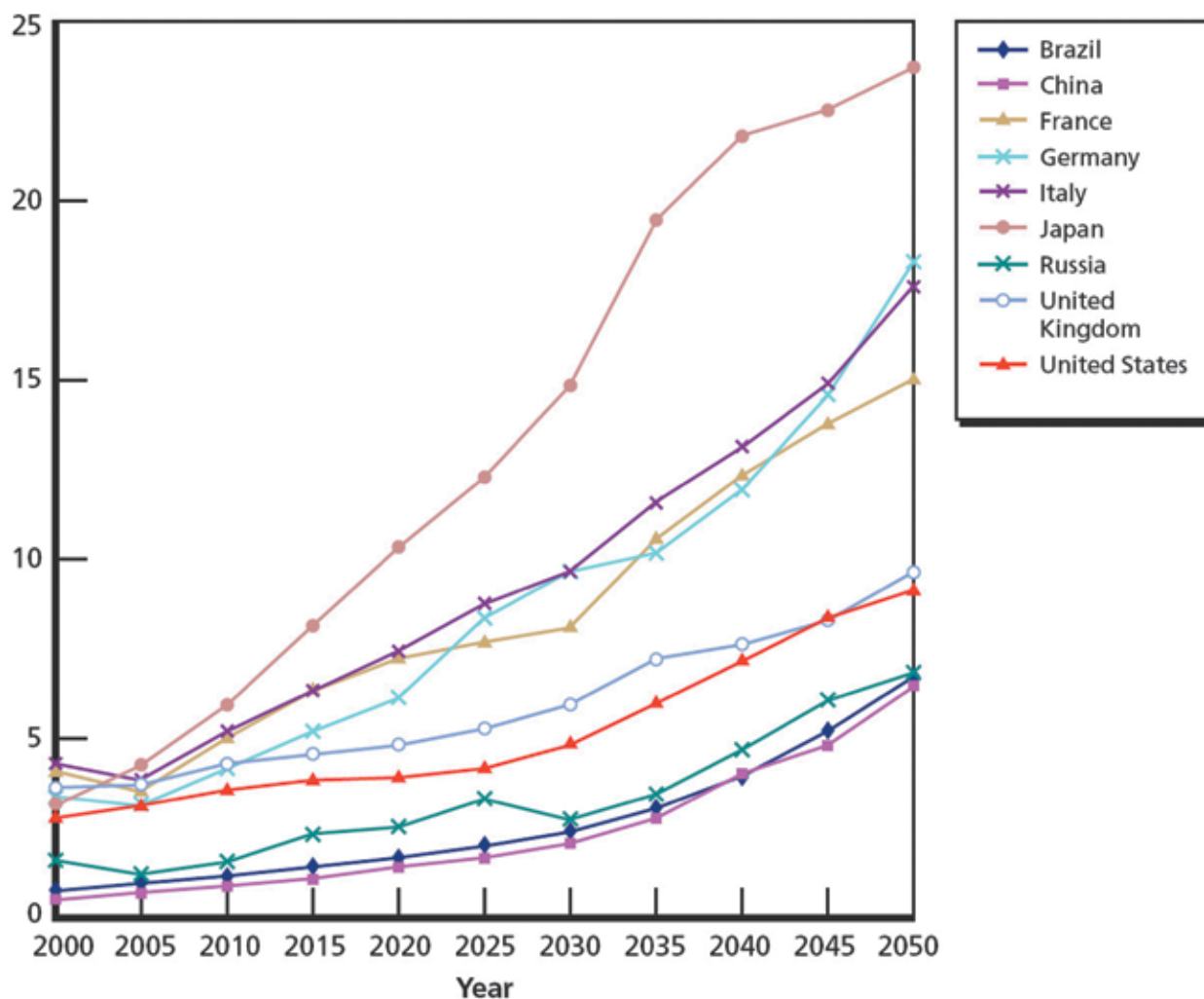


Defense, Demography, and Destiny

Working-age citizens—those between 20 and 60—are the primary sources of a nation's wealth and military strength. In addition, many older than 60 still contribute. However, the so-called "old-old," those over 85, tend to consume rather than generate economic and technological gains. According to a new RAND Corp. study, a high ratio of old-old to the general

population can be a drag on defense. As shown in the chart, Japan, Germany, Italy, and France are headed toward 10 percent old-old in their populations. China, of the major nations, is the one with the lowest proportion of old-old citizens, while the UK, US, Russia, and Brazil are expected to stay below 10 percent through 2050.

Number of "Old-Old" Persons Per 100 Working-Age Adults



Source: "Global Demographic Change and Its Implications for Military Power," by Martin C. Libicki, Howard J. Shatz, Julie E. Taylor. RAND Corp., Santa Monica, Calif., 2011. Reprinted with permission.