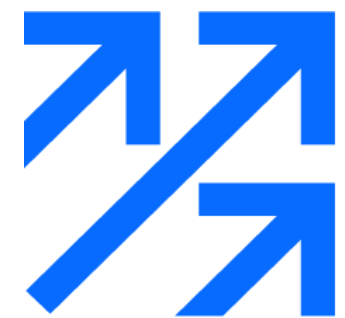




SPHERE
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WASHINGTON, DC



Human Progress


Chelsea Follett
Managing editor

"MY NEW FAVORITE BOOK OF ALL TIME." —BILL GATES

STEVEN PINKER

ENLIGHTENMENT NOW

THE CASE FOR
REASON, SCIENCE,
HUMANISM,
AND PROGRESS

A close-up portrait of Steven Pinker, an older man with thick, curly white hair and blue eyes. He is wearing a dark blue pinstriped suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a light blue patterned tie. He has a thoughtful expression, looking slightly to the right of the camera.

Most people agree that *life* is better than death. *Health* is better than sickness... *Wealth* is better than poverty. *Peace* is better than war... *Freedom* is better than tyranny. *Equal rights* are better than bigotry and discrimination. *Literacy* is better than illiteracy... *Happiness* is better than misery... All these things can be measured. If they have increased over time, that is progress. —Steven Pinker

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

STEVEN PINKER

THE CASE FOR REASON, SCIENCE, HUMANISM, AND PROGRESS

ENLIGHTENMENT NOW

THE CASE FOR REASON, SCIENCE, HUMANISM, AND PROGRESS

STEVEN PINKER

POVERTY AND PROGRESS
REALITIES AND MYTHS ABOUT GLOBAL POVERTY

FOCIEL. *The Escape from Hunger and Premature Death, 1700-2100*

CAMBRIDGE

The Improving State of the World

WHAT WE'RE LIVING LONGER, HEALTHIER, MORE COMFORTABLE LIVES ON A CLEANER PLANET

INDUR M. GOKLANY

CNO

PROGRESS JOHAN NORBERG

THE RATIONAL

HOW PROSPERITY EVOLVES

MATT RIDLEY

DEATON

THE GREAT ESCAPE

RONALD RAHBY

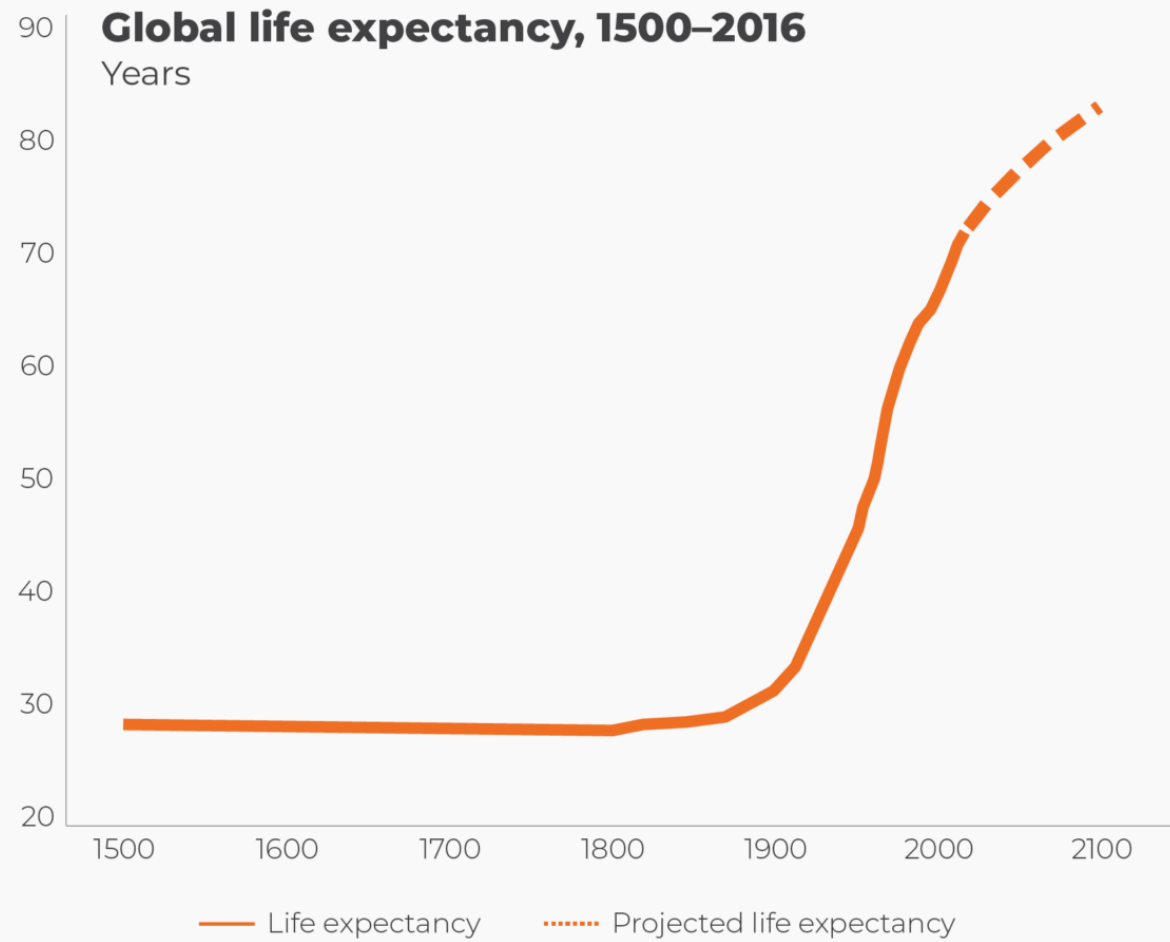
THE END OF DOOM

Kenny

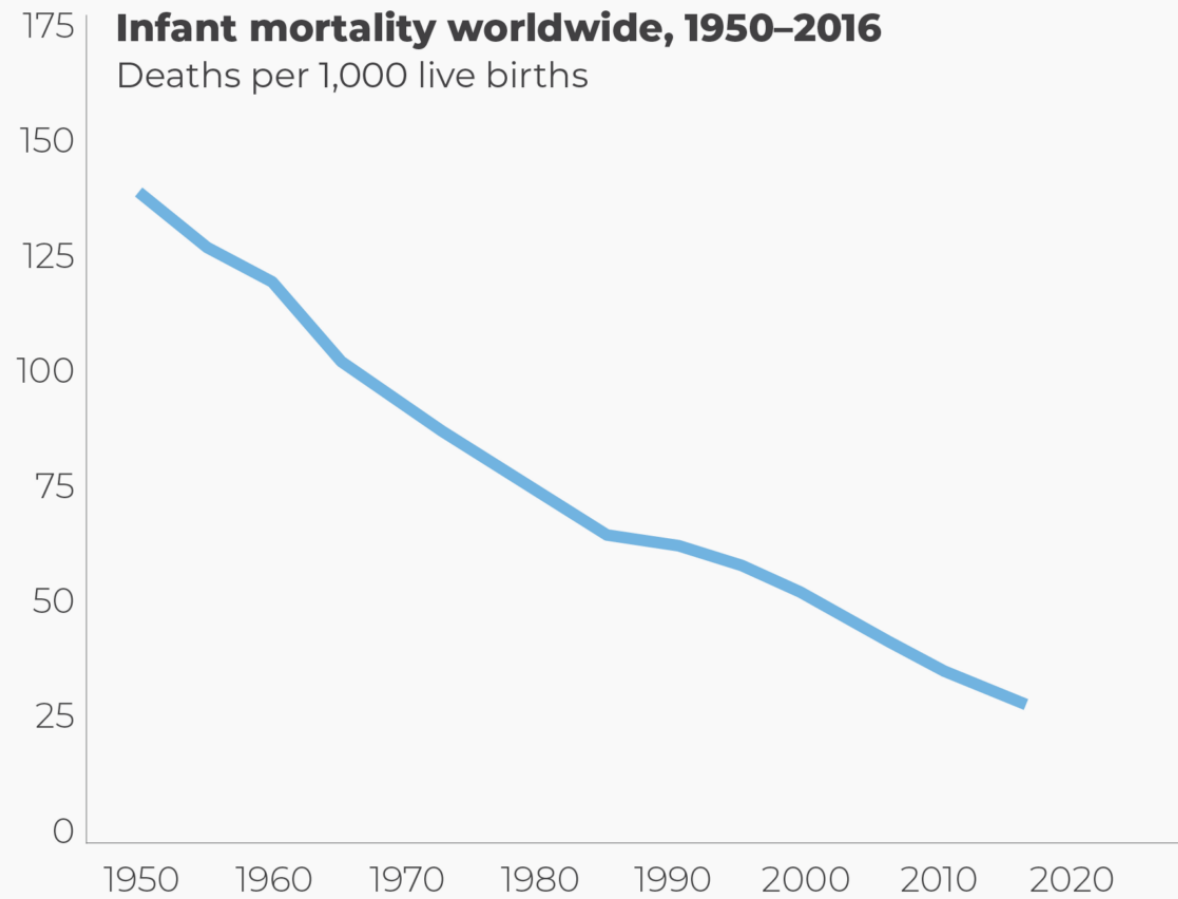
GETTING BETTER
THIS GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT IS REVOLUTIONARY

The Progress Paradigm

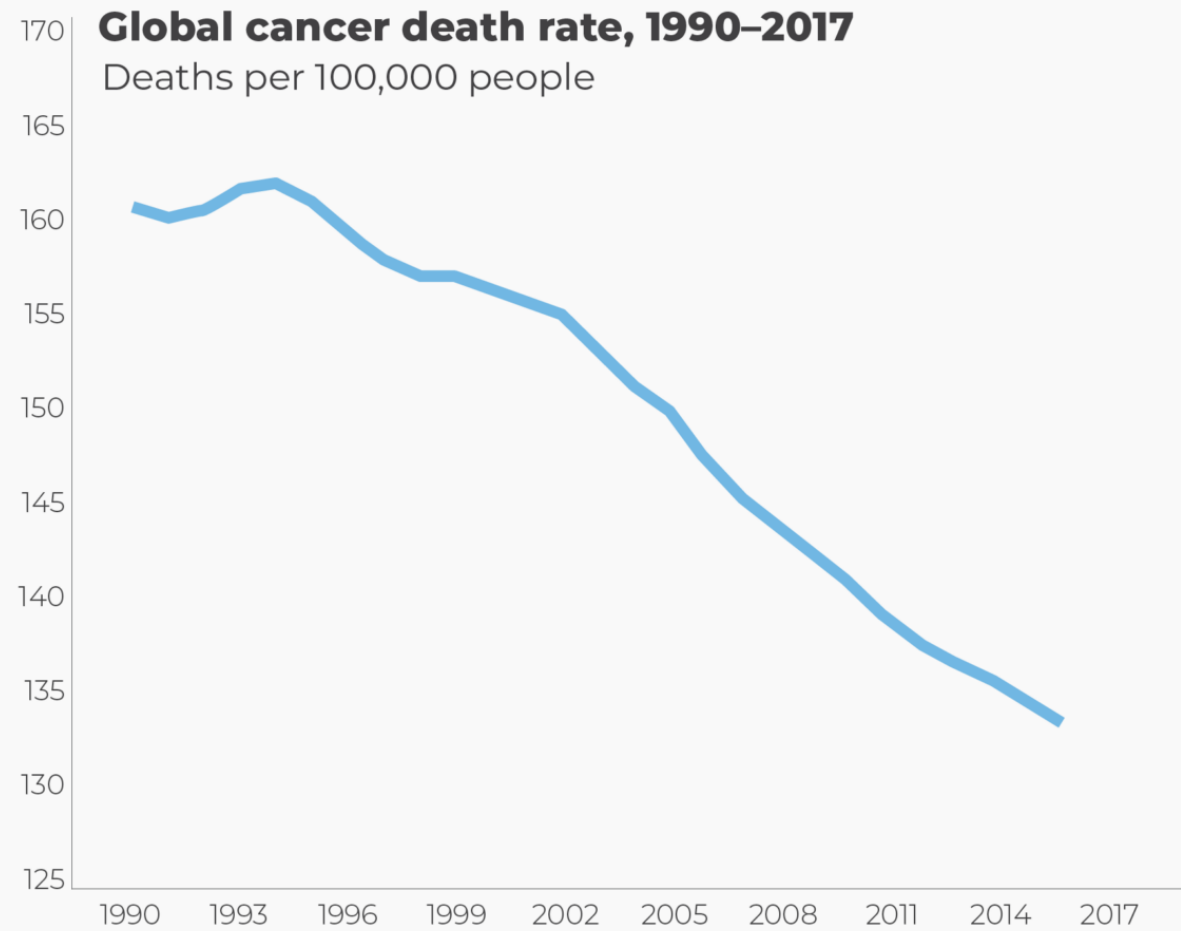
Gregory Emswiler



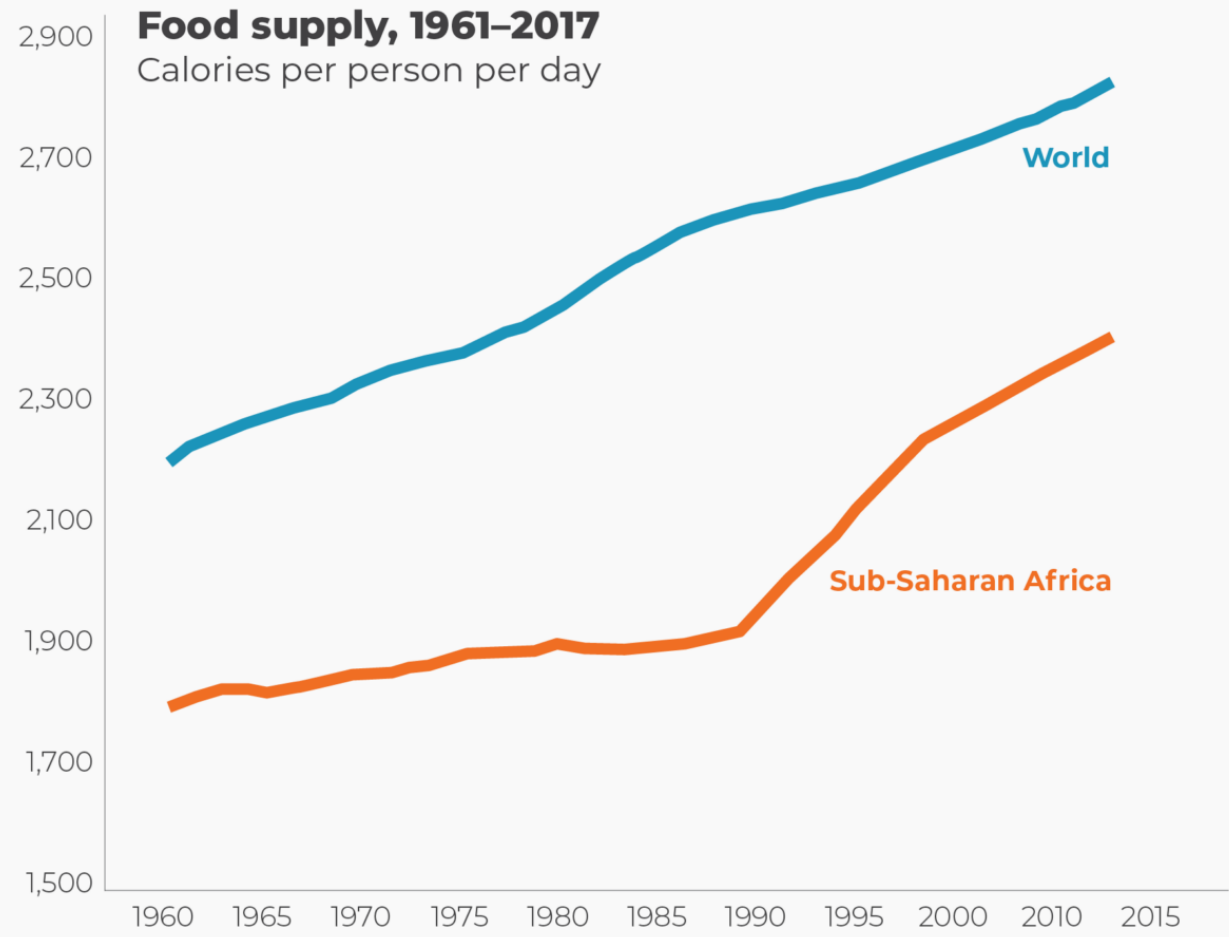
Sources: For 1500–1950 data, see Angus Maddison, *The World Economy, Volume 1* (Paris: OECD Development Centre, 2006), 33, table 1-5b; and for 1951–2016 data, see World Bank, World Development Indicators, “Life Expectancy at Birth, Total (Years)” chart.



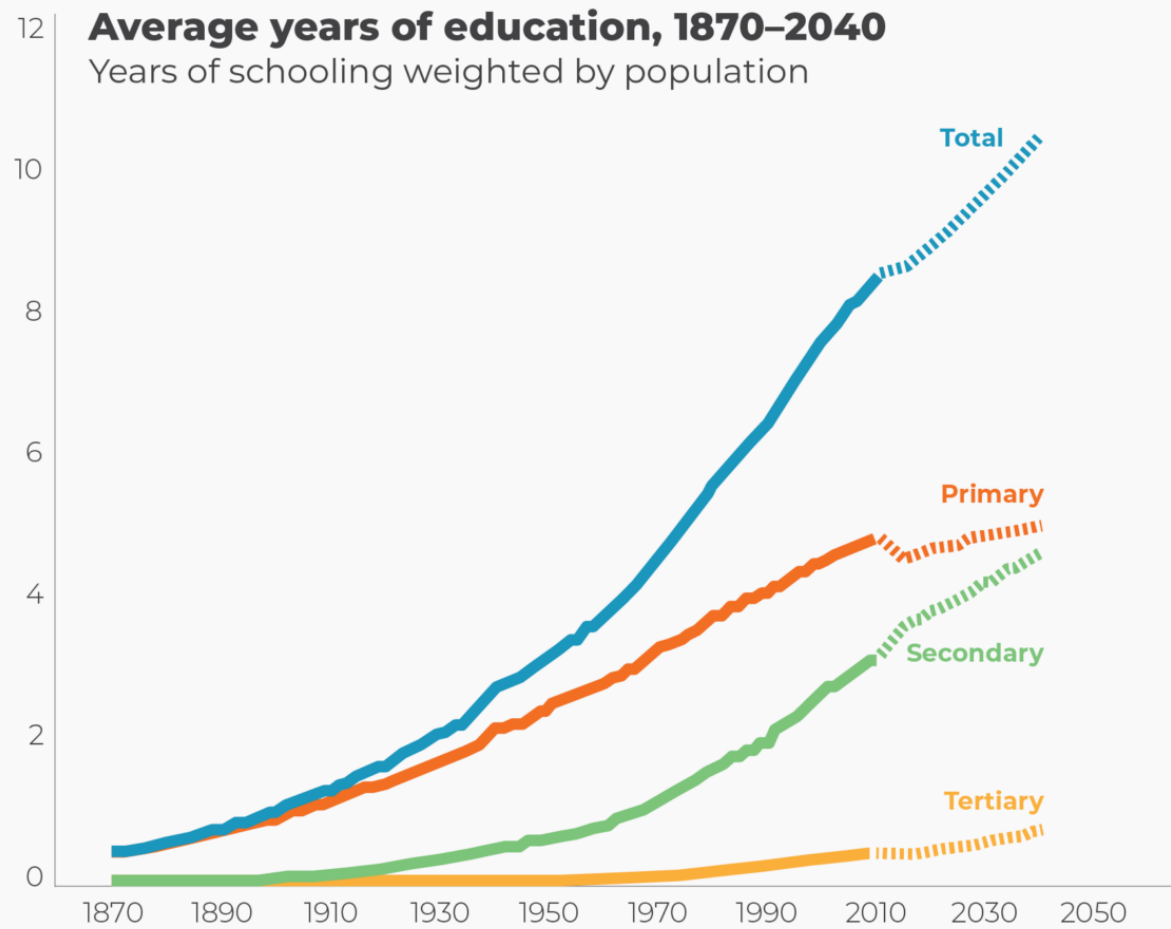
Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects, 2019 Revision, "Infant Mortality Rate, for Both Sexes Combined (Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births)" table.



Source: Max Roser and Hannah Ritchie, "Cancer," Our World in Data, April 2018 update.



Source: FAOSTAT, Food Balance Sheets website, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, January 27, 2020



Source: Robert Barro and Jong-Wha Lee, "Educational Attainment for Total Population, 1950–2010," June 2018 update.



Human Progress

Explore the State of Humanity with Data

Lesson Plans



[Blog Post | Health Systems](#)

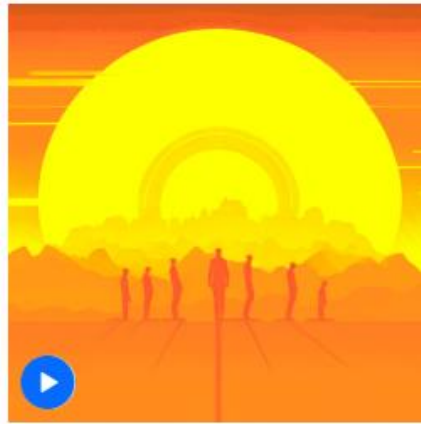
Lesson Plan: Dubrovnik (Public Health)

Curiosities from the Past



[Curiosities | Health & Medical Care](#)

Medieval Manuscripts Reveal Gruesome Medical Treatments



[Video | Wealth & Poverty](#)

An Introduction to Human Progress

Educational Videos



[Blog Post | Air Transport](#)

Around the World in Forty-Eight Hours: The Evolution of Human Flight

News Stories Spotlighting Progress



[News | Food & Hunger](#)

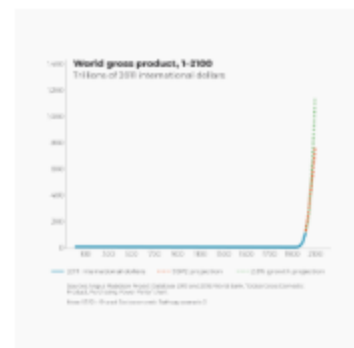
Farmers Cultivate Golden Rice in the Philippines for the First Time

Trends

Long-term trends curated by Human Progress that show positive changes happening across much of the world.

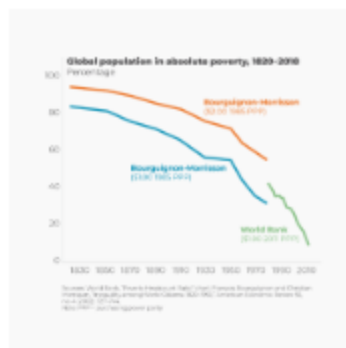
Filter by Content

All



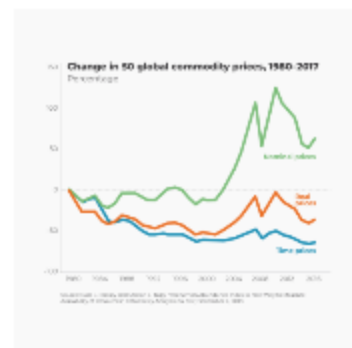
The Great Enrichment

The world is now richer than ever. In 200 years, the economy has grown more than a hundred fold.



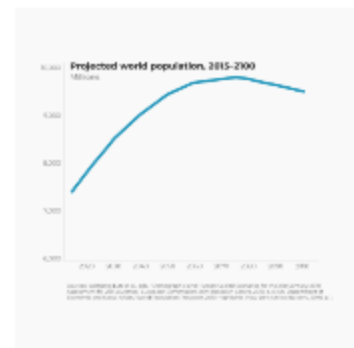
The End of Poverty

Only 200 years ago, more than 80% of the world lived in extreme poverty. Today it is under 9%.



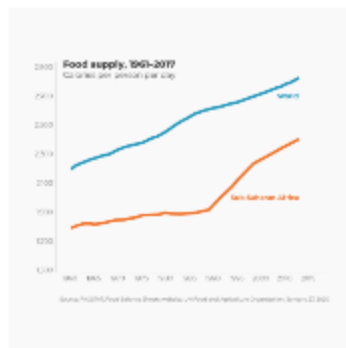
Are We Running Out of Resources?

Contrary to pessimistic predictions, resources tend to become more abundant and cheaper over time.



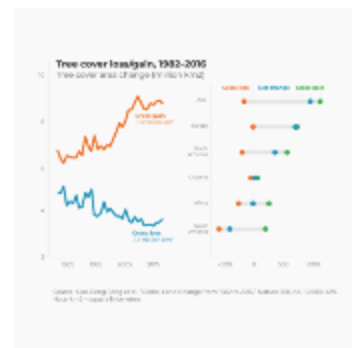
Peak Population

As education levels increase, people tend to choose to have fewer children. As a result, population growth will peak sooner than previously expected.



The End of Famine

Improvements in productivity, yields, and availability of crops have historically increased the world's food supply.



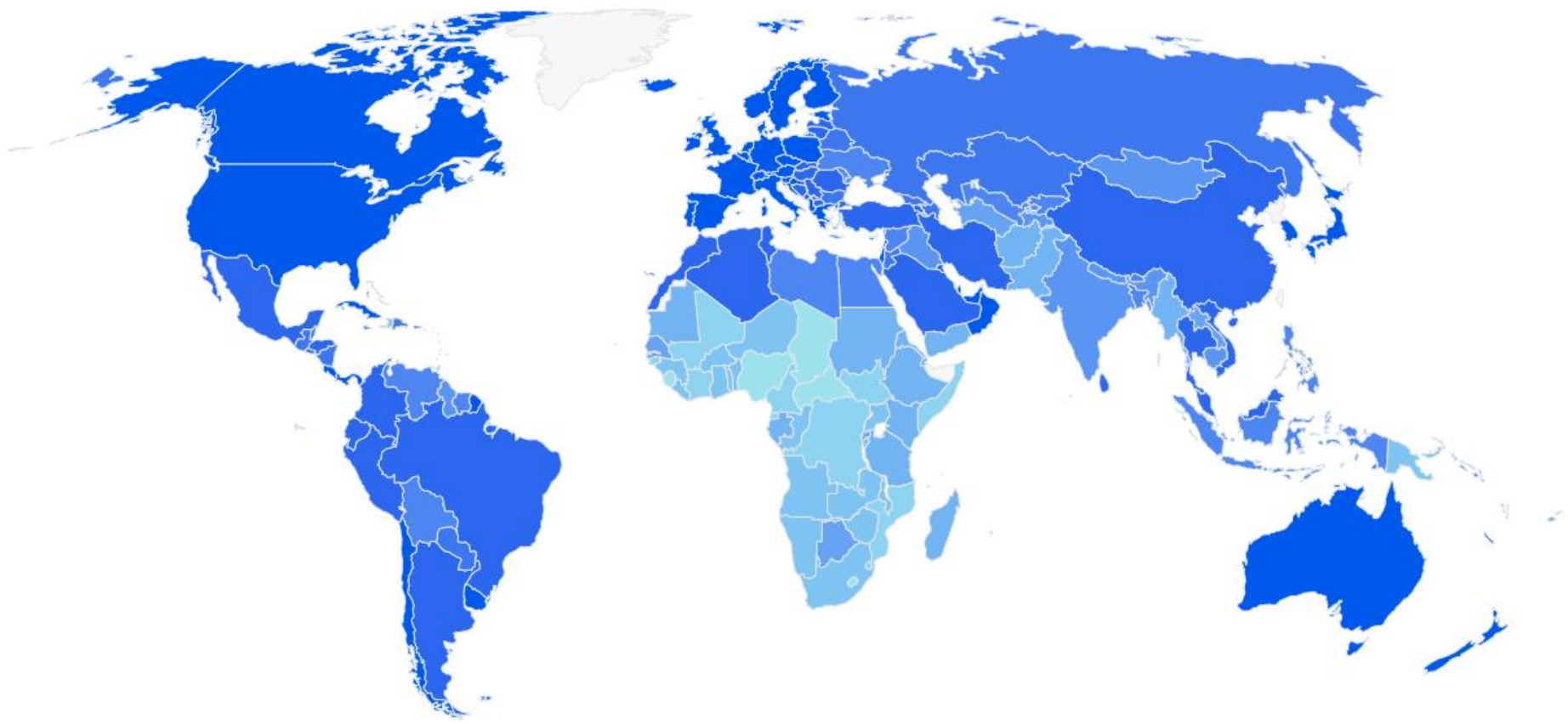
More Land for Nature

As people turn to urban life, woodlands are expanding and spaces being recovered for other species to rebound and thrive.



Life expectancy at birth ⓘ

years, 1960–2019



2019



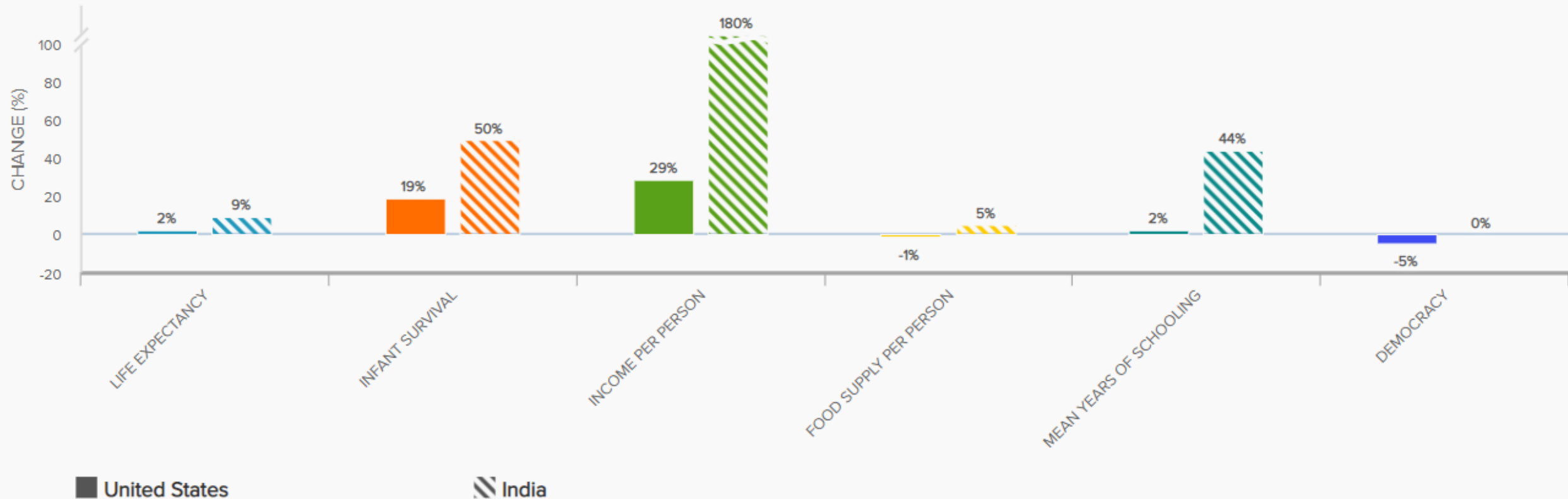
Your Life in Numbers

a project of HumanProgress

India



This is how much United States and India have changed since I was born



Note: Values displayed are based on the nearest match for birth year and current year

How Teachers Are Using



Human Progress

in Their Classrooms



WESTCHESTER
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Example 1: Daily Facts Read Each Morning

*"In 1900 women could only vote in New Zealand;
today women can vote in every democracy in the world."*



Greensboro, NC
grades PK-12



EACH CHILD, EVERY DAY

Example 2: Seminar on Progress in the Modern World

Seminars

Seminar | 10-12th

Human Progress in the Modern World

Welcome to Eastside Preparatory School

An independent, college preparatory school in Kirkland, WA, serving grades 5 through 12



 THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Example 3: Preparing Students for College





UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

GGR 365 – Trade and Globalization

Period: Winter 2023

REQUIRED READINGS

LECTURE 2

- Transportation

Overview

[The History of Transportation](#)

Rodrigue, Jean-Paul. 2013. [The Geography of Transport Systems](#) (5th edition) Routledge.
[Chapter 1: Transportation and Geography](#)

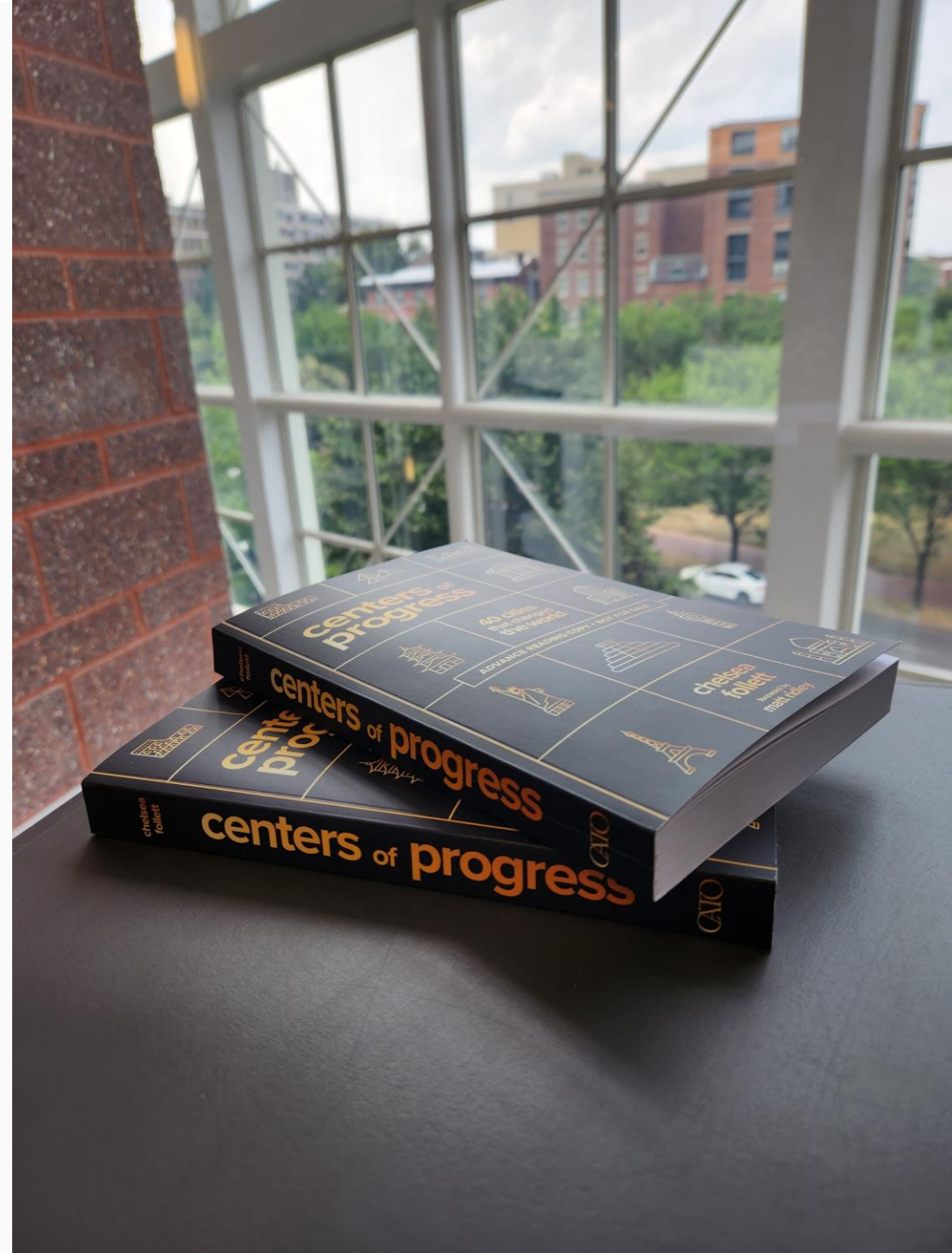
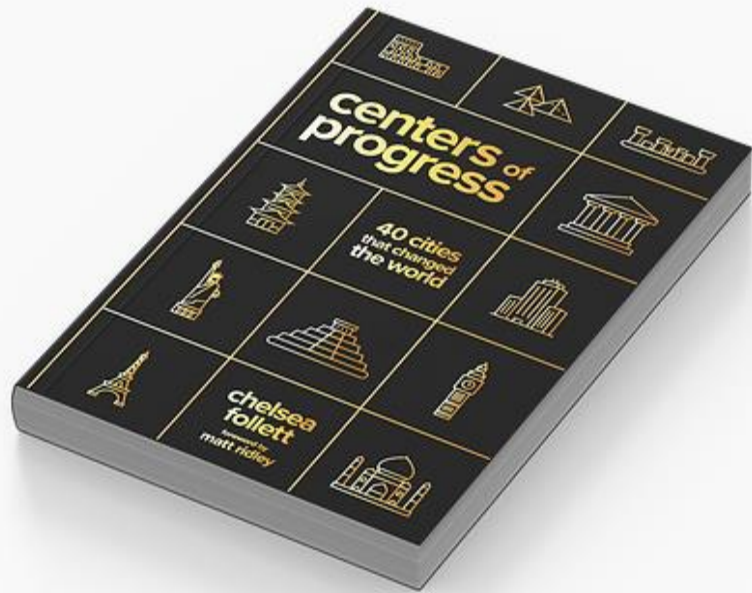
Follett, Chelsea. 2020. [Centers of Progress, Pt. 9: Rome \(Roads\)](#). *HumanProgress.org* (August 13).

["Medieval Trade Route Networks."](#)

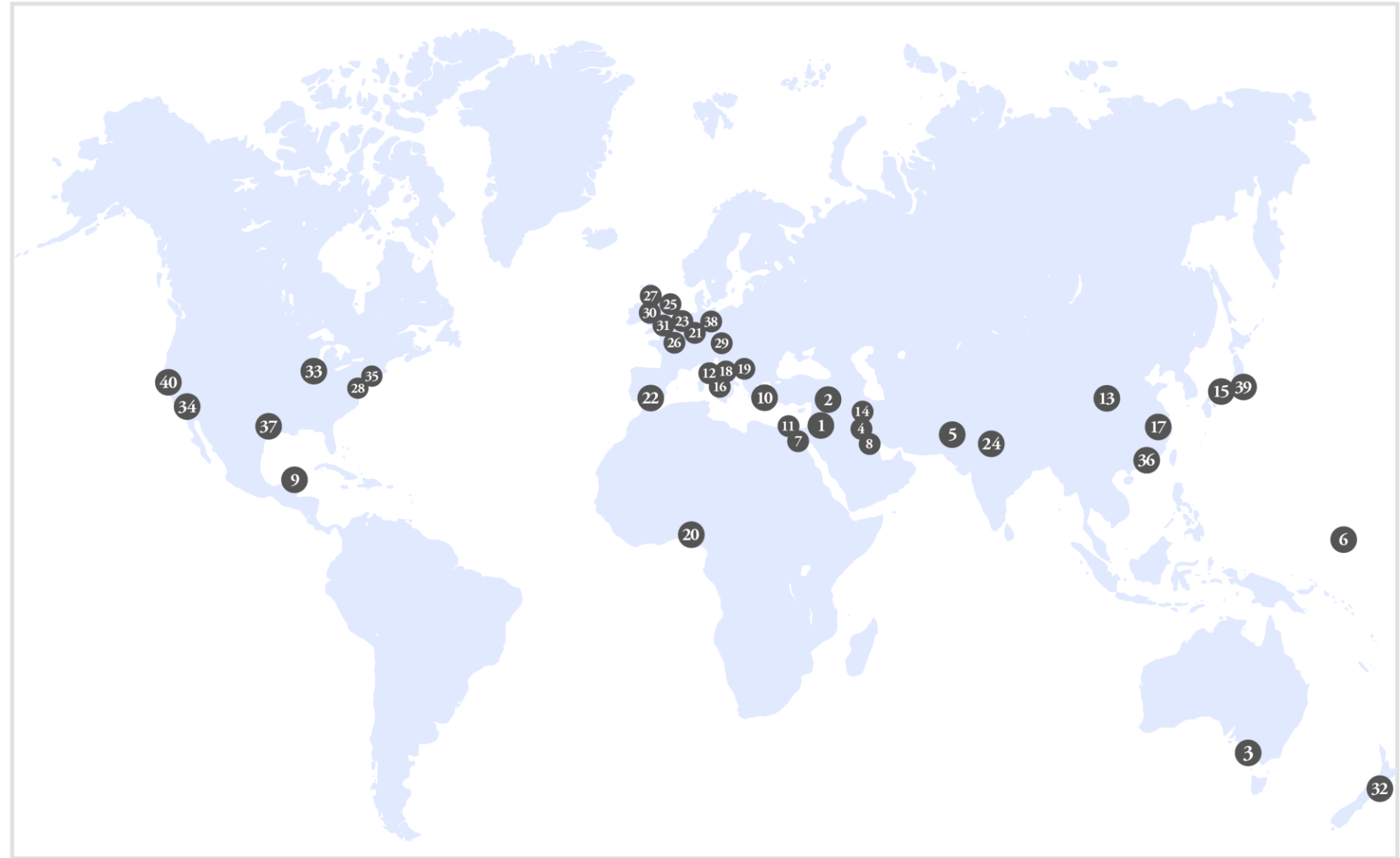
Staff Writer. Undated. ["Inca Roads and Chasquis."](#) *Discover Peru*.

“In this superb book, Chelsea Follett takes the reader on a time-travel cruise through the great flash points of human activity to catch innovations that have transformed human lives.”

—from the foreword by **MATT RIDLEY**, author of *The Rational Optimist*, *The Evolution of Everything*, and *How Innovation Works*



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| 2. Göbekli Tepe | 22. Seville |
| 3. Budj Bim | 23. Amsterdam |
| 4. Uruk | 24. Agra |
| 5. Mohenjo-Daro | 25. Cambridge |
| 6. Nan Madol | 26. Paris |
| 7. Memphis | 27. Edinburgh |
| 8. Ur | 28. Philadelphia |
| 9. Chichén Itzá | 29. Vienna |
| 10. Athens | 30. Manchester |
| 11. Alexandria | 31. London |
| 12. Rome | 32. Wellington |
| 13. Chang'an | 33. Chicago |
| 14. Baghdad | 34. Los Angeles |
| 15. Kyoto | 35. New York |
| 16. Bologna | 36. Hong Kong |
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| 20. Benin City | 40. San Francisco |



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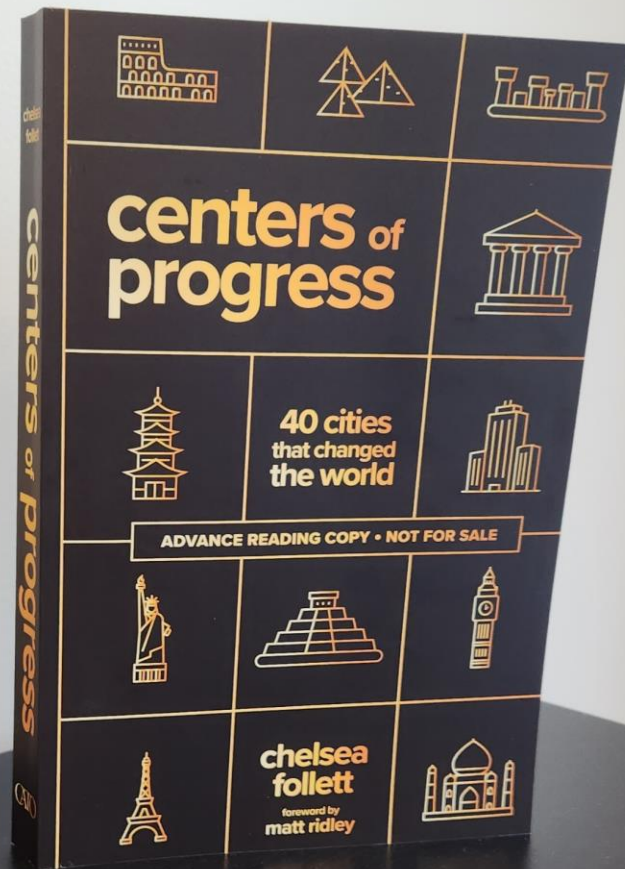


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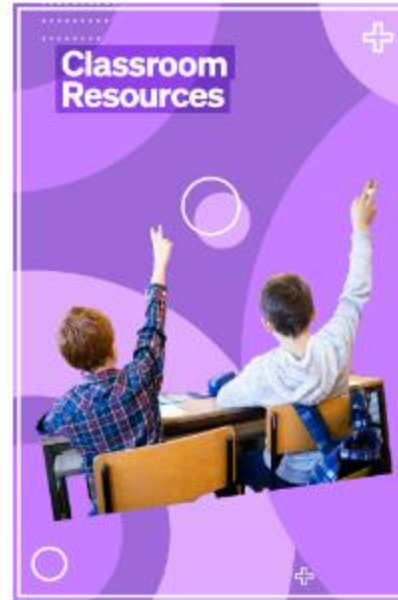
Classroom Content

Sphere provides educators with viewpoint diverse resources to bring conversations to the classroom and equip students to engage in civil discourse. Sphere offers lesson plans, discussion questions, videos, and publications on various topics for use in the classroom that are exclusively nonpartisan.

HUMAN PROGRESS

Bring Humanprogress.org to your classroom! This series of lesson plans and classroom resources make it easy to share with your students the many ways in which the world is getting better. Designed by AP World History teacher and Sphere alumnus, Sean Kinnard, these resources fit easily into a variety of history and social studies courses.

[Human Progress Lessons](#) →



Classroom Resources

HumanProgress in the classroom.



Pessimists Archive

An archive of technophobia and moral panics.



Grim Old Days

Collection of contemporary accounts of daily life in the past.



centers of progress



40 cities that changed the world



chelsea follett

foreword by
matt ridley



"Some times and places seem almost magical in the way they incubate ideas and movements. In explaining the magic in this fascinating book, Chelsea Follett shines a light on the drivers of human progress."

STEVEN PINKER

author of Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress

"Chelsea Follett's *Centers of Progress: 40 Cities that Changed the World* makes urban history interesting again, indeed fascinating. These 40 tales help to explain where modern life comes from and give a broader intellectual and historical tour of the world."

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founder of Marginal Revolution

"Chelsea Follett has written a book telling a history of human ingenuity covering 12,000 years! We learn this astonishing epic by reading about the life—and sometimes the death—of 40 cities on five continents. There is a common thread linking these urban biographies: people of different cultures meeting in cities dotted with a degree of intellectual freedom develop an ability to solve technical and social problems... *Centers of Progress* provides an optimistic, well-documented view of the world. We badly need this long-term perspective!"

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author of Order Without Design: How Markets Shape Cities

"Endlessly fascinating, wide-ranging, and provocative, Chelsea Follett takes us on a tour of the most creative moments of human history. Moving around the globe and across millennia, from the invention of agriculture to the digital revolution, Follett shows us the many ways in which cities have freed the imagination and brought forth new ideas that improved our lives. An inspiring rebuttal to stories of decline, Follett demonstrates that whenever people were free to gather, interact, and innovate, progress followed!"

JACK A. GOLDSTONE

author of Why Europe? The Rise of the West in World History, 1500-1850

"We shouldn't just study the past to avoid repeating mistakes; we should also go there to be inspired by remarkable episodes of creativity and progress. And Chelsea Follett is the perfect tour guide. *Centers of Progress* is a comprehensive history lesson packed with facts yet always an enjoyable and easily accessible read."

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