



lives. Pink collar workers entered the labor force as women took on clerical or service jobs, threatening the male-breadwinner family dynamic. The decline of industrialization furthered the threats to the male-breadwinner family, resulting in what Cherlin considered to be its inevitable breakdown.

The fall of industrialization resulted in poor economic conditions, but the working-class family still maintained traditional views about marriage. In that way, the economic and cultural conditions of the 80s mirrored those of the Great Depression, when families maintained traditional beliefs about marriage while facing a bad economy. However, families living during the Great Depression experienced little to no changes in nonmarital childbearing, despite being in the same conditions as families living during the fall of industrialization, when nonmarital childbearing increased. Cherlin attributes this increase to the economy's transition into more vulnerability to globalization combined with reductions in the bargaining power of unions. Living in a more competitive market ripe with offshoring, skill-based labor, and shrinking unions, middle-skilled or middle-educated young adults lack the financial suitability they seem to deem necessary for marriage. As a result, working-class adults choose to bear children while maintaining cohabitations, choosing to prolong marriage until they find partners deemed financially suitable.

Addressing the issue of unstable, unhealthy family lives promoted by cohabitation and nonmarital childbearing, Cherlin emphasizes the role of education, comparing families with highly educated parents to families with parents who have solely high school

but its fall pushed women into the labor force and out of the house