

# Reproduction

From contraception to cloning and from pregnancy to populations, reproduction presents urgent challenges today. This field-defining history synthesizes a vast amount of scholarship to take the long view. Spanning from antiquity to the present day, the book focuses on the Mediterranean, western Europe, North America and their empires. It combines history of science, technology and medicine with social, cultural and demographic accounts. Ranging from the most intimate experiences to planetary policy, it tells new stories and revises received ideas. An international team of scholars asks how modern 'reproduction' – an abstract process of perpetuating living organisms – replaced the old 'generation' – the active making of humans and beasts, plants and even minerals. Striking illustrations invite readers to explore artefacts, from an ancient Egyptian fertility figurine to an announcement of the first test-tube baby. Authoritative and accessible, *Reproduction* offers students and non-specialists an essential starting point and sets fresh agendas for research.

**Nick Hopwood** is Professor of History of Science and Medicine at the University of Cambridge. He is the author of *Haeckel's Embryos: Images, Evolution, and Fraud* (2015), which won the Suzanne J. Levinson Prize of the History of Science Society.

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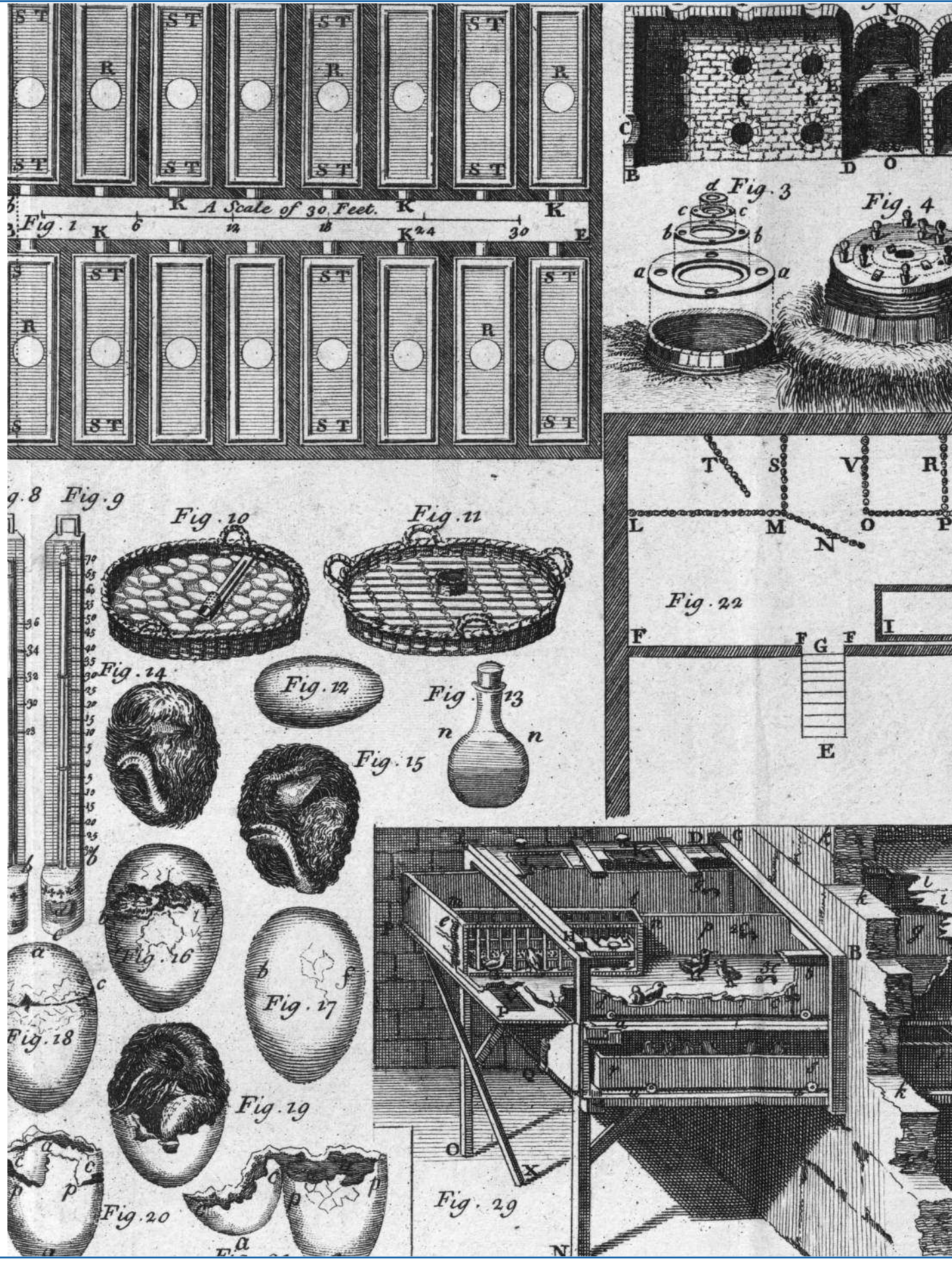




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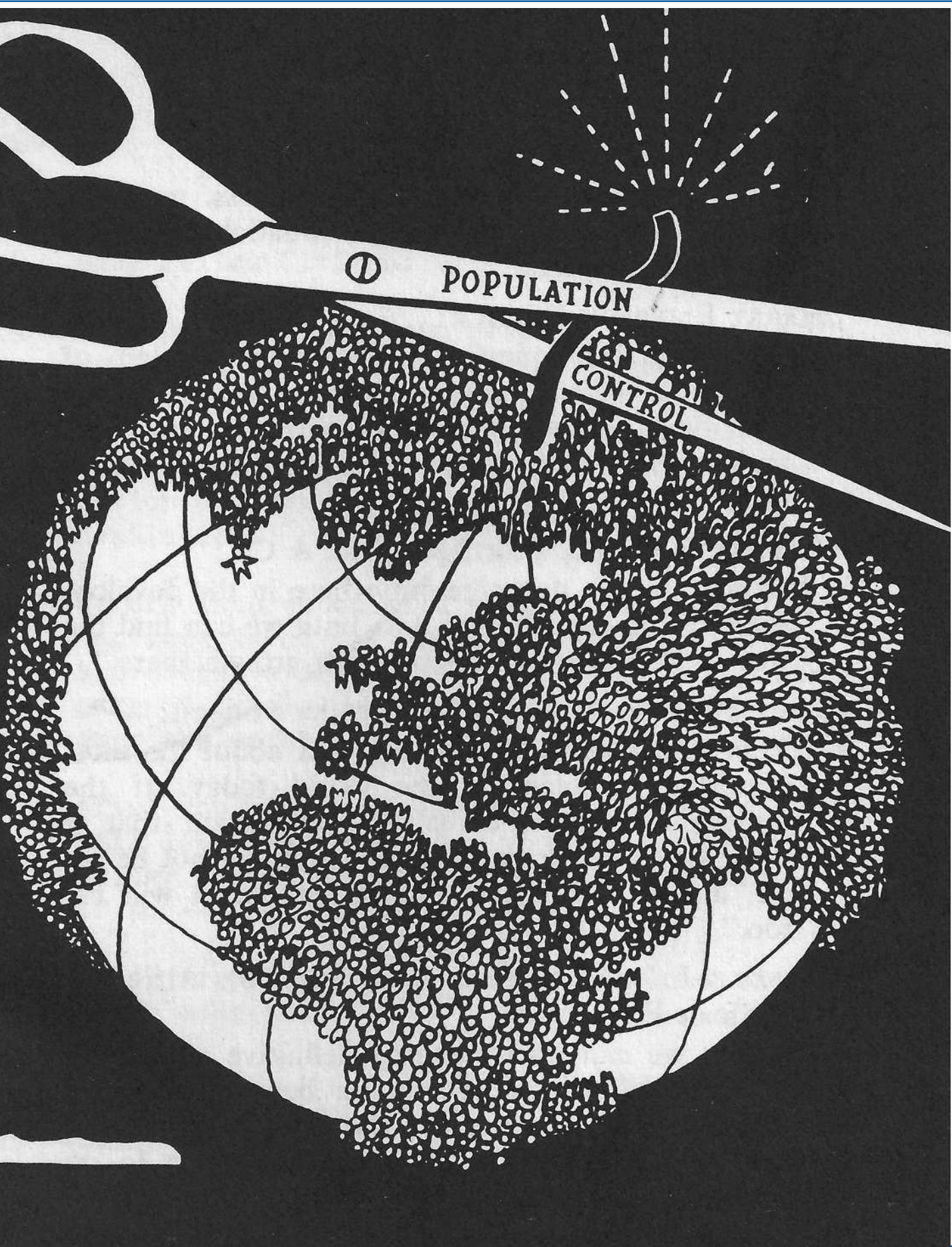
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## Antiquity to the Present Day

Edited by

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*In memory of John Forrester (1949–2015)*



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## Notes on the Frontispieces

- [1] The birth of Helen of Troy on a fourth-century BC vase from southern Italy. In the version of the story illustrated here, Zeus took the shape of a swan to force himself on the goddess Nemesis. A Spartan shepherd picked up the egg she laid and gave it to Leda, his queen. We see the egg hatching on a warm altar. The baby Helen reaches towards a startled Leda (left) as the shepherd (right) looks on. Eros kneels above, signalling that love and desire are key to a tale that, in one form or another, inspires artists to this day (see illustration on p. 656, this book). Apulian red-figure *pelike*, c. 360–350 BC. H 33 cm. Kunsthalle zu Kiel, Antikensammlung, inv. no. B501.
- [2] The Annunciation depicted on a small luxury mosaic from early fourteenth-century Constantinople, in typical Byzantine style. The archangel Gabriel holds up one hand in the gesture of speech: ‘You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus’ (Luke 1:31). A beam descends from heaven, the light representing the Holy Spirit touching Mary, who adopts a modest posture as she heeds the angel’s words. The theme has endured on devotional objects and altarpieces throughout the Christian world. 15 × 10 cm. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London, no. 7321–1860.
- [3] This detail of the frontispiece to William Harvey’s celebrated treatise on generation shows Zeus opening an egg labelled ‘Everything from an egg’. The release of humans, other animals and plants invoked Pandora’s box (originally a jar), from which both all evil and eternal hope flew out into the world. For Harvey, the egg was a product of conception, not the structure we know today; that remained elusive for centuries to come even as the searchers echoed these words. Frontispiece, probably drawn and etched by Richard Gaywood, from William Harvey, *Exercitationes de generatione animalium* (London: Octavian Pulleyn, 1651). Cambridge University Library.
- [4] Detail of ‘a large and beautiful Copper Plate, representing ... the Method of hatching and bringing up Domestick Fowls’, to illustrate the work of the Paris academician René-Antoine Ferchault de Réaumur in the *London Magazine; or Gentleman’s Monthly Intelligencer*. We see various views of Egyptian ovens, egg baskets and thermometers, stages in the hatching of the chicks and a chicken-house. Réaumur, who wanted there to be a chicken in every peasant’s Sunday pot, roused people of varied social station in many countries to experiment with temperature and humidity while raising birds for amusement or profit. From *London Magazine* 19 (July 1750), facing p. 318. Cambridge University Library.

**xxvii** Notes on the Frontispieces

- [5] 'Away with Paragraph 218'. Photograph (detail) of a march in Leipzig on 19 August 1928, to protest against the abortion-outlawing paragraph of the German criminal code of 1871. Part of a large campaign, led by the parties of the left and feminist groups, this rally of the Red Women's and Girls' League was organized by the Red Front Fighters' League, a communist paramilitary organization banned the following year. The Nazis made the penalties for abortions harsher in general, while forcing them on 'racial' grounds; significant reform came only in the 1970s, when struggles over reproduction intensified – in the German states and elsewhere. © bpk.
- [6] *The Population Bomb*, cover of a pamphlet published by the Hugh Moore Fund in New York in 1954. Moore, the Dixie-Cup millionaire, promoted voluntary sterilization as he extended an interwar programme of Malthusian internationalism into the Cold War. The fund aimed at 'preserving world peace, arresting Communism and improving the lot of people in overpopulated countries.' This image has prompted many variations, most famously Paul R. Ehrlich's bestselling 1968 paperback of the same name (Fig. 34.4, this book). It still shapes debate over the 'carrying capacity' of the Earth today. 15 × 7.5 cm.

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Frontmatter

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