



JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN DURING A POPULATION CENSUS

...In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

And all went to be registered.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

(Luke 2:1-5)

Did you know that the population census is a practice that is as old as the state as an institution? It cannot be stated precisely who was the first ruler who counted his male-subjects for military purposes or who prepared a list of households in order to levy them with tax. Since millennia figures obtained from population censuses serve as elements of political propaganda, especially in order to justify expansion of the territory.

It is believed that the beginning of counting of people, animals and products of first necessity is laid long before the cited population census described in the New Testament - in ancient Babylon nearly 6 000 years ago, it was decided to count people, livestock, butter, milk and honey as well as ... wool and vegetables. And it - every 6-7 years not with computers, calculators and other tools to facilitate the counting but ... using the abacus and interviewers with mathematical talent.





It is known that population censuses have been carried out by the ancient Egyptians, Japanese, Greeks, Hebrews, Persians and Romans, and the results were generally treated as a state secret. In Europe there are census data from the 15th and 16th centuries. For example, a 1449 Census data for the city of Nuremberg presumably were used to determine the needed food supply in case of a siege of the city.

The oldest periodic population census was conducted in the United States every ten years from 1790 onwards. Census in the UK date back to 1801 and a census has taken there every ten years except in 1941, during World War II.

Mid-19th century marks the beginning of modern census in which information was collected for the individual, but not for the household (in Brussels in 1842 and in the US in 1850).

In the late 19th century, the International Statistical Institute approved a set of rules for the census and for presentation of the results.

One of the early issues considered by the United Nations since its inception was that it develops a plan for conducting a global population census in 1950. Although at that time there were no conditions for its conduct, the United Nations took steps to foster census taking and made recommendations to improve the comparability of data. As a result, until 1960 the world had about 180 population censuses - 2.2 billion people.

In 1958 The United Nations gives the following definition of a modern population census: 'A census of population may be defined as the total process of collecting, compiling and publishing demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specified time or times, to all persons in a country or delimited territory.'

The reasons for the population censuses are directly dependent on the needs of the state and its socio-economic development. There is a need for a lot of information to take appropriate management decisions and to create conditions for improving the health status, literacy, education, income, agricultural production, industrial production, provision of food and other consumer goods. Information from the population censuses is used to determine the representativeness of legislative bodies, the number of persons eligible to vote, and others.

Census data are a solid basis for a variety of demographic, economic and social research. They provide opportunity for identification and description of such groups as the workforce, economic dependents, rural and urban populations, racial and religious minorities, refugees, researchers and others. Comparisons of the dynamic series show changes in the number, characteristics and location of the population.

Population and housing census is the largest survey, conducted periodically by the Statistical Office of Bulgaria.

Bulgaria has a long, proud to be worthy history of population censuses. The beginning is at the dawn of the Third Bulgarian State in 1880, when the data received played an important role in the writing of the new Bulgarian history and in shaping the future development of the country. In the 136-year history of Bulgarian statistics, so far, there have been 17 organized and conducted censuses.



Since the beginning of the new century the NSI has conducted two population and housing censuses in accordance with the recommendations of Eurostat, and the data are comparable with other European countries and are part of the data for Europe and the world.

In 2011 in Bulgaria, for the first time was conducted an online population census as a response to the rapid development and growing influence of information technology in society. 41% of the population was counted via internet (in Sofia - 66%, in Varna - 51%, in Gabrovo - 44%, in Rouse - 43%, in Bourgas and Plovdiv - by 41%).



The results from the Population Census 2011 are available at:
http://statlib.nsi.bg:8181/FullT/FulltOpen/P_22_2011_SRB.pdf