

EconInbox: Poverty & Inequality

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To: Wendy Mockler <Wendy.Mockler@cg.catholic.edu.au>

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Hey Wendy,

Welcome to EconInbox, your weekly guide to the best online media for what you're teaching, when you're teaching it. This week: **Income Inequality & Poverty**.

Do you have great resources to teach this topic that you'd like to **share with the community**? Please let me know by replying to this email or emailing me at maryclare@mru.org! Special thanks to **Debbie Huber** for reaching out with great suggestions!

Poverty & Inequality: Curated Media

News & Articles

[How poverty makes workers less productive](#) | Planet Money Newsletter

February 2, 2021

This article details an interesting experiment that shows that giving low income workers their earnings up front actually improves their work performance (in qualitative and quantitative terms).

[Are you in the global middle class \(interactive\)](#) | Washington Post

August 18, 2018

Fantastic interactive, mentioned above, reminding, or in some cases informing, students just how lucky/privileged most of us in the US really are.

Resource: [Multiple choice questions](#)

[Trump Administration Seeks to Redefine Formula for Calculating Poverty](#) | New York Times

May 7, 2019

Article explains how changing the way inflation is used to calculate the poverty rate will impact the size of the country's poor population.

[In Stockton, Early Clues Emerge About Impact of Guaranteed Income](#) | CityLab

October 3, 2019

You've heard of Universal Basic Income, but did you know that there are several experimental UBI programs taking place right now. Some preliminary data from Stockton, gives us a glimpse of how people would spend an extra \$500 a month.

[Extensive Data Shows Punishing Reach of Racism for Black Boys](#) | New York Times

March 19, 2018

Impressive interactive graph showing that black boys raised in America, even in the wealthiest families, still earn less in adulthood than white boys with similar backgrounds. White boys who grow up rich are likely to remain that way. Black boys raised at the top, however, are more likely to become poor than to stay wealthy in their own adult households.

[Tipping point: Half the world is now middle class or better](#) | Brookings

September 27, 2018

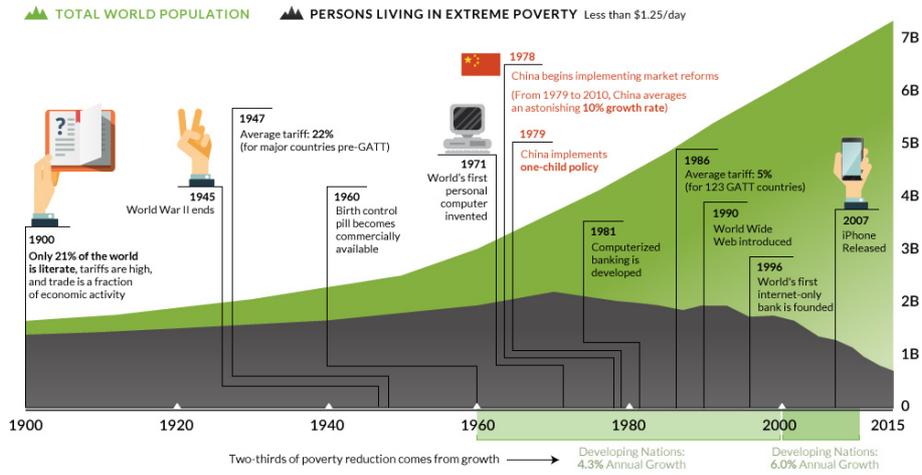
Brookings reports that, for the first time in history, just over half the world is considered 'middle class' or better. Before you start cheering, remind your students that middle class is defined as spending \$11-\$110 USD per day.

Getting Graphic

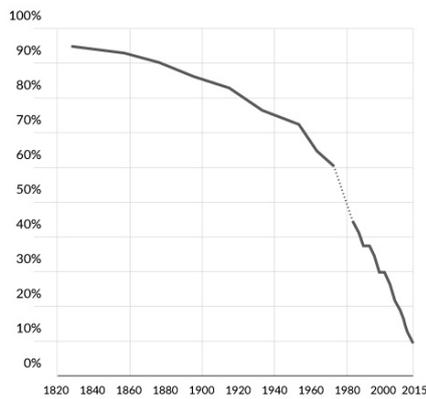
Chart of the Week

THE END OF WORLD POVERTY IS IN SIGHT

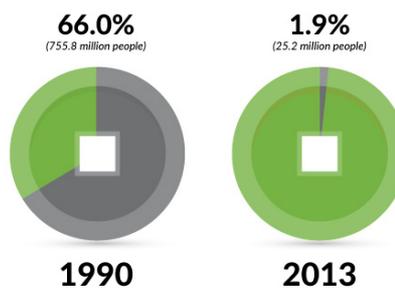
The number of people living in extreme poverty has been cut in half since 1990



% OF WORLD POPULATION LIVING IN ABSOLUTE POVERTY*



% OF CHINESE POPULATION LIVING IN ABSOLUTE POVERTY*



Since 1990, global poverty has been cut in half, and it's mainly because of China.

*Using a \$1.90 day/ PPP poverty line Denotes trend line
SOURCES: ourworldindata.org, World Bank

visualcapitalist.com



A great chart showing that we are in fact lifting large parts of the world out of extreme poverty.

Videos

[Basic Facts of Wealth](#) | MRU

In this video, students will see how staggering the differences are in standard of living for three countries—the Central African Republic, Mexico, and the United States. How many grocery baskets of “stuff” can an average person in each country purchase per year? Pause the video along the way for students to guess at the number of baskets for each -- they may be surprised!

Resource: [Practice questions](#)

[Social experiments to fight poverty](#) | TED Talk

Development economist giant Esther Duflo summarizes what we’ve learned about how to alleviate poverty.

[Premature Deindustrialization](#) | MRU

Premature deindustrialization, the phenomenon of developing countries failing to industrialize, was first popularized by Dani Rodrik, and has implications for global inequality if true. Tyler Cowen provides a primer on the concept.

Resource: [Practice questions](#)

[Why the U.S. should provide Universal Basic Income \(UBI\)](#) | The Atlantic

Annie Lowrey, author of recent book on UBI, presents the argument for UBI.

Podcasts

[Grey Poupon and the Cultural Divide](#) | The Indicator

Given all the recent talk of rising inequality, University of Chicago researchers asked whether the cultural divide between rich and poor was widening. The surprising answer: no. But you learn that the best predictor of social class in 1992 was whether you bought Grey Poupon. The original working paper is [here](#). Also, a fun Vox video on Grey Poupon’s use in rap lyrics is [here](#).

[What to do about inequality](#) | The Indicator

There’s quite a lot of talk about inequality these days, but what would actually mitigate it? The Indicator talks with Branko Milanovic about some current proposals and why they would or would not work. Fun fact- Branko Milanovic is also the creator of [the elephant graph](#).

Resource: [Multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank](#)

[Rigging the Economy](#) | Planet Money

Planet Money dives deep into the concept of regulatory capture, the practice of businesses intentionally enacting regulation to shield them from competition, and links it to reduced economic mobility in the United States.

Additional Resources

Raj Chetty has created a [ton of resources](#) for teaching poverty and inequality using big data.

[Play this data-trend game](#) to see how extreme poverty has changed over time.

What did we miss? Let us know by simply [replying to this email](#).



Are you teaching a different topic this week (*i.e. we sent you the wrong email!*)?

Update your schedule [here](#), and our digital hamsters will get to work!

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