

DEMOGRAPHIC FORCES SHAPING THE RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION OF VIENNA 1951-2011



Wittgenstein Centre

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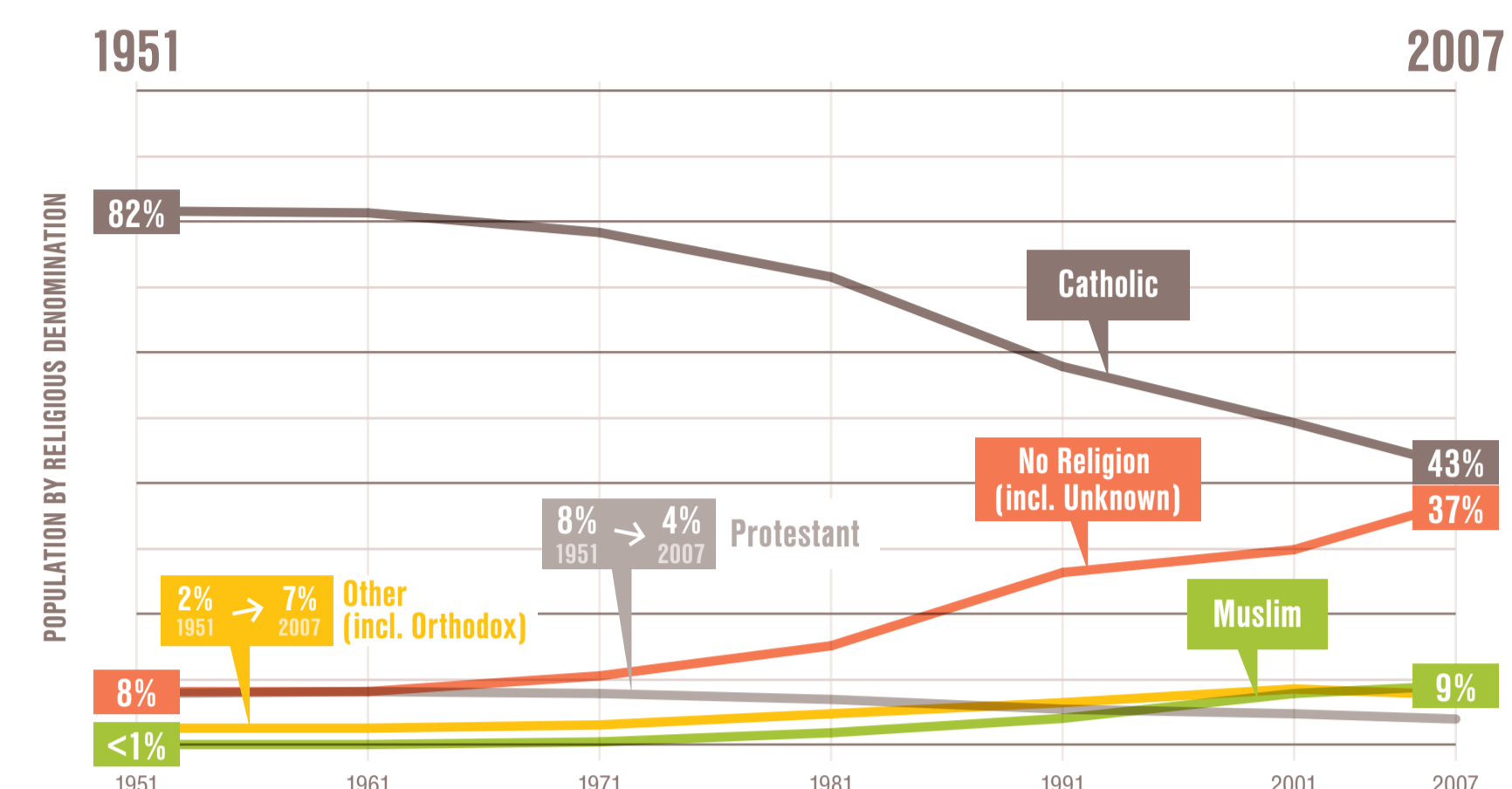
2011

Population: 1,714,142

Population of Vienna by age, sex and religious denomination

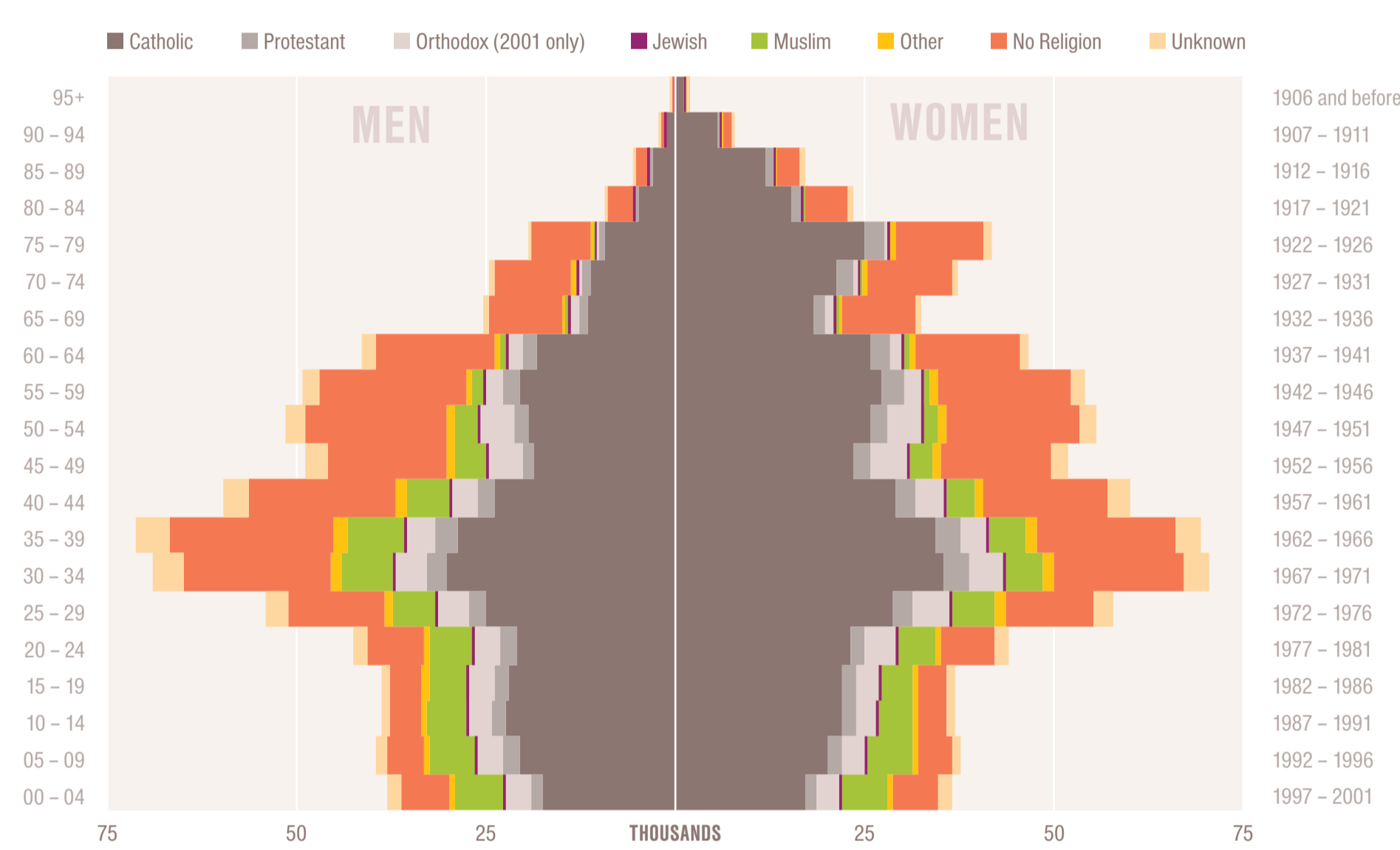
In the second half of the twentieth century, the population of Vienna went through radical changes – not necessarily in terms of size, but rather in terms of age and religious composition. Until the 1970s, Vienna had a large majority of Catholics, with Protestants being the second main denomination at a much lower level, complemented by a quite numerous secular population. During the 1980s and the 1990s, secularization proceeded and large flows of international migration further diversified the city's religious landscape. At the turn of the millennium, and as a consequence of various dynamic processes, Catholics became a minority in Vienna.

Increasing religious diversity in Vienna

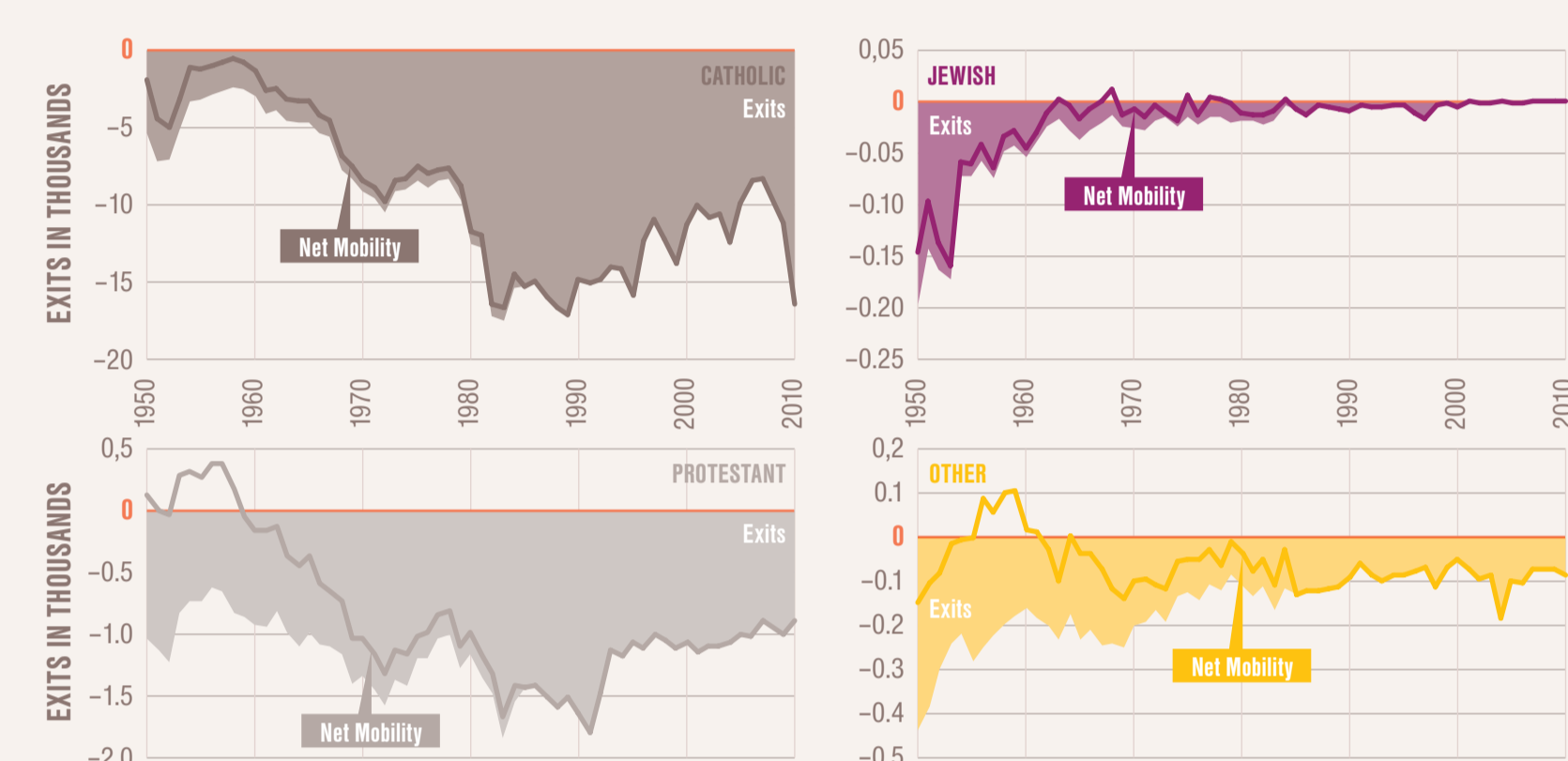


2001

Population: 1,550,123

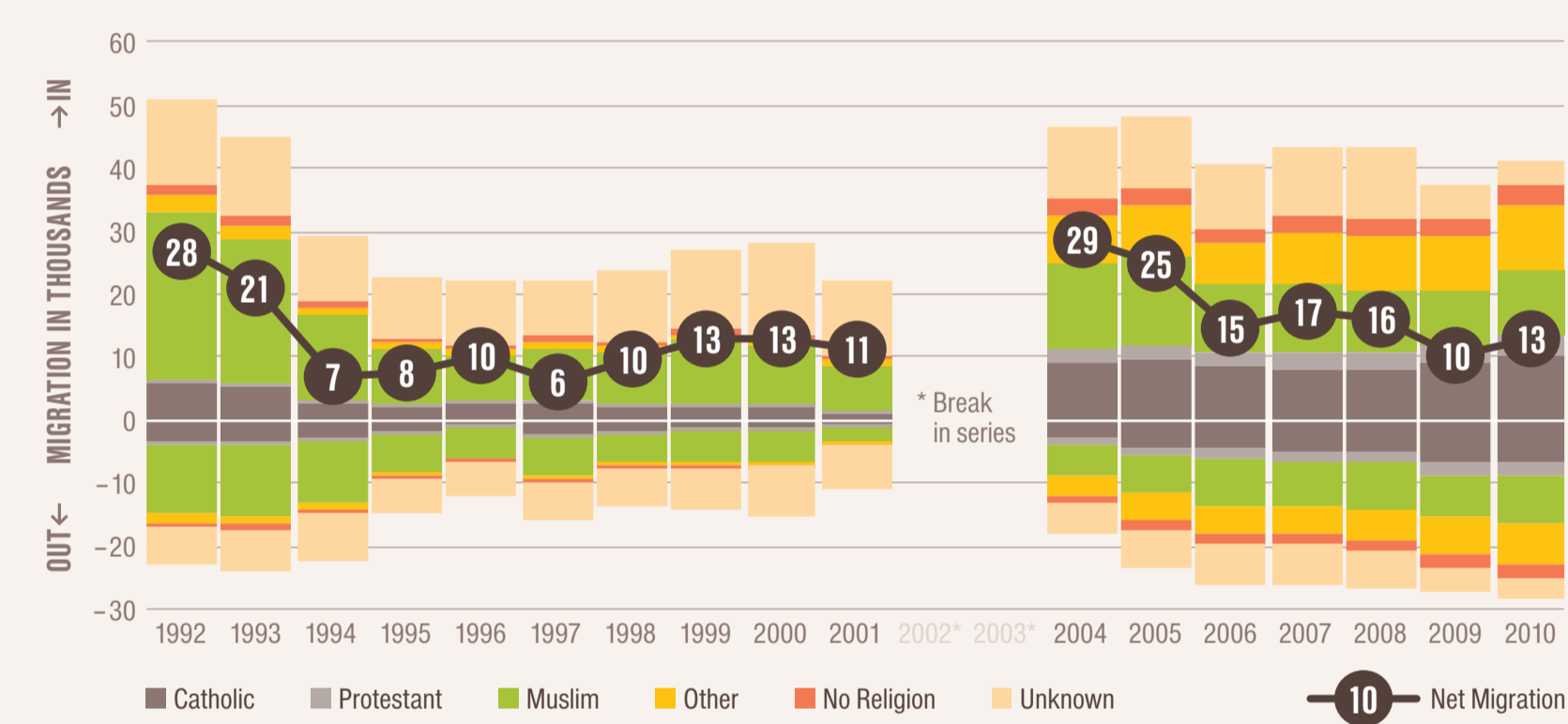


Main forces of the past: secularization & migration



Religious mobility in Vienna 1950 – 2010 Since the 1960s, the Catholic and Protestant Churches have been losing members, in a similar pattern but at a different scale, with less and less compensation coming from new entrants. Most of the peak losses (1995, 1999, 2004, 2010) for the Catholic Church correspond to church-related sexual abuse scandals in Austria or elsewhere.

METHODOLOGY NOTE: Entrants to religious denominations are only available until 1984; from 1984 onwards: net mobility corresponds to exits.

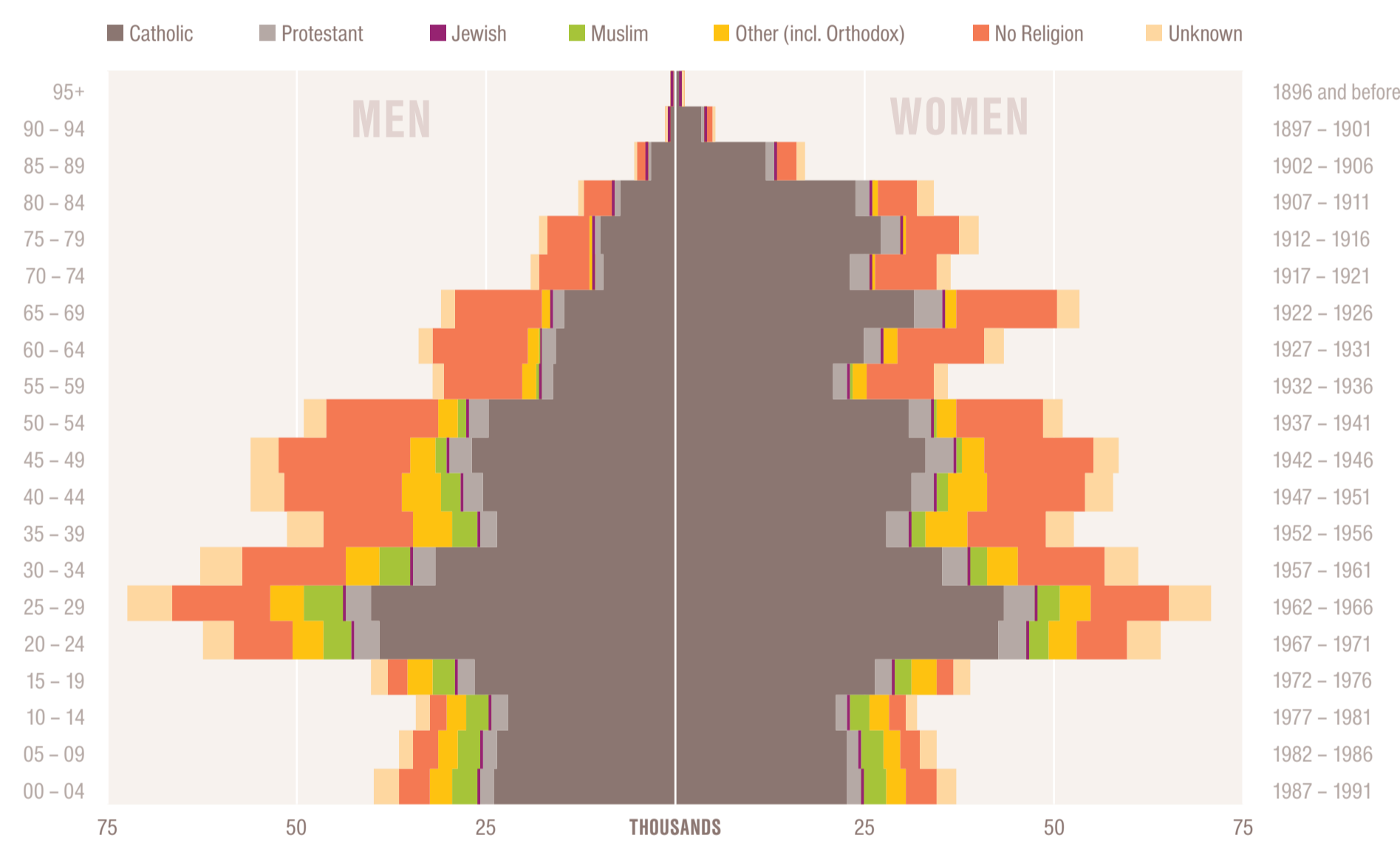


International migration flows by religion, Vienna 1992 – 2010 In the 1990s, three quarters of the international migrants to Vienna were Muslims from Turkey and Former Yugoslavia. The share of Muslims has declined since the early 2000s and recent migration flows are equally driven by the Catholic-, other- (mostly Orthodox) and Muslim-denominations.

METHODOLOGY NOTE: Migrants are assumed to be randomly selected from their countries of citizenship. Migration flows of Austrian citizens are not included.

1991

Population: 1,539,848

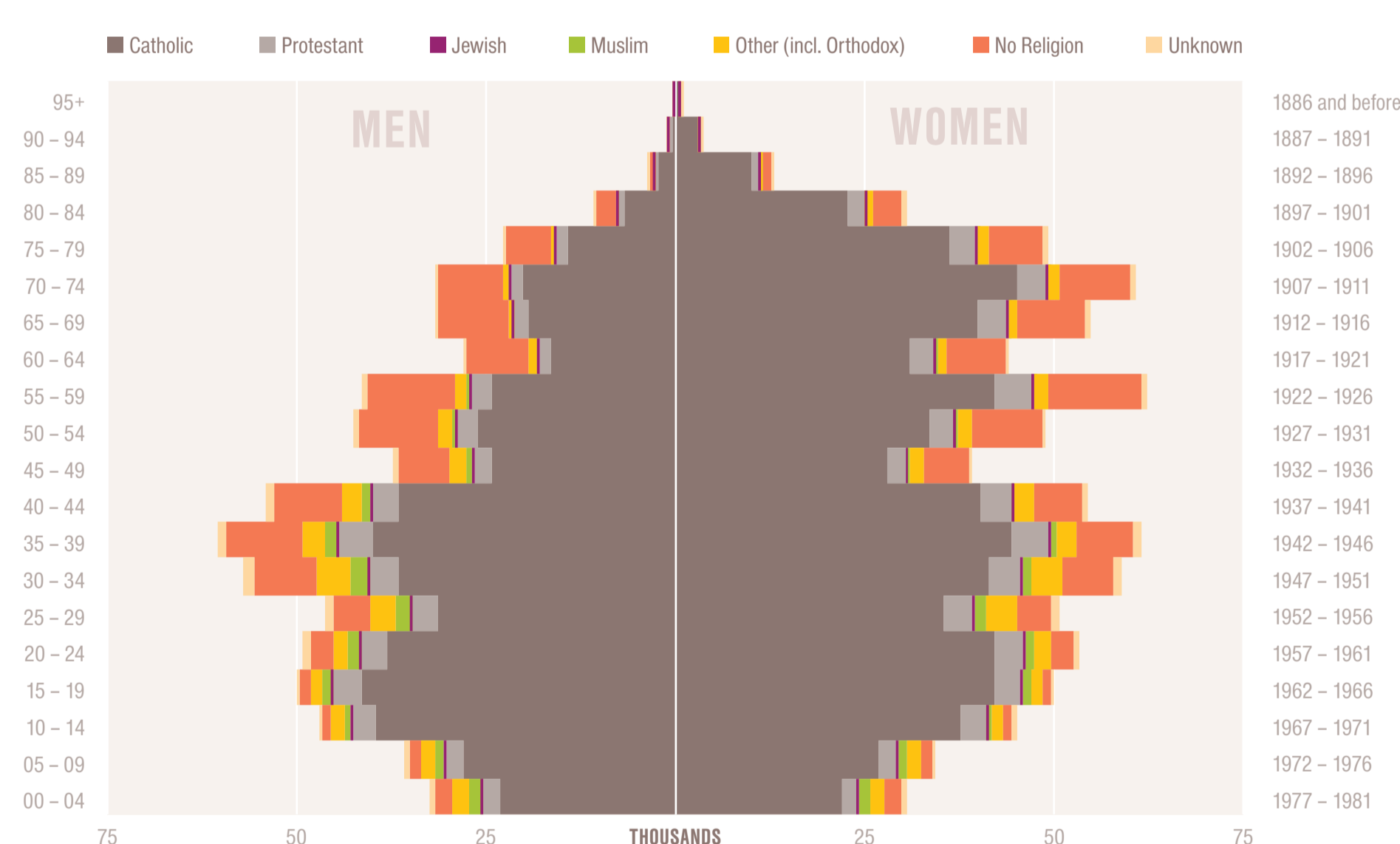


Forces shaping the religious composition

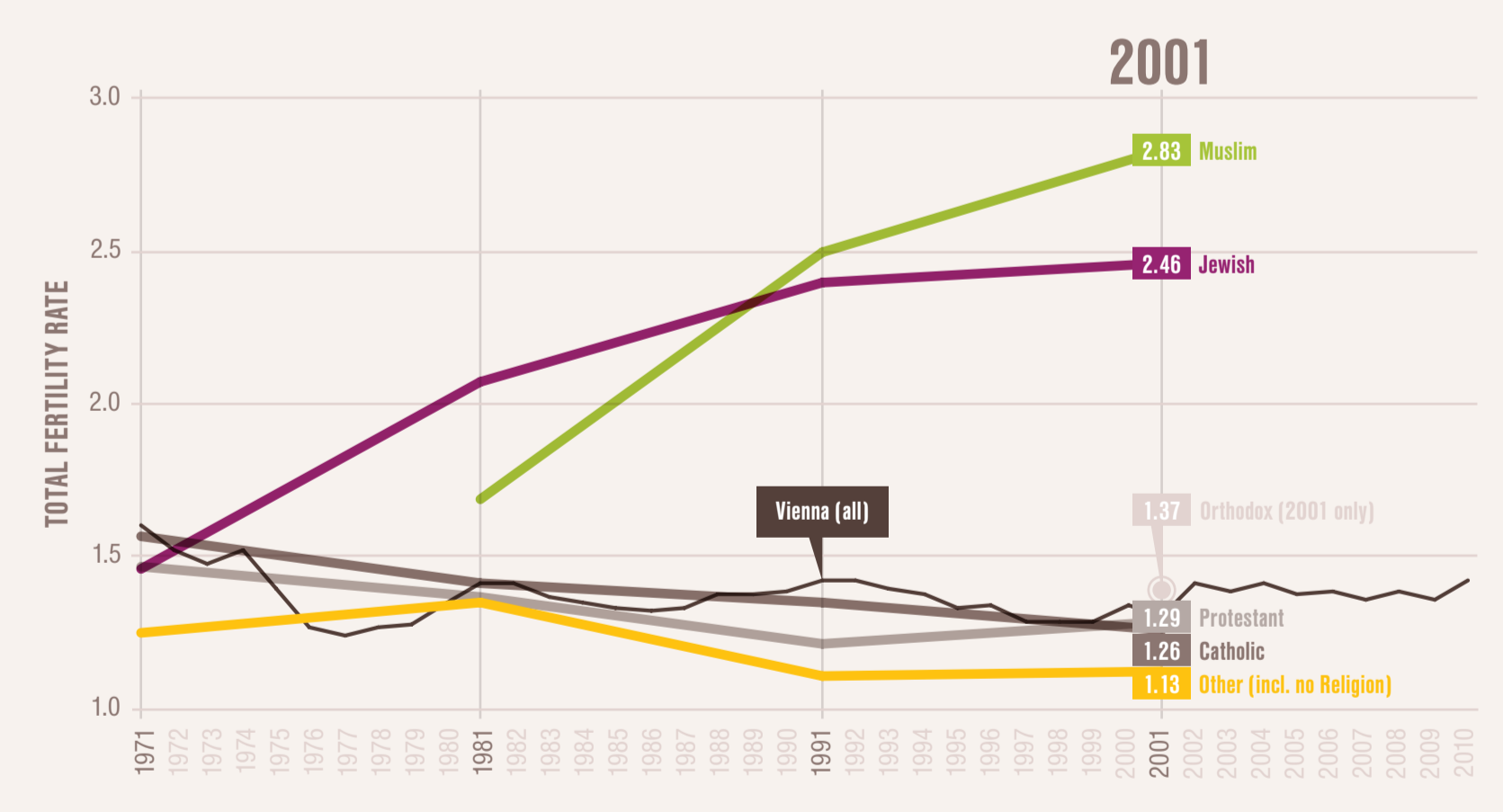
Secularization and international migration have been the main factors shaping Vienna's changing religious landscape. More restrictive and selective migration as well as the resurgence of religion (Kaufmann 2011) may mean that the extent of fertility differentials by religious denominations and of exogamy could play the major roles in determining the future religious composition of Vienna.

1981

Population: 1,531,346

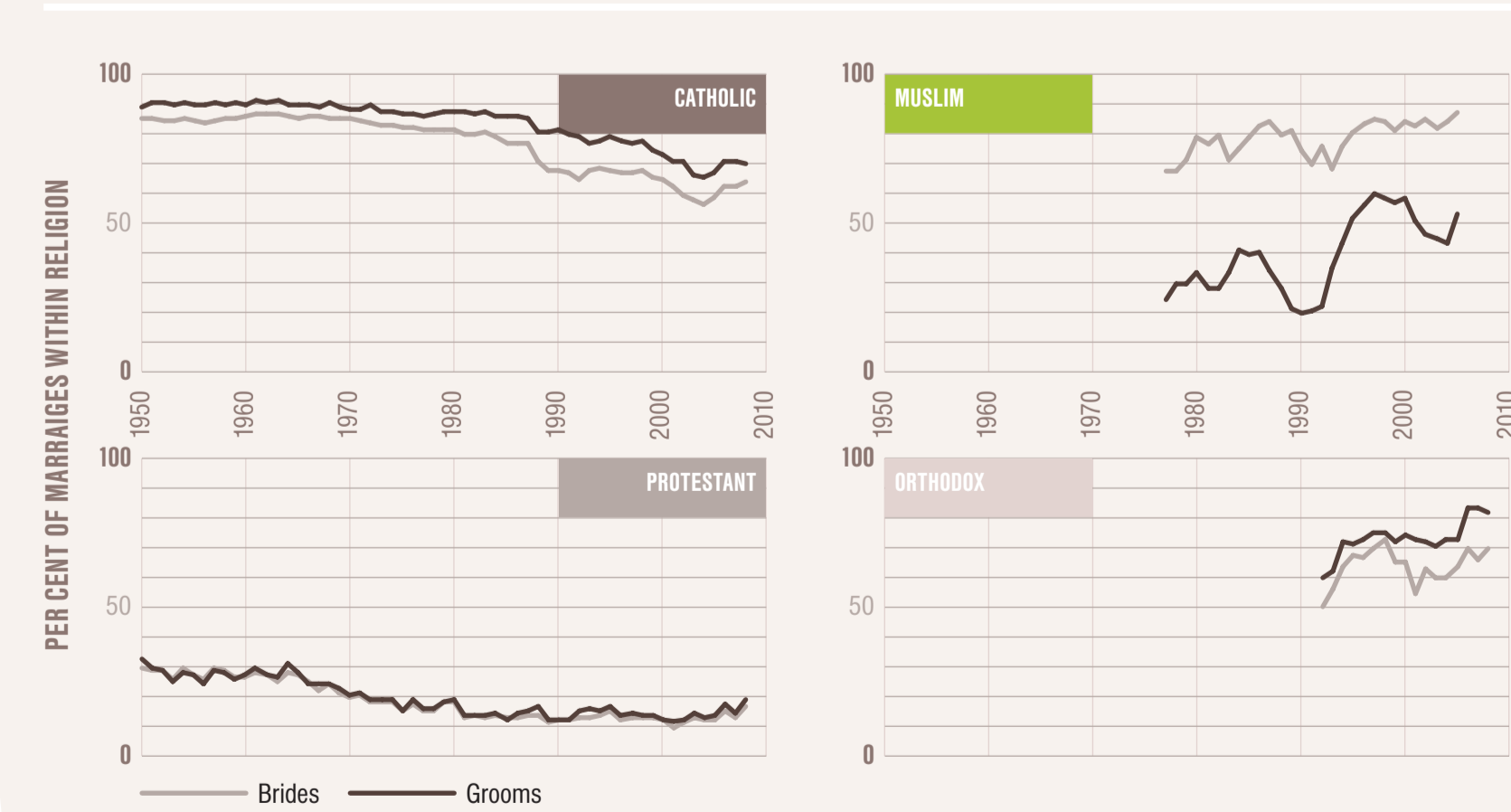


Potential future forces: fertility & mixed marriages



Total fertility rates by religion, Vienna 1971 – 2010 Most women in different religious denominations are having a low and stable fertility behavior, oscillating between 1.2 and 1.5. Two groups stand out: the Jewish, dominated by Orthodox Jews in Vienna, and the Muslims whose fertility has increased as a result mostly of family reunification and changing countries of origin.

METHODOLOGY NOTE: TFR estimates at census years are based on the total population, female population in childbearing ages, and the general fertility rate.

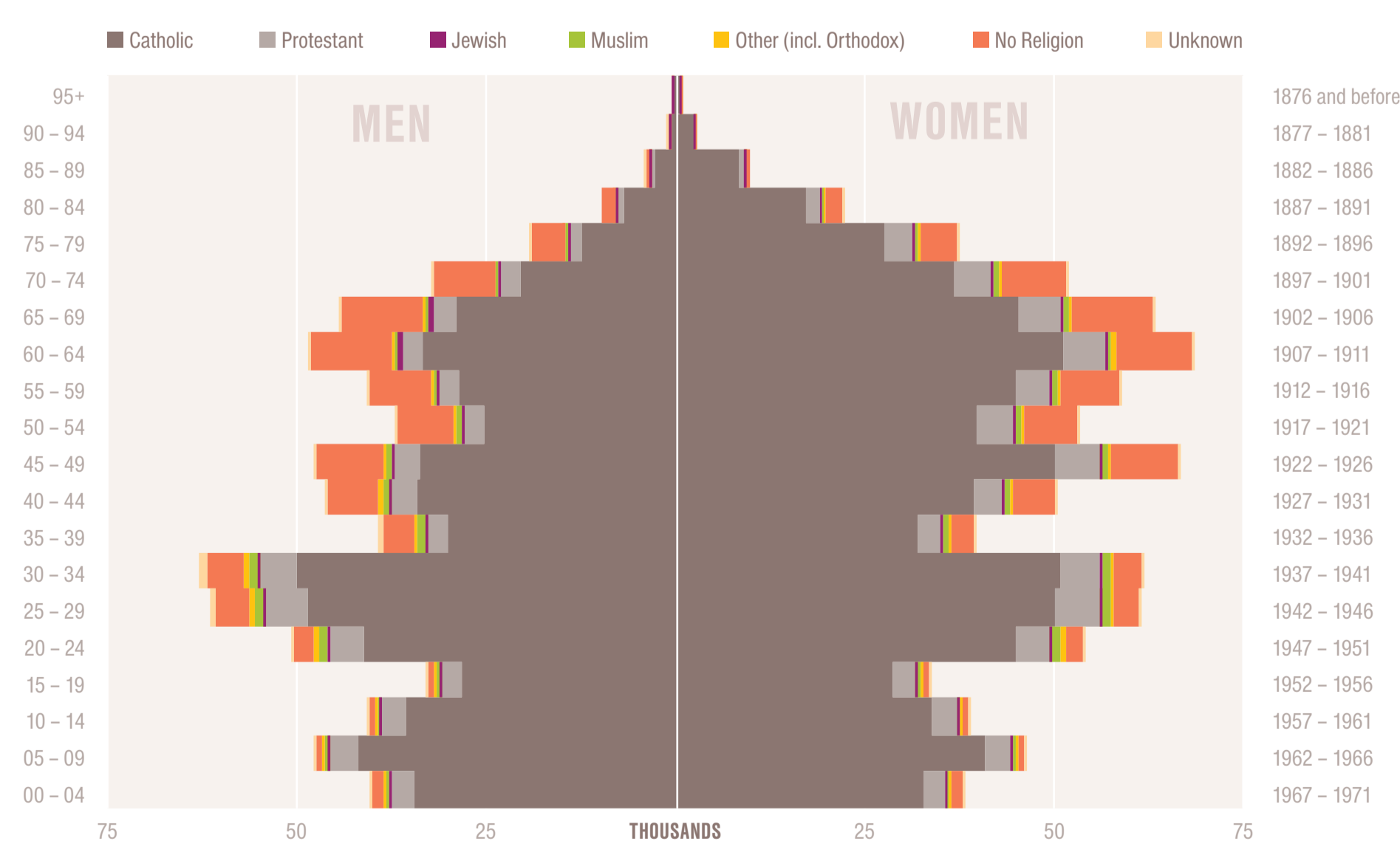


Marriages within religions, Vienna 1950 – 2008 Catholics, especially men still marry in majority inside their religion whereas Protestants tend to marry outside. For Muslims, exogamy is typical of men whose wife will most likely convert to Islam. The religion of children born to mixed marriages will become increasingly important.

METHODOLOGY NOTE: Estimated from a matrix of marriages by the religious denominations of brides and grooms.

1971

Population: 1,619,885



WIREL is a project addressing the role of religions in shaping the social and demographic structure of the population of Vienna. WIREL aims at reconstructing, analyzing, and forecasting Vienna's religious composition, based on different characteristics, through the analysis of the different demographic forces shaping this composition and their implications over a period ranging from 1951 to 2051.

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