

# The Reluctant Economist

*Perspectives on Economics,  
Economic History, and Demography*

RICHARD A. EASTERLIN  
*University of Southern California*

CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

# Contents

<i>List of Tables and Figures</i>	page ix
<i>Preface</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xix

## PART ONE. ECONOMICS

1 The Reluctant Economist	3
2 Economics and the Use of Subjective Testimony	21
3 Is Economic Growth Creating a New Postmaterialistic Society?	32

## PART TWO. ECONOMIC HISTORY

4 Why Isn't the Whole World Developed?	57
5 Kuznets Cycles and Modern Economic Growth	74
6 Industrial Revolution and Mortality Revolution: Two of a Kind?	84
7 How Beneficent Is the Market? A Look at the Modern History of Mortality	101

## PART THREE. DEMOGRAPHY

8 An Economic Framework for Fertility Analysis	141
9 New Perspectives on the Demographic Transition	166
10 Does Human Fertility Adjust to the Environment? Population Change and Farm Settlement in the Northern United States	184

11	America's Baby Boom and Bust, 1940-1980: Causes and Consequences	205
12	Preferences and Prices in Choice of Career: The Switch to Business	219
	<i>Epilogue</i>	247
	<i>Bibliography</i>	251
	<i>Index</i>	279