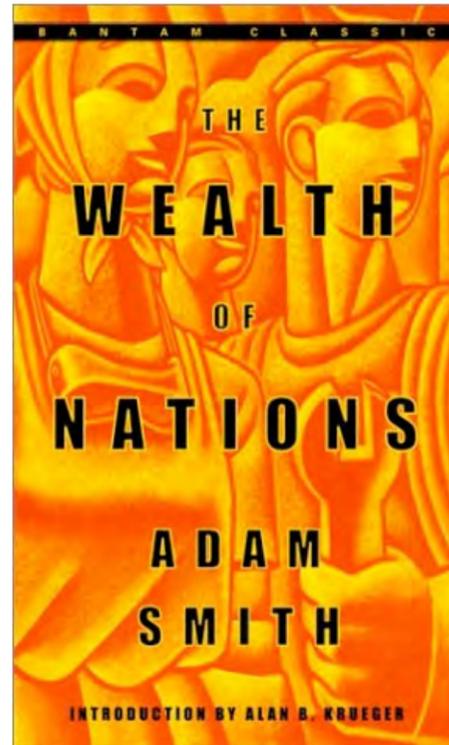
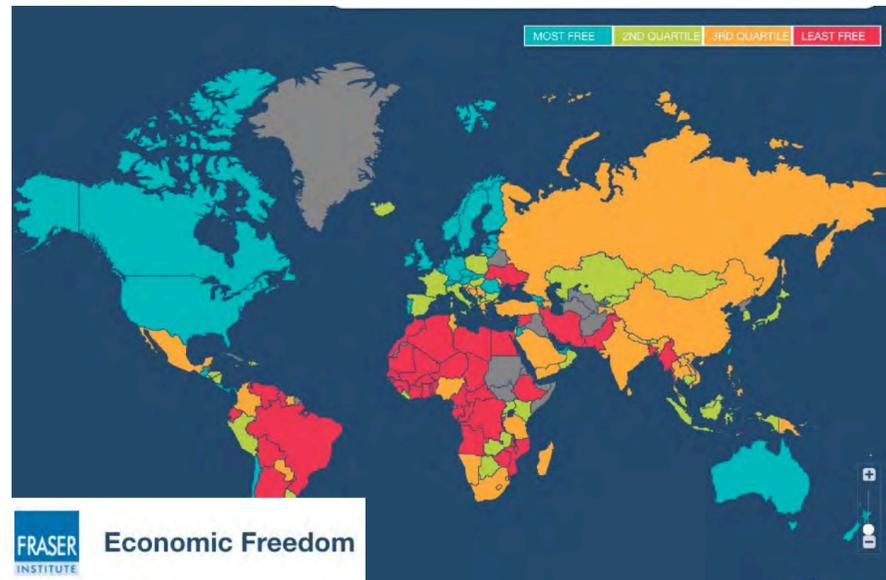




**economicthinking**  
Understanding and Creating Prosperity

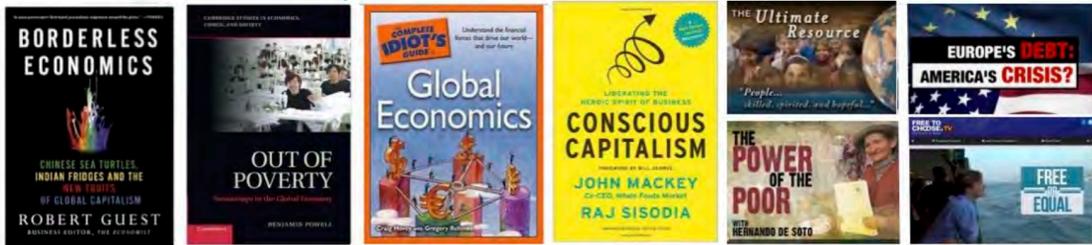


# Economics for Extemporaneous Speaking

Gregory Rehmke

[EconomicThinking.org](http://EconomicThinking.org) • [grehmke@gmail.com](mailto:grehmke@gmail.com)

# Economics for Debate Youth Educational Forum



**Economic Thinking @ Youth Educational Forum**  
Thursday, Sept. 10, 2015 • 12:00-17:00 • Skopje, Macedonia  
Workshop on the economics of debate topics and international issues.

**Presentation One: Dueling Narratives for Economic Malaise: Deregulation and Financialization, or Overregulation and Declining Economic Freedom?**

Economic turmoil, unemployment, inequality, and financial decline in Europe, America, and now China: Are these the result of deregulation since the 1980s and expanded financial power? Or is economic stagnation more the consequence of expanded welfare spending and regulation contributing to declining economic freedom? Economists across the political spectrum agree on some problems, like overregulation of housing. Economic freedom success stories are many: Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Chile, Ireland, & Estonia.

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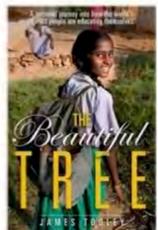
Market economies are turbulent as new enterprises undermine existing firms and industries. Established firms often turn to government for help. But that "help" reduces choices and raises prices for consumers. Adam Smith and public Choice economists today see private interests driving much government action. Without secure Constitutional restraints, businesses, unions, environmentalists and other interests organize and lobby for subsidies and regulatory protection. New firms from restaurants to Uber, AirBnB, and TaskRabbit face these regulations and fees. Estimated costs for excess regulations in U.S. is \$2 trillion per year (Total direct Federal revenue in 2014 was \$3 trillion.)

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# Economic Freedom and Democracy/Drugs/Technology



**Economic Thinking for World Schools Debate**

University of Bucharest • Thursday, Sept. 19, Friday, Sept. 20

Thursday Sessions: Economic Freedom and Public Policy

Friday Sessions: Economic Freedom and ARGO Open Motions

Address, room number, 9 am to 4 pm, lunch included

To Register: Diana Nasulea at [contact@ies-europe.org](mailto:contact@ies-europe.org)



GREGORY REHMKE  
ECONOMIC THINKING

Debate leads students to research the many sides of today's conflicts over populism, nationalism, trade, regulation, migration, energy, and the environment. Speakers will explore the case for non-government approaches and for expanding economic freedom. On Friday, focus will be on ARGO motions (listed below).

### ARGO Open prepared motions

We are very glad to announce the prepared motions for ARGO 2019!  
R2: THBT the government should hand out free drugs to addicts  
R3, Grand Final: THBT courts in emerging democracies should break up persistently dominant political parties  
R5: THW forbid Western tech companies from accepting Chinese terms and preconditions in order to access the Chinese market (e.g. Google accepting censorship, Apple moving its servers to China, etc.)



OVIDIU NEACSU  
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RADU NECHITA  
BABES -BOLYAI UNIVERSITY



CHRISTIAN NASULEA  
UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST



DIANA NASULEA  
IES-EUROPE  
[CONTACT@IES-EUROPE.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@IES-EUROPE.ORG)

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September 24, 2015



HumanProgress

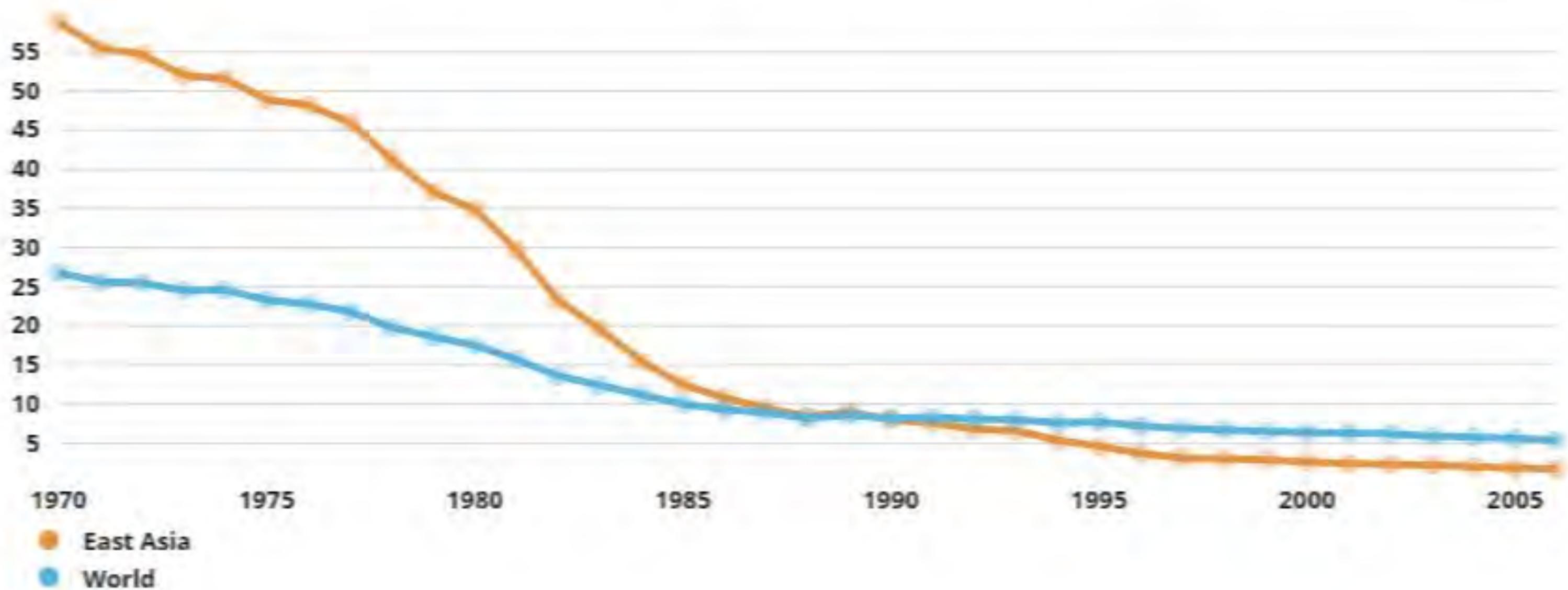
Explore the state of humanity with data, charts & maps

# Extreme Poverty's End in Sight

By Chelsea German

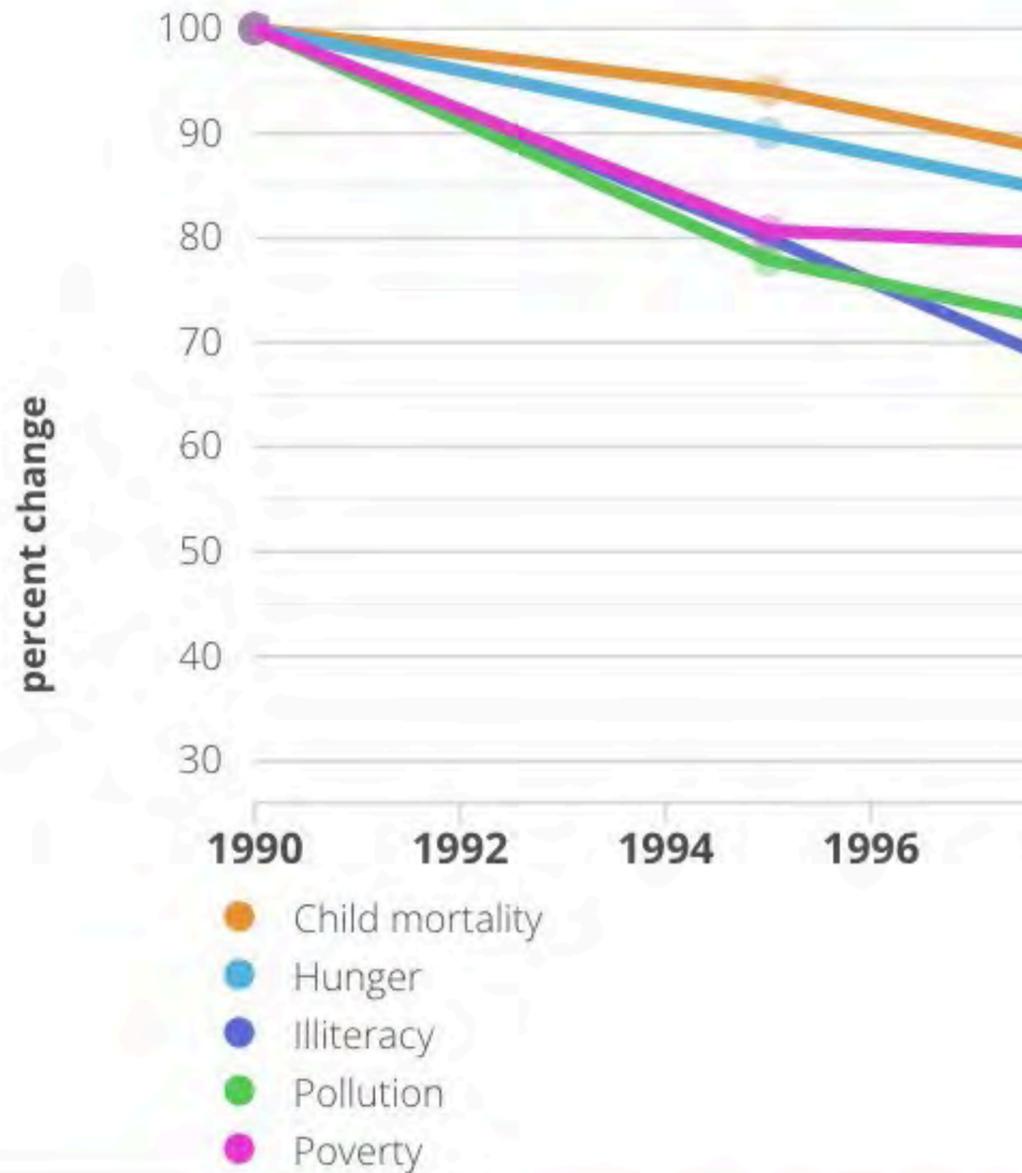
HumanProgress.org

Absolute poverty rates in East Asia and the world, percent of population



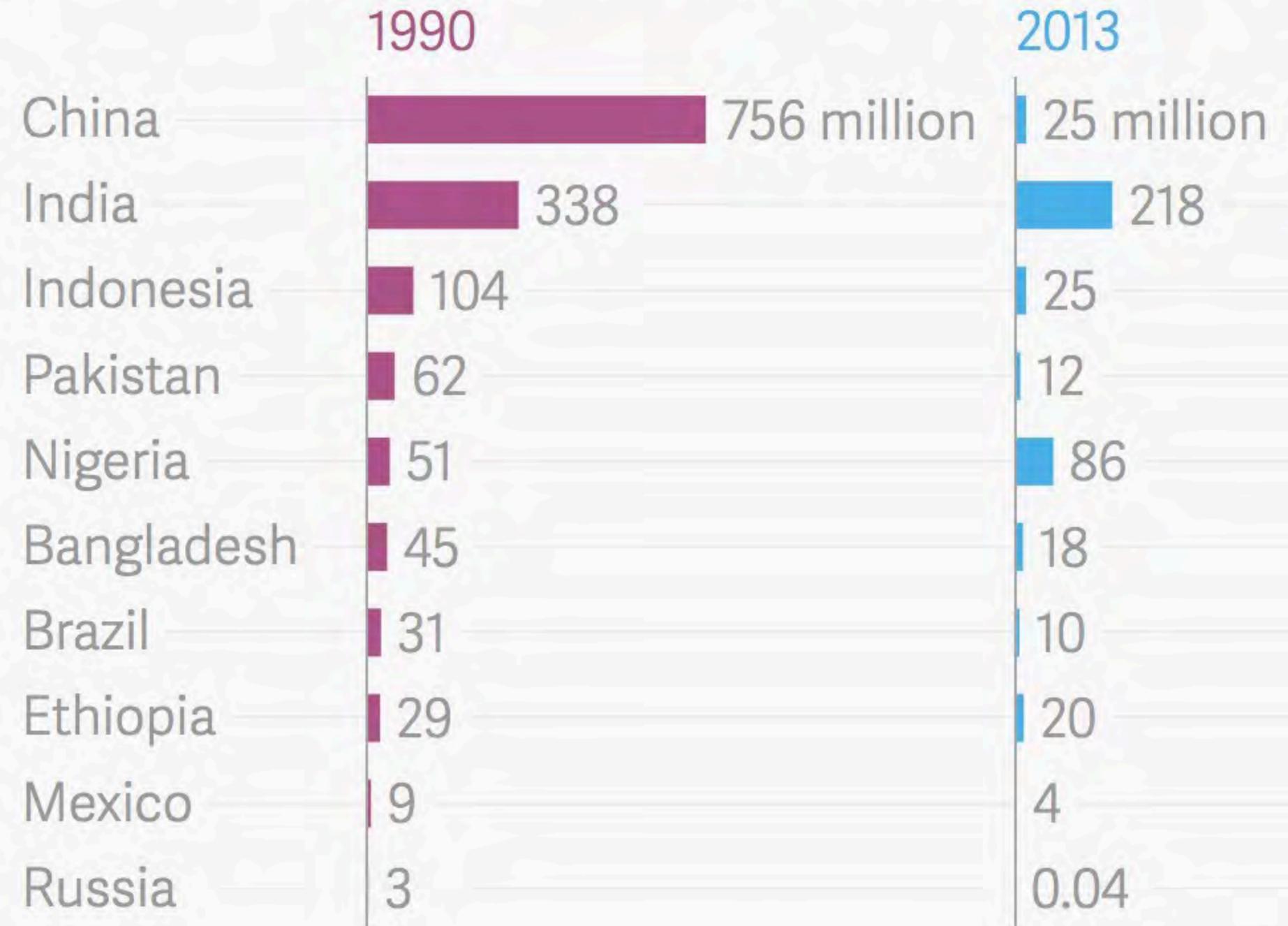
<http://humanprogress.org/blog/extreme-povertys-end-sight>

# Living in Challenging, but Fortunate Times



Source: Johan Norberg, Progress

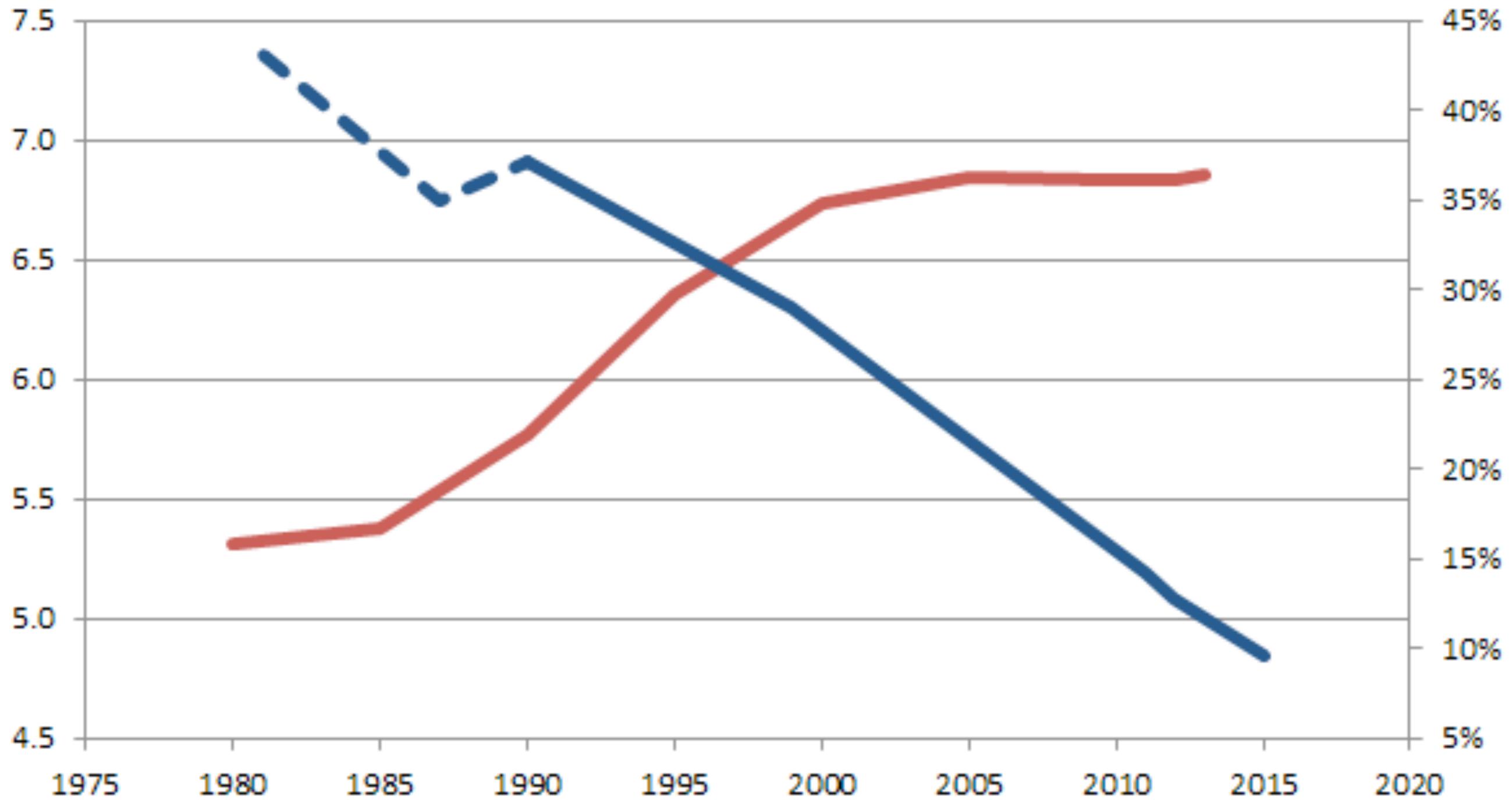
## People living in extreme poverty (less than \$1.90 per day)



# Living in Challenging, but Fortunate Times

- Economic times in U.S. seem troubling (*Housing price increases are key, due in large part to zoning restrictions.*)
- Wages in the U.S. aren't increasing as fast as they used to (and median wages may be stagnant or falling). *Average: mean or median*
- Overall and worldwide: stunning increases in prosperity over the last thirty years.

# Global Poverty and Economic Freedom



- Economic Freedom of the World index (left axis)
- Percentage of population living below \$1.90 per day (2011 PPP)
- - Percentage of population living below \$1.25 per day (2005 PPP)

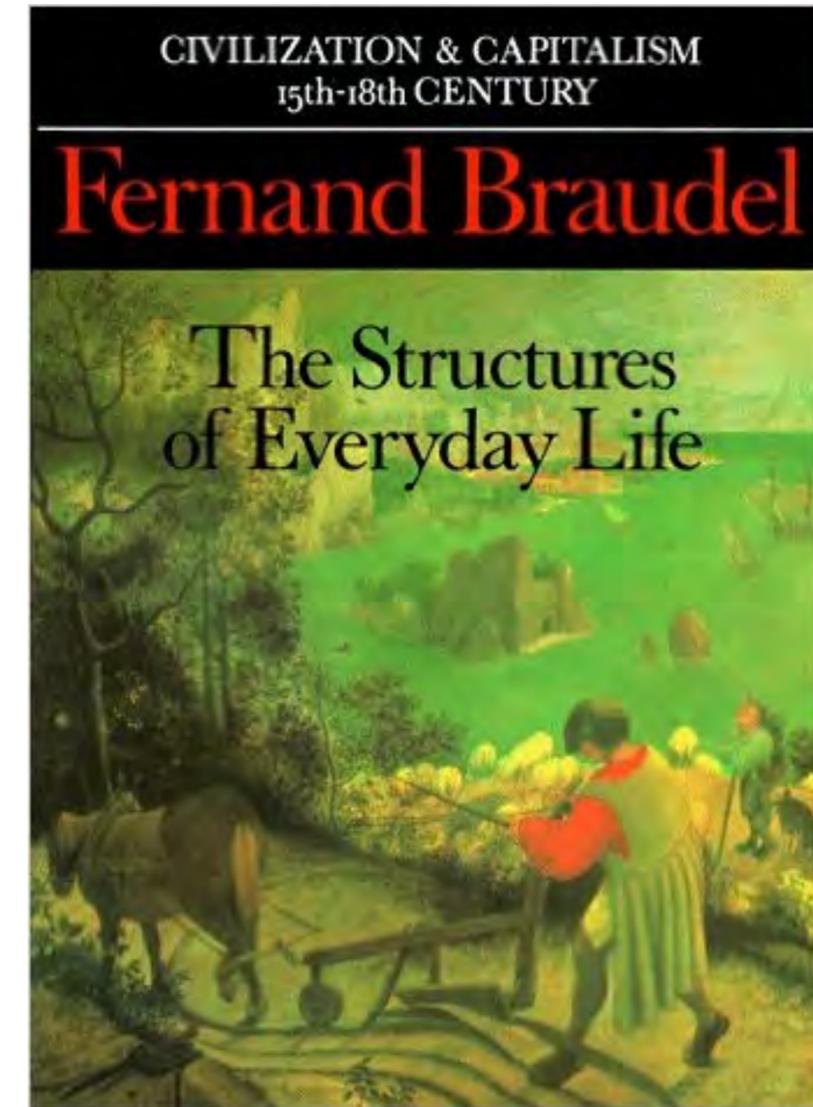
[http://www.cato.org/  
blog/dramatic-decline-  
world-poverty](http://www.cato.org/blog/dramatic-decline-world-poverty)

*Life for our distant ancestors was very strange compared to anything we know. Few knew of endless cycles of famines and wars.*

***Braudel on famines in France  
[Structures of Everyday Life]:***

*"Any national calculation shows a sad story... France, by any standards a privileged country, is reckoned to have experienced*

- 10 general famines during the tenth century;*
- 26 in the eleventh century;*

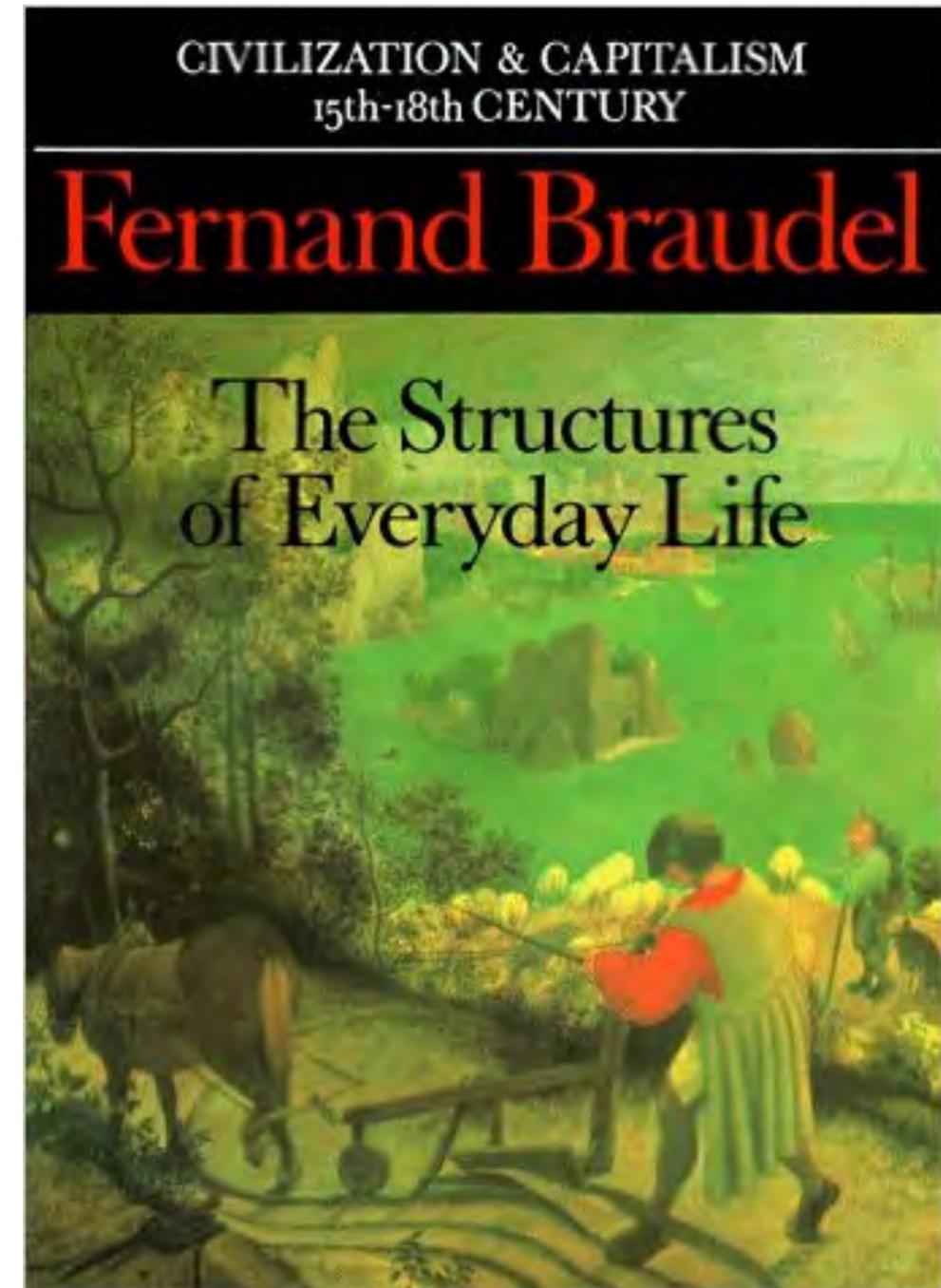


<http://www.economicthinking.org/books/MktLib-BurnHist.pdf>

## *Braudel on famines in France, continued...*

- *2 [famines] in the twelfth;*
- *4 in the fourteenth;*
- *7 in the fifteenth;*
- *13 in the sixteenth;*
- *11 in the seventeenth and*
- *16 in the eighteenth.*

*While one cannot guarantee the accuracy of this eighteenth-century calculation, the only risk it runs is of over optimism, because it omits the hundreds and hundreds of local famines.”(p.74)*

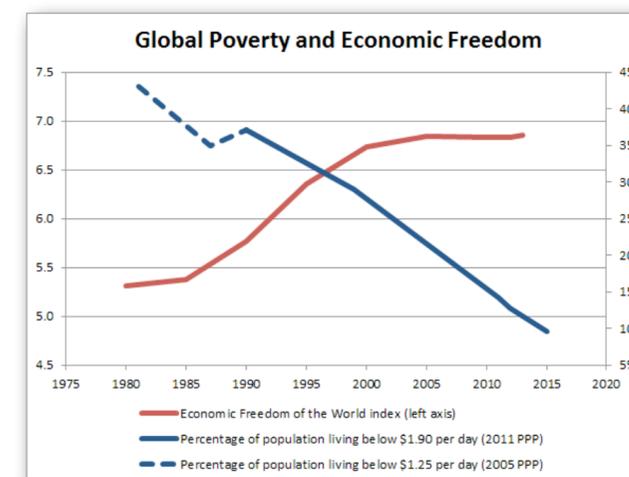
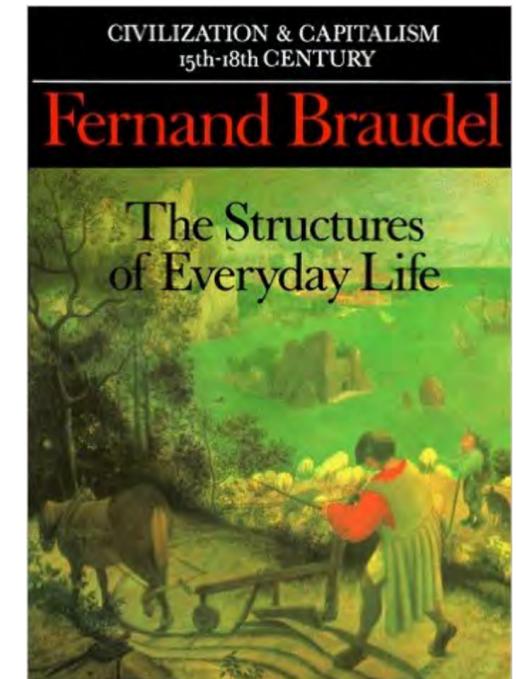


# So... to Summarize



- Tremendous economic progress over the last 30 years.
- Stunning economic progress over the last 250 years.
- Technology and transportation advances played a central role (steam-powered ships, railroads, factories).
- Innovation in finance, shipping, agriculture, and industry flourished in England, Scotland, and Holland and later in America because of sound rule of law institutions.
- Advances across the *Five Key Sectors of Every Economy*:

**Agriculture, Textiles, Housing,  
Transportation, Energy**



# Current Events, Public Policy

- Populism, nationalism, and trade war with China (Also new threats and tariffs on imports from Mexico and Europe).
- Rise of nationalism and populism in Europe, Latin America, and Asia.
- UK Brexit debate. Will Italy leave the E. U.?
- Refugees from Middle East/North Africa to Europe. (And from Latin America to U.S.)
- U.S. criminal justice reform, over-criminalization, over incarceration (5%/25%).

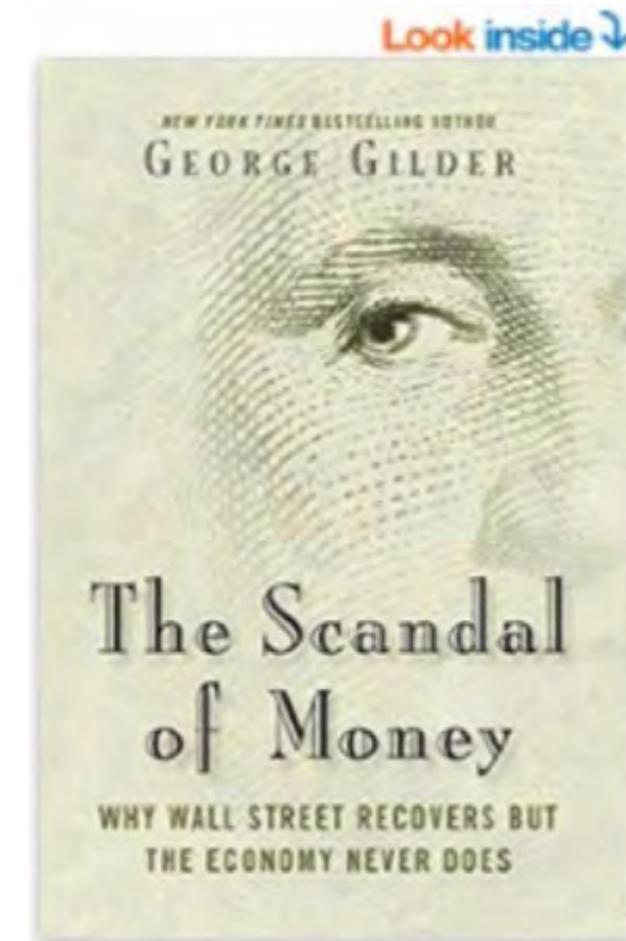
# Current Events, Public Policy *continued*

- Predictions of coming recession. Long economic expansion. Echos of 2007-2008 financial crash: *The Great Recession.*
- Look at rising housing prices, mortgage downpayments, “loosing” lending standards. Federal govt. mortgage buying/guarantees.
- National debt and deficit. Looming state pension crises. Social Security and Medicare.
- College tuition way up: cost of administration, federal student loans as cause.

# Current Events, Public Policy

*continued again*

- Shootings and gun control debate. Shooting data between countries? Between cities & counties with gun control regulations?
- Inequality debate: gains for top 1%, 5%, 10%. Financialization of economy. *Main street vs. Wall Street.* George Gilder: *The Scandal of Money*. Alternate narratives (stories): *too much regulation or not enough?*
- Regulating social media and Big Tech. Do Google and Facebook have too much control? George Gilder: *Life after Google*



# Cost of Regulations

## ***Alternate narratives...***

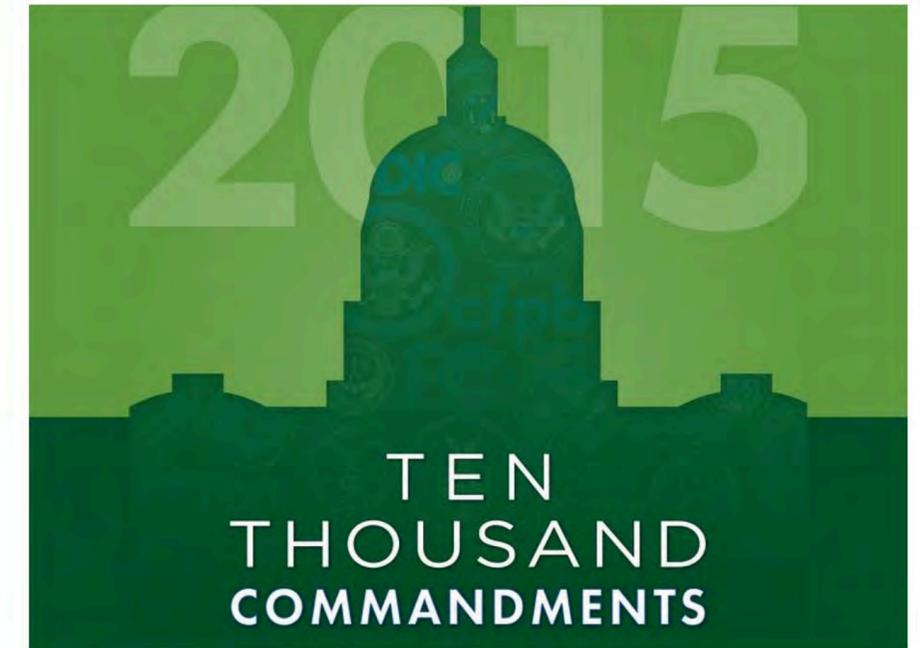
The new estimate from NAM/Crain and Crain turns out to be **\$2.028 trillion** annually. They break costs up into four main categories (in billions of dollars):

- Economic: \$1,448 billion
- Environmental: \$330 billion
- Occupational Safety/Health & Homeland **Security**: \$92 b.
- Tax Compliance: \$159 b.

## Ten Thousand Commandments 2015

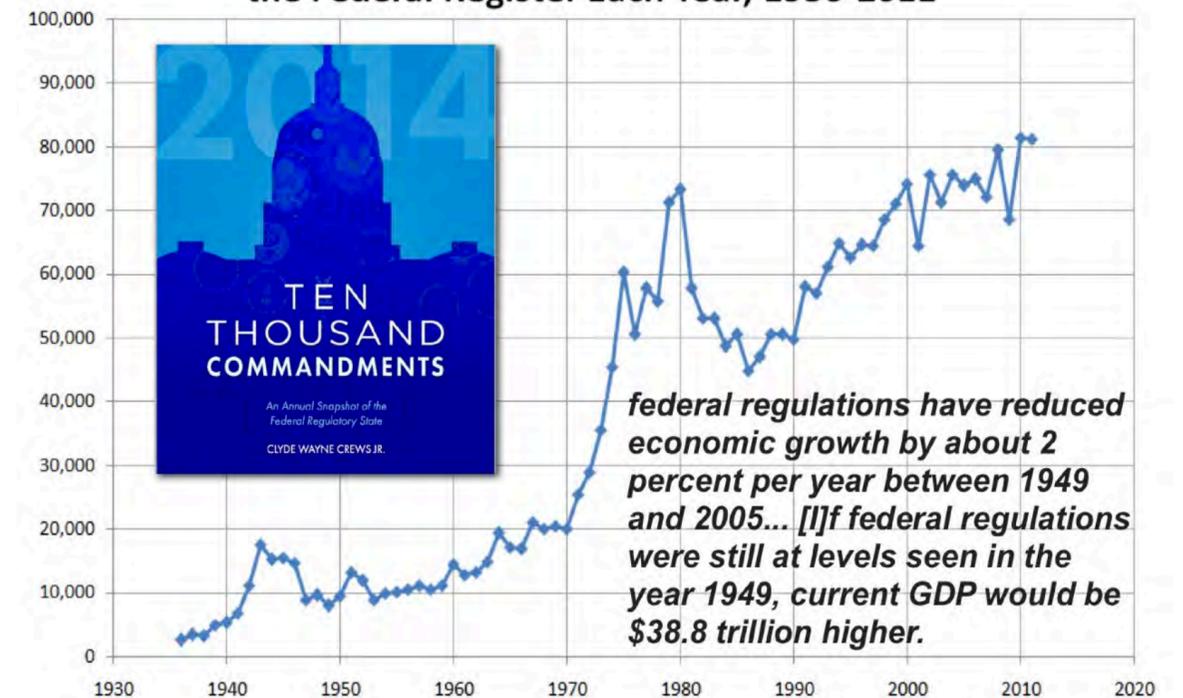
An Annual Snapshot of the Federal Regulatory State

Clyde Wayne Crews • May 8, 2015



<https://cei.org/10kc2015>

Number of Pages of Regulations Added to the Federal Register Each Year, 1936-2011



Source: Ten Thousand Commandments

© Political Calculations 2012

# *Inequality, Populism, and Nationalism*

-  [After] Brexit, ascendant European *nationalism*, and the US elections, much has been written about *populism's* threat to global trade growth and the international economic institutions established after the Second World War.
-  ...Many have blamed *growing economic inequality* within developed economies—some blame *outsourcing* or *[technology]*
-  Others posit that a decline in inequality may be a motivating factor...*blame populism's rise on improved income equality across all nations.*

# *Inequality, Populism, and Nationalism*

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-  ...Many have blamed growing economic inequality within developed economies—some blame outsourcing or [technology]
-  Others posit that a decline in inequality may be a motivating factor...blame populism's rise on improved income equality across all nations.
-  During the 1990s, **a 70% income gap** stood between emerging economies and the G7. That gap shrunk to **under 14% in 2016** and **will disappear by 2020**.

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

By Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

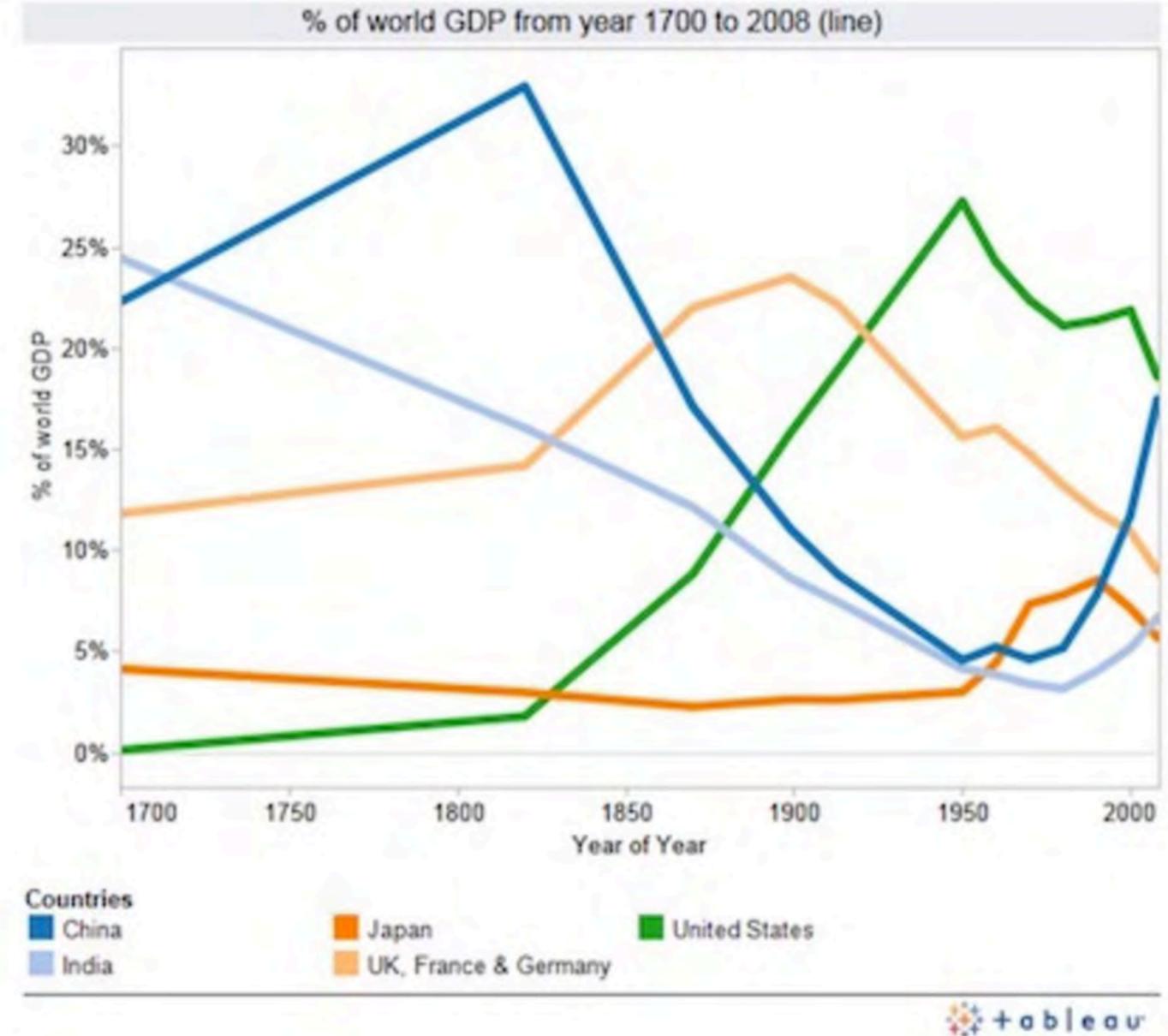
## The Pacific Trade Future: China and South America

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

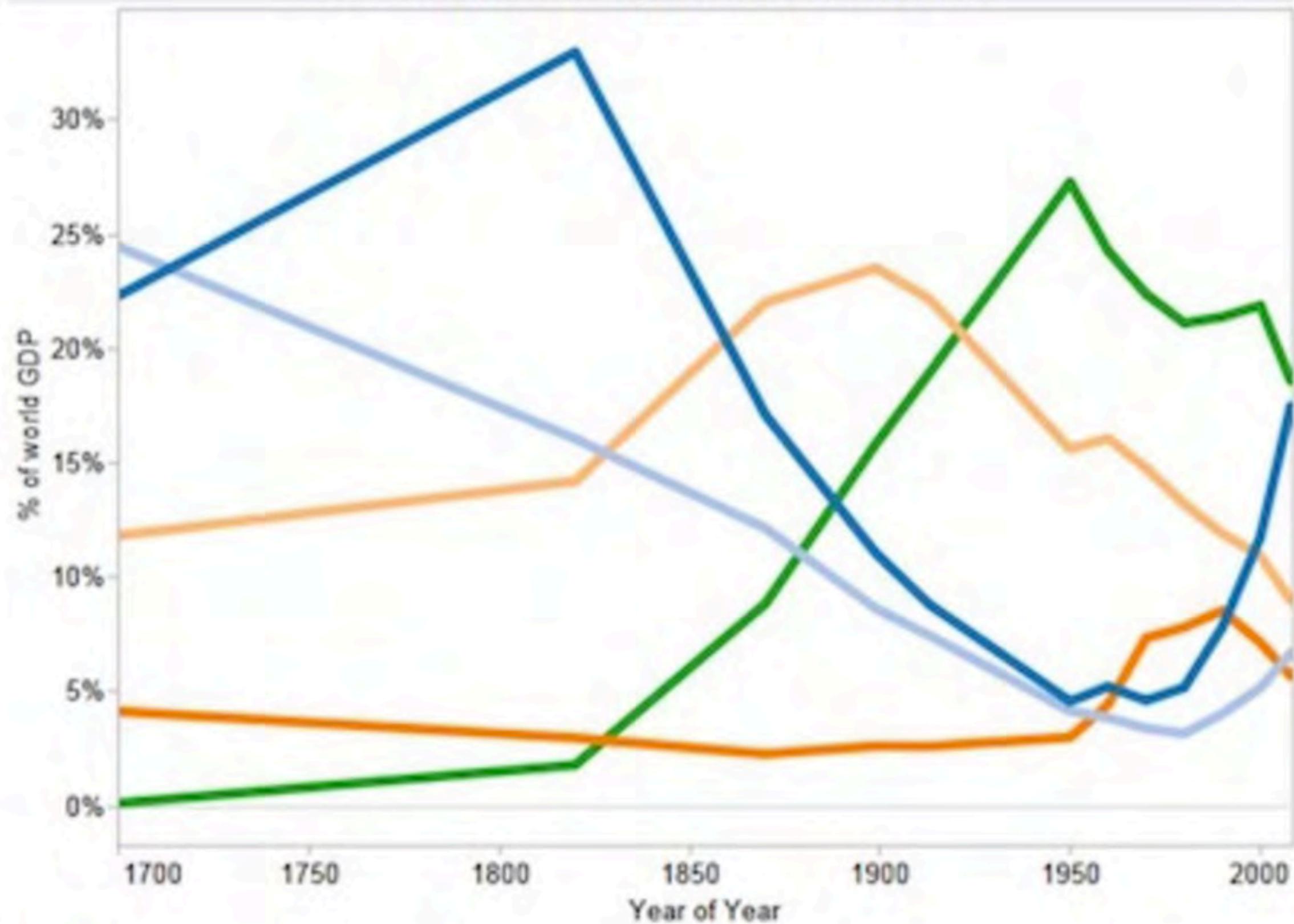
A sponsored *Quartz* post from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy: “Asia will soon be the world's economic center—if it isn't already” looks at the rise of nationalism:

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

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



% of world GDP from year 1700 to 2008 (line)



Countries

- China
- India

- Japan
- UK, France & Germany

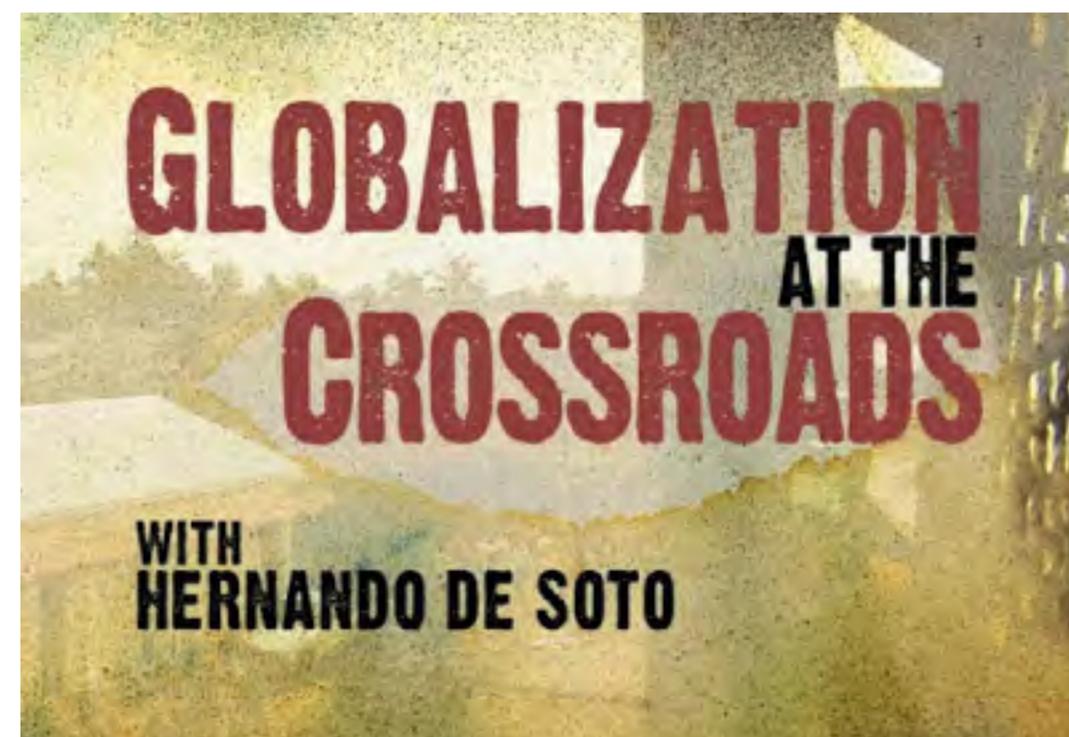
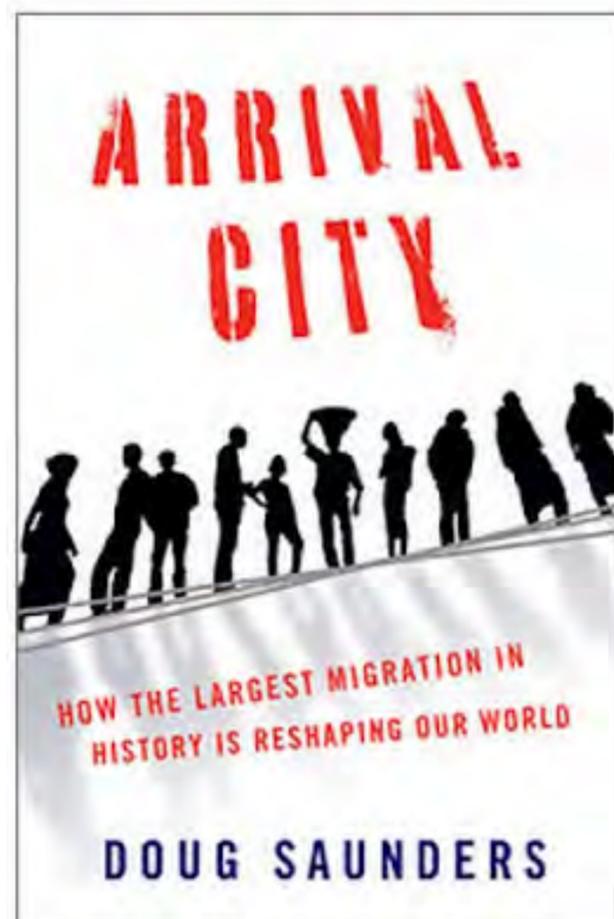
- United States

# Astounding Ideas for Trade Policy: China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan

Friday, June 26, 2015

## Arrival Cities in China, and Globalization at the Crossroads

Around the world, people are on the move. Across the United States and Japan, through the 1800s and 1900s, millions moved from farms and rural villages to the edges of fast-growing cities. China's economic transformation turns on the hundreds of millions who have and are still migrating to China's dozens of *megacities* and hundreds of large and mid-size cities and adjacent manufacturing regions.



Broadcast Program

### Globalization at the Crossroads - with Hernando de Soto

Globalization at the Crossroads features renowned Peruvian economist and author, Hernando de Soto. His twenty years of research show that economies prosper only in places where widespread personal property ownership exists—coupled with inclusive, efficient, and transparent business and property law.



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Development came later for Taiwan and South Korea, as foreign direct investment through the 1960s and 1970s in and around cities added to domestic savings to fund vibrant export-based economies. A glimpse of this history is given in the first minutes of Hernando de Soto's *Globalization at the Crossroads*, which streams online.

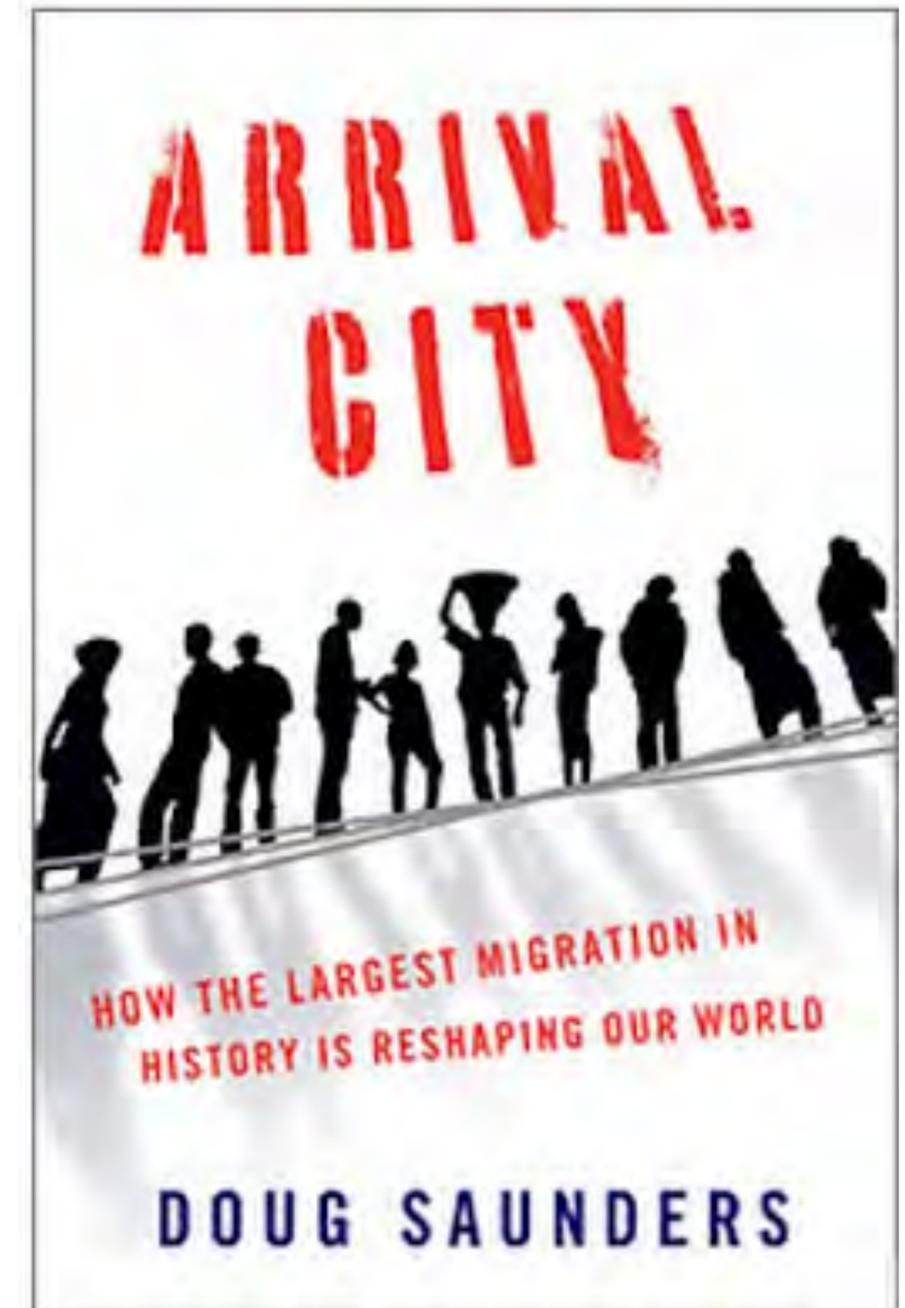
A central economic reality in China, India, Africa, and Latin America, are the millions migrating to cities to join the exchange economy of world cities where they produce and consume goods and services exported to and imported from around the world. The U.S. and Japan had their migration a century ago, South Korea and Taiwan a few decades ago, and China's migration over the last two decades and still a work in process.



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# Economics: The Basics

- Scarcity: Not enough of everything for everyone.
- So... people make choices about what to consume, and education, training, and what to produce.
- Scarcity → Choice → Opportunity cost
- When we buy something, the true cost is the “opportunity cost”: our next choice on our list.
- In work or leisure we make similar choices
- Combining producers and consumers, we have: Supply and Demand of goods and services.



# Video Replay: Freedom Day at the National Constitution Center

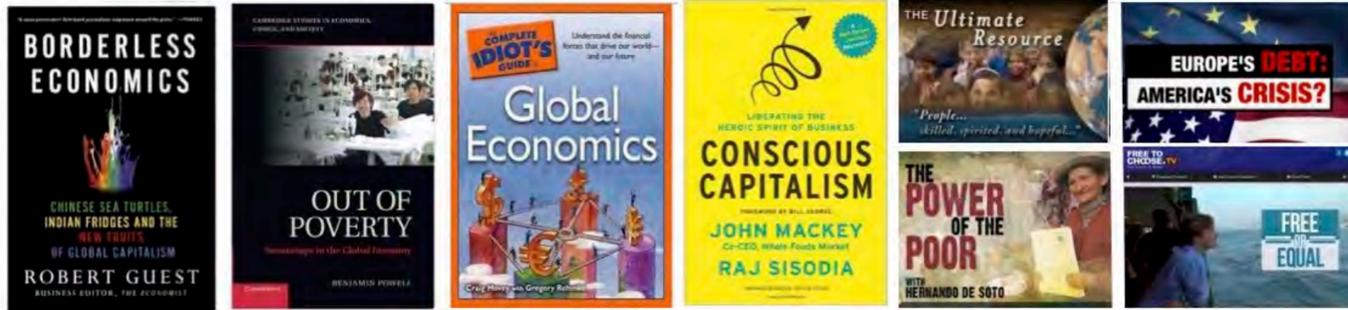
April 14, 2015 by NCC Staff

**This symposium was a series of bipartisan discussions examining the role of free speech, freedom of religion, equality and other individual rights.**

**This event helps launch a nationwide conversation — called Freedom Day — held every year and hosted by the National Constitution Center.**

<http://blog.constitutioncenter.org/2015/04/live-video-4-p-m-freedom-day-at-the-ncc/>

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 Immigration is a powerful economic force boosting growth in open economies. The German government welcomes immigrants partly for economic value. Immigration has been a source of German, UK, Hong Kong, and U.S. prosperity over the last fifty years. Welfare state policies collide with new immigration. Guest worker policies are an option. Charter cities too.



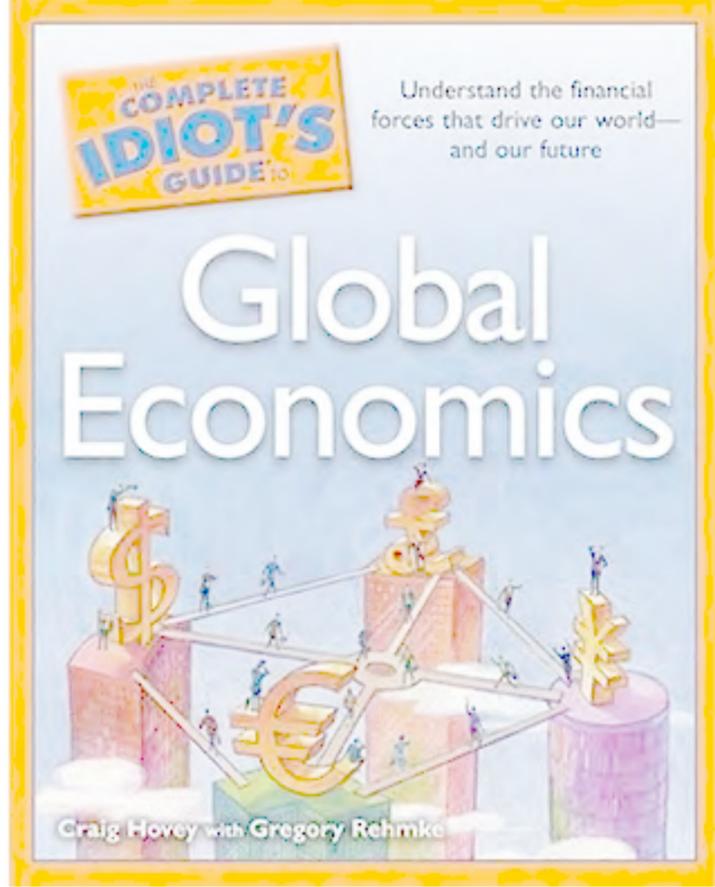
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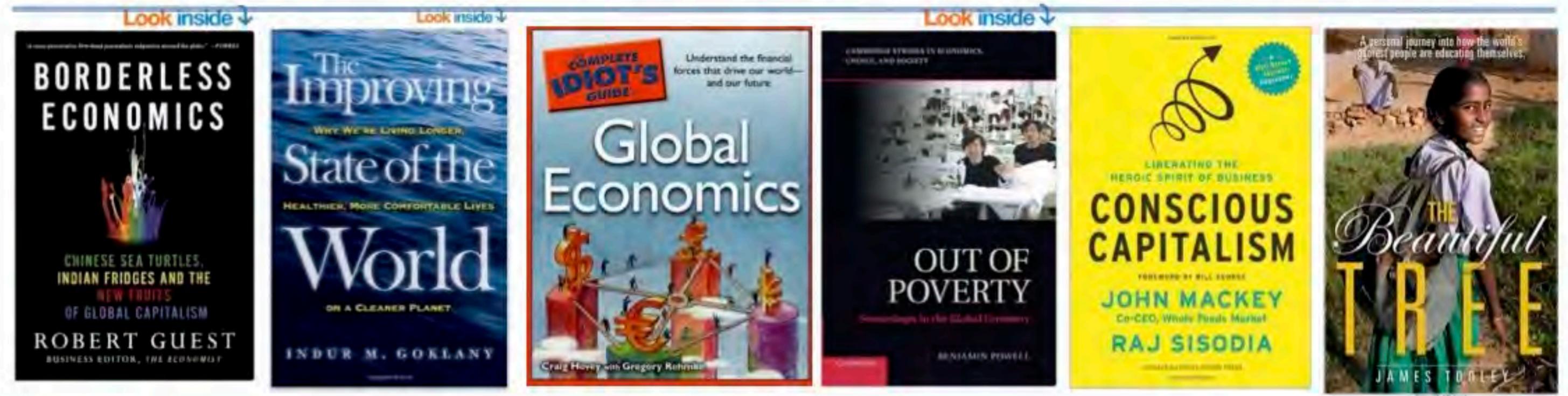
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# Economics for ARGO Open Debaters



## Economic Thinking

• Friday, September 4 • Time: *to be announced*

Short presentations on the economics of ARGO Open preliminary topics...

**This House regrets the rise of peer-to-peer economy (e.g. companies like Uber, Airbnb, TaskRabbit and others).**

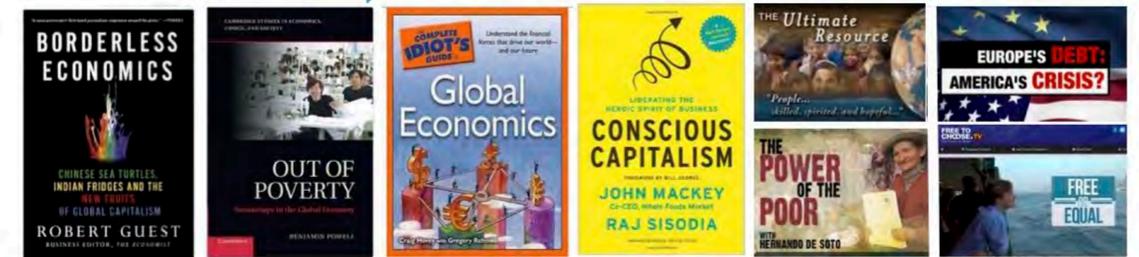


# The Economics Debate

- *Presentation One: Dueling Narratives for Economic Malaise: Deregulation and Financialization or Overregulation and Declining Economic Freedom?*
- *Presentation Two: Economic Freedom Indexes and Constitutional Restraints: Innovation vs. The Dead Hand?*
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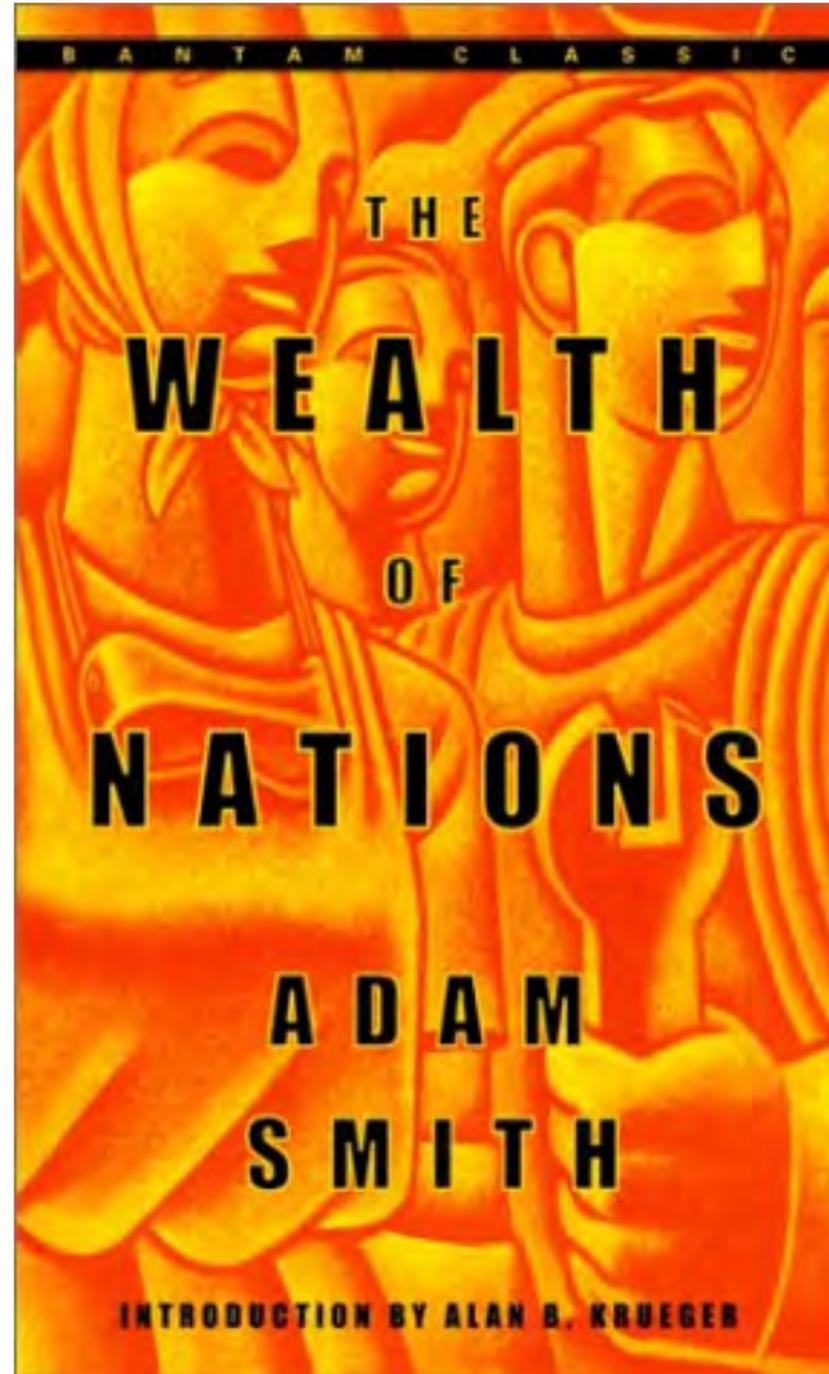
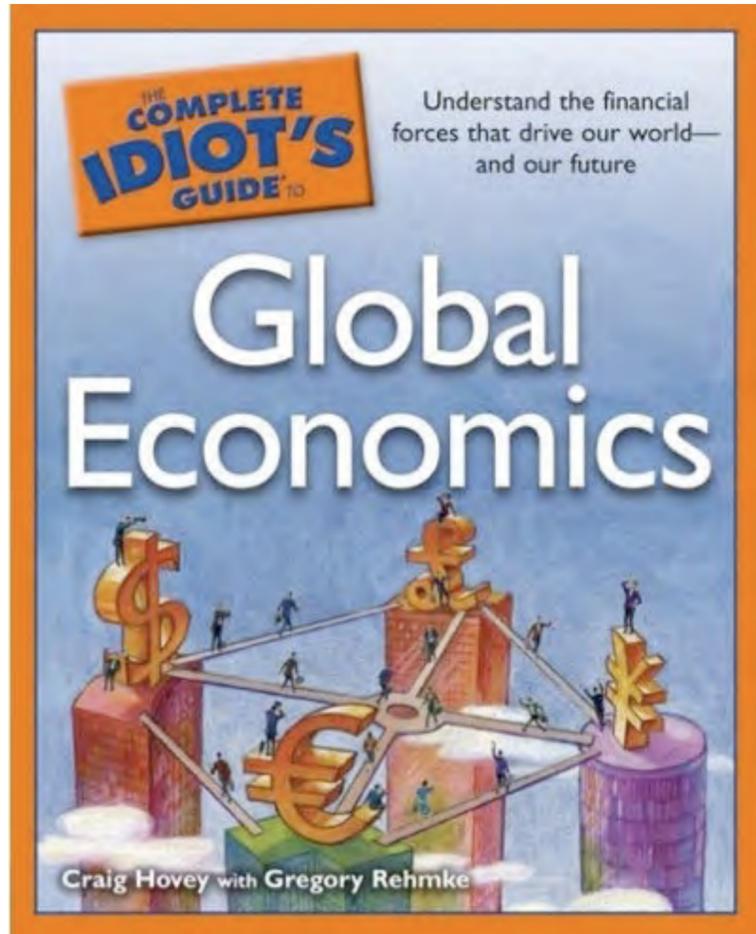
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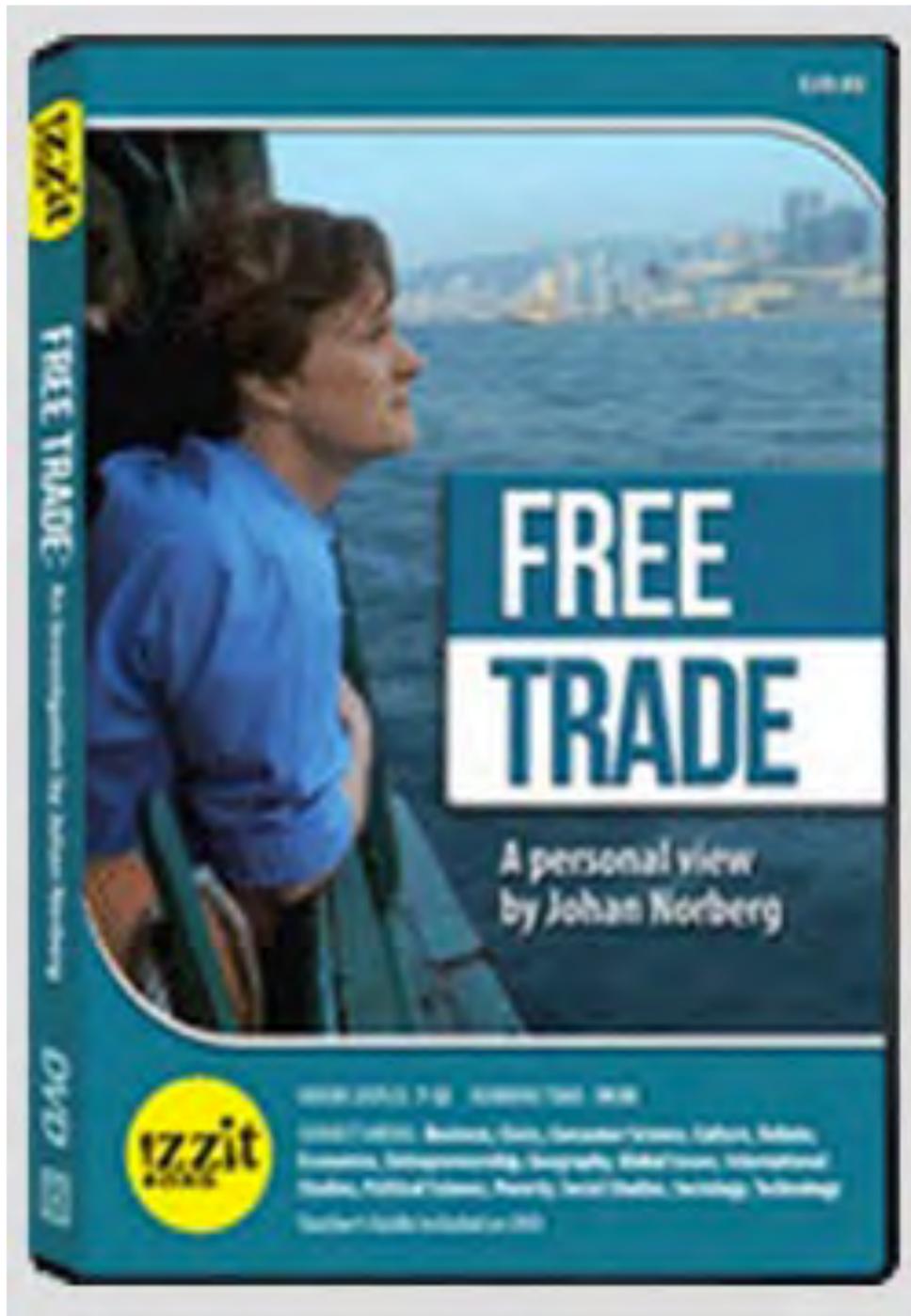


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**economic thinking**  
Understanding and Creating Prosperity

[www.izzit.org/streaming/](http://www.izzit.org/streaming/)



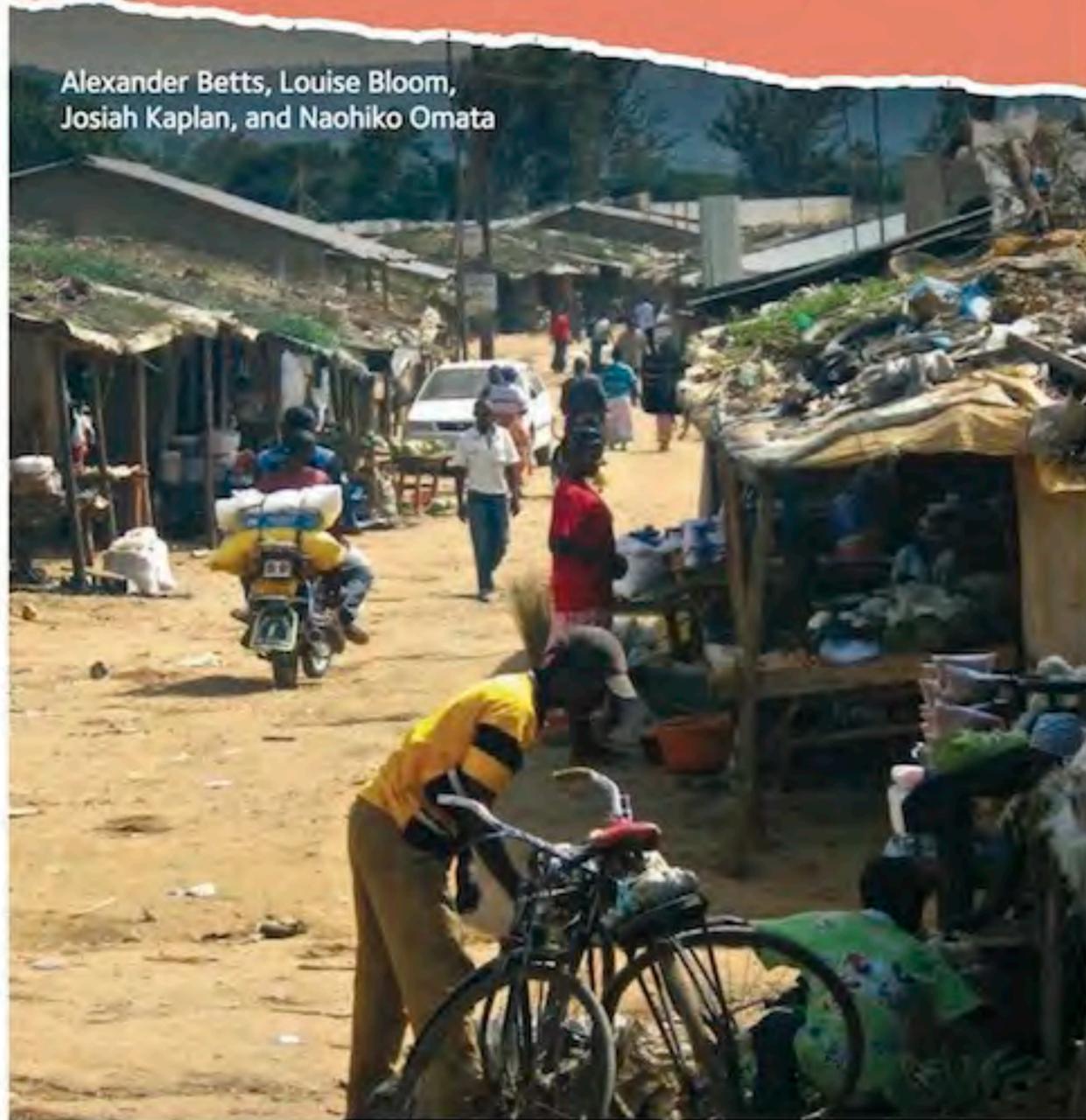
<http://astoundingideasmiddleeast.blogspot.mk/2014/07/refugee-economics-success-of-self.html>



# Refugee Economies

Rethinking Popular Assumptions

Alexander Betts, Louise Bloom,  
Josiah Kaplan, and Naohiko Omata



[www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/refugeeeconomies](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/refugeeeconomies)



**FRASER INSTITUTE** Free the World.com  
Web site of the Economic Freedom Network

How much economic freedom exists in your country?

- Home Page
- Latest News
- Economic Freedom of the World Reports
- Regional and Sub-national Reports
- Human Freedom
- Events
- Economic Freedom Network Members
- Economic Freedom Network Asia
- Link to Us

### Economic Freedom

Economic freedom has been shown in numerous peer-reviewed studies to promote prosperity and other positive outcomes. It is a necessary condition for democratic development. It liberates people from dependence on government in a planned economy, and allows them to make their own economic and political choices. For information on the effects of economic freedom, please see [papers](#).

The classic definition of economic freedom is:

Individuals have economic freedom when property they acquire without the use of force, fraud, or theft is protected from physical invasions by others and they are free to use, exchange, or give their property as long as their actions do not violate the identical rights of others. An index of economic freedom should measure the extent to which rightly acquired property is protected and individuals are engaged in voluntary transactions.

**James Gwartney and Robert Lawson et al.**  
*Economic Freedom of the World: 1996 Annual Report*

- *Economic Freedom: choice, entrepreneurship, innovation, invention, enterprises...*
- *Free countries become prosperous.*
- *Economic Way of Thinking: incentives and information.*

## 2. Legal System and Property Rights

- A. Judicial independence
- B. Impartial courts
- C. Protection of property rights
- D. Military interference in rule of law and politics
- E. Integrity of the legal system
- F. Legal enforcement of contracts
- G. Regulatory restrictions on the sale of real property
- H. Reliability of police
- I. Business costs of crime

*Next: Episode One: Economic Freedom & Quality of Life (YouTube)*



## OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING: A FRAMEWORK FOR POLICYMAKERS

- *Over the past several decades, the share of U.S. workers holding an occupational license has grown sharply.*
- *When designed and implemented carefully, licensing can offer important health and safety protections to consumers, as well as benefits to workers.*
- *However, the current licensing regime in the United States also creates substantial costs, and often the requirements for obtaining a license are not in sync with the skills needed for the job.*
- *There is evidence that licensing requirements raise the price of goods and services, restrict employment opportunities, and make it more difficult for workers to take their skills across State lines.*



July 2015

Braiding  Freedom

<http://braidingfreedom.com/>



# Cost of Regulations

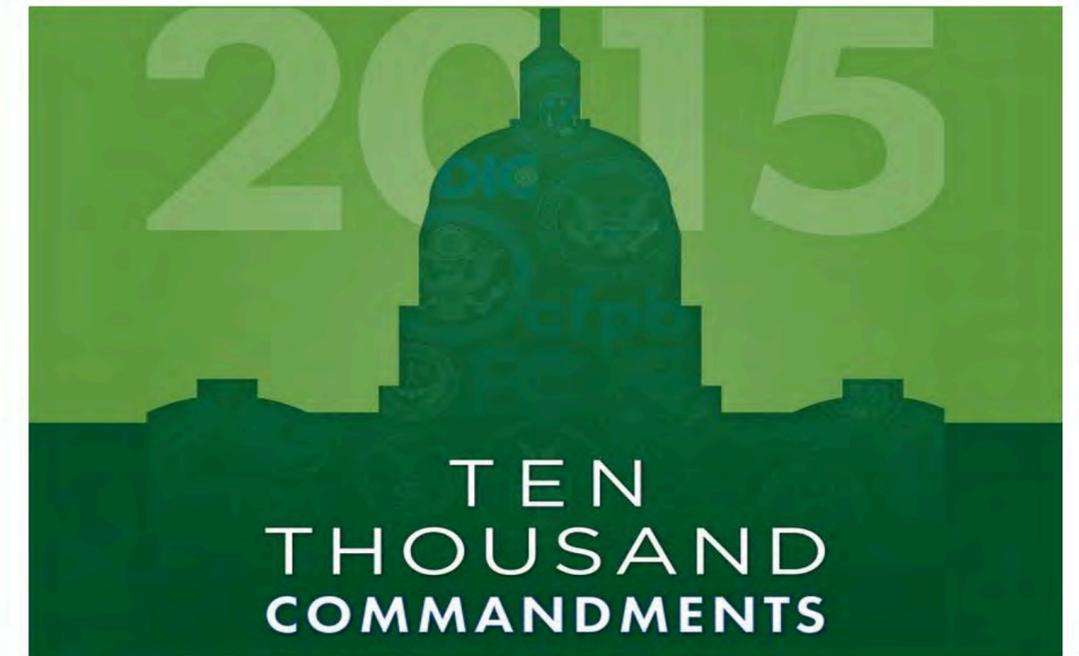
The new estimate from NAM/Crain and Crain turns out to be **\$2.028 trillion** annually. They break costs up into four main categories (in billions of dollars):

- Economic: \$1,448 billion
- Environmental: \$330 billion
- Occupational Safety/Health & Homeland **Security**: \$92 b.
- Tax Compliance: \$159 b.

## Ten Thousand Commandments 2015

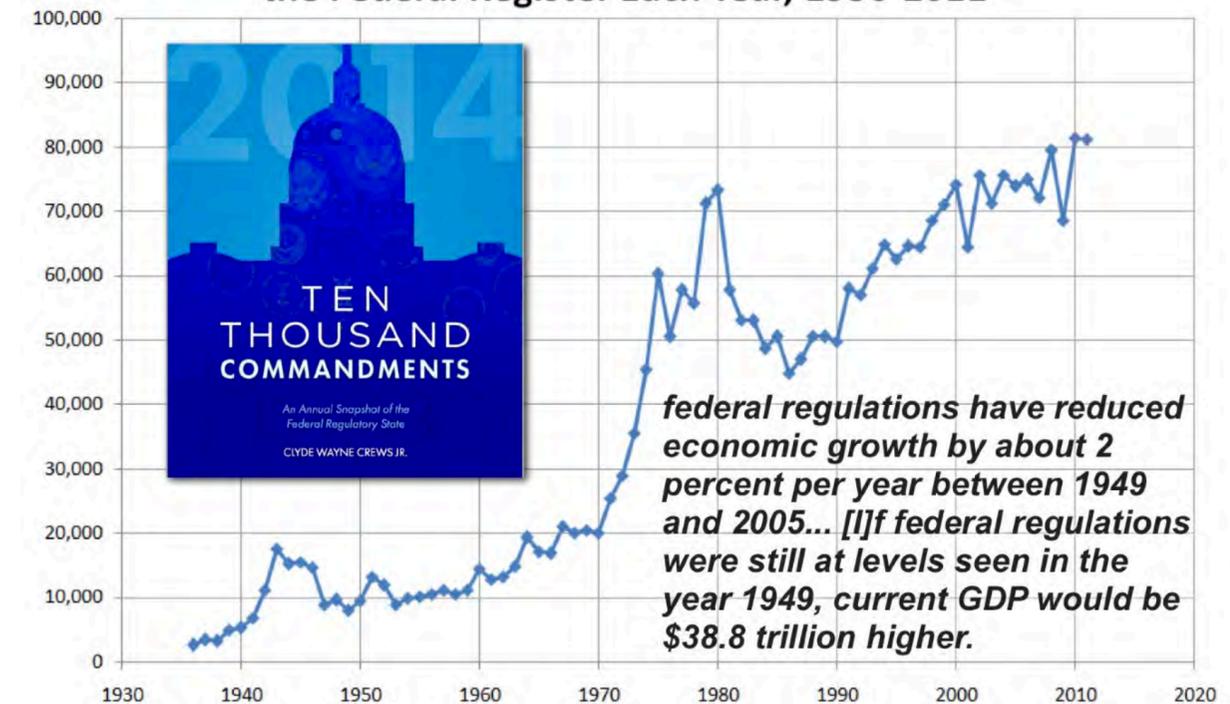
An Annual Snapshot of the Federal Regulatory State

Clyde Wayne Crews • May 8, 2015



<https://cei.org/10kc2015>

Number of Pages of Regulations Added to the Federal Register Each Year, 1936-2011



Source: Ten Thousand Commandments

© Political Calculations 2012

# Criminal Justice Reform

## Overcriminalization

Way too many imprisoned.  
Often the “wrong people”  
Unjust and expensive.



[rightoncrime.com](http://rightoncrime.com)

- **Reduce/reform pre-trial detention.**
- **Jury trials rather than plea-bargaining.**
- **End mandatory minimum sentences.**
- **Reform prisons.**
- **Too many economic and regulatory crimes.**

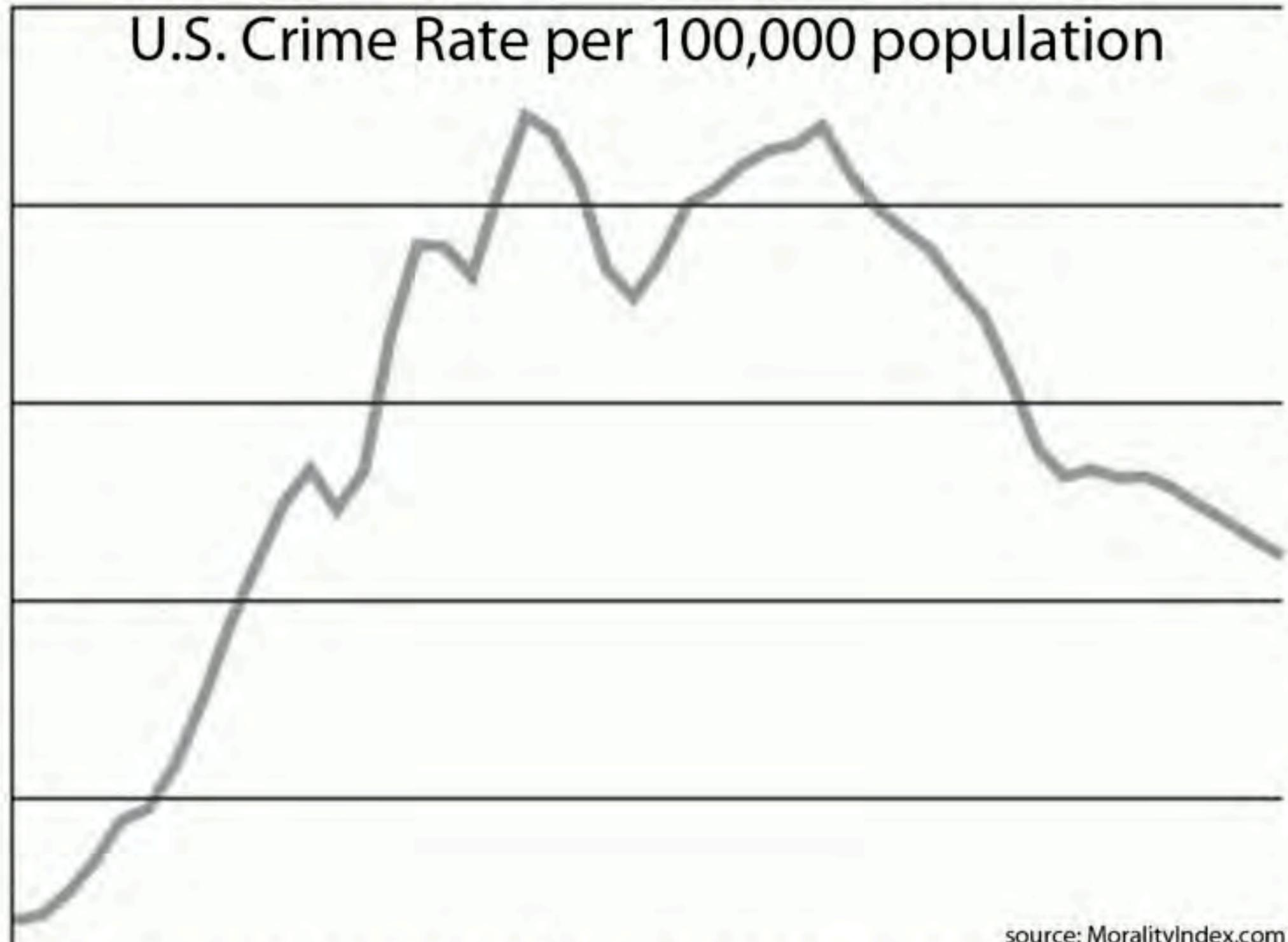
6,500

# U.S. Crime Rate per 100,000 population

1,500

1960 1975 1990 2005

source: MoralityIndex.com



# US Violent Crime Rate

1960-2012

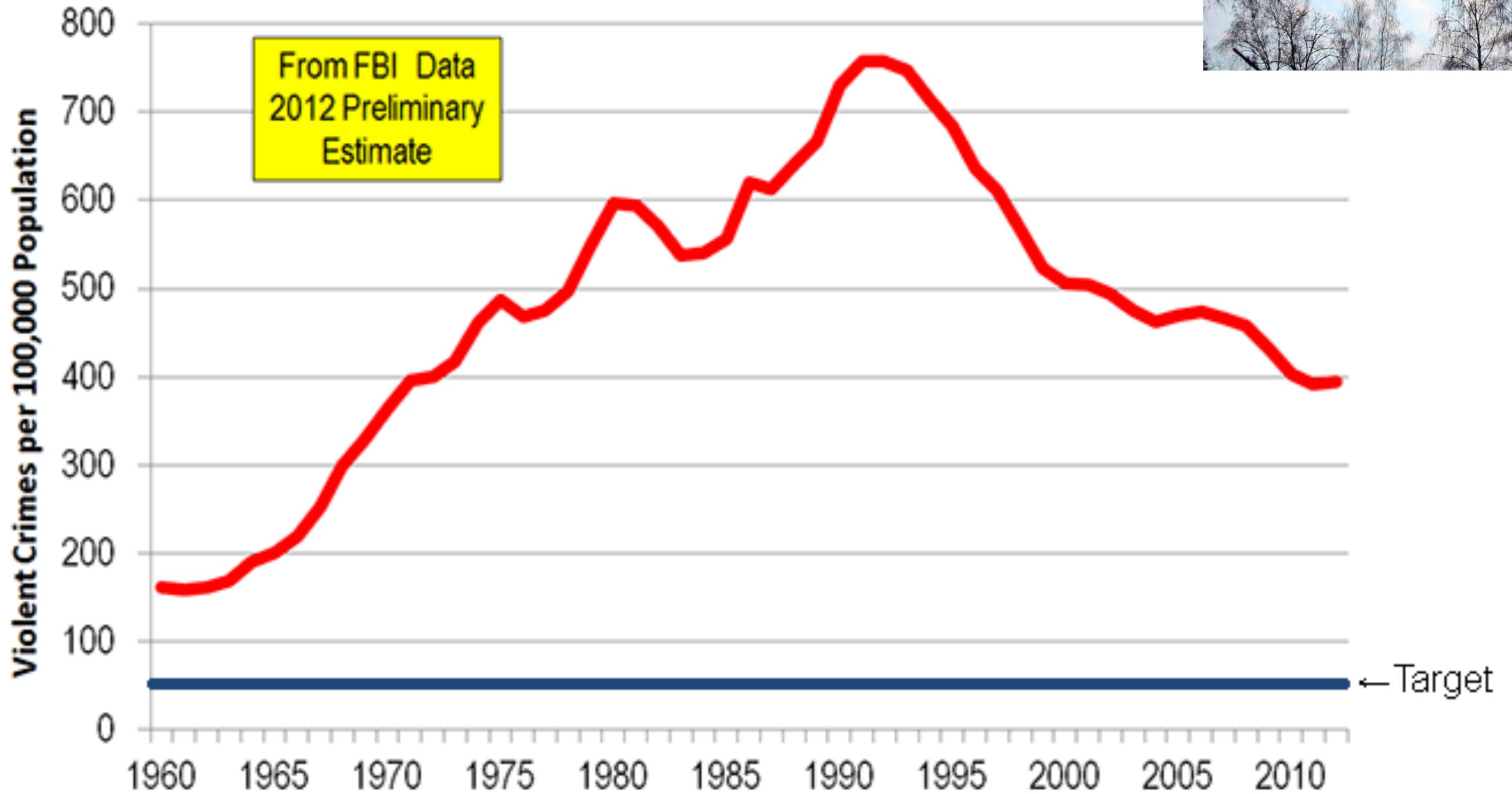
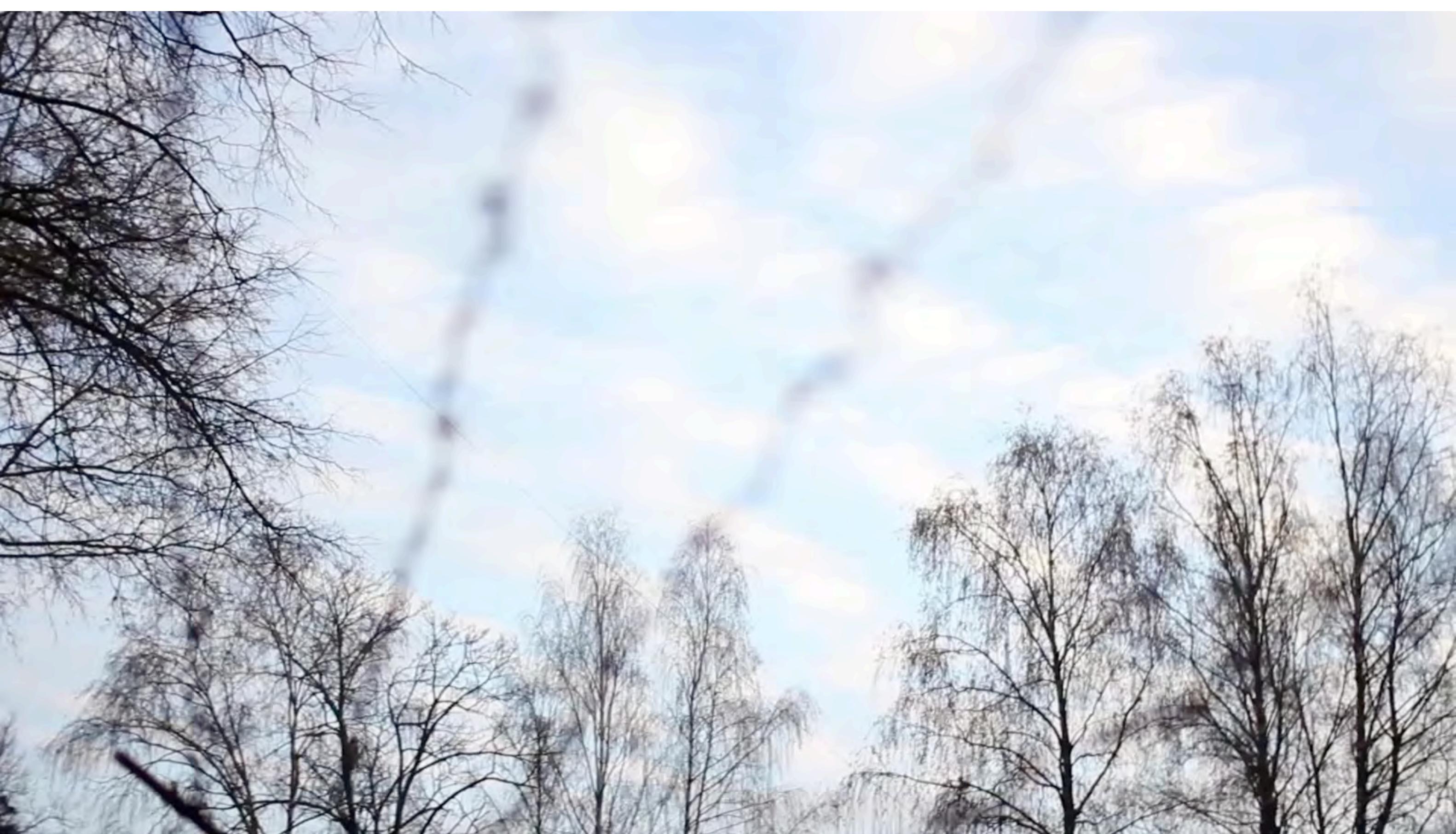


Figure 3



## Dont Talk to Police - YouTube



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wXkl4t7nuc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wXkl4t7nuc) ▾

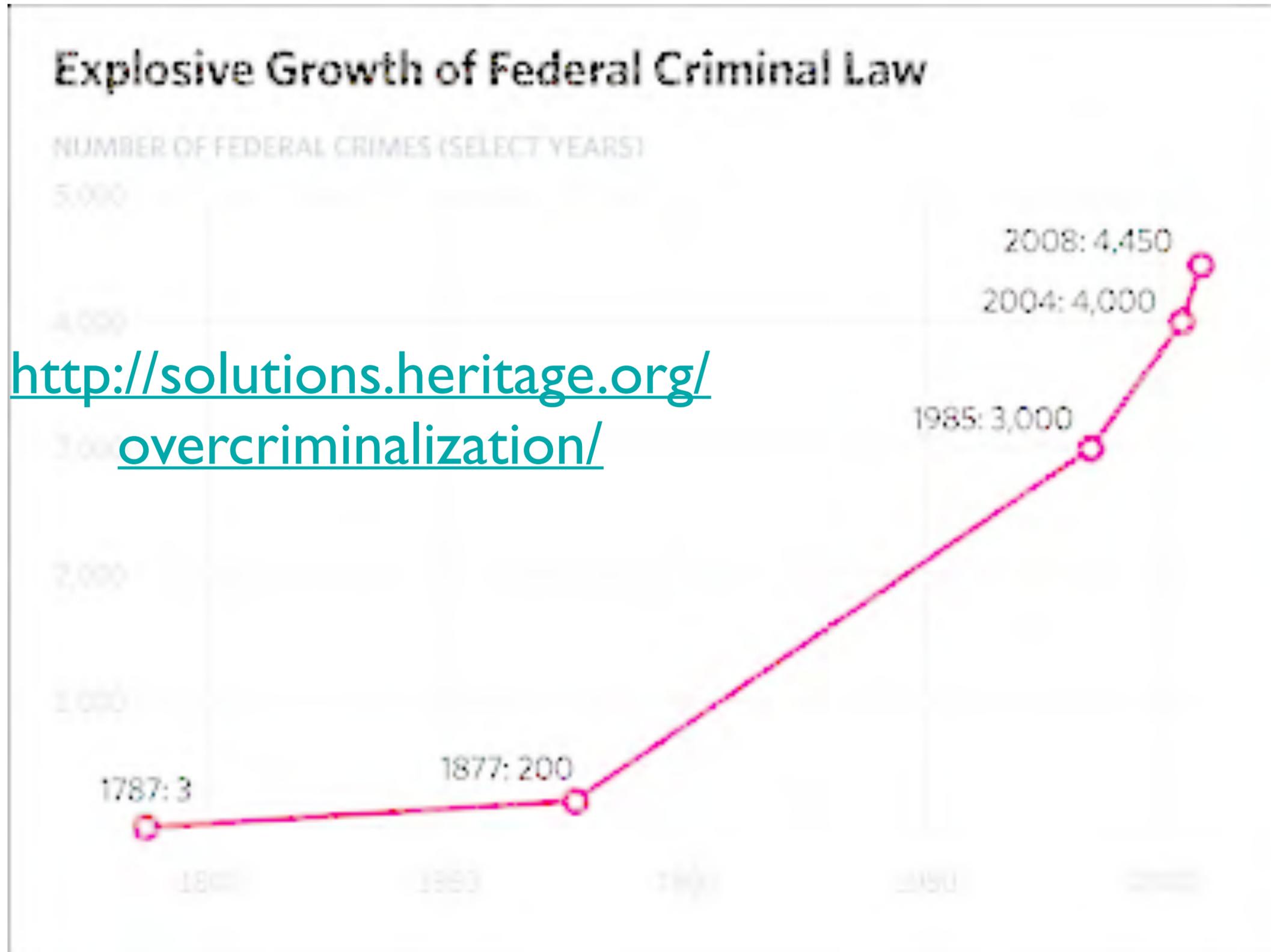
Jun 21, 2008 - Uploaded by russr

... tells you why you should **never** agree to be interviewed by the **police**. ... If anyone that I **ever** cared for was arrested, I wish that they would ...

- ***Video is a debate, with policeman speaking after law professor.***
- ***Video is not critical of police behavior, but of prosecutors and over-criminalization***



# The Criminalization of Everyday Life



Legal Memorandum #157 on [Legal Issues](#)

July 9, 2015

# Regulatory Crimes and the Mistake of Law Defense

***No one should be convicted of a crime if no reasonable person would have know [the act as illegal]... .. the adoption of a mistake of law defense, and criminal law scholars have long argued strict liability crimes lead to conviction of persons who are, morally speaking, innocent.***

The Heritage Foundation

Heritage Action

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Legal Memorandum #157 on [Legal Issues](#) July 9, 2015

## Regulatory Crimes and the Mistake of Law Defense

By [Paul Larkin](#)

**Abstract**  
No one should be convicted of a crime if no reasonable person would have known, and if the defendant did not know, that the conduct charged against him was criminal. Former U.S. Attorneys General Edwin Meese III and Michael Mukasey have endorsed the adoption of a mistake of law defense, and criminal law scholars have long argued that strict liability crimes lead to conviction of persons who are, morally speaking, innocent. A recent paper by Senator Ted Cruz gives further reason to believe that Congress may debate the continued legitimacy of the rule that neither

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# ***The Federal Court System Should Have Jury Trials***

## *Amendment VI*

*In all criminal prosecutions, **the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury** of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed...*

- However, less than 5% of today's accused have reasonable opportunities for jury trials.
- Instead, prosecutors offer "plea bargains" where accused agrees to plead guilty to "lesser crime."
- In some cases, saves time and money, but gives prosecutors power to pressure guilty pleas.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2015

## Jury Trials: A Radical Reform for the Federal Court System?

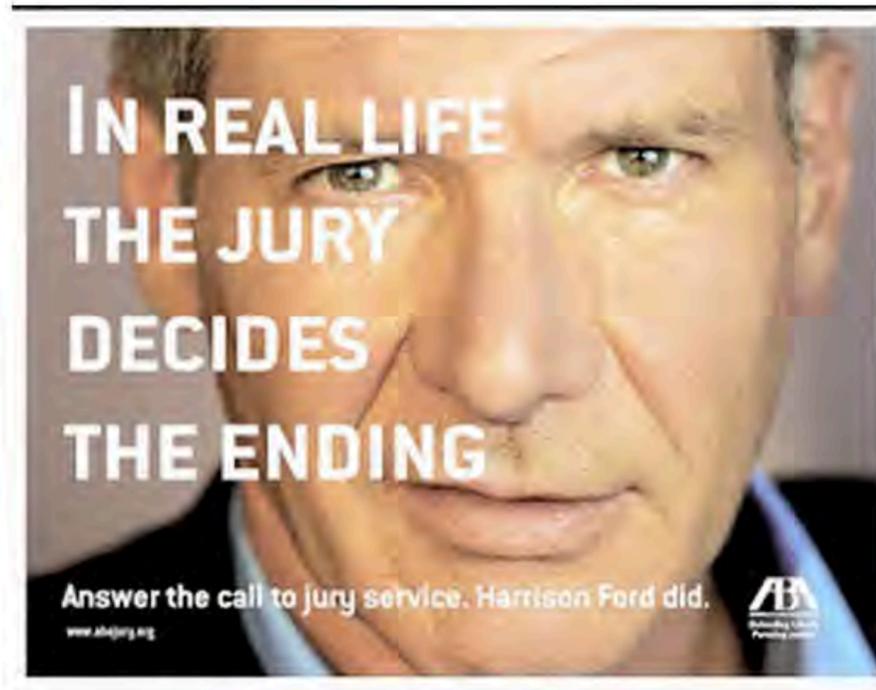
What if... what if... students ran an a radical affirmative case insisting that when charged with a crime, the accused ought to have a right to a trial by a jury of peers? Wild? Impractical? Radical?

Okay, maybe that's too much sarcasm... But it used to be that state and federal criminal court systems did require juries in criminal cases. There are very good legal, political, and historical arguments to require jury trials again in the federal court system. One website explains, in a post titled "**How Plea Bargains Are Making Jury Trials Obsolete**":

*In today's criminal justice system, convictions come by agreement. The tradition of being tried by one's peers, established centuries ago and affirmed by the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has all but disappeared.*

*The plea bargain has made jury trials obsolete.*

*Ninety-seven percent of federal criminal prosecutions are resolved by plea bargain. In state courts the numbers are comparable. The plea bargain may be the grease that keeps the criminal justice system churning, but it may also be a sign of a system in need of repair.*



<http://astoundingideasfederalcourts.blogspot.com/2015/06/jury-trials-radical-reform-for-federal.html>

## Why Innocent People Plead Guilty

Jed S. Rakoff

NOVEMBER 20,  
2014 ISSUE

The criminal justice system in the United States today bears little relationship to what the Founding Fathers contemplated, what the movies and television portray, or what the average American believes.



Honoré Daumier: A Criminal Case