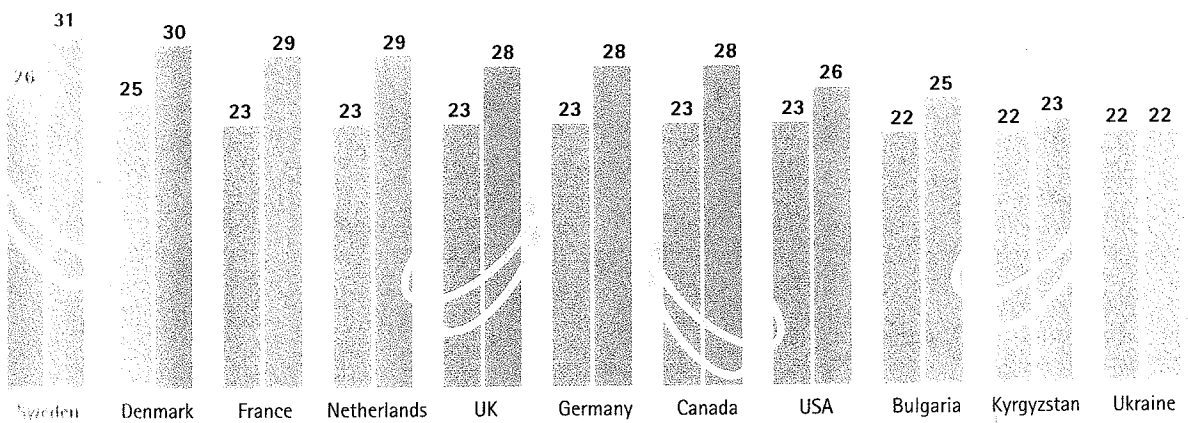
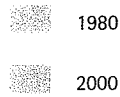


FAMILIES

Waiting longer

Average age of women
at first marriage

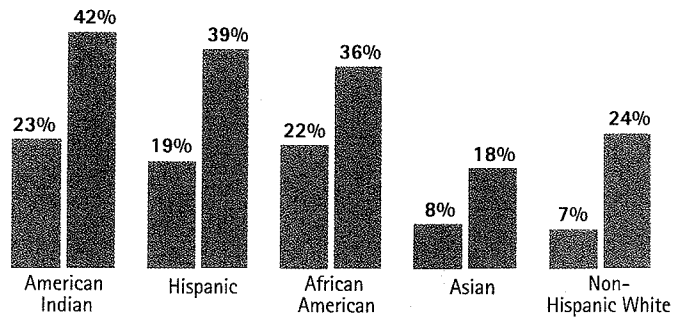
1980 compared with most recent
available data since 2000
selected industrialized countries



4 Households

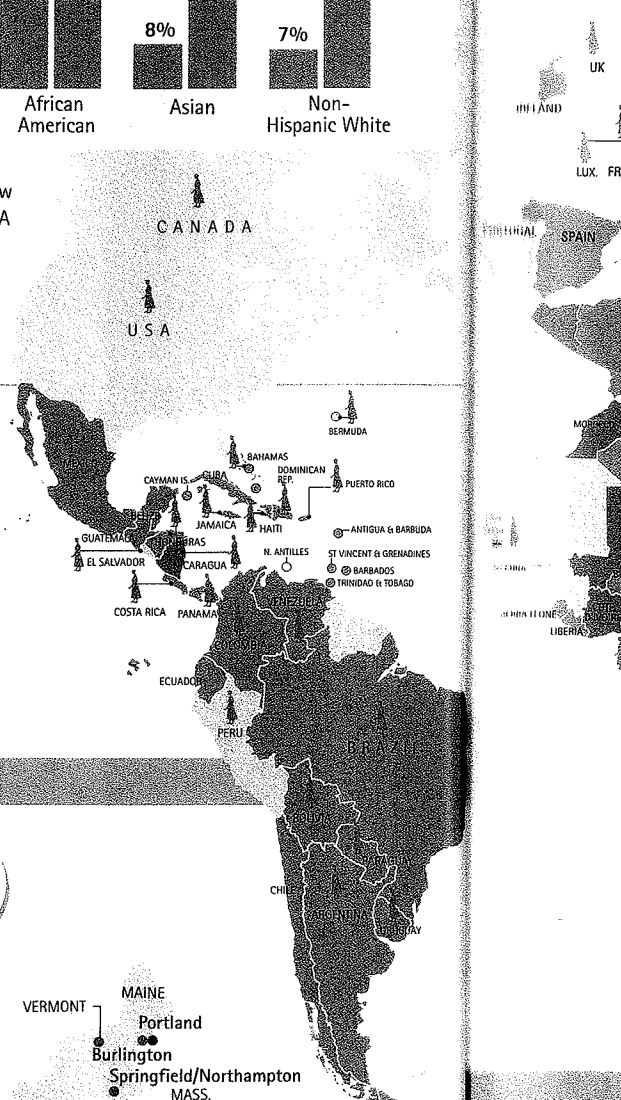
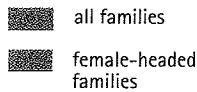
The nature of families and of households is undergoing quite extraordinary changes. Both are smaller; more are headed by women, and more people live alone. Households are smallest in rich countries, having declined there to an average of 2.8 people per household. The number of one-person households is growing dramatically, the result of increases in unmarried adults and in elderly women living alone. Only in some northern African countries have household sizes increased.

More and more women around the world find themselves the only adult in the household. Of all lone-parent households, about 85 percent are headed by women. These are poorer than those headed by men. Households headed by elderly women living alone face the greatest economic disadvantages of all.



Women and poverty

Percentage of families living below the official poverty line in the USA 2006



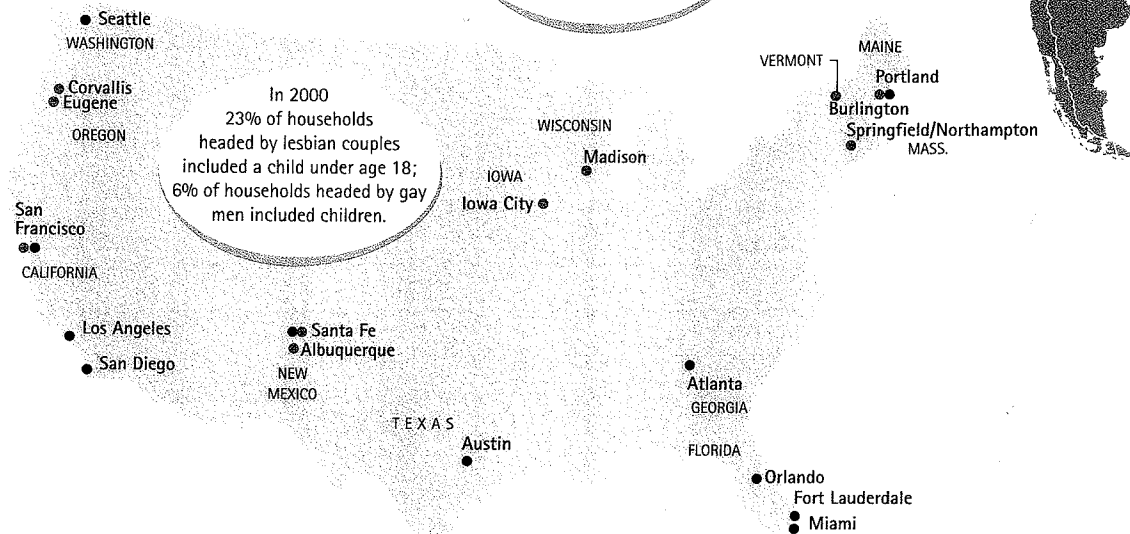
Lesbian and gay households in the USA

2000

Top ten cities with highest concentration of:

- lesbian households
- gay male households

Between 2% and 5% of households consist of same-sex partner households. The 2000 Census was the first in the USA to enumerate these.



The shrinking household

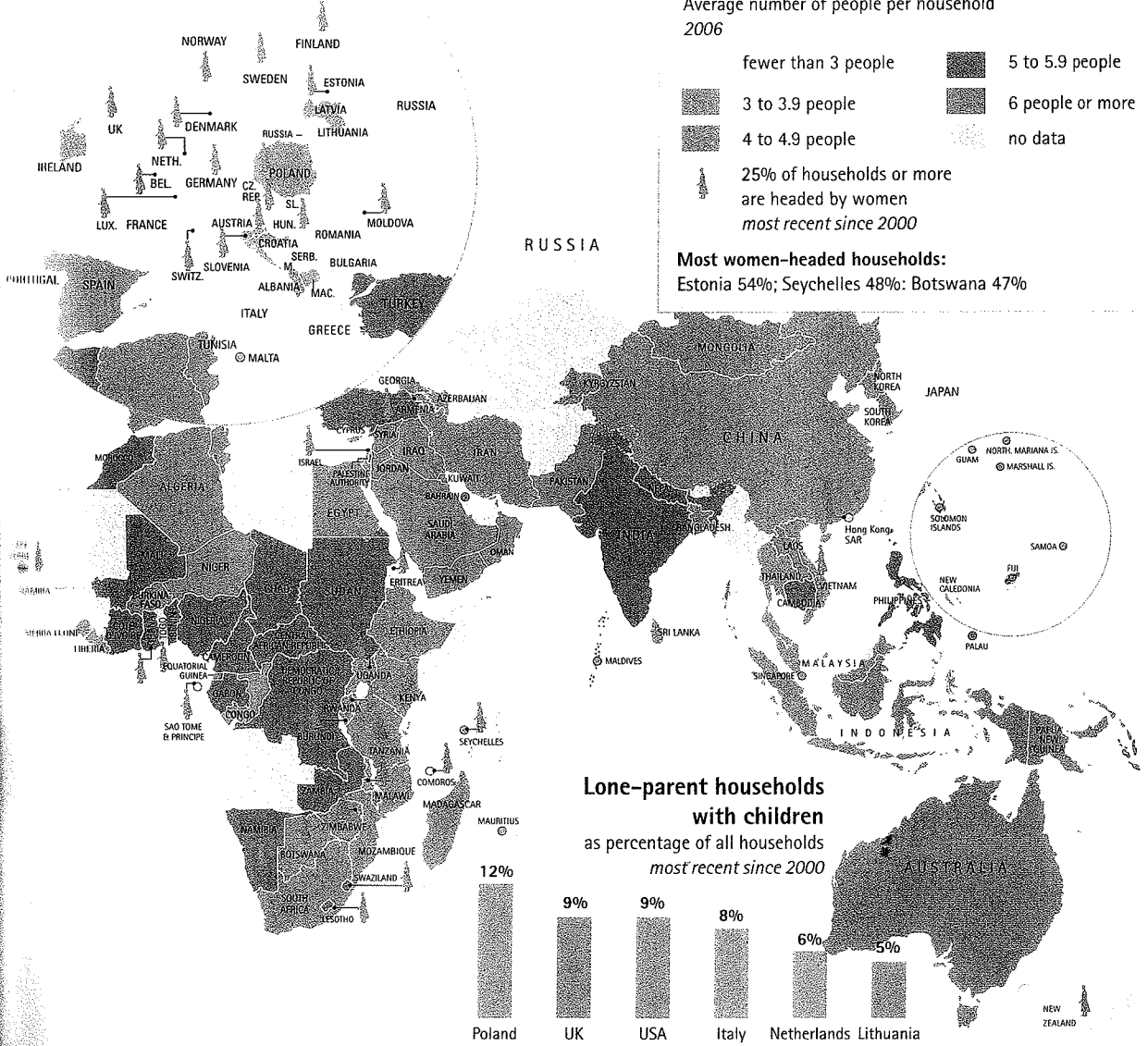
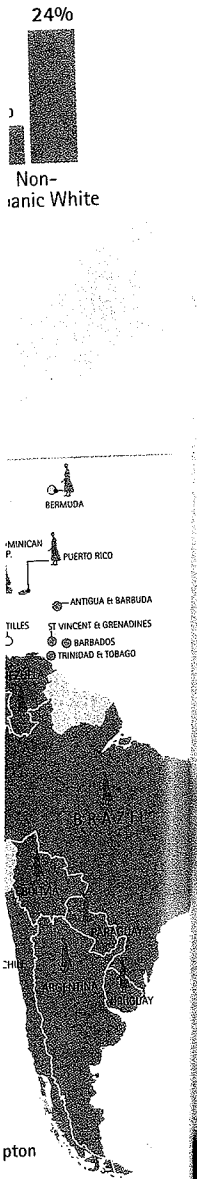
Average number of people per household
2006



25% of households or more
are headed by women
most recent since 2000

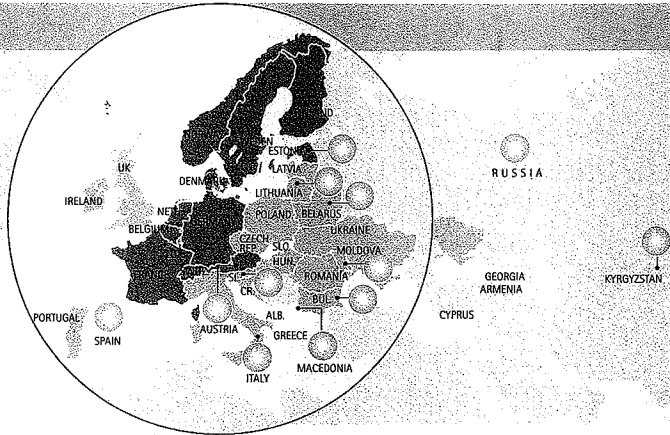
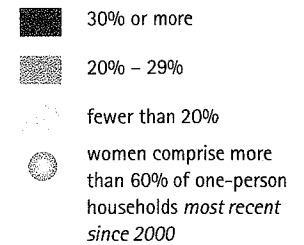
Most women-headed households:

Estonia 54%; Seychelles 48%; Botswana 47%



Living alone

One-person households
as % of all households
most recent since 2000



Marriage and Divorce

With the exception of the Caribbean region, which is notable for its relatively low rates of marriage, most women and men in the world spend most of their lives married. However, the nature of marriage varies widely from place to place, and between men and women.

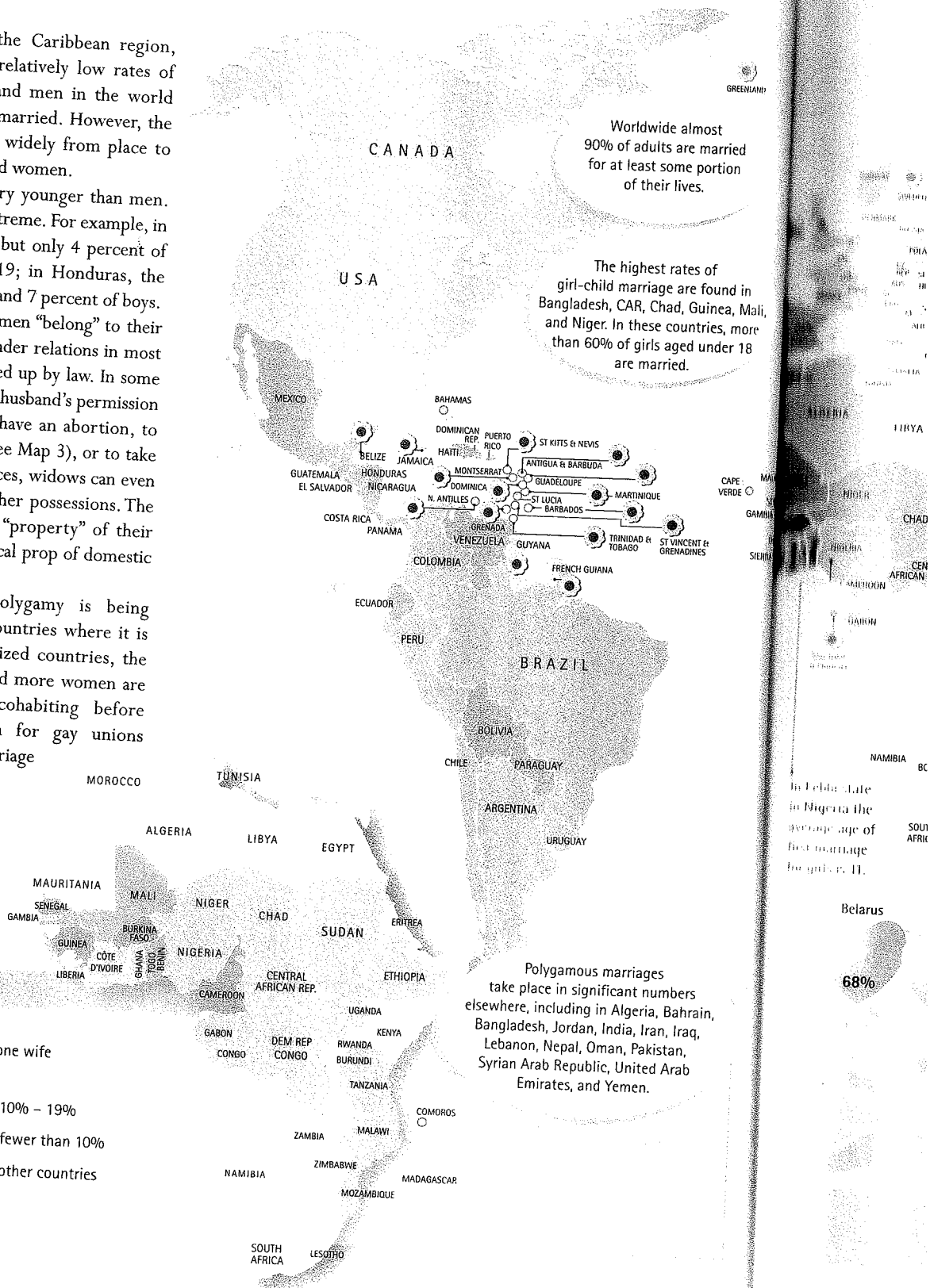
Worldwide, women marry younger than men. In some places the gap is extreme. For example, in Niger, 70 percent of girls, but only 4 percent of boys are married by age 19; in Honduras, the figure is 30 percent of girls and 7 percent of boys.

The idea that married women "belong" to their husbands still dominates gender relations in most countries, and is often backed up by law. In some countries women need their husband's permission to buy or sell property, to have an abortion, to travel outside the country (see Map 3), or to take up employment. In some places, widows can even be "inherited" along with other possessions. The notion that women are the "property" of their husbands is a potent ideological prop of domestic violence (see Map 7).

Marriage is changing. Polygamy is being challenged in many of the countries where it is practiced. In most industrialized countries, the women are marrying later, and more women are not getting married, or cohabiting before marriage. Legal recognition for gay unions expands the boundaries of marriage (see Map 6).

Worldwide almost 90% of adults are married for at least some portion of their lives.

The highest rates of girl-child marriage are found in Bangladesh, CAR, Chad, Guinea, Mali, and Niger. In these countries, more than 60% of girls aged under 18 are married.



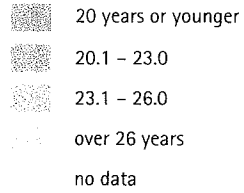
Polygamy in Africa

Percentage of women aged 15-49 married to men who have more than one wife 2000 or latest available data

- 50% or more
- 40% - 49%
- 30% - 39%
- 20% - 29%
- 10% - 19%
- fewer than 10%
- other countries

Getting married

Average age of women at first marriage
2003



20% of women
over 45 have
never married

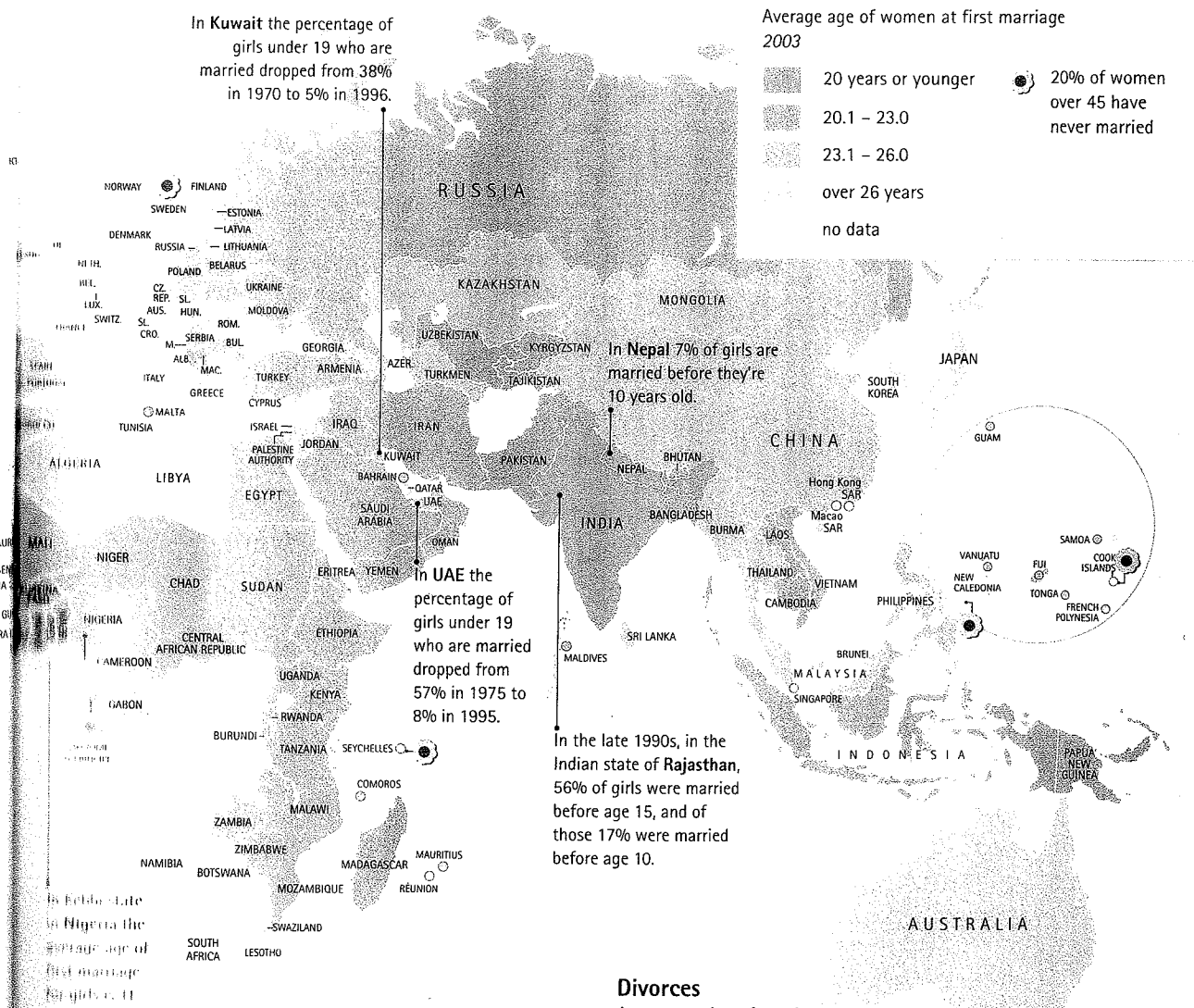
Worldwide almost
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Highest rates of
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are married.

- MARTINIQUE
- TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
- ST VINCENT & GRENADINES

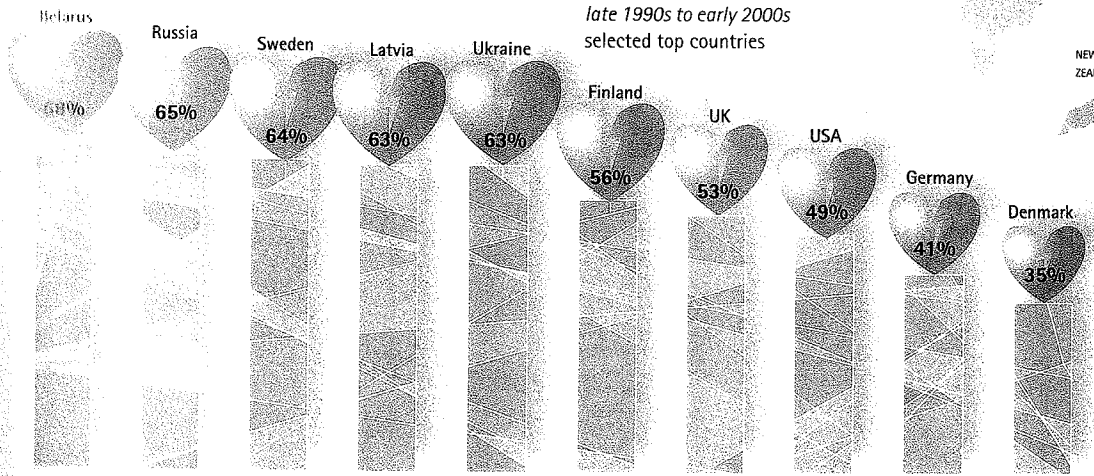
VA

ous marriages
significant numbers
ing in Algeria, Bahrain,
Iran, Iraq, Oman, Pakistan,
United Arab
, and Yemen.



Divorces

As a proportion of marriages
late 1990s to early 2000s
selected top countries

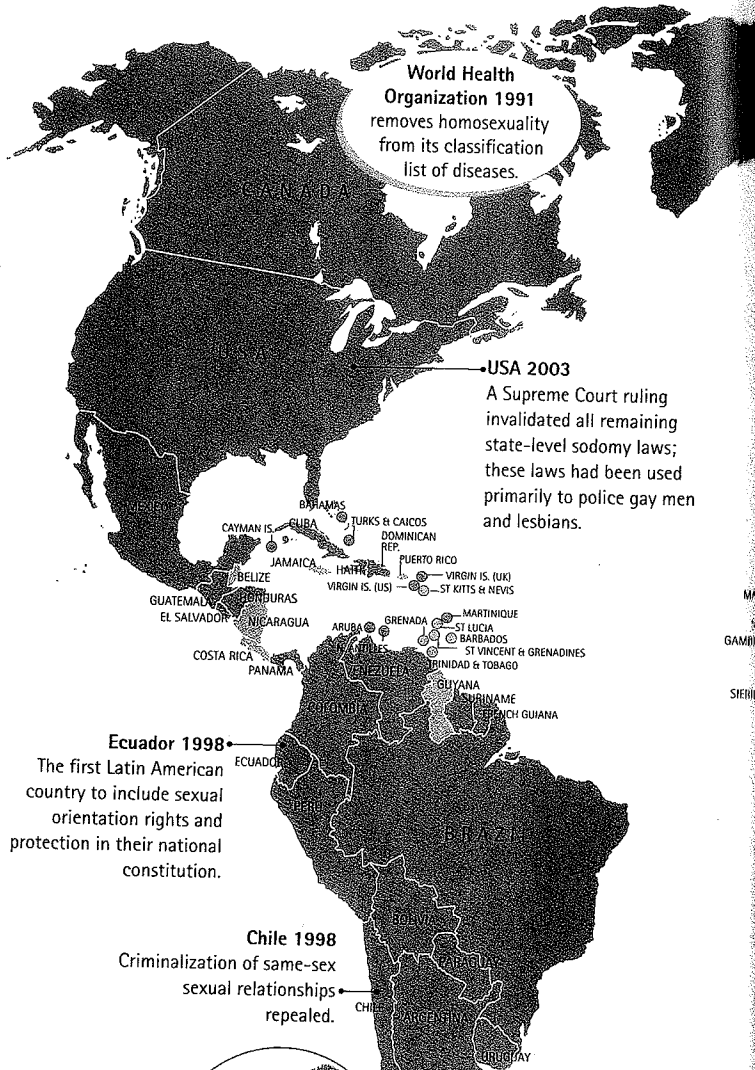


6 Lesbian Rights

Lesbians and gay men are increasingly visible in many countries. Lesbian and gay organizing over the past decade has been impressive. In some countries, governments are slowly responding to pressure to offer protection and recognition for lesbian and gay rights.

In other places, though, hatred of homosexuals is institutionalized and encouraged, and repression of lesbians and gay men remains severe. Lesbians are often raped, sometimes by family members, as a punishment or as a "treatment" for their homosexuality. While it is difficult to generalize about what provokes such strong homophobia, it is clear that the presence of lesbians and gay men challenges complacency about narrow definitions of what constitutes a family, a household, or "normal" sexual relationships.

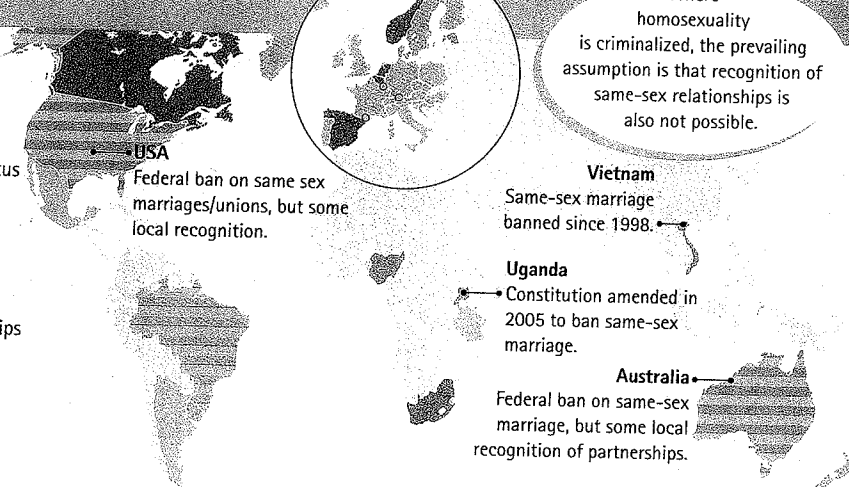
When women step outside of heterosexual norms, they are seen as being doubly subversive – both as members of a sexual minority, and also as women who are rejecting male authority.



Same-sex partnership recognition

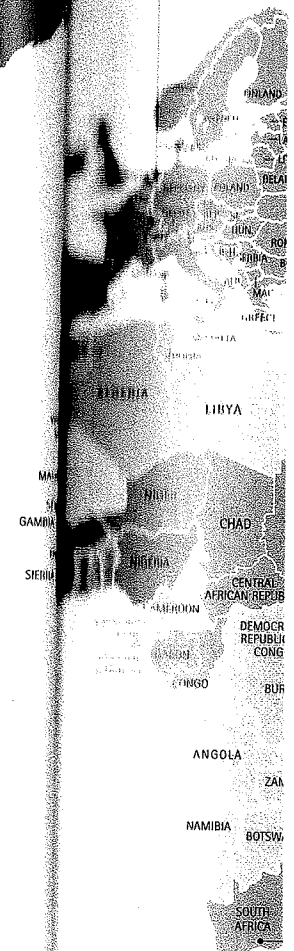
Status as of mid-2008

- same-sex marriages and partnerships accorded the same legal standing as heterosexual marriages in national law
- same-sex partnerships have similar status to heterosexual marriages
- same-sex partnerships have legal standing under national law, but not on parity with heterosexual marriages
- legal recognition of same-sex partnerships is extended at some state or local levels
- national-level legislation bans federal recognition of same-sex partnerships



Where homosexuality is criminalized, the prevailing assumption is that recognition of same-sex relationships is also not possible.

Orthodox, 200...
First... to a...
... couples...
... on same...
... sexual...



83%

77

Germany Frar