

Closing the course

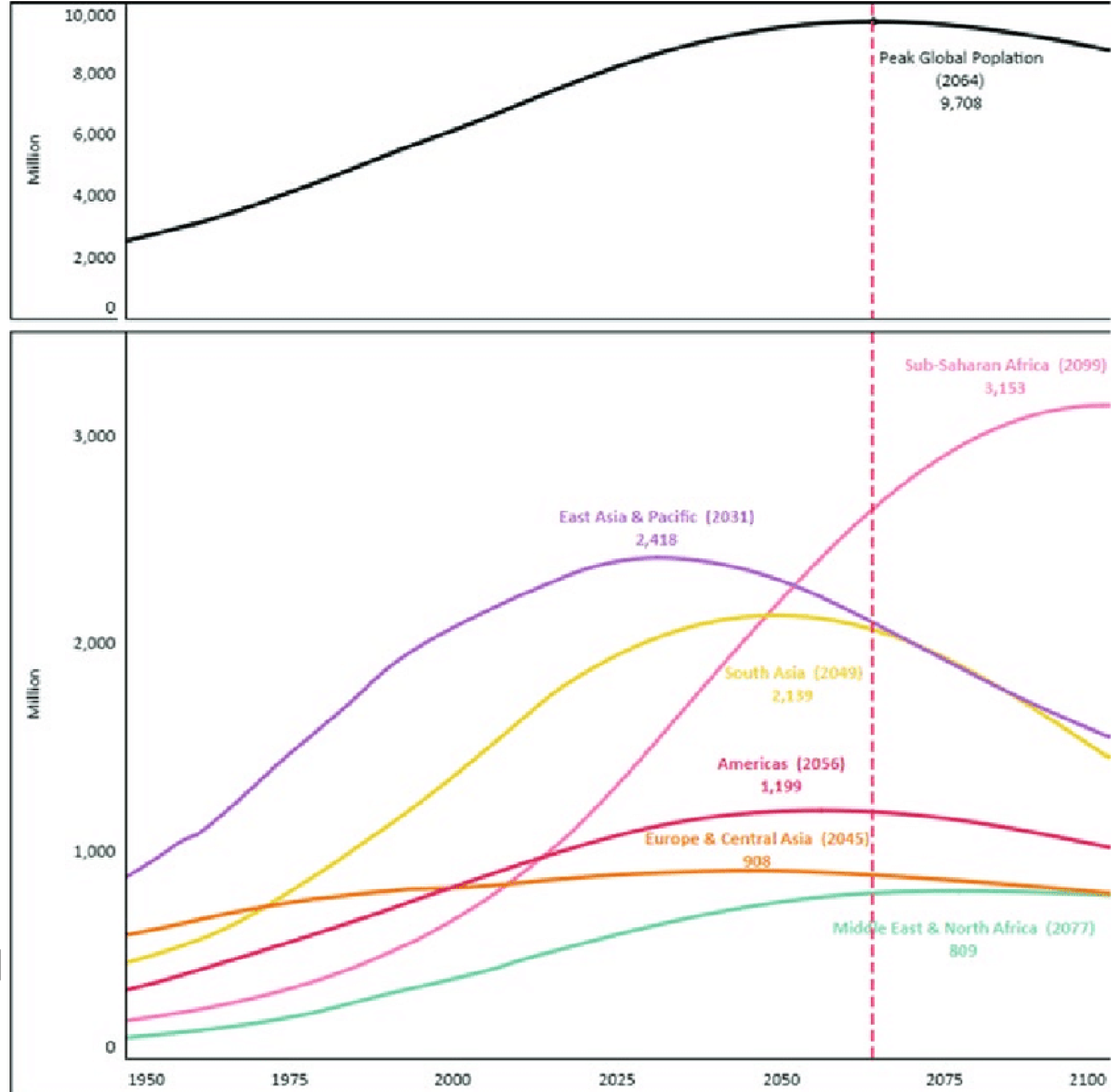


Two aerial views of the São Paulo favela of Paraisópolis and its wealthy neighbor Morumbi, 16 years apart.
Top: Tuca Vieira, 2004 (c). <https://en.tucavieira.com.br>. Bottom: Johnny Miller, 2020.

A few important issues we have not covered – demography and migration

- Population growth and over-population, a centuries-old worry.
- What about population “shrinking”?
 - Less pressure on resources.
 - Impact on our socioeconomic system?

Q: possible solution(s)?



A few important issues we have not covered – private and public sector

- Long-term growth of public/private.
- Relatively stable during the “long-XXth century”.
- Expected evolution?

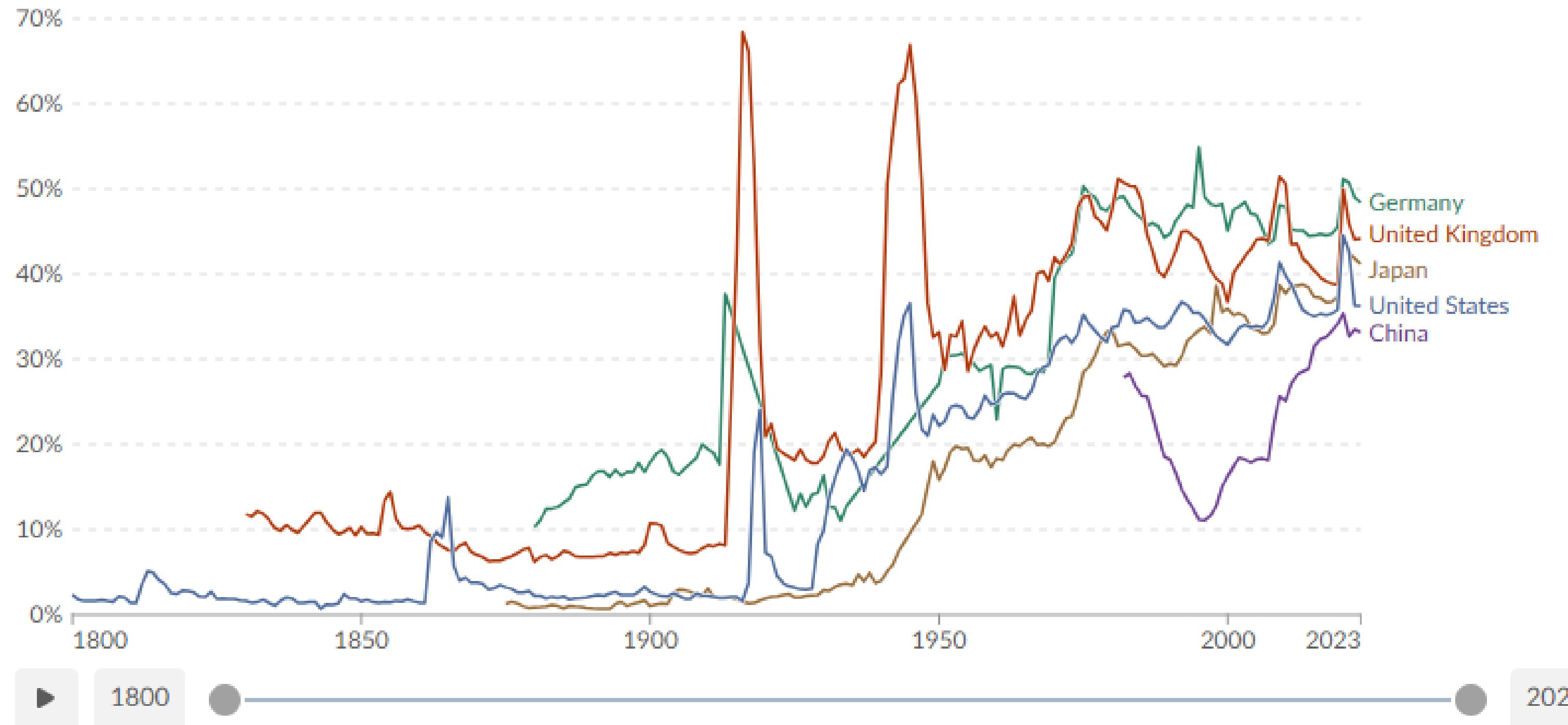
Government spending as share of GDP, 1800 to 2023

Total government spending, shown as a share of gross domestic product (GDP). It includes interest paid on government debt.

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Table Map Chart

Edit countries and regions



Data source: International Monetary Fund (2025) – [Learn more about this data](#)

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Note: Data for general government (includes central, state, and local governments and social security funds) is used when available. When not, data refers to central government.



A few important issues we have not covered – global inequality, capital and technology

- Large (ex)low-income countries catching up.
- Developed-world middle class (labour-based) decline.
- Booming (capital based) global elite.
- The poorest locked out of growth.

GLOBAL INCOME GROWTH, 1988–2008



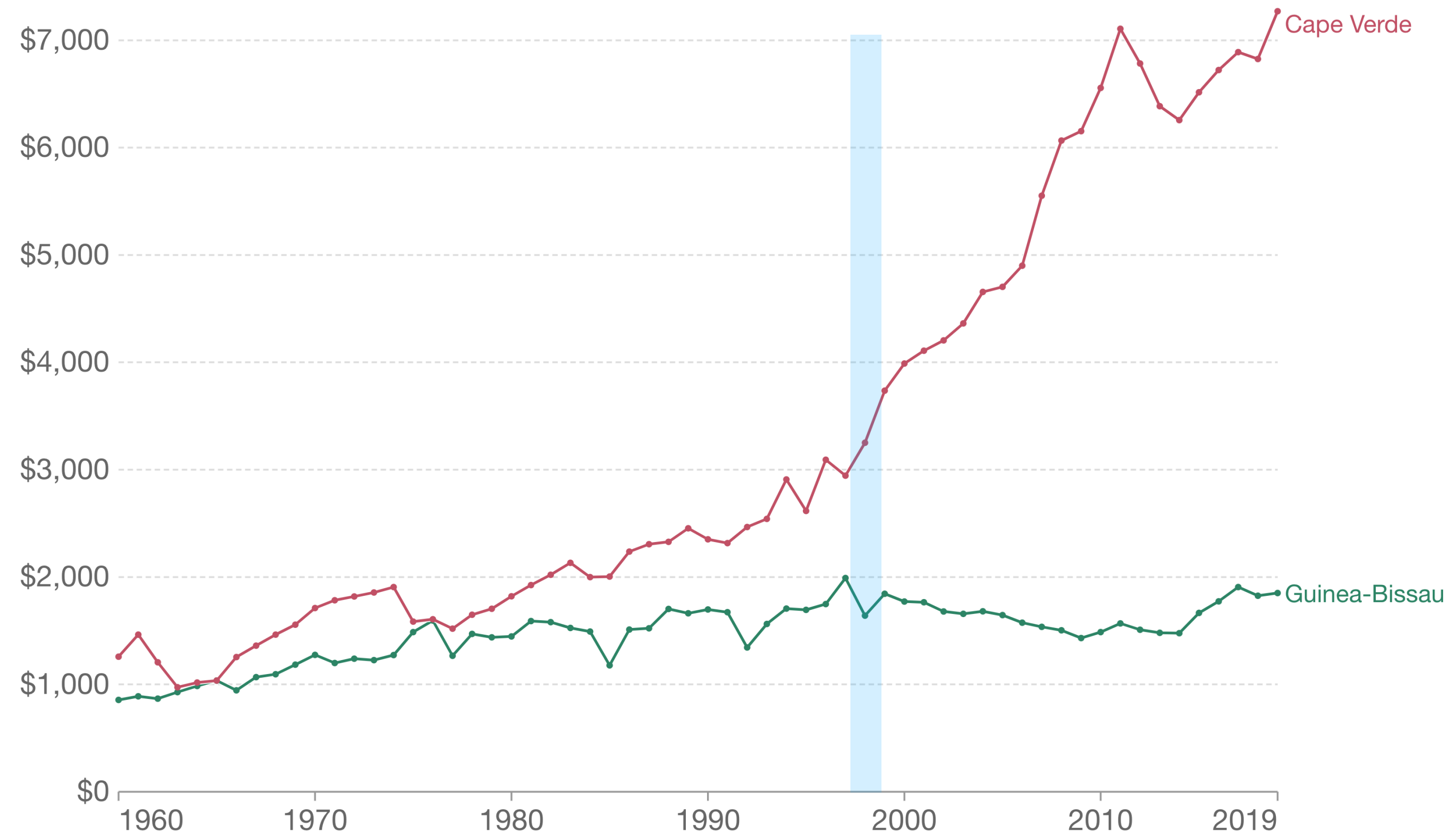
A few important issues we have not covered – the economic impact of wars

- (Civil) war in low-income countries typically associated with worsening institutions => poor economic performance.

GDP per capita, 1960 to 2019

This data is adjusted for inflation and for differences in the cost of living between countries.

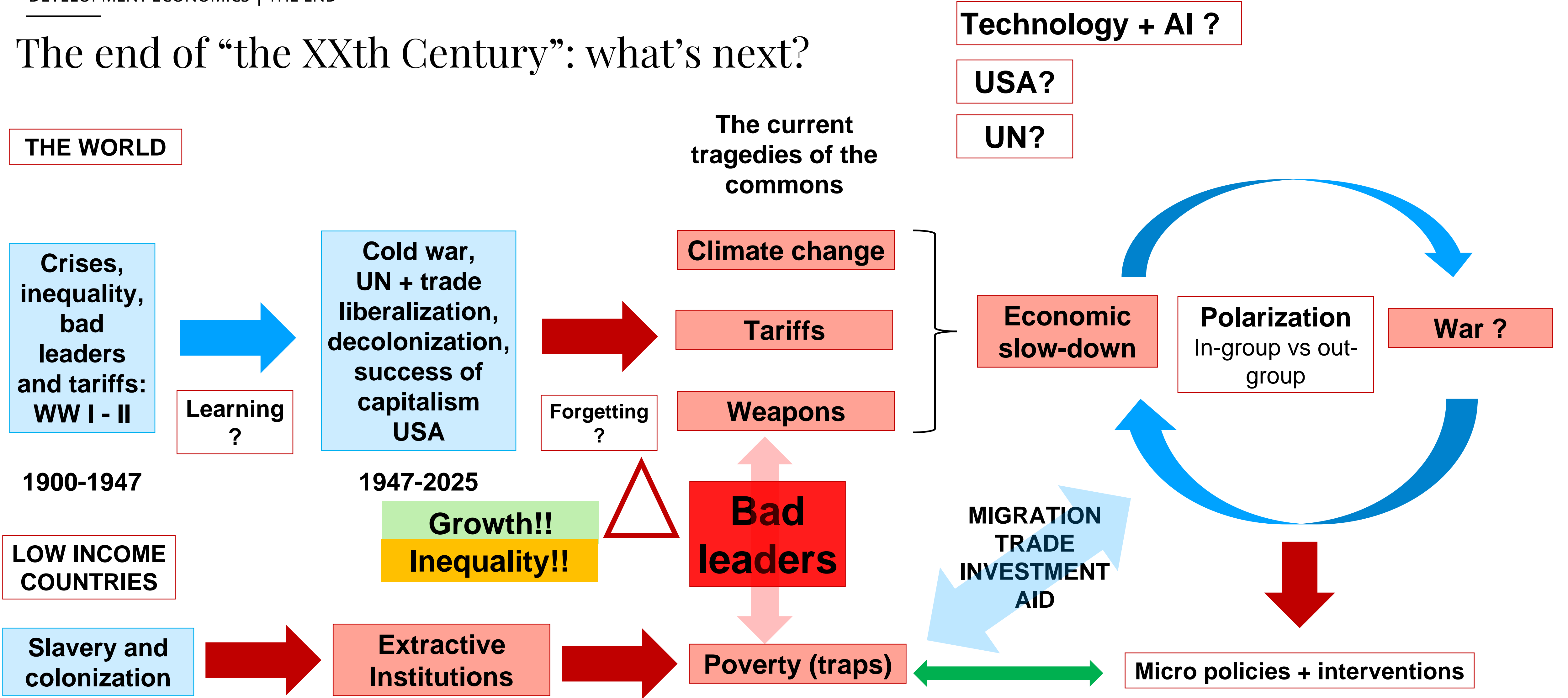
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Source: Feenstra et al. (2015), Penn World Table (2021)
Note: This data is expressed in international-\$ at 2017 prices.

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The end of “the XXth Century”: what’s next?



Solutions?



Careers in international development

- Academia – PhD, post-doc, professorship:
 - Geographic freedom.
 - Content freedom.
 - Competitive and low pay.
 - International development vs. development economics.
- NGOs, international institutions and private sector: internship, consultancies, jobs.
 - Live between different (LMIC) countries for years.
 - Diversity in payment.
- Specialization? Humanitarian vs. Development, topic (gender, nutrition...), region (SSA, LAC...).

Thanks for your attention and contributions!