemed necessary against Malthusianism was again described, under its different aspects, in a text published by the journal *Population* in 1949 under the signature of Roger Peltier: “The poor sales of some agricultural products and fears of an economic crisis have revived the economic Malthusianism which was so destructive before the war and was rather closely linked to demographic Malthusianism. It is a pessimistic frame of mind, which leads too easily to the destruction of riches. The Institute has put this question on its agenda and will pursue its research work in order to counter this negative stance.”²²

In parallel, the same paper insists on the impact of family laws on fertility: “Some subjects, on the other hand, are not easily approached through direct surveys. It is the case, *i.a.*, of the influence of family legislation on birth rates. If it is still rather tricky to measure this phenomenon with precision, it can no longer be questioned that this influence is real. The lag between France and other countries, in particular

²¹ *Population*, n° 2, 1946, p. 197-202.

²² Peltier, Roger, « L'Institut national d'études démographiques. — Organisation, travaux et résultats », *Population*, 4th year, n°1, 1949 pp. 9-38.

Belgium – a country whose general circumstances are closest to our own – bears witness to the efficiency of family allowances.”

“Two connected questions of great practical interest have been dealt with in turn in *Population*: controls on the use of family allowances, and two modalities of the policy of aid to families: benefits in cash and benefits in kind.”

“Family benefits are only one aspect of demographic policies, of which the current issue of *Population* propounds a tentative definition.”²³

Would INED’s commitments be an asset or a liability with respect to its reputation?

The enormous prestige of INED

After a short while, as Alain Drouard underlines²⁴, “the prestige of INED and *Population* is considerable. Alfred Sauvy and Jacques Doublet now play a major role in the high-level advisory Board (*Haut comité consultatif de la population et de la famille*), created in 1950. The director of INED chairs, from 1951 to 1953, the United Nations Population Commission and, from 1961 to 1963, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.” Jacqueline Hecht notes that, under Sauvy, “INED replaced the French Administration and French Railways in the admiration that awe-stricken foreign people were supposed to feel, and served as a model for many other demographic research institutes around the world.”²⁵. INED’s undeniable success is formulated thus by his daughter on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Alfred Sauvy’s birth: “The small, high quality, group gathered in this way, and which only counted about twenty people, was to produce a remarkable work and

²³ Peltier, Roger, « L'Institut national d'études démographiques. — Organisation, travaux et résultats », *Population*, 4th year, n°1, 1949 pp. 9-38.

²⁴ Drouard, Alain, « De la Fondation Carrel à l'Ined », in : Dupâquier, Jacques, *Histoire de la population française*, Paris, PUF, tome 4, 1988.

²⁵ Hecht, Jacqueline, « Alfred Sauvy, le maître que nous avons perdu », 15 janvier 1991.

ensure INED's good reputation. Punctuality and efficiency were required."²⁶

Indeed, at the end of the 1950s, the way in which Alfred Sauvy allied science and the common good within the framework of INED was recognised by the *Collège de France*, who elected him to a chair entitled "social demography" (funded by the City of Paris). Among the many people whom he evoked in his inaugural lecture of 10 April 1959, Alfred Sauvy associated in a same sentence the Head of the French State and the man of 18 June 1940, who had both worked towards the implementation of a family policy: "Philippe Pétain and Charles de Gaulle condemned each other to death; their foreign policies were radically opposed. However, they both saw the necessity to encourage youth and worked in that direction. Their common adversaries, the communists, accompanied them on this point. Conservatives and progressives also aligned their views." Alfred Sauvy took this opportunity to stress that the strength of France's family policy was that it placed itself within a continuum in spite of profound political changes. "The trend in favour of families was sustained in such a way, from 1939 to 1946, that a remote or backward looking observer, informed on this point alone, would be struck by the admirable continuity of views of successive governments, during the most troubled period of our history!"²⁷.

This being said, did the support given to family policy mean that immigration should be rejected?

Maintain family policy, as immigration does not replace it

Sauvy was in favour not only of an increase of fertility but also of immigration. In 1946, he personally signed an "evaluation of the needs for French immigration", as France lacked manpower, in view of the depleted generations of the previous decades, and needed what was not yet called

²⁶ Sauvy-Wilkinson, Anne, « Alfred Sauvy aurait cent ans », *Population & Avenir*, n° 642, March-April 1999.

²⁷ Sauvy, Alfred, *Leçon inaugurale*, Collège de France, 10 April 1959.

replacement migration²⁸. Sauvy's evaluation reached 2.5 million adults. However, strengthening the recovery of fertility, and therefore the family policy, remained a priority; this derived implicitly, in particular, from the only interview Sauvy had with General de Gaulle in the 1950s.

It will be recalled that, during this whole period from 1945 to 1962, Algeria was French. One could therefore imagine that a slackening of the family policy in metropolitan France might have little effect on the French population since, on the other side of the Mediterranean Sea, the birth rate was high and, above all, children were more and more numerous, thanks to the improvement of the sanitary infrastructure and to the progress of hygiene, reducing the mortality of children, teenagers and mothers.

As it happens, since he had left the government on 20 January 1946, de Gaulle had had no contact with INED, *.i.e.* with its director, all the more so as Alfred Sauvy had declined Michel Debré's invitation to join the RPF (*Rassemblement du peuple français*) the party founded by General de Gaulle on 14 April 1947.

But the year 1954, a day in spring to be precise (therefore several months before the beginning of the war in Algeria on 1 November 1954), was marked by an audition granted by de Gaulle to the Director of INED, which was to show how well the General kept himself informed of the analyses of the demographic situation published by the Institute.

In his book *De Paul Reynaud à Charles de Gaulle*, Alfred Sauvy mentions: "I have a serious concern: we are at a time when economists have learnt to calculate investments in development and in population growth, comparing them with the national income. The efforts to undertake in this direction are considerable and the dilemma is clear: either we raise the North Africans to our level or we will have to give them back their freedom."

"In a paper published in *L'Express*, I give evaluations of the necessary investments, without pronouncing on the choice to be made. Personally, I incline towards the necessary sacrifices (a singular dream) and am remote from all Cartierism*. In the train, in front of me, a young man reads the

²⁸ An old reality, but the term became usual only after the publication in 2000 of a UN study with that title.

article, without realising I am the author, and tells his neighbour: “If that’s how it is, I prefer we let go of Algeria”. At that moment, war has not yet started.”

“Enlightened action. This constant watchword appears to me more imperious than ever. Thinking of de Gaulle, I tell myself: here is a man who, sooner or later, will take in hand the destiny of the country. It is useful to inform him of the economic aspect, so badly known, of the matter.”

“I request an audition, with motivation. A few weeks later, the General receives me rue de Solférino** and listens to me with an attention rarely seen in a statesman. Without entering into any political considerations, I first describe the increase in population: the 20 million North Africans will be 40 in twenty or twenty five years; I then give him some evaluations of the necessary investments in education, food, employment, etc.”

“After listening to me in silence, de Gaulle responds and I discover with astonishment that he is very well informed. Going further and approaching the political ground, he also mentions Black Africa, which is not yet on the agenda, and I have the impression that he has already written off the whole matter of colonialism.”²⁹

So it seems that, during this audition, the subject of family policy was not expressly raised. Yet, it was of direct concern in an interview which showed that the French demographic situation could not rely upon the population potential of colonies that would eventually no longer be. And since it depended first on demographic trends in metropolitan France, the family policy following from a whole set of former decisions must continue. However, because it had been successful³⁰, this family policy had demographic effects.

* *A reference to Raymond Cartier, a French journalist opposed to colonialism on pragmatic grounds (Translator’s note)*

** *The site of the RPF offices in Paris (Translator’s note)*

²⁹ Sauvy, Alfred, *De Paul Reynaud à Charles de Gaulle*, Paris, Calmann-Lévy, 1972, p. 199

³⁰ To confirm this, it is enough to compare the post-war demographic situations of 1918 and 1945 in France or to make comparisons within the European Union; cf. Dumont, Gérard-François, « Politique familiale et fécondité en Europe », *Population & Avenir*, n° 681, January-February 2007.

De Gaulle and the “rise of youth”

Able to read and analyse demographic statistics better than anyone else, INED’s director anticipates a “rise of youth”. He makes it the subject of several press articles. In May 1959, one year after de Gaulle’s return to power on 13 May and six months after the establishment of the institutions of the Fifth Republic, after reworking and synthesising the subject, he publishes a book with this title³¹. He considers that “the rise of youth is the most pregnant fact of our history”, and that France must prepare for it.

In 1959, Alfred Sauvy sends his book to General de Gaulle, a book where, as he also underlines in *De Paul Reynaud à Charles de Gaulle*, “the future revolt [that of May 1968] is clearly announced, if nothing is done to welcome them”. General de Gaulle, now President of the Republic, does not just ask one of his collaborators to prepare an answer. He sends Sauvy a handwritten letter:

“My dear Sauvy,

In *La Montée des jeunes*, there is a wealth of positive data, of ideas, of hopes. Like you, I believe that “welcoming” young people is, so to speak, the whole essence of the French economic and social problem, insofar as the world peace would be ensured for a generation.

I thank you for letting me know, in this very well developed form, how you approach this capital subject.

Please receive, my dear Sauvy, my very cordial and devoted regards.
Ch. de Gaulle”

³¹ Sauvy, Alfred, *La montée des jeunes*, Paris, Calmann-Lévy, 1959.

INED after de Gaulle's presidency

Nobody can escape the passing of time, so it becomes necessary, at the beginning of the 1960s, to reflect on a new director for INED. Sauvy would have liked to be succeeded by Jean Fourastié, Councillor of the public institution in charge of economic planning, the *Commissariat général au plan*, but this candidature runs up against the *esprit de corps* of researchers.

Sauvy launches an election “in conclave”, following which he proposes three names to the government: Jean Stoetzel, Jean Bourgeois-Pichat, then posted in New York, and Louis Henry. On 1 July 1962, Jean Bourgeois-Pichat becomes the Director of INED. Half a page is turned for the Institute, only half a page as Sauvy keeps an office, a secretary and, above all, the direction of the journal, *Population*, until 1976.

When General de Gaulle puts an end to his presidential functions, France is not aware of the future decrease of fertility, which Sauvy anticipates.

After a number of tensions resulting in the departure of the Director Jean Bourgeois-Pichat in 1971 and the appointment of a temporary administrator who will remain 18 months, a decree of February 1973 modifies the legal Order of 1945 in its articles on governance, but not Article 2 on the missions of INED. On 17 May 1974, a decree creates the status of research personnel.

Another change is introduced in 1986: INED becomes a public science and technology establishment (EPST) placed under the joint authorities of the Minister in charge of population and the Minister in charge of research. Time has passed, twenty articles and four and a half pages, i.e. four times more than in 1945, are now necessary to regulate INED and it needs six articles to specify its missions, versus one in 1946.

Article 3 of decree n°86-382 dated 12 March 1986 redefines the missions of INED, discarding the initial part which required that the

Institute “contribute to the quantitative growth and qualitative improvement of the population”. The following points are developed:

Article 1.- It undertakes, develops and encourages, on its own initiative or at the request of the public authorities, all research work aimed at the study of populations under all their aspects;

Article 2.- It evaluates, realises or contracts out all researches useful to demographic science and its contribution to the economic, social and cultural progress of the country;

Article 3.- It collects, centralises and enhances all the French and foreign research work in its field of activity; in particular it informs the Government and the public authorities of the knowledge acquired;

Article 4.- It brings its support to the training to and through research in the areas of its competency;

Article 5.- It ensures the information of the general public on demographic matters;

Article 6.- It ensures, at an international level, the propagation of French demographic work and the development of demographic information, promoting the use of the French language.

Nowadays, under the same name, the Institute continues, with a number of researchers very much increased³² with respect to the period 1945-1962. But is the momentum initiated by General de Gaulle still there? By signing a flexible legal Order and entrusting Alfred Sauvy with the direction of INED, General de Gaulle had contributed to one of his main objectives, see a revived France, and achieved another objective: support a successful researcher who, with his team, served the prestige of France in what it was best at. The newly instituted recruitment and functioning procedures would have prevented Sauvy from hiring the large variety of competencies which he mobilised and from building among them a perfect synergy, resulting in a considerable influence, both in France and abroad.

Today, France still counts many high quality researchers, but one must admit that administrative and procedural straightjackets strongly hinder their missions, confirming at least partially General de Gaulle’s

³² According to its 2012 report, INED employs a total of 239 persons, of which 52 are tenured researchers. To these can be added 5 researchers emeriti, 44 associate researchers and doctoral students. The expense budget is 21.7 million euros.

assertion: “Researchers who search you find, but researchers who find you search”.

The history of INED from 1945 to 1962 shows that family policies need both to be borne by committed statesmen and to rely on scientific analyses. Faced today with the risk of curtailment which weighs on France’s family policy, it is important to revive the flame and spirit of these exceptional men who were General de Gaulle and Alfred Sauvy.

G.-F.D.

(Translation: Sylvie Vanston)

Les analyses de Population & Avenir

35 Avenue Mac Mahon

75017 Paris

tel. (0)1 47 70 53 81 Fax : (0)1 73 02 00 64

courriel e-mail : revuepopulationetavenir@gmail.com

ISSN 2552-2078

Directeur de la publication : Gérard-François Dumont

La publication *Les analyses de Population & Avenir* a vocation à contribuer au débat public sur les questions de populations et de territoires. Les opinions exprimées dans ce texte n’engagent que la responsabilité des auteurs.

© Les analyses de Population & Avenir. Droits de reproduction partielle sous réserve de conserver l’indication des sources.
www.population-et-avenir.com

La publication

Les analyses de Population & Avenir

a pour objet de diffuser gratuitement des analyses sur des thèmes diversifiés (fécondité, pauvreté, migration, immigration, intégration, politique familiale, logement, logement social, francophonie, frontière, méthodologie...), et sur des territoires variés précisés dans le titre de la publication (Europe, Union européenne, Afrique, Arabie Saoudite, Casamance, Chine, Gambie, Sénégal, France, régions françaises, Corse,...) ou étudiés au sein du thème considéré (Brésil, Maroc, Venezuela...).

Toutes ***Les analyses de Population & Avenir*** sur :
<https://www.population-et-avenir.com/les-analyses-de-population-avenir/>

Les analyses de Population & Avenir

Liste des publications

« Le nouveau recensement français : un déficit de jeunes enfants ! », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, janvier 2020.

« Trois scénarios pour l'avenir de l'Union européenne », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, décembre 2019.

« Les retraites en Europe : quelles perspectives ? », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, décembre 2019.

« Alfred Sauvy's Working Method », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, juin 2019.

« La frontière Sénégal-Gambie dans le contexte du conflit en Casamance : mobilités, flux transfrontaliers et géopolitique », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, juin 2019.

« La francophonie, bilan et perspectives à l'aune des rapports Graddol », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2019.

« Les migrations internationales et l'Afrique : des logiques Sud-Nord ou Sud-Sud ? », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2019.

« Observations sur le Dictionnaire de démographie et des sciences de la Population », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2019.

« La reprise de la fécondité au milieu des années 1930, phénomène non perçu des observateurs du temps ? », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2019.

« Immigration : la question de l'intégration dans un contexte fondamentalement nouveau », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2017.

« La pauvreté dans le monde : réponses inopérantes et solutions efficaces », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2016.

« China : a sustainable model ? », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2016.

« Chine : un modèle durable ? », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2016.

« Régions françaises : des géants géographiques aux attributions minuscules », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, décembre 2015.

« *Family policies & Europe's demographic future* », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2015.

« Politiques familiales et avenir démographique de l'Europe », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2015.

« La « crise » des migrants, l'opération anti-passeurs « Sophia » de l'UE et l'ONU », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2015.

« Europe : des disparités considérables dans les évolutions démographiques », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, juillet 2015.

« Le logement et le logement social en France : éléments de diagnostic », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, juin 2015.

« Territoires : un fonctionnement radial ou réticulaire ? », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, mai 2015.

« General de Gaulle, Alfred Sauvy and the French Institute for population studies (INED) (1945-1962) », », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, may 2014.

« Le général de Gaulle, Alfred Sauvy et l'Institut national d'études démographiques (1945-1962) », », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, mai 2014.

« Women and « Human Rights » in Saudi Arabia », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, septembre 2012.

« Le nouveau recensement de la population de la France et les améliorations nécessaires », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2008.

« Pourquoi la Corse a-t-elle voté « non » au référendum portant sur une collectivité territoriale unique ? », *Les analyses de Population & Avenir*, 2003.



Pour suivre la revue ***Population & Avenir*** :

<https://www.population-et-avenir.com/abonnement-annuel/abonnement-revue-population-avenir/>

Population & Avenir est la seule revue française et européenne se consacrant exclusivement aux questions géodémographiques et à leurs impacts territoriaux, économiques et sociaux.

Son objet consiste à présenter les évolutions en France, en Europe et dans le monde sous l'éclairage révélateur de la géographie de la population et de la science démographique.

Dans ce dessein, cinq fois par an, *Population & Avenir* présente clairement à ses lecteurs le privilège d'informations, d'analyses, de réflexions et d'argumentaires, illustrés par des cartes, des graphiques, des schémas...

En outre, chaque numéro de *Population & Avenir* propose un exercice pédagogique, conforme aux programmes de l'enseignement, amplement illustré, et comprenant un corrigé des questions traitées. Cet exercice s'adresse aux professeurs d'histoire-géographie et de sciences économiques et sociales, ainsi qu'aux élèves et aux étudiants devant préparer des examens ou des concours. Il est également fort apprécié de tous les lecteurs qui y voient une sorte de *trivial pursuit* enrichissant les connaissances tout en stimulant les capacités d'analyse et de synthèse de chacun.



Pour suivre la revue *Population & Avenir* :

<https://www.population-et-avenir.com/abonnement-annuel/abonnement-revue-population-avenir/>

La **recherche** d'un thème ou d'un espace géographique traité dans la revue *Population & Avenir* peut s'effectuer sur les sites :

www.population-et-avenir.com

<http://population-et-avenir.cairn.info>

Une partie des articles et dossiers publiés dans la revue *Population & Avenir* peuvent être acquis selon un **format numérique** sur le site de Cairn info :

<https://www.cairn.info/revue-population-et-avenir.htm>

Les sommaires de la revue *Population & Avenir* en langue anglaise et quelques articles en **anglais (english)** libres de droit sont accessibles à l'adresse :

<https://www.cairn-int.info/journal-population-et-avenir.htm>

UNE APPROCHE RENOUVELÉE & PROSPECTIVE DE LA GÉOGRAPHIE DES POPULATIONS DU MONDE

Gérard-François DUMONT

Collection
U

GÉOGRAPHIE DES POPULATIONS

Concepts, dynamiques, perspectives

Une **étude innovante**
par l'exploration
des grandes dynamiques
démographiques

Plusieurs **études de cas**
à différentes échelles
et territoires

Nombreuses
figures originales

+ UN CAHIER
CARTOGRAPHIQUE
AVEC LES GRANDS
INDICATEURS
À L'ÉCHELLE
MONDIALE



ARMAND COLIN

25,00 €



Gérard-François DUMONT

Géographe, démographe et économiste, professeur à l'université de Paris 4 Sorbonne, Institut de Géographie.
Président de la revue *Population & Avenir* et vice-président de l'Académie de géopolitique de Paris.

www.armand-colin.com

ARMAND COLIN

Ouvrages disponibles en librairie

Mieux comprendre les dynamiques territoriales et les évolutions géopolitiques, économiques et sociales sous l'éclairage révélateur de la démographie.



Population & Avenir, revue indépendante alliant rigueur et pédagogie, vous présente une analyse originale des enjeux actuels. Vous y trouverez une source d'informations, de réflexions et d'argumentaires amplement illustrés par des cartes, des graphiques, des tableaux, des schémas...



Dans chaque numéro, un exercice pédagogique conforme aux programmes des lycées et collèges

www.population-demographie.org

POPULATION & AVENIR
La revue des populations et des territoires

Bulletin d'abonnement

Je m'abonne
pour 1 an (5 numéros)

France 32 €
 Dom/Tom ... 37 €
 Étranger 43 €

Je règle par :

- chèque bancaire ou postal à l'ordre de Population & Avenir
- virement sur le CCP Paris 152-17W
- carte bancaire sur notre site www.population-demographie.org/revue03.htm (paiement sécurisé)

À retourner à :
POPULATION & AVENIR
35, av. Mac-Mahon - 75017 Paris

Offre valable jusqu'au 31 janvier 2017
Conformément à l'article 27 de la loi Informatique et libertés, vous disposez d'un droit d'accès et de rectification des données vous concernant. Sauf opposition de votre part, ces informations pourront être utilisées par des tiers.

Mes coordonnées

M.
 Mme
 Mlle

Nom _____

Prénom _____

Organisme _____

Adresse _____

Code postal _____ Ville _____

Tél. : _____ Fax : _____

Mél : _____

GA2016



Adresse de facturation si différente de l'adresse de livraison