



# An Economics Toolkit for Extemporaneous Speaking

Housing, Energy, Trade, Transportation, Inequality, and Immigration/Labor Mobility

Gregory Rehmke EconomicThinking.org/UIL2024 • grehmke@gmail.com

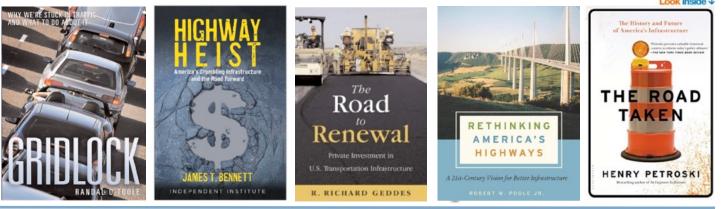


## ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND Federal jobs, Social Security, or Basic Income ENERGY POLICY PLUS LD TOPIC



## **ECONOMICS - DEBATE - HISTORY - GOVERNMENT** Transportation Policy Institute

## **ECONOMIC FREEDOM &** FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION POLICY



## **ECONOMIC THINKING WORKSHOP**

- Date and Time: Thursday, September 7, 5-8 pm
- Location: Lombardozzi Residence, 433 Forest Ridge Drive, Coppell, Texas
- Cost: \$25 per student, \$15 for siblings, no charge for parents or alumni
- To Register: Greg Rehmke: grehmke@gmail.com, okay to pay at door.

### 



Resolved: The [USFG] should substantially reform its energy policy.



Gregory Rehmke,







# Fiscal Redistribution

How best to measure and to address income inequality in America? What federal policies are most likely to improve the lives and increase opportunities for Americans.

# **Resources**

**Debater** 

grew up in Wac participated in high school debat around the state Texas. John was quite successfu and won several

tatewide tournaments. He attended college at the University of Texas in Austin, where he became involved in campus politics and was elected vice president of the student body. All of this experience served him later in life when he became a TV debating partner of conservative polemicist William F. Buckley

## **Economic Inequality**

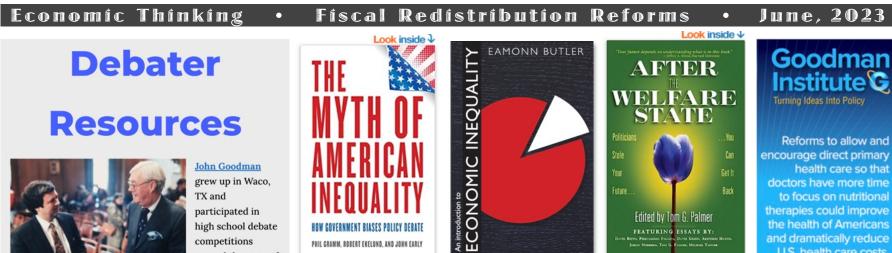
By John C. Goodman, April 25, 2023

### **How Much Inequality Is There?**

Most measures of income inequality ignore differences in age. As a result, they end up comparing 20-year-olds (just starting out in life) with 80-year-olds (living off of a lifetime of saving). These measures also ignore the effects of our fiscal system (taxing and spending by government). And they ignore the lifetime effects of fiscal policy (people with low earnings today get more of their pre-retirement wages replaced by Social Security in the future)... [from online article at link]

The Goodman Institute For Public Policy Research – www.goodmaninstitute.org/ debater-resources / - 2023

An introduction to ECONOMIC INEQUALIT HOW GOVERNMENT BIASES POLICY DEBAT PHIL GRAMM, ROBERT EKELUND, AND JOHN EARL



Institute G

economicthinking

Goodman

### economicthinking.org/redistribution



EconomicThinking.org/redistribution

Greg Rehmke grehmke@gmail.com

Economic Inequality and the Cost of Living Housing costs Medical care/Insurance • Energy costs Transportation costs Regulatory costs

stosselintheclassroom.org/both-sides-how-to-solve-the-housing-crisis/



Both Sides: How to Solve the Housing Crisis

Is there a housing crisis in the United States? Consensus appears to be a resounding 'YES'! According to the National Association of Realtors, the U.S. currently faces a housing shortage of 5.5 to 6.8 million units, and the numbers escalate annually.

While there's widespread acknowledgment that a shortage of affordable housing exists, agreement on solutions remains out of reach. Suggestions range from increasing government control over housing, such as adding rent control laws, to weakening municipal zoning laws. Given this disparity of ideas, progress on a resolution for this problem is also in short supply.

Use our 'Both Sides: How to Solve the Housing Crisis' videos and discussion questions to introduce students to this topical issue and spark ideas for innovative solutions. It's a valuable exercise in critical thinking, discussion, debate, and problem-solving.

View the Housing **Crisis Videos** 

Download the **Discussion Questions** 

# Market and Command economies # Market economy **\***Command economy # Mixed economy (part market, PENCIL part command). Property rights, investment, labor policies. **\*** Sick cows and socialism. **\*** Incentive problems and information problems. **\*** Housing: what role for govt. vs. private sector?

# INDUSTRIAL POLICY DONE RIGHT

To suggest that government "interventions" in the economy are doomed to fail is to ignore the lessons of America's past. Industrial policy has done much good in America – and it can do so once again.

## ALEXANDER HAMILTON

advocated tariffs and subsidies to make the U.S. independent from foreign powers



### THE NATIONAL ARSENAL

empowered private firms to create the nation's first commercial manufacturing hub

## HENRY CLAY

proposed an 'American System' of strong tariffs and public works

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

created the first federal financial system, effective tariffs, and the Transcontinental Railroad

## WW1 & WW2

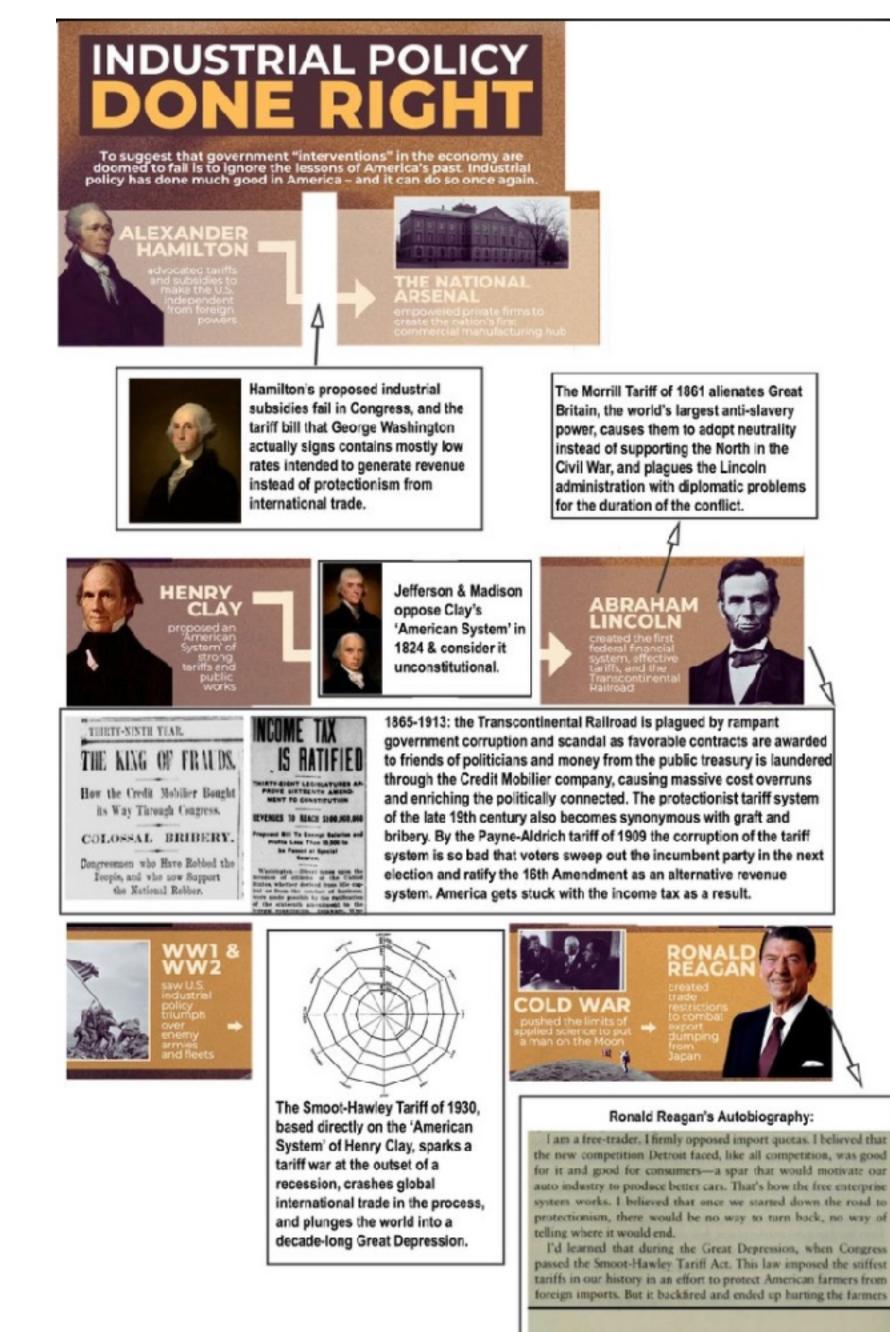
saw U.S. industrial policy triumph over enemy armies and fleets



COLD WAR pushed the limits of applied science to put a man on the Moon

## RONALD REAGAN

created trade restrictions to combat export dumping from Japan



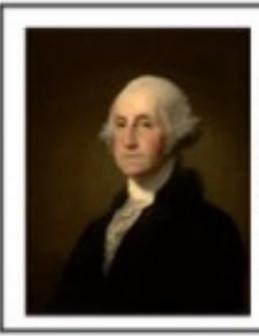
### RONALD REAGAN

-and much of American industry-because other nations promptly levied their own taniffs, which resulted in our farmers and memory abroad. The Smoot-Hawley

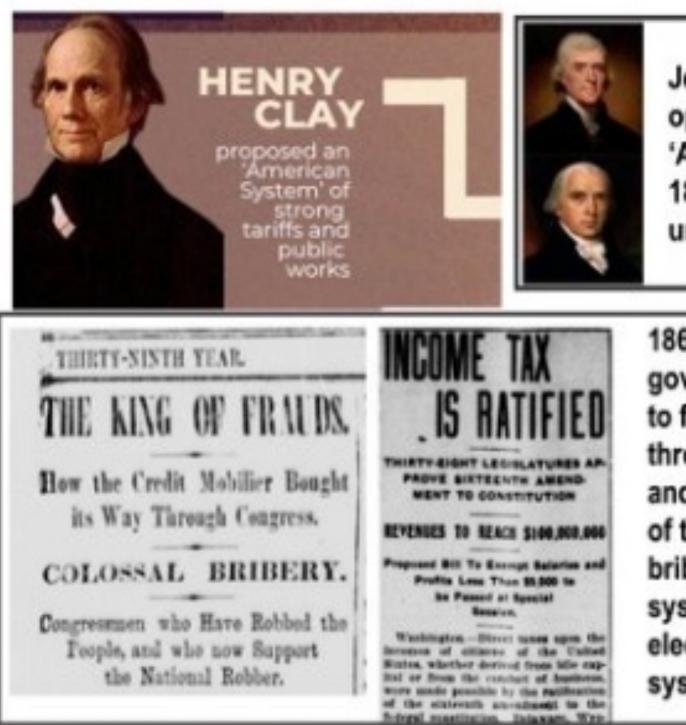


# EXANDER





Hamilton's proposed industrial subsidies fail in Congress, and the tariff bill that George Washington actually signs contains mostly low rates intended to generate revenue instead of protectionism from international trade.



The Morrill Tariff of 1861 alienates Great Britain, the world's largest anti-slavery power, causes them to adopt neutrality instead of supporting the North in the Civil War, and plagues the Lincoln administration with diplomatic problems for the duration of the conflict.

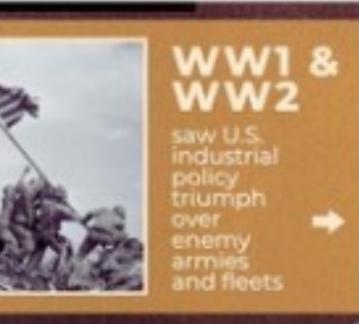
**Jefferson & Madison** oppose Clay's 'American System' in 1824 & consider it unconstitutional.

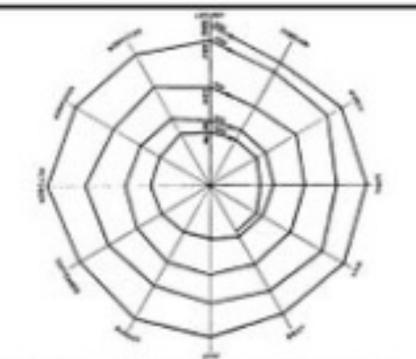
## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

created the first federal financial ariffs, and the Transcontinenta Railroad

1865-1913: the Transcontinental Railroad is plagued by rampant government corruption and scandal as favorable contracts are awarded to friends of politicians and money from the public treasury is laundered through the Credit Mobilier company, causing massive cost overruns and enriching the politically connected. The protectionist tariff system of the late 19th century also becomes synonymous with graft and bribery. By the Payne-Aldrich tariff of 1909 the corruption of the tariff system is so bad that voters sweep out the incumbent party in the next election and ratify the 16th Amendment as an alternative revenue system. America gets stuck with the income tax as a result.







The Smoot-Hawley Tariff of 1930, based directly on the 'American System' of Henry Clay, sparks a tariff war at the outset of a recession, crashes global international trade in the process, and plunges the world into a decade-long Great Depression.

Ronald Reagan: "I am a free-trader. I firmly opposed import quotas. I believed that the new competition Detroit faced, like all competition, was good for consumers—a spur that would motivate our auto industry to produce better cars. That's how the free enterprise system works..."

election and ratify the 16th Amendment as an alternative revenue system. America gets stuck with the income tax as a result.



### Ronald Reagan's Autobiography:

I am a free-trader. I firmly opposed import quotas. I believed that the new competition Detroit faced, like all competition, was good for it and good for consumers-a spur that would motivate our auto industry to produce better cars. That's how the free enterprise system works. I believed that once we started down the road to protectionism, there would be no way to turn back, no way of telling where it would end.

I'd I'med that during the Great Depression, when Congress d the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act. This law imposed the stiffest ariffs in our history in an effort to protect American farmers from foreign imports. But it backfired and ended up hurting the farmers

> because other nations alted in our farmers and d. The Smoot-Hawley



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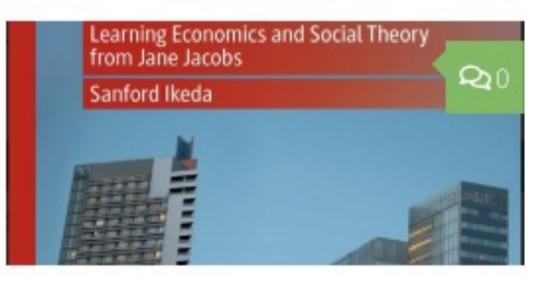
**ECONOMIC THINKING POSTS ON DEBATE TOPICS** 



HOUSING DECEMBER 23, 2023

## Housing: Erase Arbitrary Lines

On a recent drive home from Vancouver, British Columbia, I listened to the Cato Daily Podcast interview with Nolan Gray discussing high housing costs and recent reforms. (Housing policy was the topic for the...



HOUSING DECEMBER 21, 2023 Notes on Vancouver Housing

Government and opposition members debated Vancouver housing policy yesterday (Dec. 20) at the Vancouver Debate Academy's first Deliberative Dialogue event. The four teams had just 30 minutes to research the announced motion, calling for...

# economicthinking.org



ENERGY POLICY / FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION POLICY NOVEMBER 22, 2023

## Our Energy Future is Eclectic

Energy matters, and the world's energy future will be eclectic. For an overview see this 2020 TEDxSanAntonio talk by Graham Conway The Contradictions of Battery Operated Vehicles. The video now has a warning for ...



AFRICA / ENERGY POLICY AUGUST 29, 2023

## All Energy Day 2023 (updated)

Bjorn Lomborg discusses "the energy transition" as key note speaker for A.I Energy Day 2022. Lomborg warns renewable energy advocates to be careful not to exaggerate harms from climate change and global warming. Transitioning from...



ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AUGUST 17, 2023

### Debating Economic Inequality (again)

National and Texas debate



AFRICA / ENERGY POLICY JUNE 28, 2023

## The Energy Race

For thousands of years energy technologies have advanced as knowledge expanded for

Economics as a Way of Thinking We are consumers: food, clothing, housing, energy... **\*** As children our parents provide our food and clothing. **\***We learn skills to create value for others: producing goods and services. Gift and exchange economies... **\*** We don't trade goods of equal value: trade creates wealth.

- # Money serves to facilitate exchange, store value, and as a unit of account. Commodity money vs. paper (fiat) money.
- **\*** Economic unit is first the family. Then the community,
  - then a wider and wider scope of exchange (trade).

**\*** As the scope of trade expands: further division of labor.

# Rethinking a Right to Housing

In the past, there was more housing freedom for the poor: from boarding houses, flop houses, to SRO (Single Room Occupancy) hotels.

## **Plus Sears mail order houses!**

A Right to housing could be though of as a right for builders and property owners to build (or print) houses...

... ICON 3D-printed homes... have the potential to transform the future of affordable housing in America....houses built in eight days that are 350% stronger, more environmentally friendly, and cost a fraction of what a traditional build would cost.

standtogether.org/news/icon-3d-printed-homes-the-future-of-affordable-housing/



Sears Sold 75,000 DIY Mail Order Homes Between 1908 and 1939, and...

Visit >

## There's a shortage of 10 million affordable homes in America...

# economicthinking.org





How a 'fatally, tragically flawed' paradian has derailed the science of obesity

By Gary Taubes Dept. 13, 2021 STAT



### NUTRITION/PUBLIC HEALTH **SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**

## Help Americans Get Healthy Again

A healthy American economy should include healthy Americans. Yet most



NUTRITION/PUBLIC HEALTH AUGUST 19, 2021

Incentivizing Dietary Changes... Ahead of the Knife

Dr. Penny Figtree, decided "After 20 years in general



Looking inside for basic nutritional needs

- Nutrition Coalition www.nutritioncoalition.us/
- Fat Fiction fatfiction.movie
- Low Carb Down Under videos lowcarbdownunder.com.au
- Diet Doctor Podcast www.dietdoctor.com/podcast
- Society of Metabolic Health Practitioners (SMHP) and Low Carb USA www.lowcarbusa.org
- Economic Thinking posts economicthinking.org/category/nutrition/

## The Path to Normal Nutrition





"Healthy" whole grains: What the evidence really shows By Franziska Spritzler, RD, CDE 👔 , medical review by Nicola Guess, RD, MPH, PhD 😝 Updated July 14, 2021 O Evidence

AGRICULTURE/FOOD SAFETY / NUTRITION/PUBLIC HEALTH AUGUST 16, 2021

## **Monitoring Metabolic Health** Looking inside for basic nutritional needs

- **Diet Doctor Podcast**
- lowcarbdownunder.com.au
- **Nutrition Coalition** www.nutritioncoalition.us/
- **Economic Thinking posts**

# economicthinking.org/category/nutrition/



NUTRITION/PUBLIC HEALTH AUGUST 2, 2021

Hark Hyman, MD Feel Incredible Avoid Disease. and Age Wel GOOD ENERGY

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

A tour de force."

The Surprising Connection Between Metabolism and Limitless Health

CASEY MEANS, MD WITH CALLEY MEANS

Fat Fiction documentary • fatfiction.movie

www.dietdoctor.com/podcast

Low Carb Down Under videos

**Continuous Glucose Monitoring CGM- checking for glucose spikes** 

Dier Dortor Peece economicthinking.org/category/nutrition/



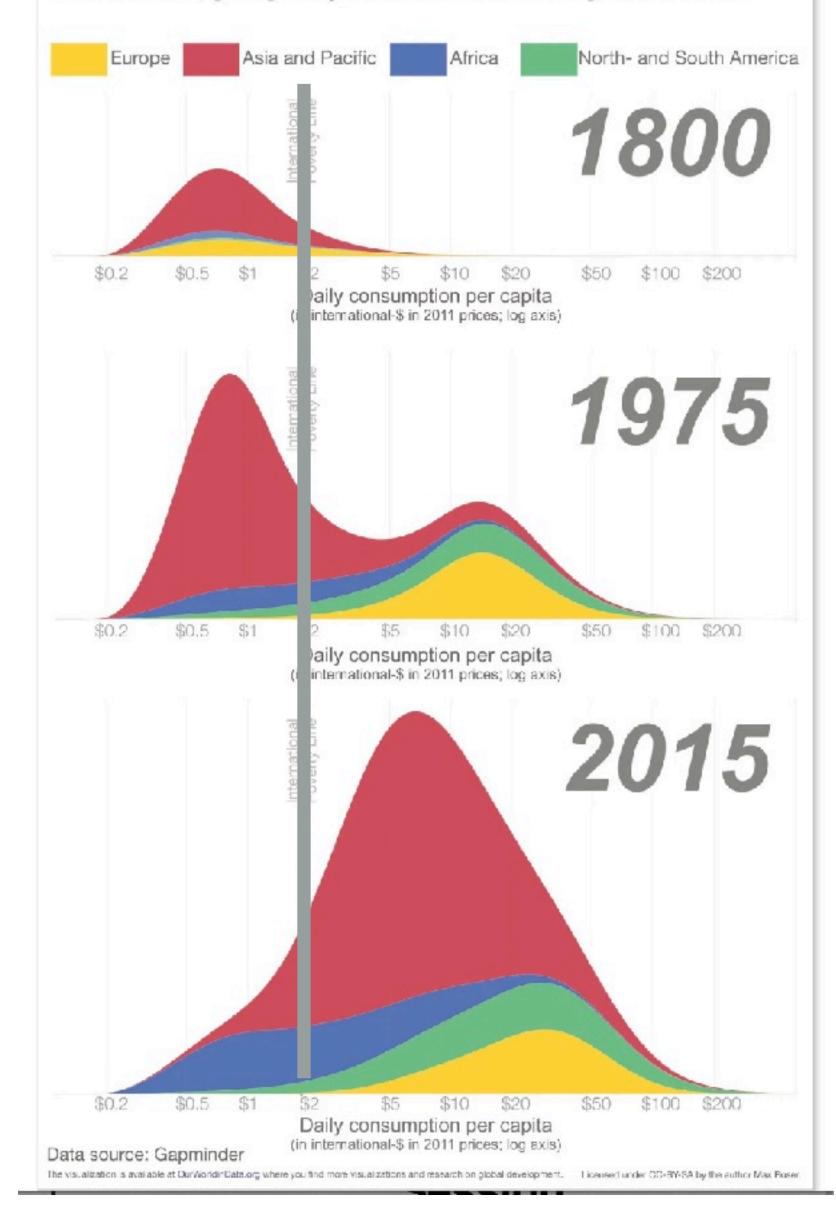
## https://youtu.be/WXr-SDV\_-WQ

### Global income distribution in 1800, 1975, and 2010 Our World

Income is measured by adjusting for price changes over time and for price differences

hetween countries (purchasing power parity (PPP) adjustment).

These estimates are based on reconstructed National Accounts and within-country inequality measures. Non-market income (e.g. through home production such as subsistence farming) is taken into account.



## Steelmanning

by Joshua Anumolu | May 1, 2019 | Communication/Rhetoric, Soapbox, Speaking, Technique | 0 comments



Author Robin Sloan <u>described</u> attending debates sponsored by the Long Now Foundation. He was struck by the debate format, writing, "The first time I saw one of these debates, it blew my mind."

Why were these debates so revolutionary? Sloan gives some context:

"Our democratic culture has, I believe, basically given up on debate as a tool for changing minds or achieving consensus. Instead, we use it as a stage for performance, for political point-scoring. When we debate—and this is true whether it's a big televised event or a little online

# www.ethosdebate.com/steelmanning/



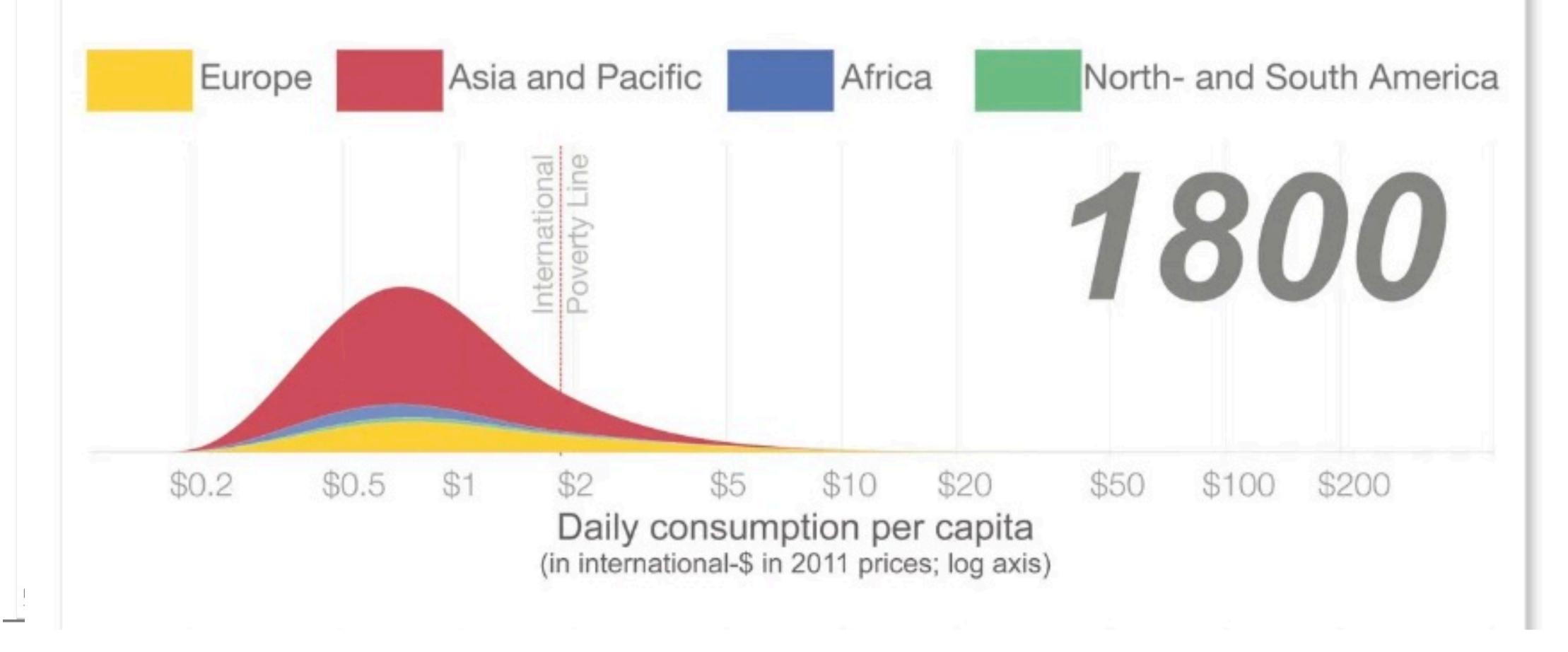
Speech & Debate as mental training: Seeing the many sides of history, economics, and government...

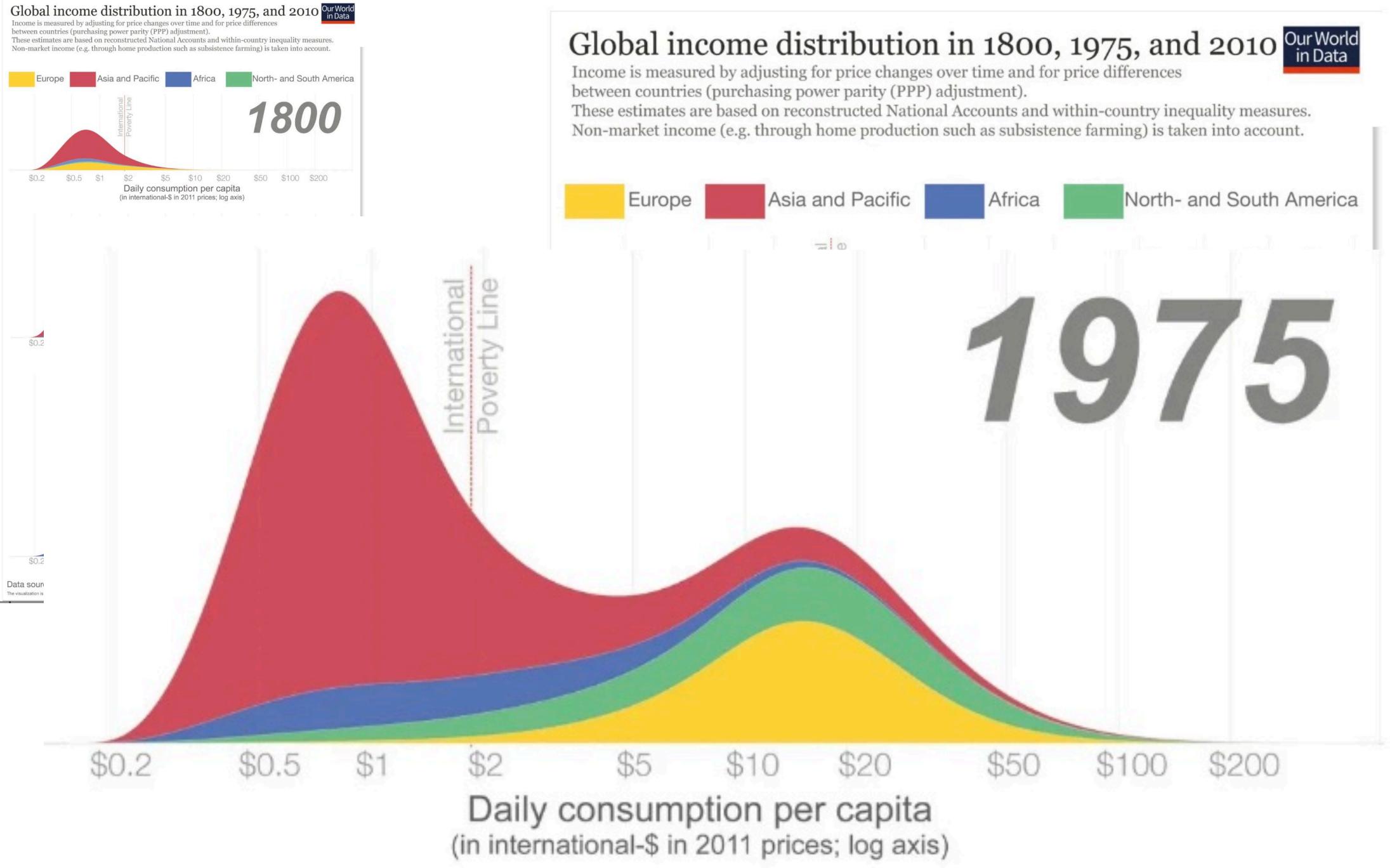
# RESOLVED

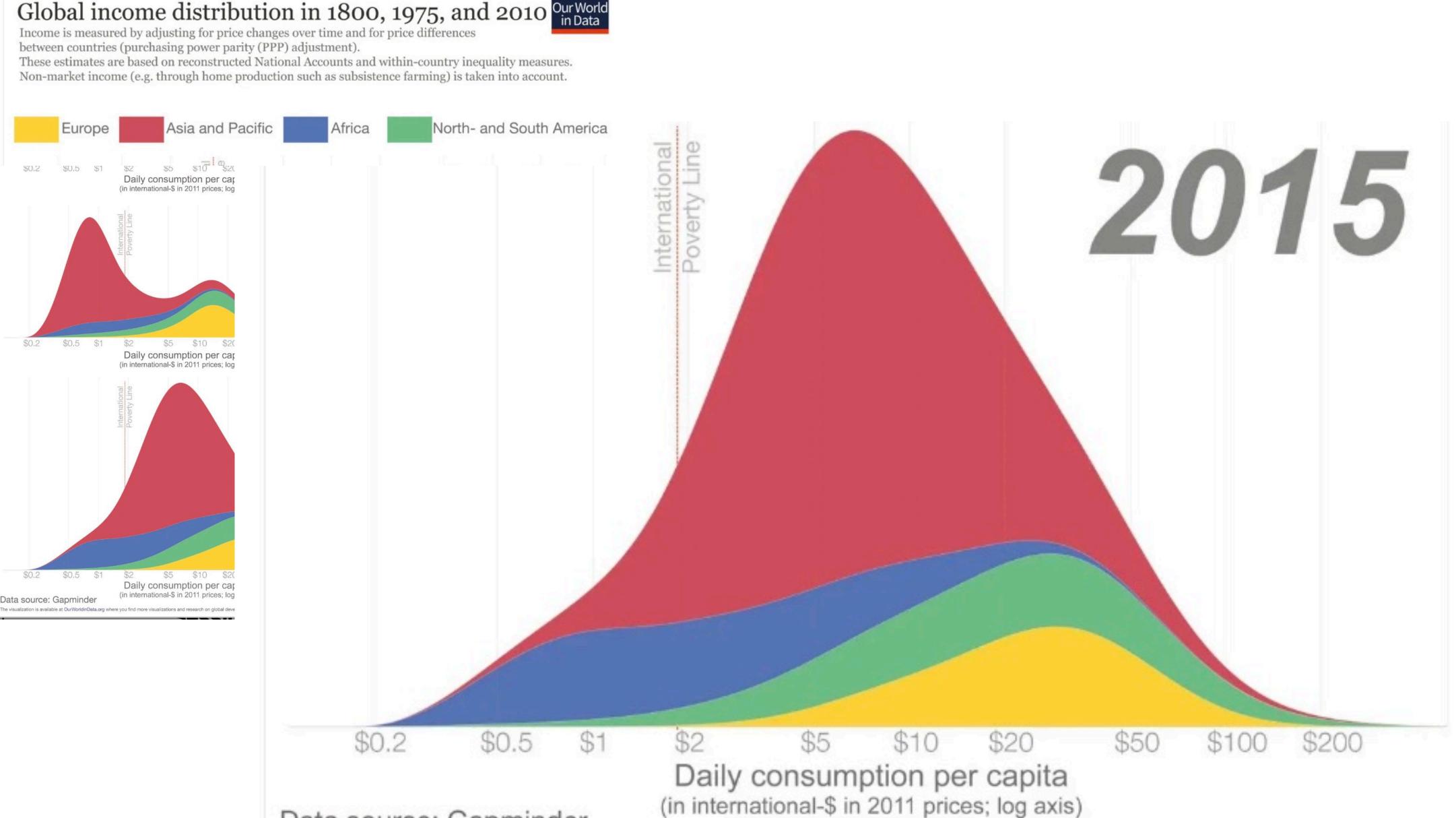
Debate Can Revolutionize Education and Help Save Our Democracy Global income distribution in 1800, 1975, and 2010 Our World in Data

# Global income distribution in 1800, 1975, and 2010 Our World in Data

Income is measured by adjusting for price changes over time and for price differences between countries (purchasing power parity (PPP) adjustment). These estimates are based on reconstructed National Accounts and within-country inequality measures. Non-market income (e.g. through home production such as subsistence farming) is taken into account.







## Data source: Gapminder

The visualization is available at OurWorldinData.org where you find more visualizations and research on global development.

Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.

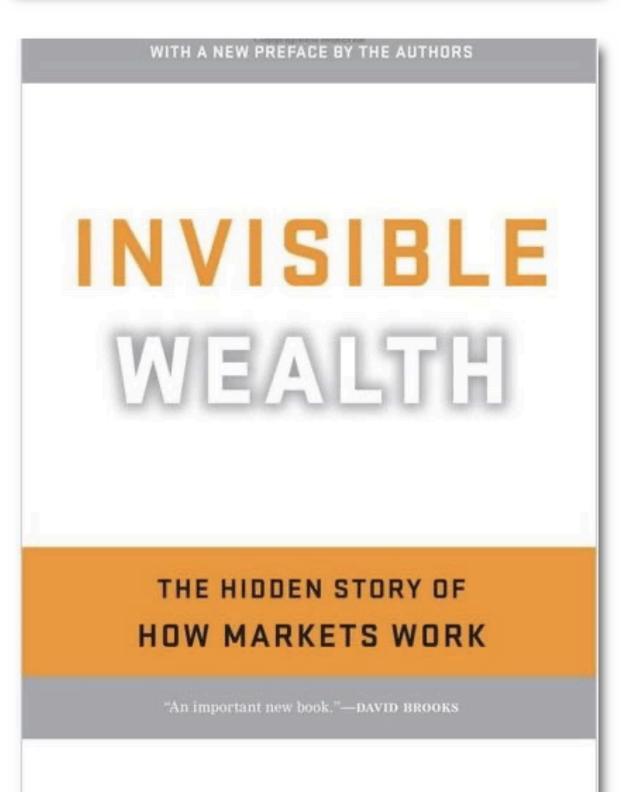
# What is "wealth"? Where does it come from?

- **Natural capital**: the sum of cropland, pastureland, forested areas...and nonrenewable resources (including oil, natural gas, coal, and minerals). - World Bank study estimate: 5% of total.
- **Produced capital:** machinery, equipment, structures (including infrastructure), and urban land. - World Bank study estimate: 18% of total.
- Intangible Capital: is the other 77% That encompasses raw labor; human capital, which includes the sum of a population's knowledge and skills; and the level of trust in a society and the quality of its formal and informal institutions.

http://reason.com/archives/2007/08/03/our-intangible-riches

**Our Intangible Riches** 

World Bank economist Kirk Hamilton on the planet's real wealth. Ronald Bailey from the August/September 2007 issue



ARNOLD KLING AND NICK SCHULZ

# The Freedom and Prosperity Equation

Exploring the most durable path to development for countries around the world

Edited by Dan Negrea, Brad Lips, and Kris Mauren

# www.atlanticcouncil.org/programs/freedom-and-prosperity-center

## **Prosperity that Lasts**

Atlantic Council

PROSPERITY CENTER

FREEDOM AND

The 2023 Freedom and Prosperity Indexes

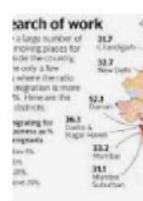
Dan Negrea and Joseph Lemoine



WØRLD

ECONOMIC FORUM

- There are an estimated 272 million international migrants – 3.5% of the world's population.
- The composition of China's floating population, now numbering around 274 million, has changed over the past 30 years. Today, 19.3% have college degrees.

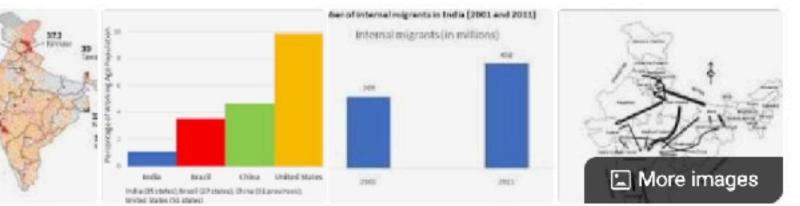


Internal migration, the movement of people within a country, results in a more efficient allocation of human resources to sectors and regions where they are better utilized. ... The number of internal migrants in India was 450 million as per the most recent 2011 Census. Dec 18, 2019









## Internal migration in India

# ...internal migrants in India was 450 million as per the most recent 2011 census. -Dec 18, 2019

## **CAUSES OF GROWTH** Lagos, Nigeria

1. Migration - Lagos experienced an influx of over 7 million people from 1990 to 2004 with many of these from other poor regions. The migration was driven by rural push factors and urban pull factors.

Houston in 1990: 1.7 million Houston in 2020: 7 million Migrants from US and around world...



# iea.org.uk/publications/an-introduction-to-trade-and-globalisation



RESEARCH

# An Introduction to Trade and Globalisation

DR EAMONN BUTLER 27 OCTOBER 2021

# EAMONN BUTLER

About the author Acknowledgements Summary List of figures

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Questioning the measure of wealth 4 Data shortcomings

## iea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/An-introduction-to-economic-inequality.pdf

### Questioning the measurement of incomes

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## Questioning the moral case

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### Equal pay in the workplace

The contradictions of equal pay Is there a gender pay gap? Are CEOs worth their money?

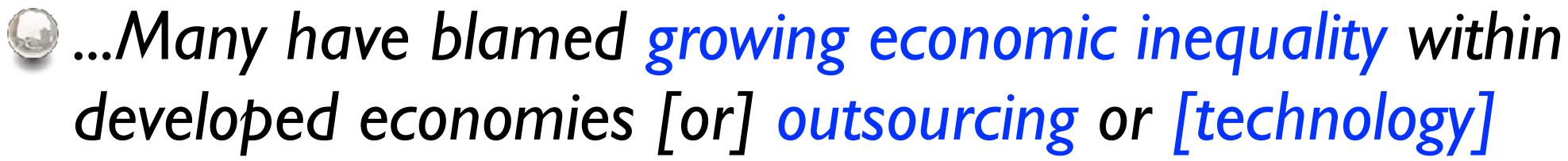
### 10 The roots of equalisation policy

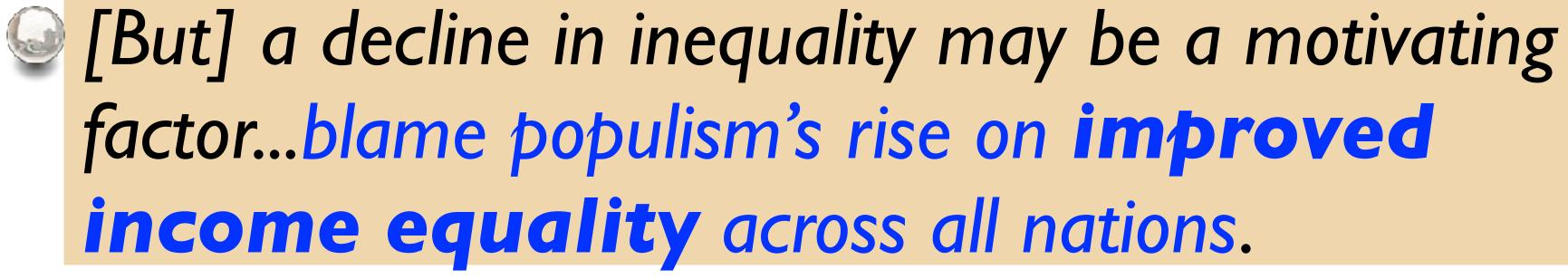
From ethics to politics The impossibility of equal outcomes Compensating bad luck

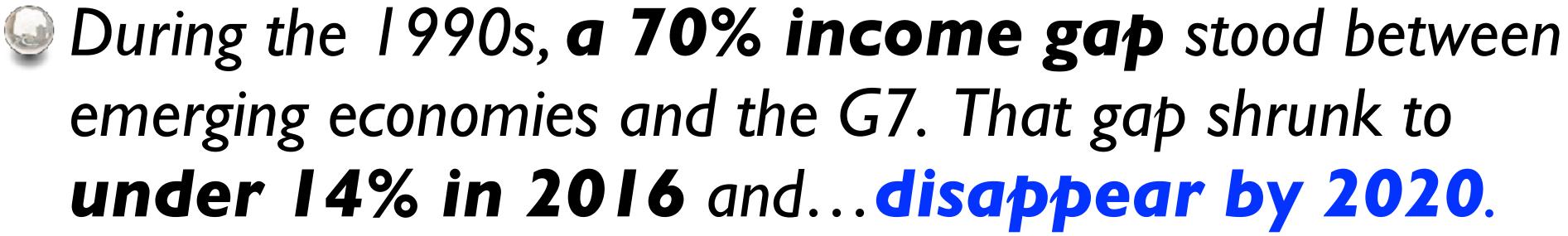
### 11 Political approaches to equalisation From equality to equity

# Inequality, Populism, and Nationalism

 European and U.S. nationalism... protectionism... **populism's** threat to global trade...[and integration]





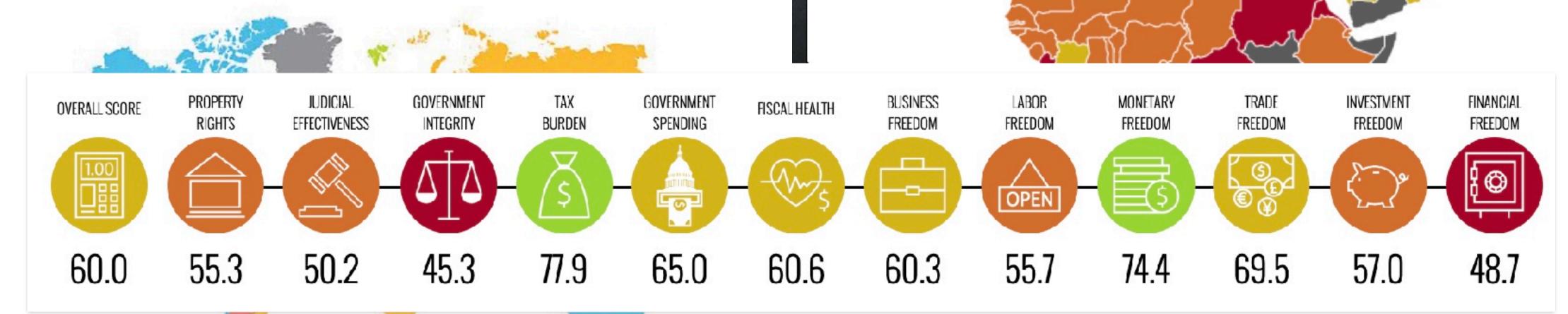


James Gwartney, Robert Lawson, Joshua Hall, and Ryan Murphy with Simeon Djankov and Fred McMahon



ANNUAL REPORT





www.cato.org/economic-freedom-world/2022

## 2022 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM

COUNTRY RANKINGS GRAPH THE DATA INTERA

INTERACTIVE HEAT MAP

EXPLORE

## Discover how your Country Stacks Up**\$**

- Explore our Economic Freedom Heat Map for a
- stunning visual comparison of the world and your region.

SEE THE HEAT MAP

## www.heritage.org/index

## the HUMAN FREEDOM **INDEX**2022

A Global Measurement of Personal, Civil, and Economic Freedom

lan Vásquez, Fred McMahon, Ryan Murphy, and Guillermina Sutter Schneider

The Human Freedom Index (HFI) presents a broad measure of human freedom, understood as the absence of coercive constraint. This eighth annual index uses 83 distinct indicators of personal and economic freedom in the following areas:

- Movement •
- Religion ٠
- Association, assembly, and civil society ٠
- Expression and information ٠
- Relationships
- Legal system and property rights ٠
- Sound money ٠
- Freedom to trade internationally ٠
- •

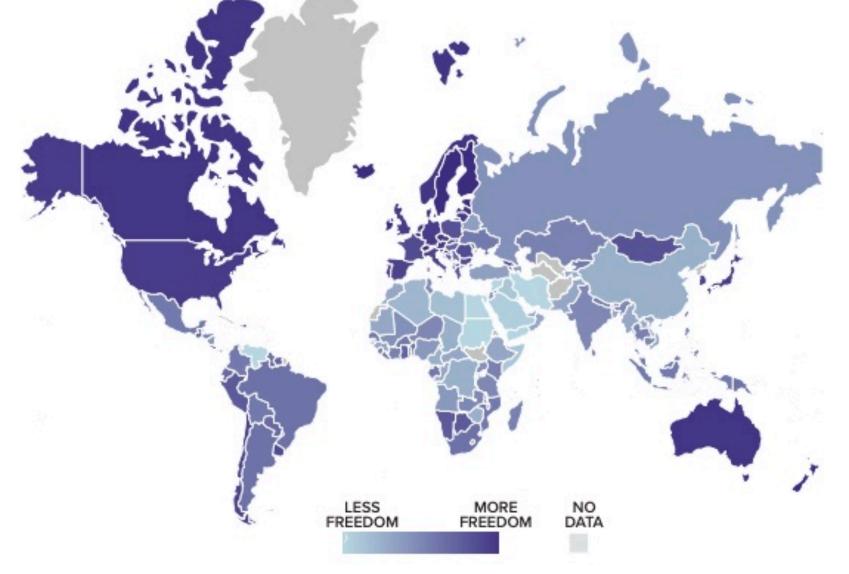
www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/2023-01/human-freedom-index-2022.pdf

- Rule of law
- · Security and safety

- Size of government
- Regulation

The HFI is the most comprehensive freedom index so far created for a globally meaningful set of countries and jurisdictions representing 98.1 percent of the world's population. The HFI covers 165 jurisdictions for 2020, the most recent year for which sufficient data are available. The index ranks jurisdictions over a span of two decades, beginning in 2000, the earliest year for which a robust enough index could be produced.

Human freedom deteriorated severely in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Most areas of freedom fell, including significant declines in the rule of law; freedom of movement, expression, association and assembly; and freedom to trade. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 10 represents more freedom, the average human freedom rating for 165 jurisdictions fell from



### Lee Kuan Yew SPONSOR CONTENT BULLETIN BY

economic thinking

## Asia will soon be the world's economic center—if it isn't already

By Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

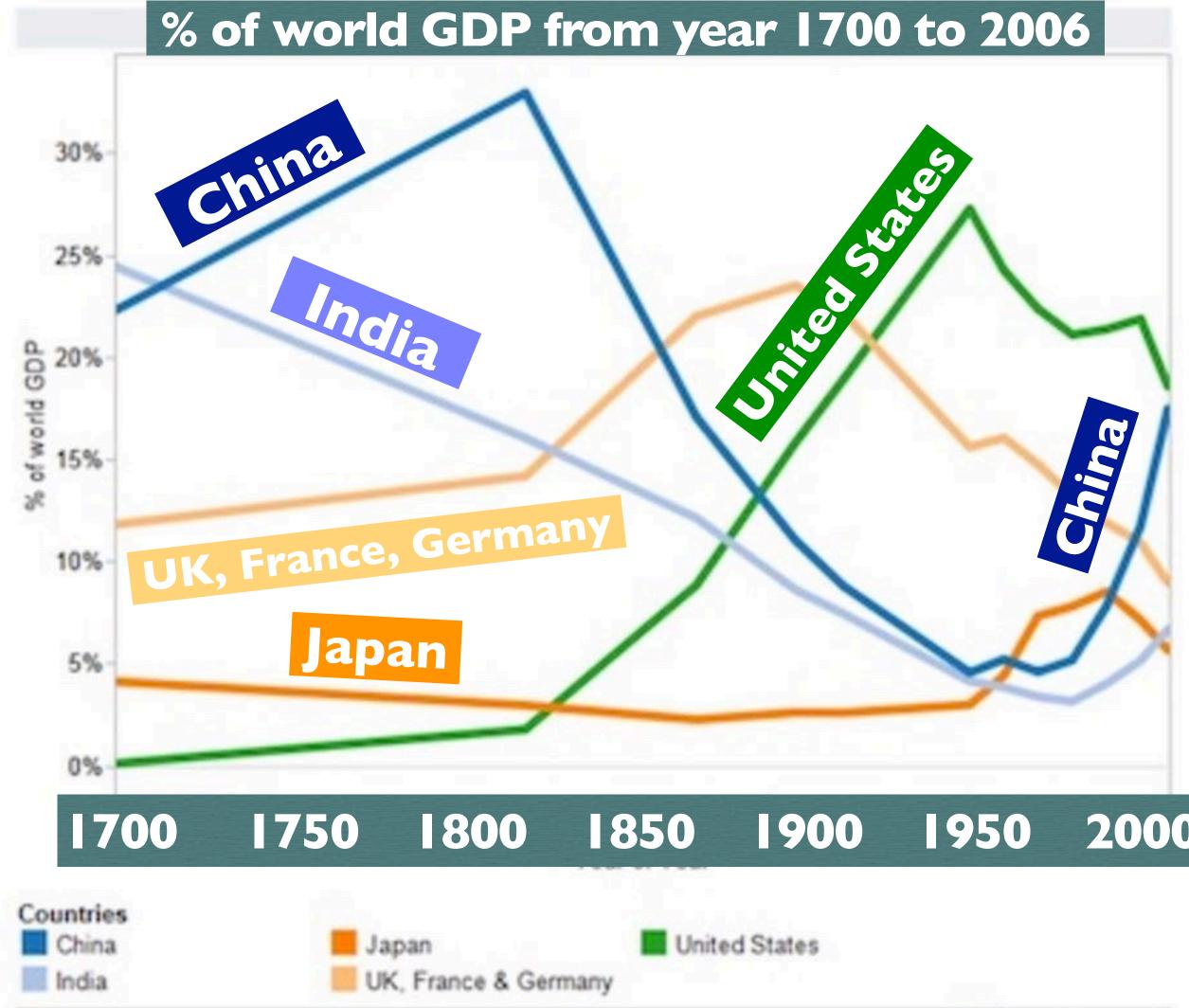
## The Pacific Trade Future: China and South America

BY GREGORY REHMKE · PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 15, 2017 · UPDATED AUGUST 3, 2017

A sponsored *Quartz* post from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy: "Asia will soon be the world's economic center-if it isn't already" looks at the rise of nationalism:

In the wake of Brexit, ascendant European nationalism, and the US elections, much has been written about populism's threat to global

• International trade • Investment (capital flows) International migration



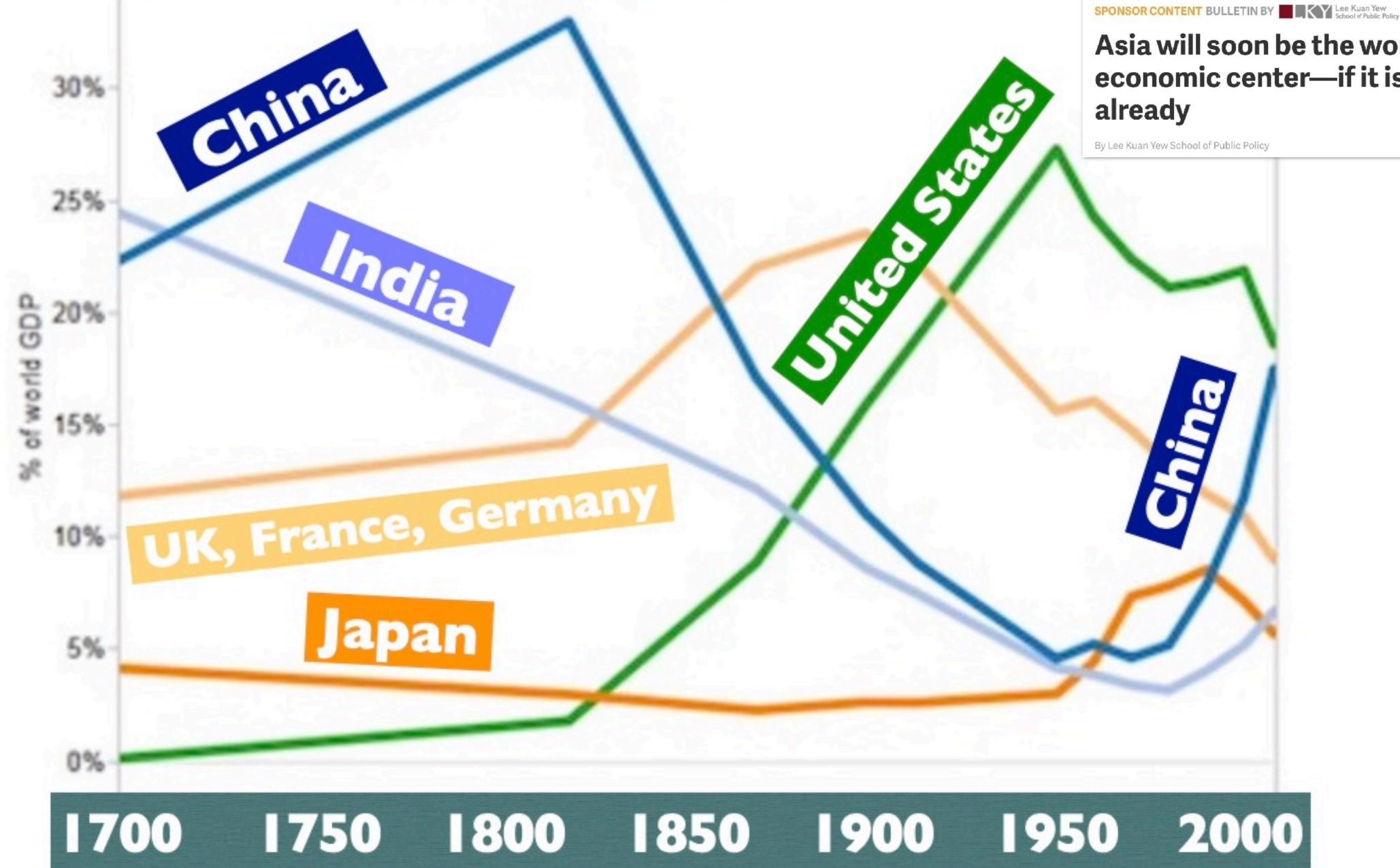
<u>http://economicthinking.org/2017/02/15/the-pacific-trade-future-china-and-south-america/</u>

## "GDP" = Gross Domestic Product

## 2000

## 🔆 + a b | e a u

# % of world GDP from year 1700 to 2006





## Asia will soon be the world's economic center—if it isn't

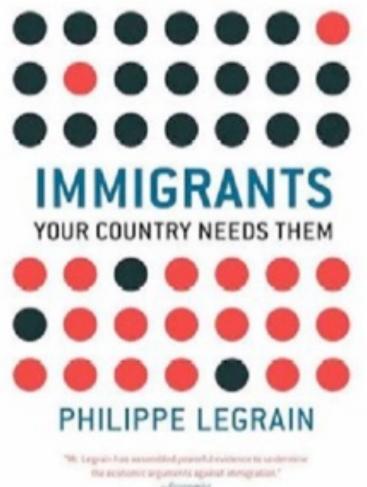
# **Global Migration and Innovation**

- Greek" yogurt from Turkish student.
- Peet's Coffee & Starbucks (Holland & Italy)
- Top tech firms: Google, Paypal, eBay, (50% of tech founders/key tech immigrants)
  - Hong Kong was partly a refugee camp in 1950s.
  - Syrian and North African refugees, and immigrants from Eastern Europe revitalizing (or disrupting) UK, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden.



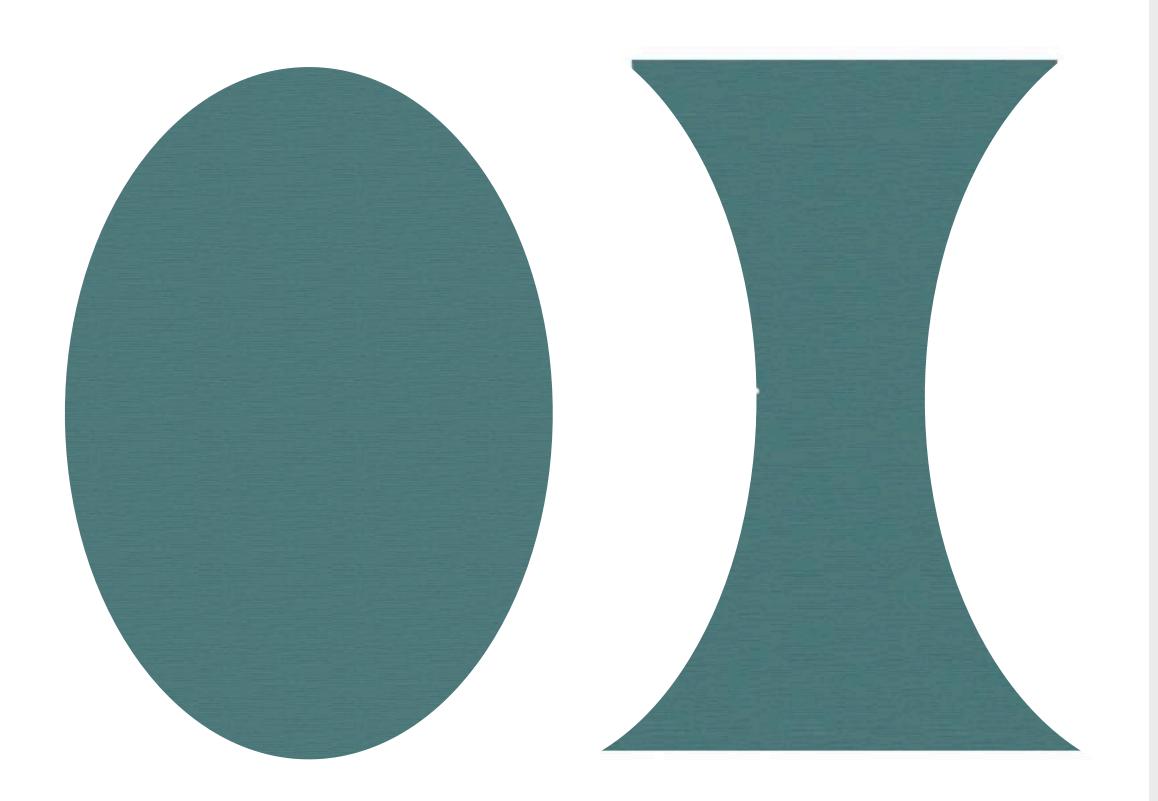
Israel's immigration experience. New immigrants were 15% of Israel's population in one year.





# The Shape of Immigrants vs. the Shape of U.S. Workers

US: few Ph.D. engineers and scientists and few without high school education.

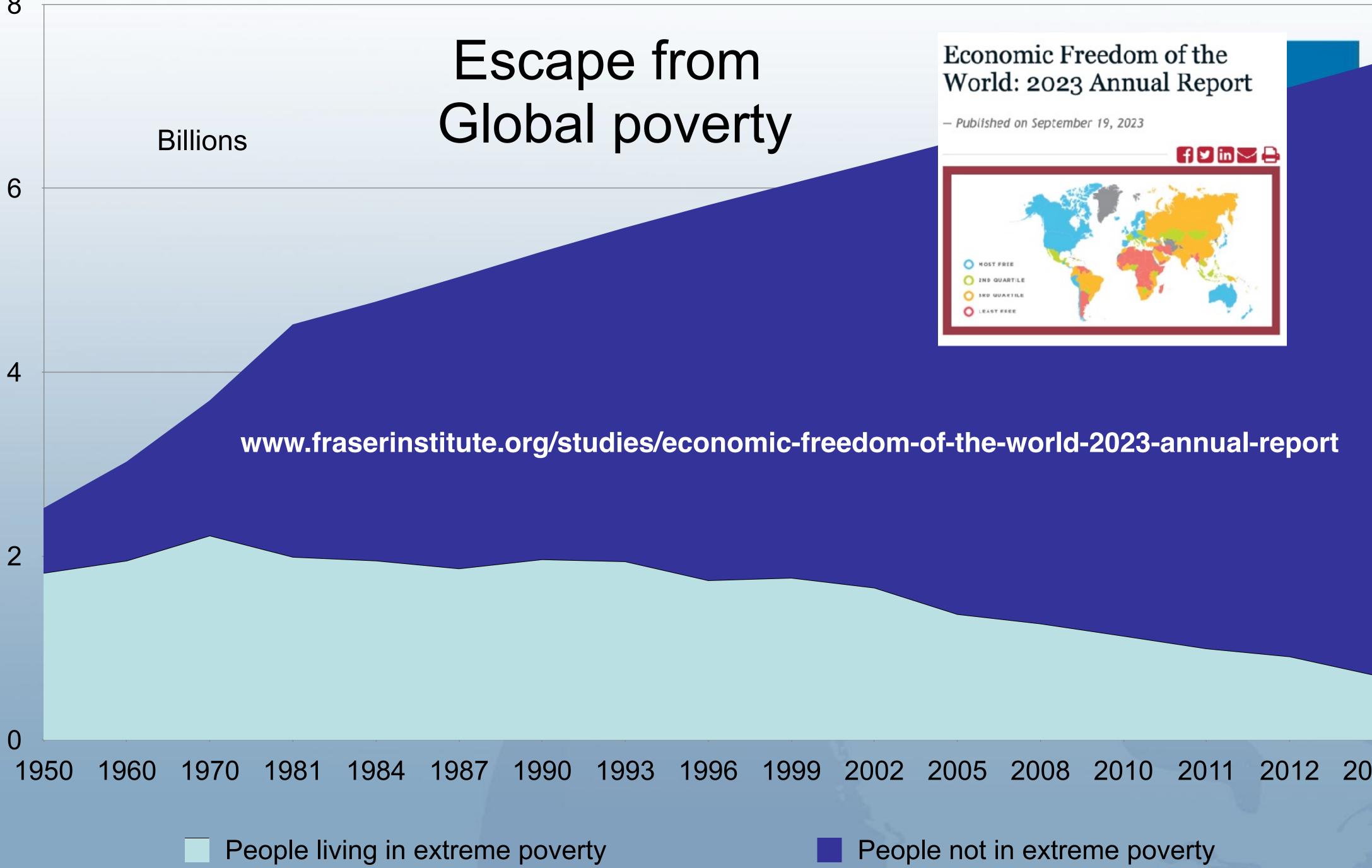


Immigrants: many scientists & engineers and many who didn't finish high school with limited English...

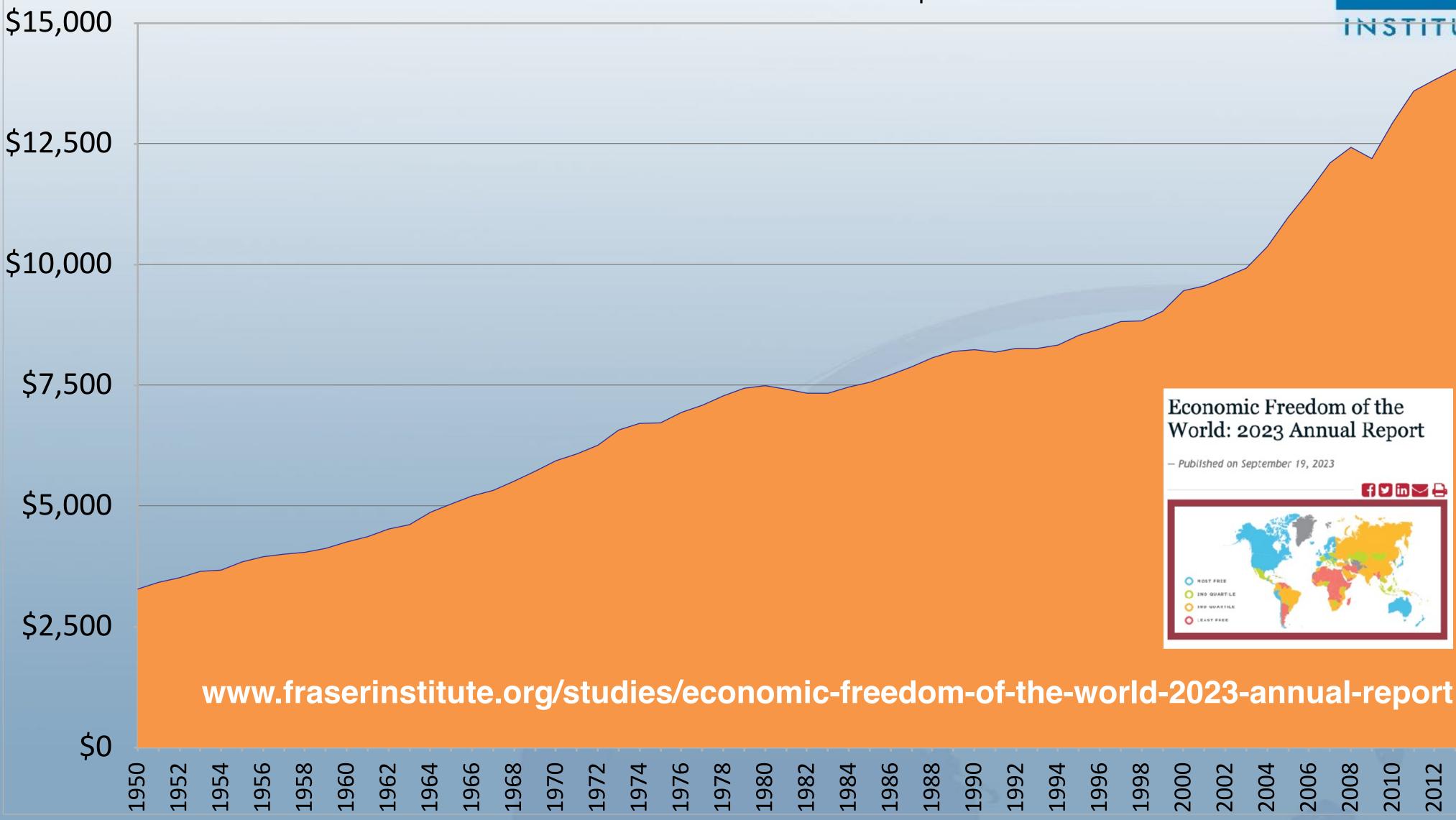
# The Shape of Immigrants vs. the Shape of U.S. Workers

US: few Ph.D. engineers and scientists and few without high school education.

Immigrants: many scientists & engineers and many who didn't finish high school with limited English...



# Global Per capita GDP Constant US\$





### Economic Freedom of the World: 2023 Annual Report

Published on September 19, 2023





## **Uncharted Territories**

# Solution How to Create a New City? An Interview with Mark Lutter



TOMAS PUEYO JUN 7, 2023

## 🌖 Seaflooding

The Surprising Solution to Mitigate Climate Change, Create More Life, and Grow the Economy

MAY 9 • TOMAS PUEYO

## Seaflooding: Past Experience and Future Plans

In this week's free article, we opened our eyes to the opportunities of seaflooding: transforming a dry depression in...

A MAY 11 . TOMAS PUEYO

## Solar Energy Solves Global Warming

In the future, we will still have CO2 credits. But instead of allowing companies to release CO2 into the air... Credits might...







JUL 11 • TOMAS PUEYO









TOMAS PUEYO

JUN 20, 2023

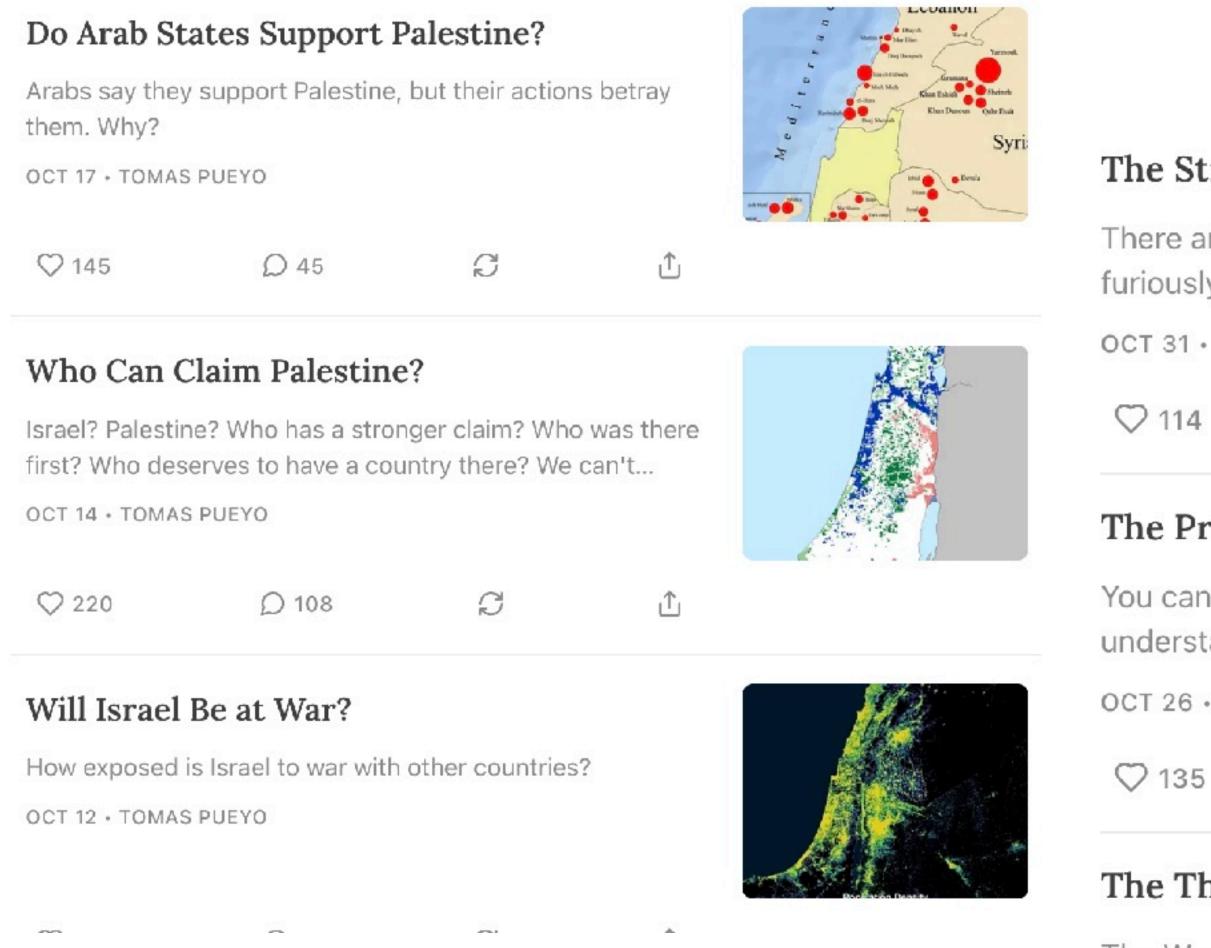


What if carbon goes from pollutant to resource?

## unchartedterritories.tomaspueyo.com



# **Uncharted Territories**



unchartedterritories.tomaspueyo.com

## The Struggle for the Soul of Israel

There are three Israels whose visions for the future clash furiously. If you don't understand them, you can't...

OCT 31 • TOMAS PUEYO

 $O_{71}$ 

## The Problem of West Bank Settlements

You can't understand the Palestinian perspective without understanding the issue of settlements in the West Bank...

OCT 26 • TOMAS PUEYO

A

() 104

## The Three State Solution

The West Bank and Gaza are two completely different countries. For them to be viable, they must remain...

OCT 24 · TOMAS PUEYO



















S

### WITH A NEW PREFACE BY THE AUTHORS

# INVISIBLE

## THE HIDDEN STORY OF HOW MARKETS WORK

"An important new book."-DAVID BROOKS

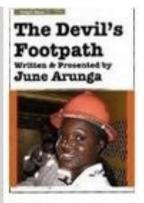
ARNOLD KLING AND NICK SCHULZ

**Our Intangible Riches** 

World Bank economist Kirk Hamilton on the planet's real wealth. Ronald Balley from the August/September 2007 issue

Reason magazine article and interview here. Excerpt: most of humanity's wealth isn't made of physical stuff. It is intangible. In their extraordinary but vastly underappreciated report, Where Is The Wealth Of Nations?: Measuring Capital for the 21st Century, Hamilton's team found that "human capital and the value of institutions (as measured by rule of law) constitute the largest share of wealth in virtually all countries." Full article here. Full 2006 World Bank 188 page book, Where is the Wealth of Nations, is here in pdf.

*Q* Oil, soil, copper, and forests are forms of wealth. So are factories, houses, and roads....



Video



## Bank, such solid goods amount to only about 20 percent of the wealth of rich nations and 40 percent of the wealth of poor countries....

# What is "wealth"? Where does it come from?

- **Natural capital**: the sum of cropland, pastureland, forested areas...and nonrenewable resources (including oil, natural gas, coal, and minerals). - World Bank study estimate: 5% of total.
- **Produced capital:** machinery, equipment, structures (including infrastructure), and urban land. - World Bank study estimate: 18% of total.
- Intangible Capital: is the other 77% That encompasses raw labor; human capital, which includes the sum of a population's knowledge and skills; and the level of trust in a society and the quality of its formal and informal institutions.

http://reason.com/archives/2007/08/03/our-intangible-riches

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