

46 out of 191 nations worldwide permit abortion to save the mother's life. Ten European countries have liberal abortion laws (allowing abortion on demand in the first trimester and providing financial support): Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Sweden, and Greece. Greece, for example, has been a democracy since 1974 and has allowed abortion on demand since 1978. Abortions are paid for by the state.

- 1.) What are the fitness tradeoffs for females in terms of reproduction? What are some of the social and demographic issues surrounding control of fertility?
- 2.) What are the physical and social reasons a woman might seek an abortion? What are the consequences of limiting a woman's right to choose? What are the consequences of providing access to abortion?
- 3.) What are some of the traditional practices that have remained common throughout traditional societies around the world for regulating fertility? What are some of the reasons that abortion the state tries to regulate abortion?
- 4.) What kinds of social, political, economic, and cultural reasons might underlie a pro-natalist position on abortion in some nations or communities?
- 5.) What kinds of social, political, economic, and cultural factors might play into the development of a less regulated or less formal position on abortion within a given society?
- 6.) Why do you think abortion is often more harshly regulated after 3-5 months gestation?
- 7.) How do social status and access to resources shape a woman's decision about whether or not she can support children (given the idea of fitness tradeoffs). How do these factors determine a woman's ability to have an abortion?