

Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage

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Author Note

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I partly believe as others believe in a statement the author wrote in our text “marriage is a commitment that is for life, even if it means enduring periods of disappointment...” (490).

However, I didn’t agree with the last part of the statement about being committed to “... never finding or feeling all of what one hoped to find or feel” (490), because being married to an addict was not an easy challenge, especially with children being involved. My ex-husband and I went to the courthouse to get married—my dream was having a beautiful wedding. I had given my life to Christ and I didn’t want to have the guilt of living in sin. Although that was a selfish decision, I at least wanted to try to make it work because I believe that God honors marriage. Also, we had a son together and I really wanted it to work. However, we can’t change anyone but our selves.

The author brought light to many of my experiences and I agree with the Bohannon concept of “the stations of divorce describing the multiple transitions and transformations people experience as their marriages end” (491). Although I abruptly took my children out of what I believed was an unsafe environment, I still wanted to believe that with God’s help, we could reconcile. After several months of seeing no change, his parents came and took him back to Indiana for rehabilitation. They were able to do what I couldn’t.

I experienced the emotional, economic, and legal realities of divorce. After a year, I had no contact directly and his parents wouldn’t give me any information. They were upset and accused me of abandoning the relationship but I had two small children to take care of and he was dodging that responsibility. Therefore, I filed a petition for dissolution of marriage. Just because you can’t find your spouse, or they are avoiding service of the petition does not mean you can’t get a divorce. Divorcing a missing spouse is referred to as a “Divorce by Publication”

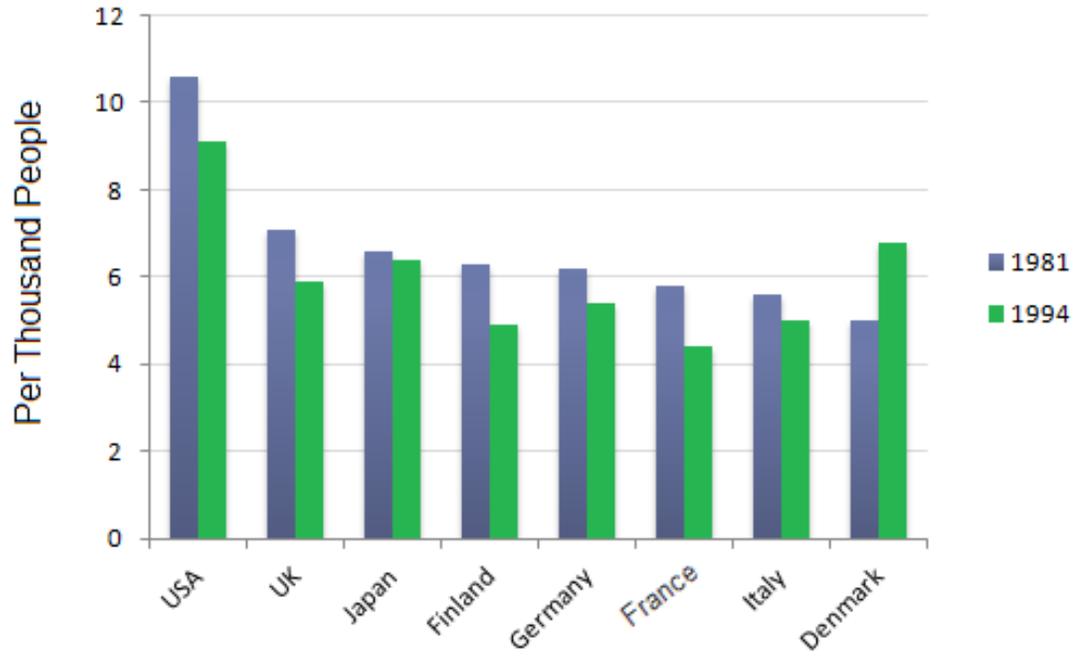
because you must submit a legal notice to run in the local newspaper as a method of serving your spouse—it is the last effort to locate your spouse before granting a divorce. It was expensive and took several months to complete.

I was now a divorced single-parent with two children. Although my second husband didn't have kids of his own, my reality was in all four descriptions of the heading of chapter four which talks about new beginnings, single-parenting, remarriages, and blended families. But I thank God for my second husband because he stepped up to the plate and helped me raise two God-fearing young boys to be responsible, loving, godly men. My husband never considered himself to be a stepfather. To this day (25 years later), they love and treat him like their father.

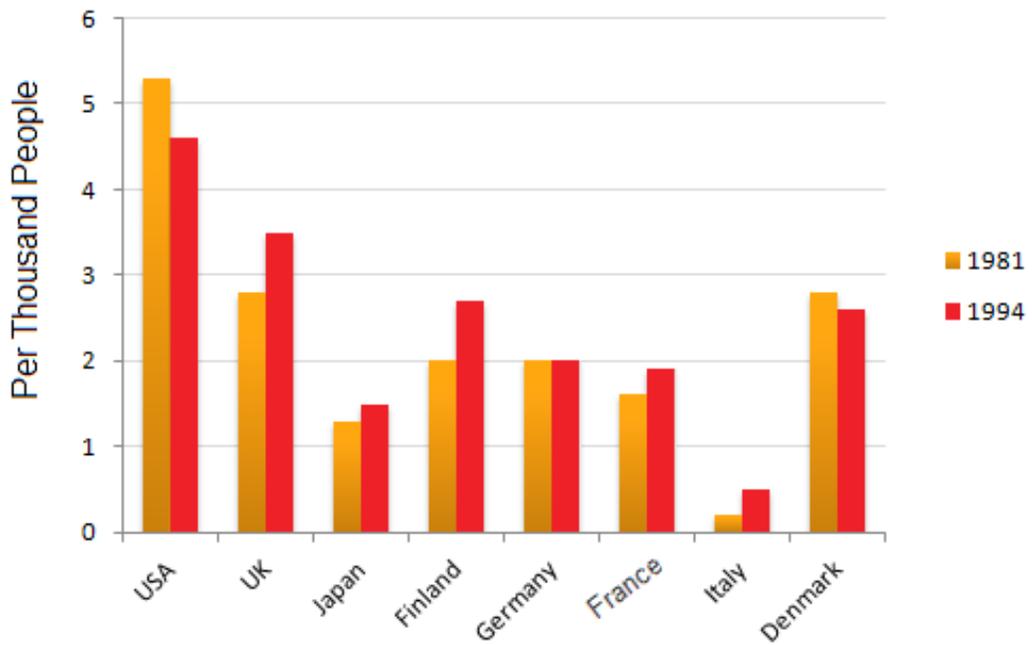
Although my ex-husband and I dated three years, we were only married for two years. We got married in 1989 and our divorce was final in 1991. I was very young and immature in my first marriage. I didn't really know who I was as a young woman and my ex-husband was just as lost. Neither of us witnessed a healthy marriage relationship demonstrated before us and we were trying to figure things out along the way. I may have stuck it out if it were not for the physical abuse. Hitting me was one thing, but being angry and hitting our children for no reason was a different story. I had to protect myself and them.

The below bar charts provide information on the number of marriage and divorce per thousand people in eight developed countries in 1981 and 1994. By looking at the column charts, it can be said that the number of marriages per thousand decreased in all countries except for Denmark and the divorce rate increased in all countries except for the USA, Germany, and Denmark. As is seen in the given illustrations, the USA had the highest marriage and divorce rate among the given countries. The USA experienced more than 1.2% marriages and just above 5/thousand divorce rate in 1981. Both of these two rates slipped by 1 percent after 15 years.

Marriage statistic



Divorce statistic



References

Strong, B & Cohen, T F (2017). *The Marriage and Family: Experience Intimate Relationships In a Changing Society 13E. Cengage Learning.*