



Taking the Pulse of Planning Practice 2013

Free Press News Café

April 4, 2013



Globalization: Truths & Consequences

Negotiating the Intersection Between Personal Praxis and Collective Ethos

Bruce Duggan
Director



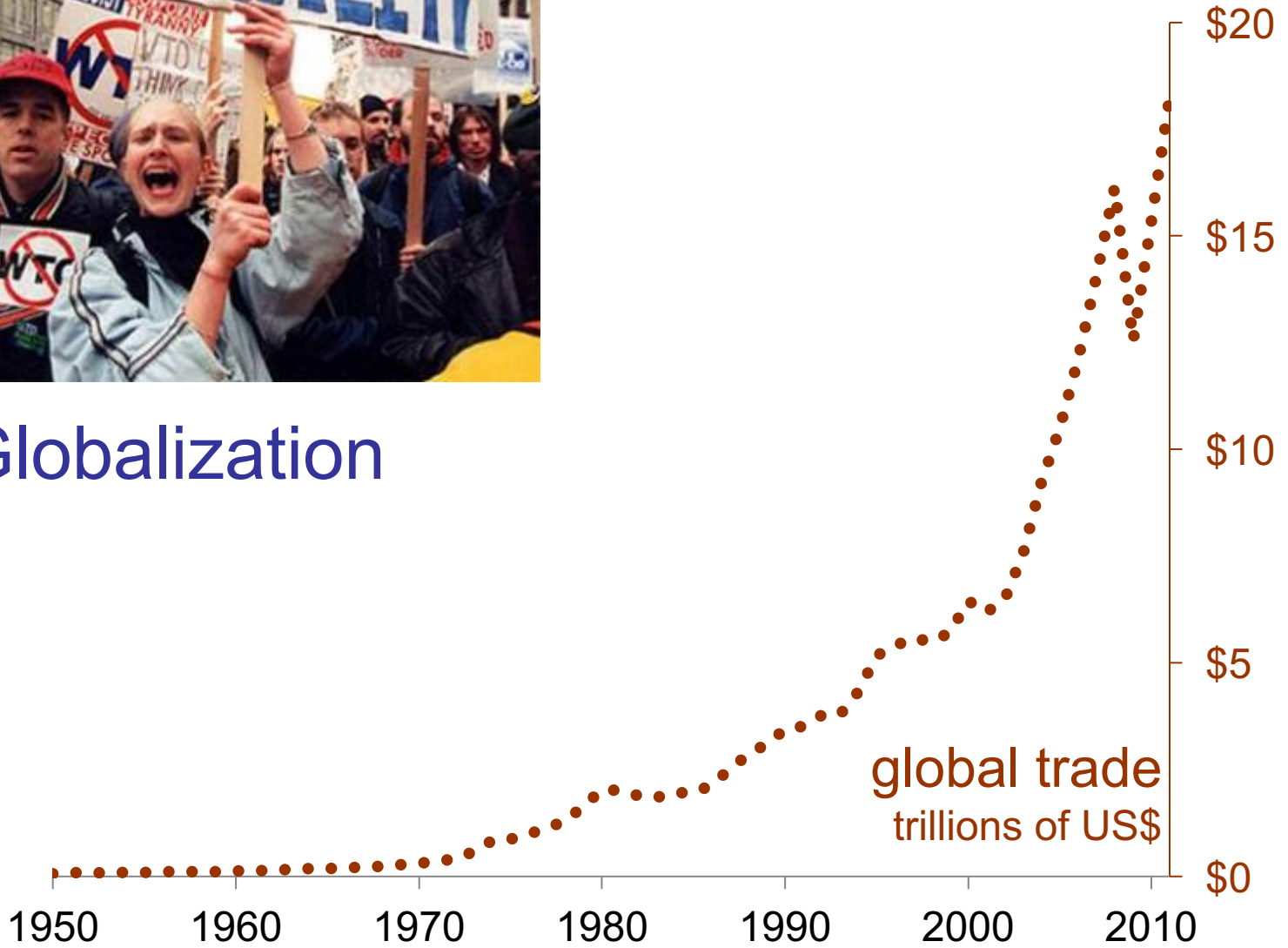
Globalization

“The worldwide movement toward economic, financial, trade, and communications integration.”





Globalization



A Short Survey

1. When considering buying a good or product, what characteristics do you prefer it to have?



“LOCALIST”

“GLOBALIST”



A Short Survey

2. Think of what you've consumed in the last 24 hours.



Where do those goods or services fall on these continuums?



A Short Survey

3. How close are your stated preferences to your actions?



A Short Survey

3. How close are your stated preferences to your actions?

Was there a difference?

What does that difference reveal about us?

How do you feel about that revelation?

What should we think about that revelation?



always
let your
conscience
be your
guide



So what should we think?

The world trade system is unjust....Economic globalisation leads to structural violence...

World Council of Churches
Economic Globalization A Critical View and an Alternative Vision



So what should we think?

These people are trading in human misery....This is the reality of globalization, the true nature of the global market.

Timothy Gorringe

Principalities & Powers: A Framework for Thinking about Globalization



So what should we think?

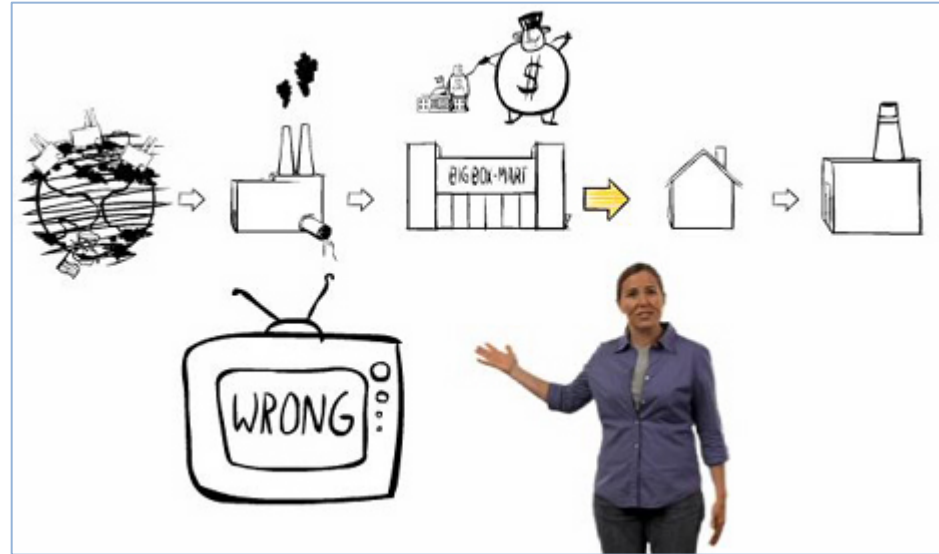
Americans are beyond apologizing for their lifestyle of scorched-earth consumerism....

Harry Flood

“Manufacturing Desire,” Adbusters



So what should we think?



THE STORY OF
STUFF

37 million views



So what should we think?

...‘consumerism’ is a piece of false consciousness, and indeed a tool for our continued and growing enslavement.

Rupert Read
One World Column



So what should we think?

I disagree.

summarizing these opinions:

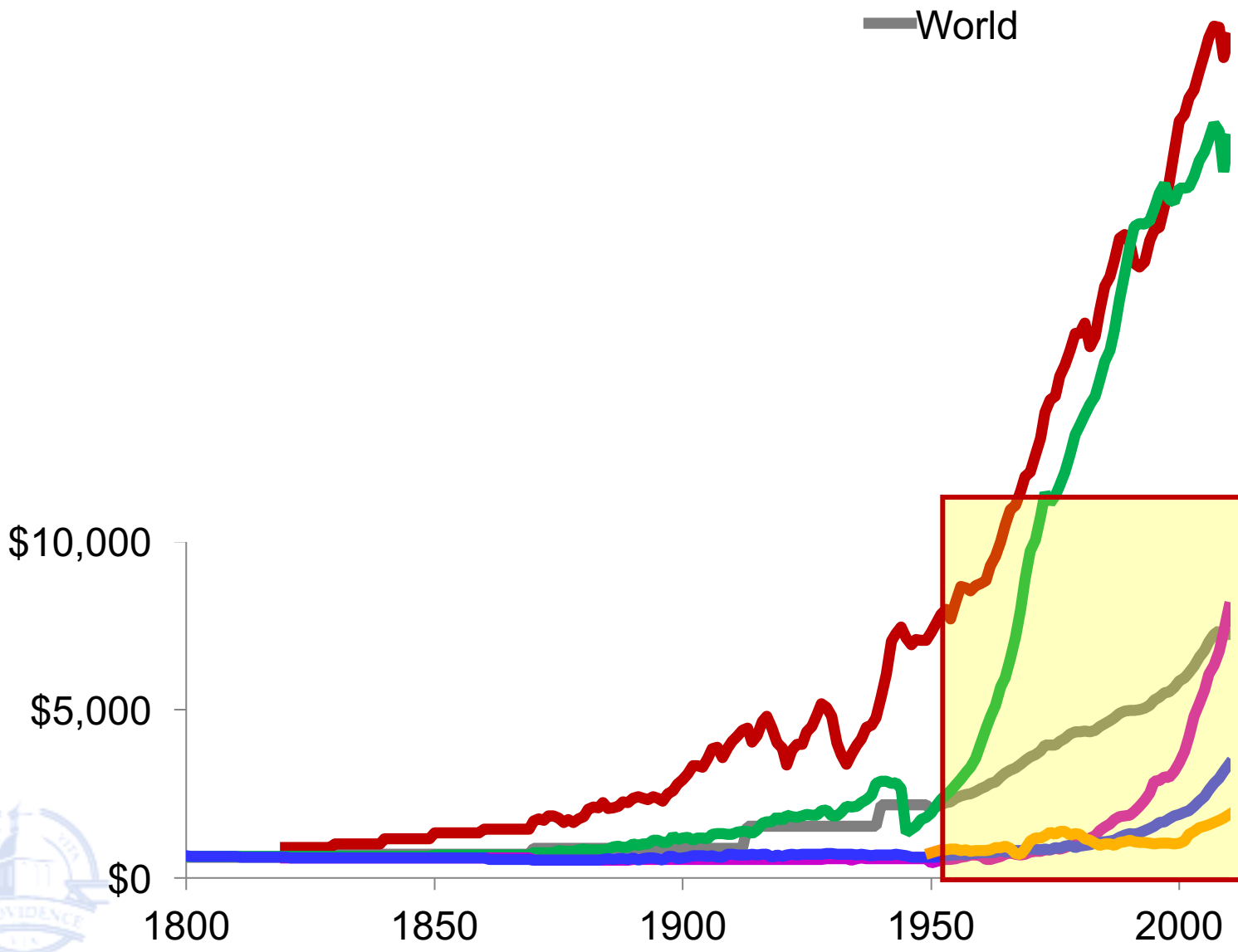
- we are oppressed
 - and, simultaneously, we oppress
- we are compelled
 - our desires have been manufactured desires
 - we are suffering from false consciousness

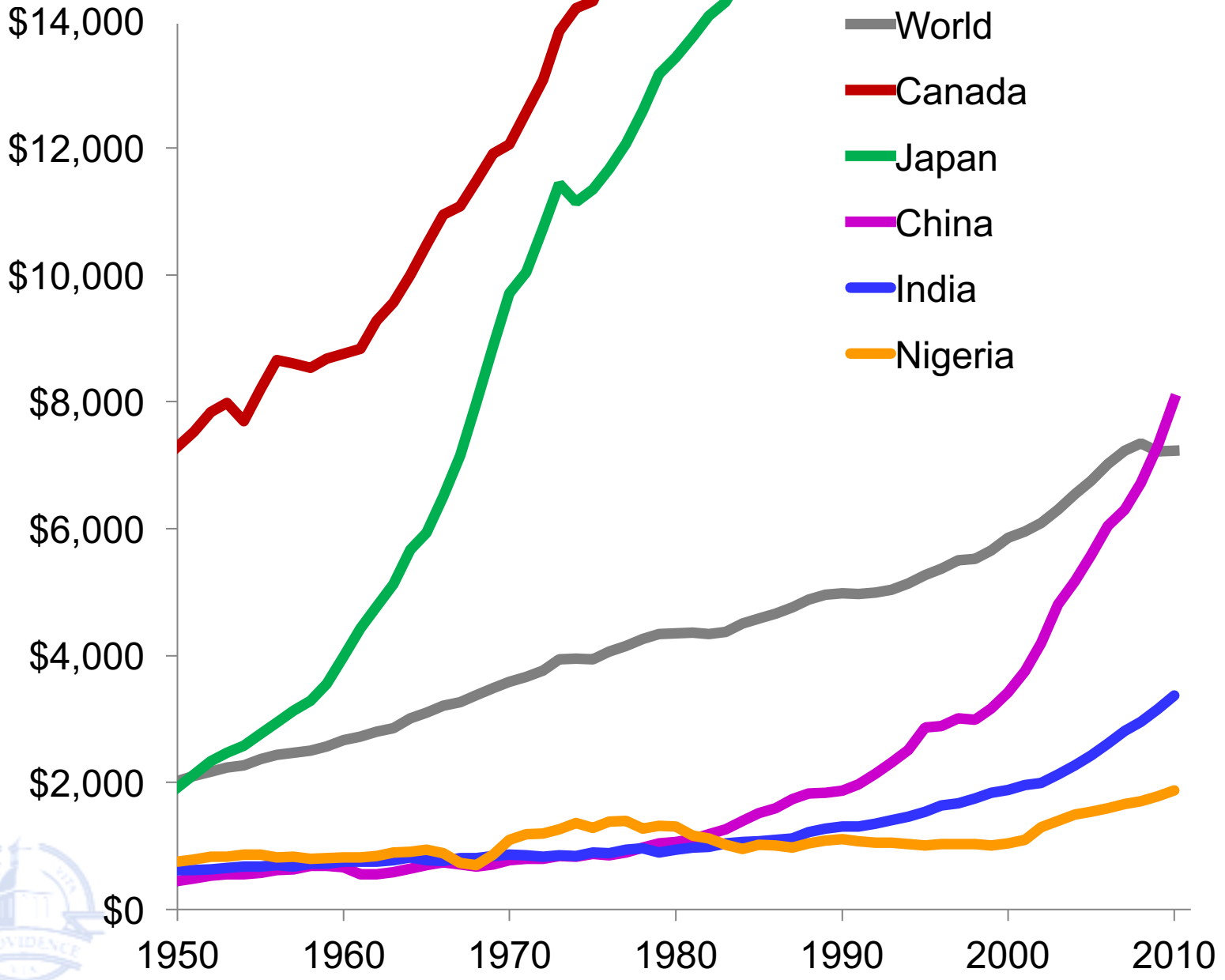


Why do I disagree?

1. “false consciousness” is a flawed idea
2. globalization is not oppression
 - benefits outweigh harms

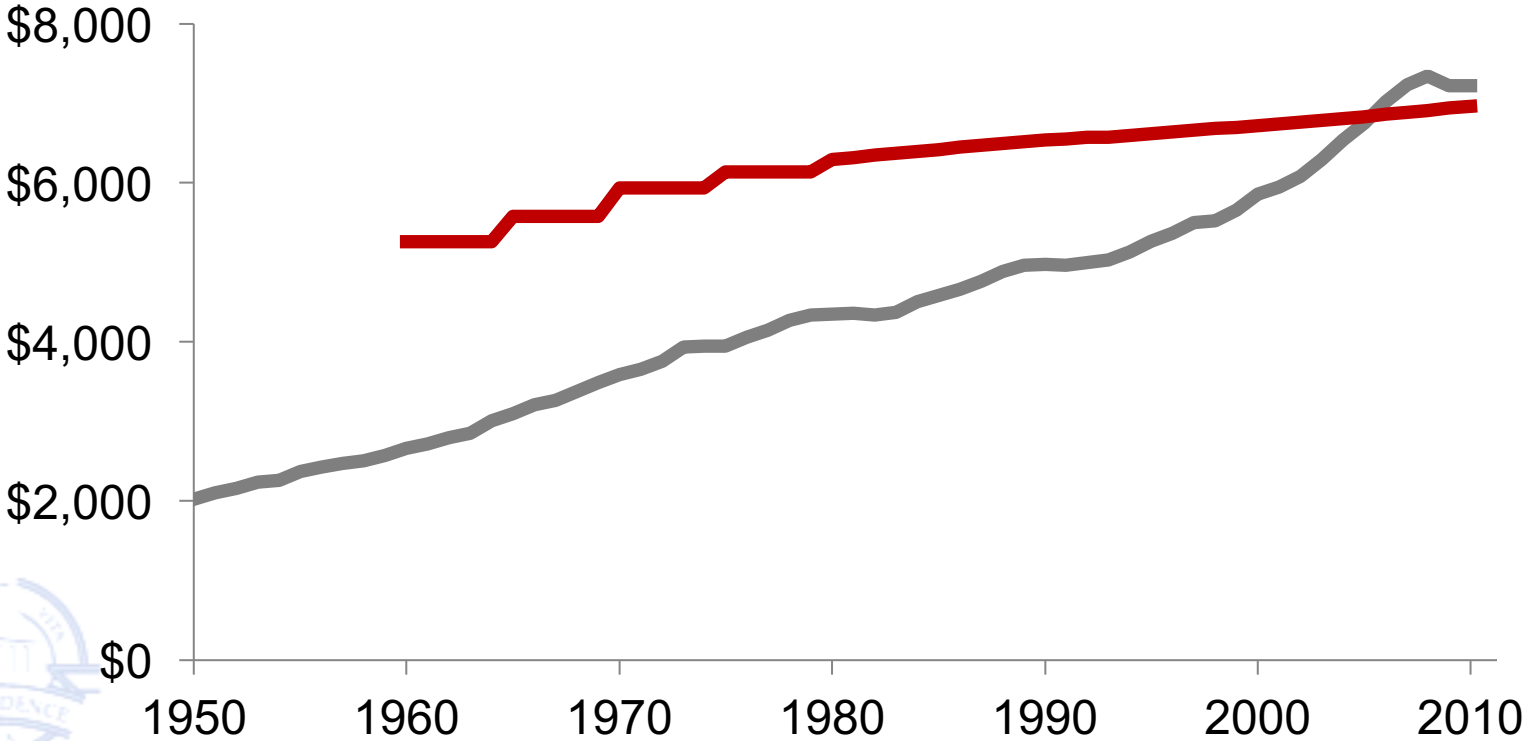






Angus Madison *Historical Statistics of the World Economy*

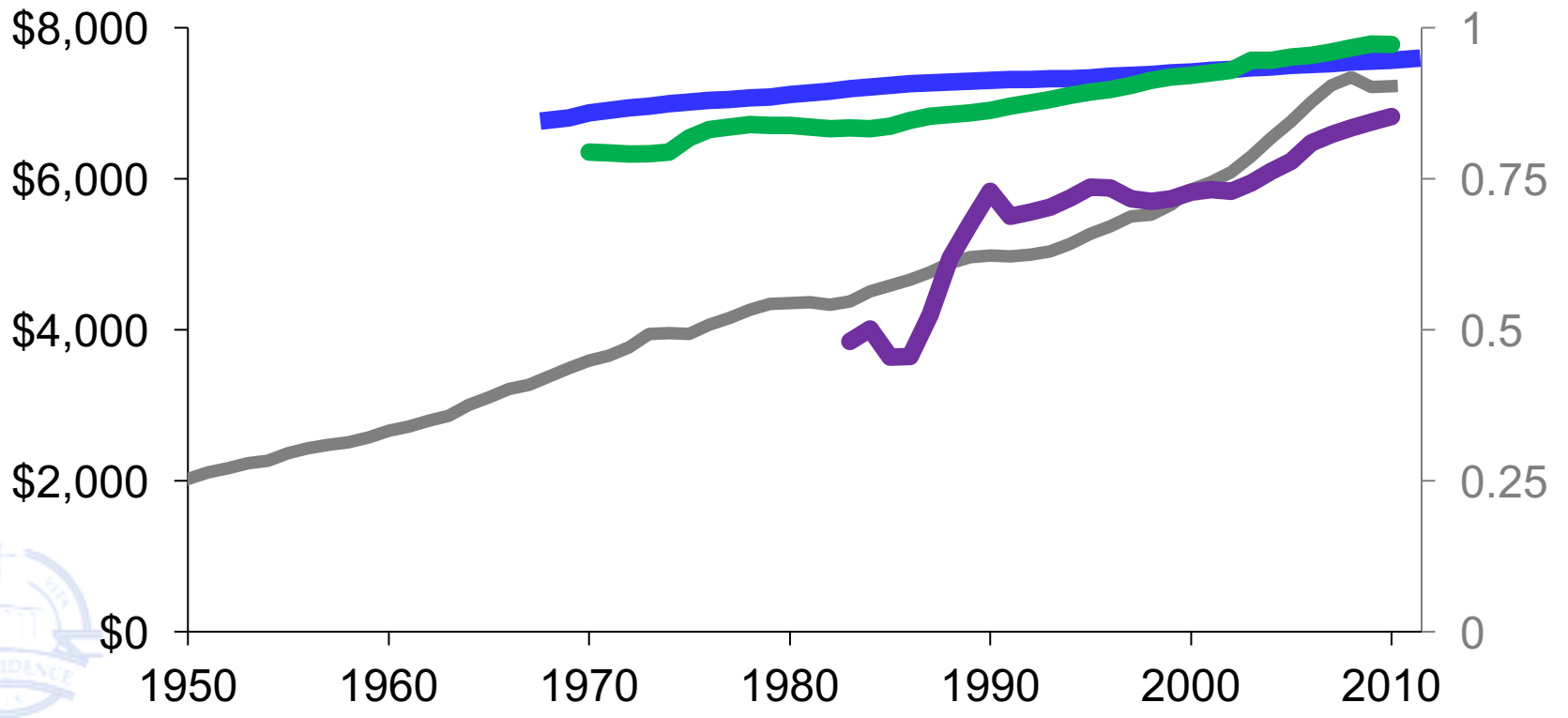
life expectancy



child survival to age 5

ratio of girls to boys in school

measles immunization



\$8,000

\$6,000

\$4,000

\$2,000

\$0

1950

1960

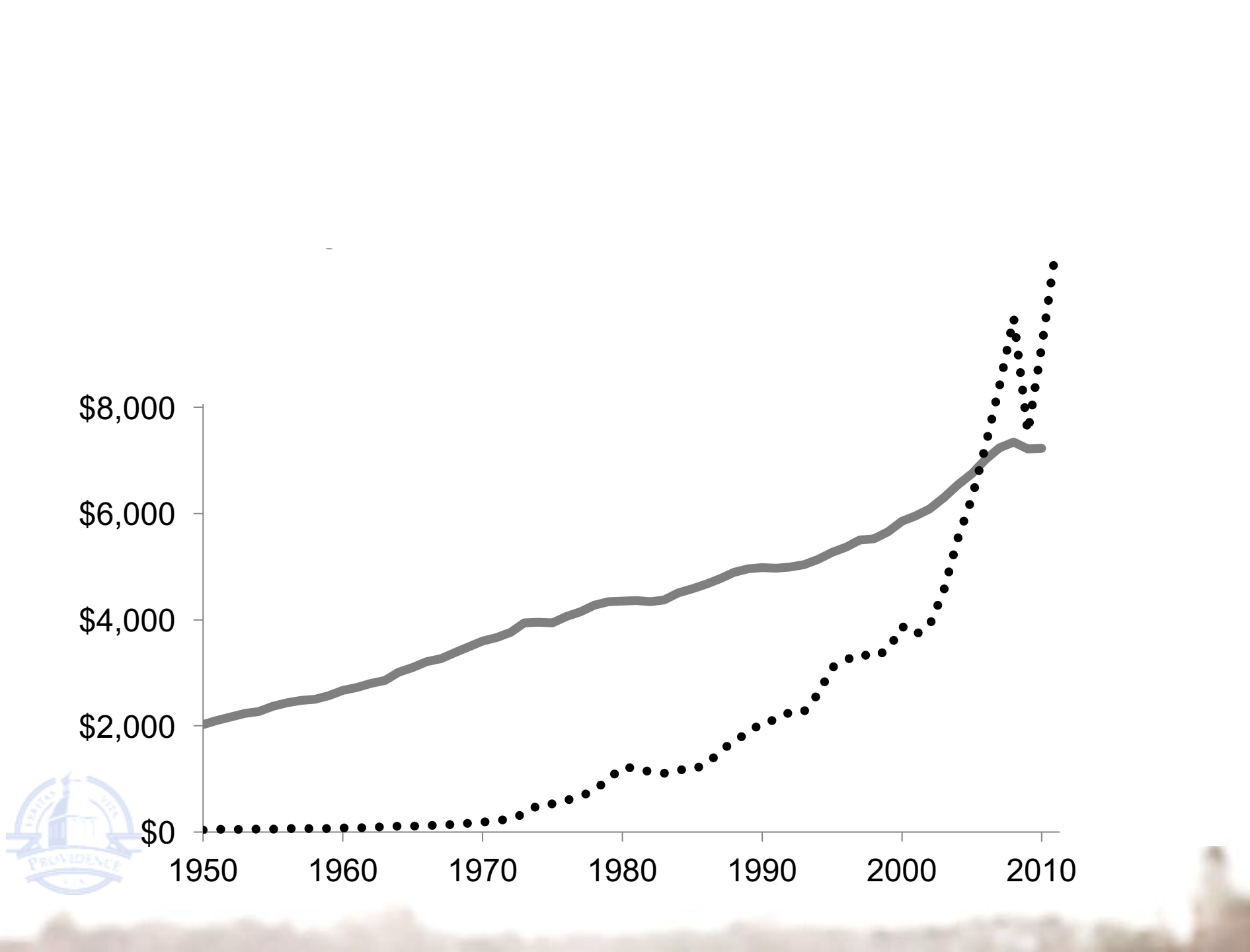
1970

1980

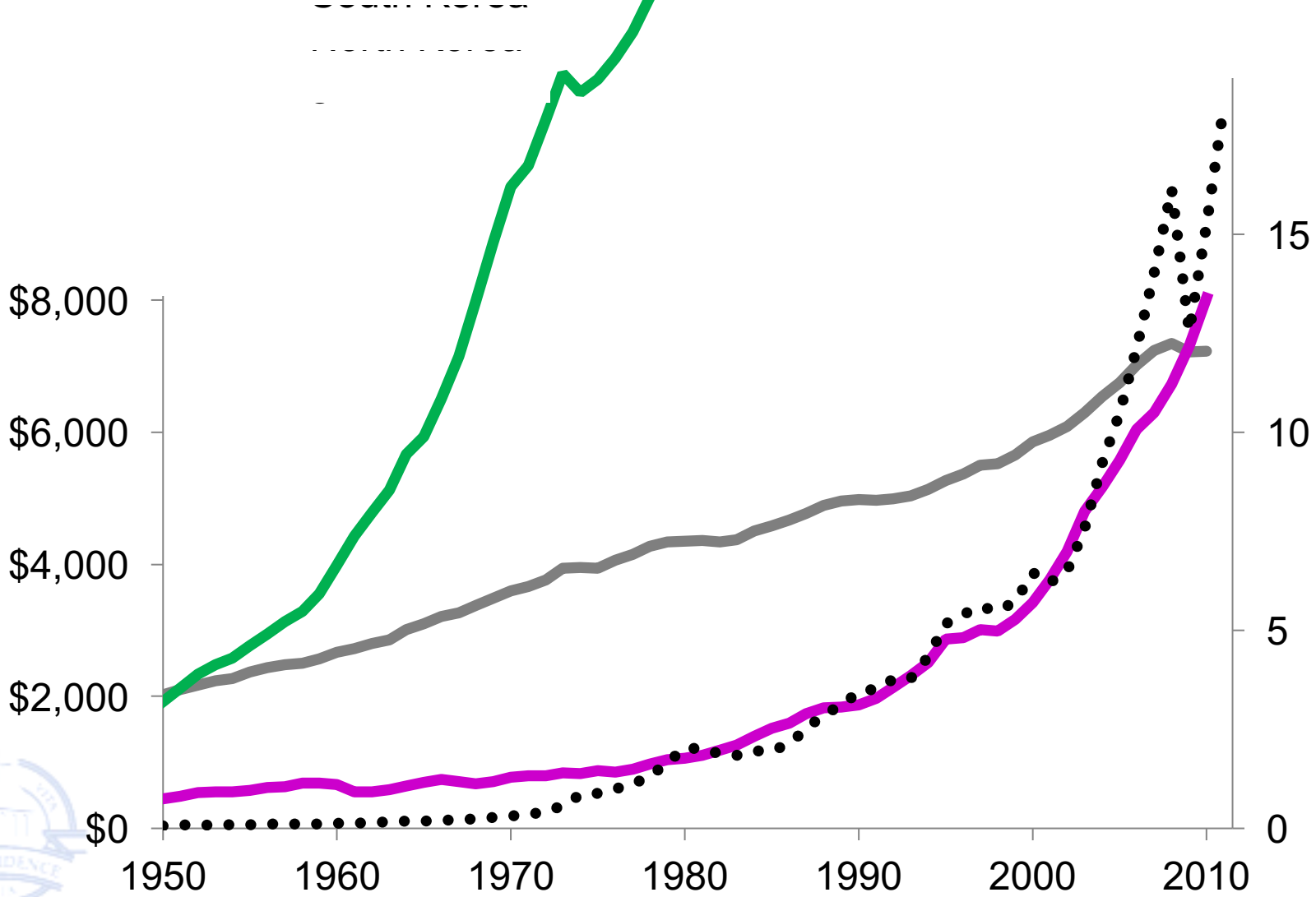
1990

2000

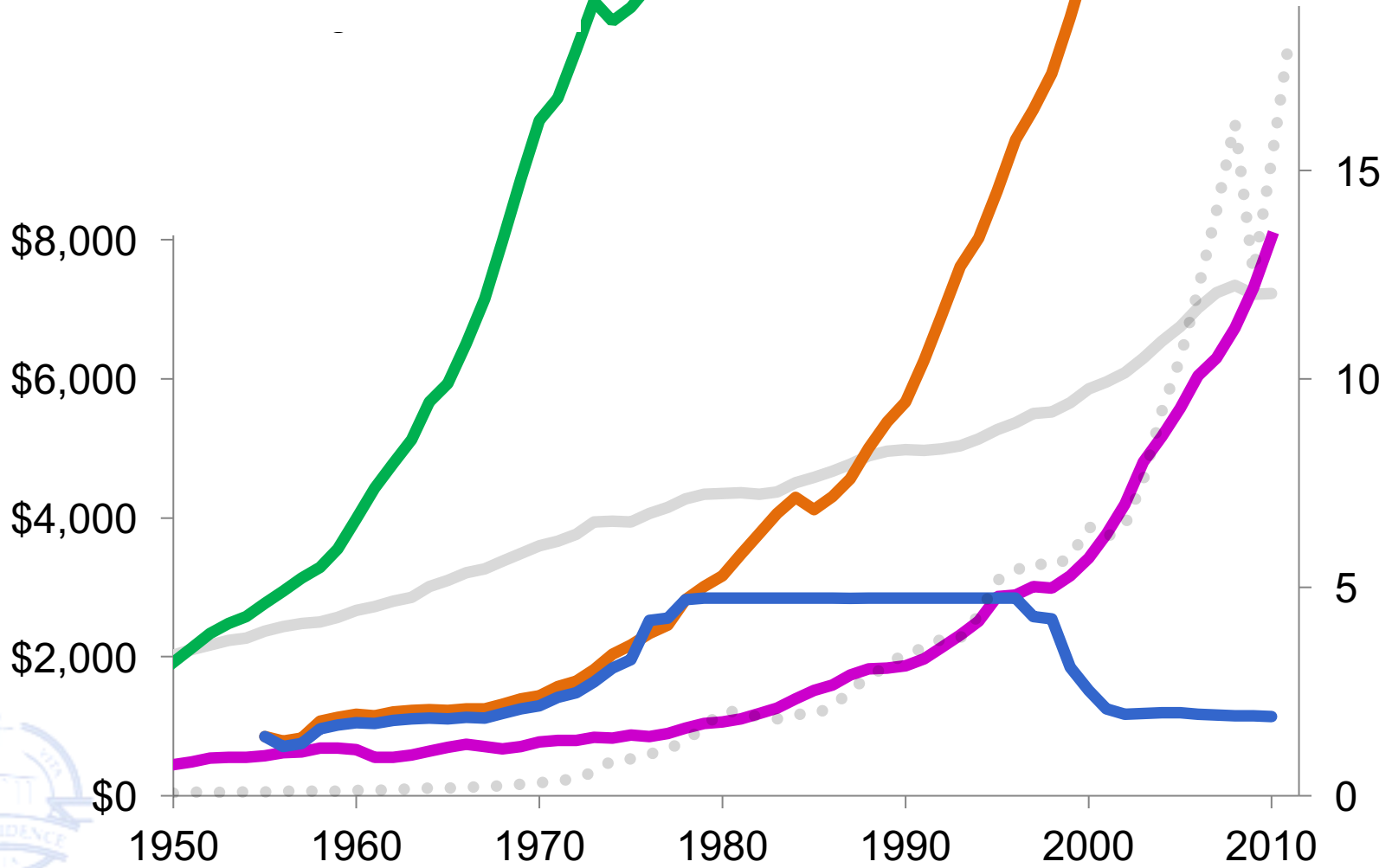
2010



Japan
China



- Japan
- China
- South Korea
- North Korea



Why do I disagree?

1. “false consciousness” is a flawed idea
2. globalization is not oppression
 - benefits outweigh harms
 - correlated with (and perhaps causally related to)
 - wealth creation
 - poverty reduction
 - health improvements
 - education improvements



objections

> globalization harms the poor

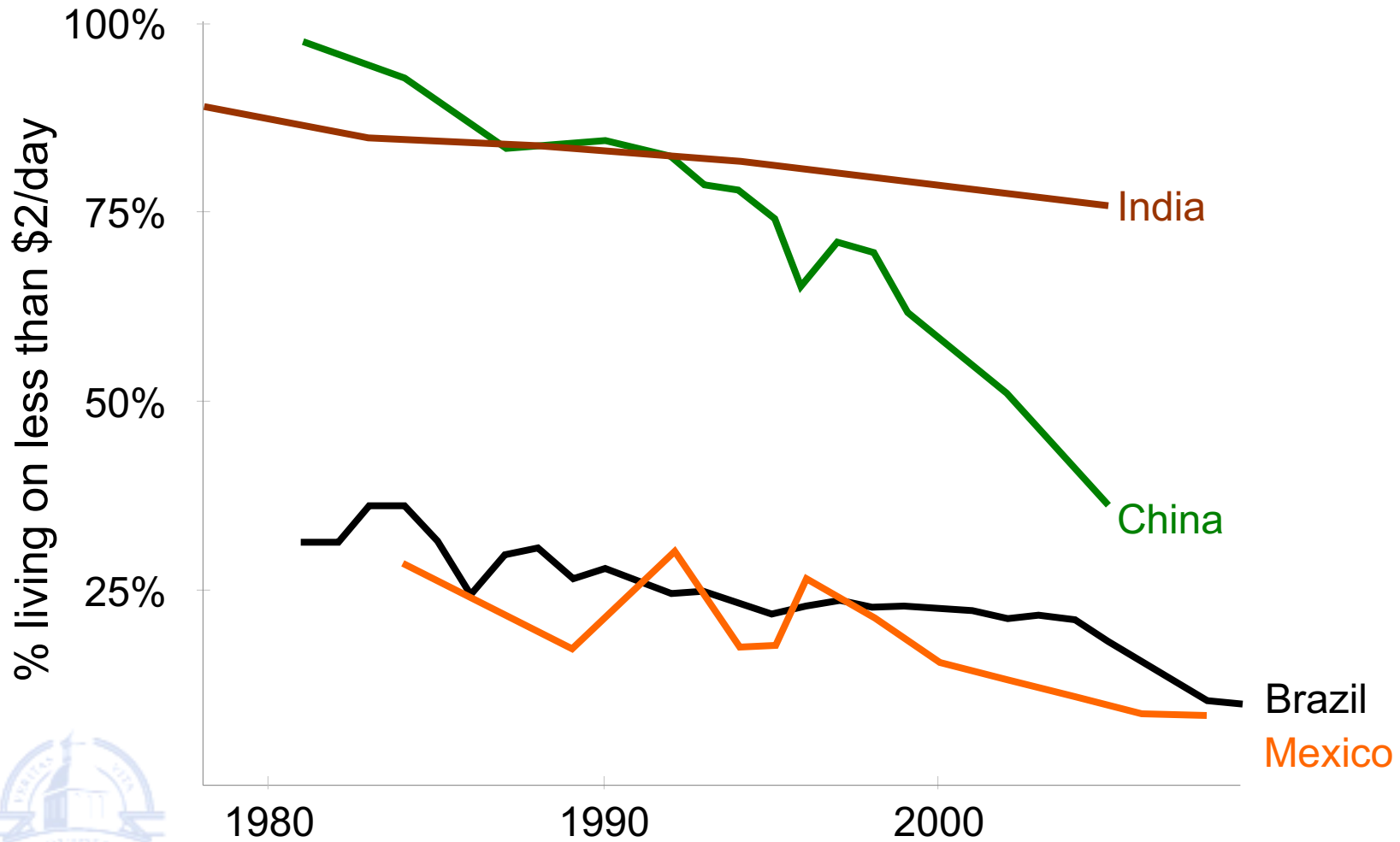
1. the poor get poorer
2. sweatshops trap the poor in permanent poverty
3. child labour flourishes
4. globalization exacerbates inequality

> globalization is unsustainable

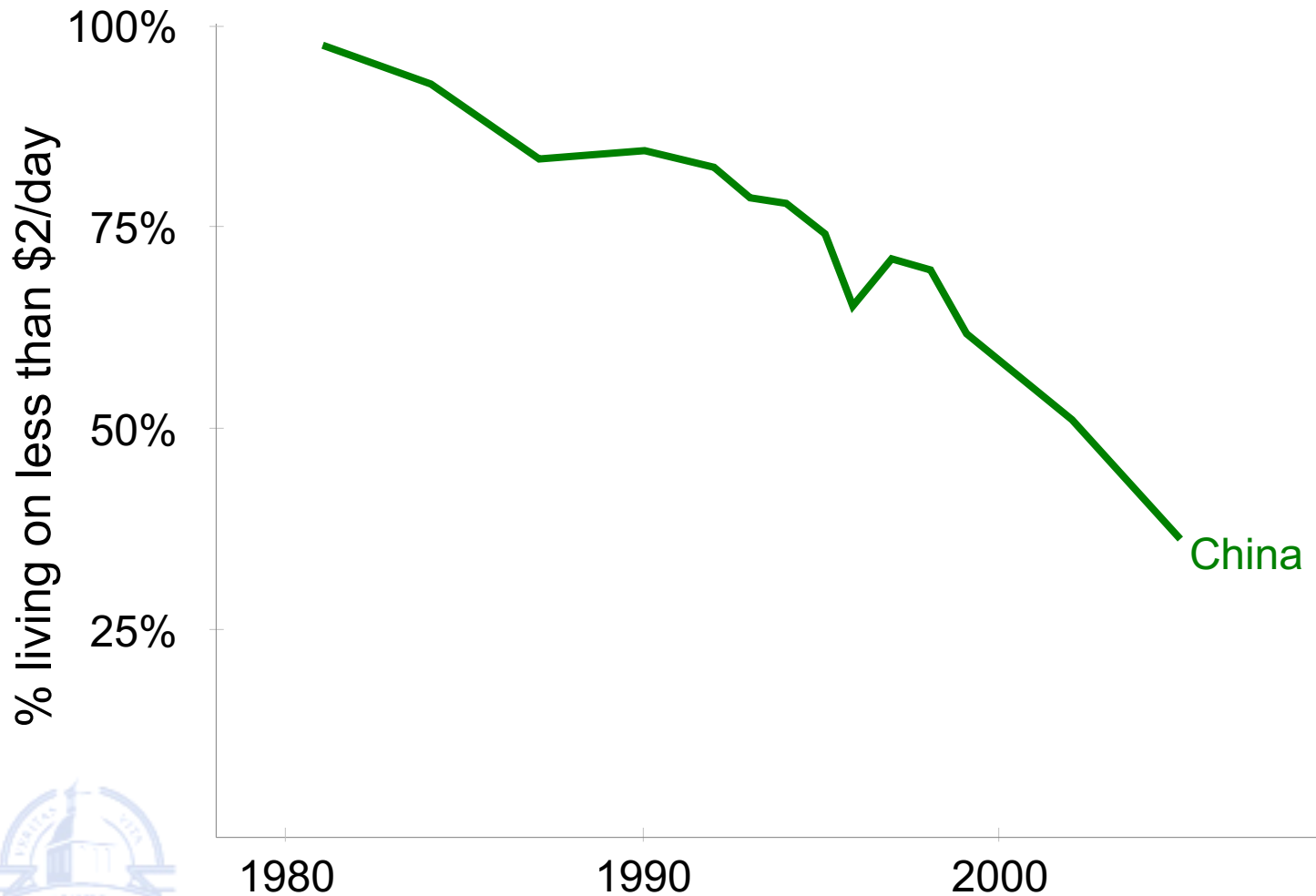
5. won't we hit a wall?



1. the poor get poorer?



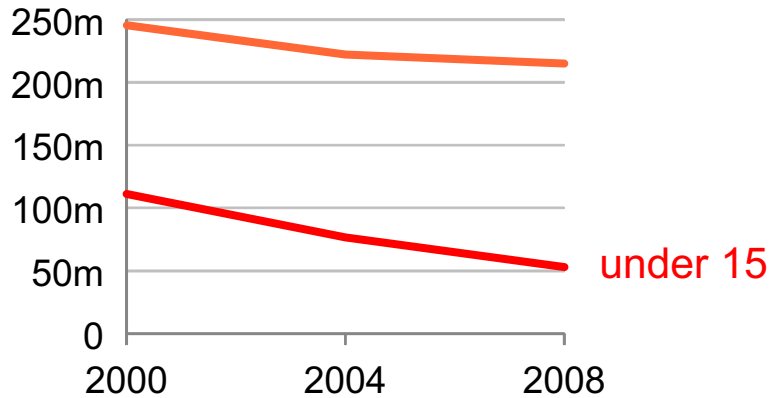
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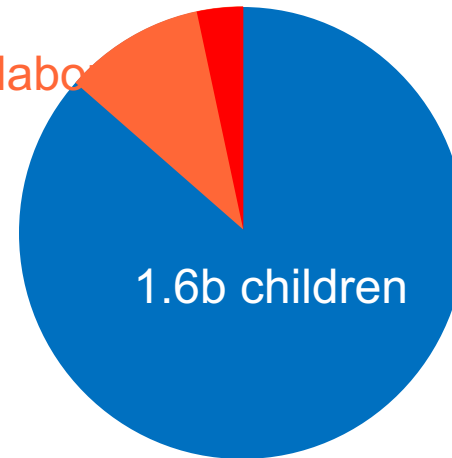
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3. child labour flourishes?



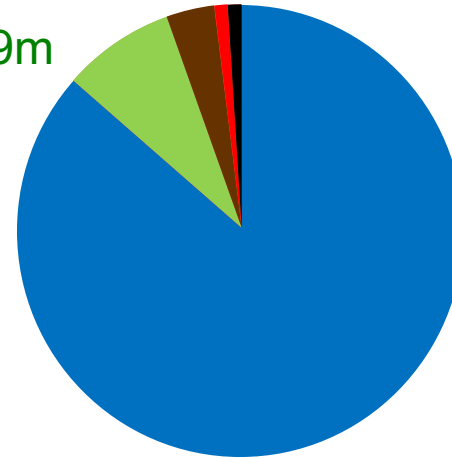
53m under 15
215m child labor



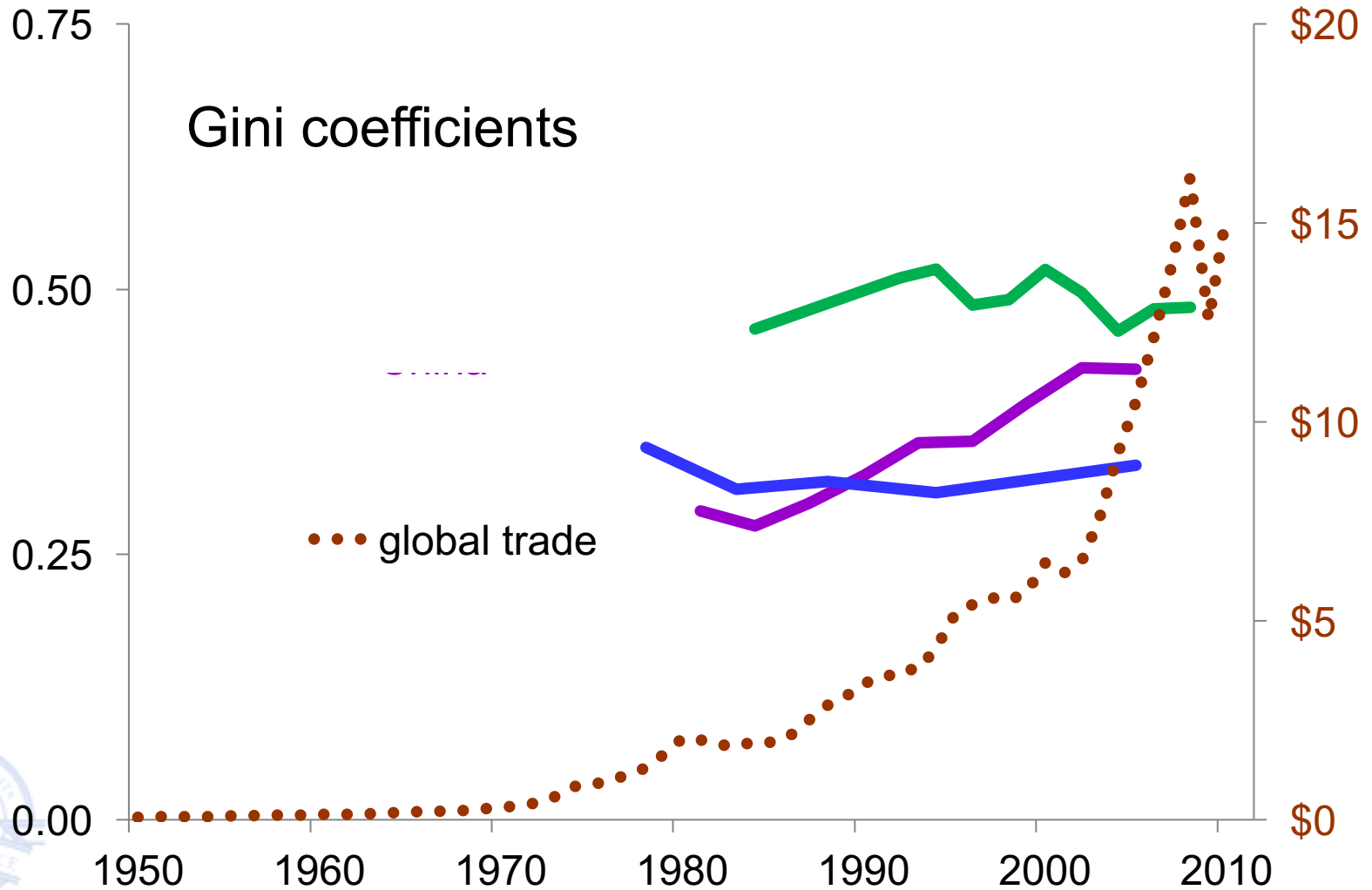
3. child labour flourishes?



industry 15m
services 55m
agriculture 129m
not defined 16m



4. exacerbates inequality?



4. exacerbates inequality?



5. we'll hit a wall?



Paul & Ann Ehrlich

The battle to feed all of humanity is over. In the 1970s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death...

The Population Bomb, 1968

Most of the people who are going to die in the greatest cataclysm in the history of man have already been born.

"Eco-Catastrophe!", 1969

Due to a combination of ignorance, greed, and callousness, a situation has been created that could lead to a billion or more people starving to death.

The End of Affluence, 1974



5. we'll hit a wall?

there is a wall

- actually, there are at least 4 walls
 1. consumption of non-renewable resources
 2. pace of consumption of renewable resources
 3. pollution
 4. inequality

but we can avoid it



5. we'll hit a wall?

there is a wall

- actually, there are at least 4 walls
 1. consumption of non-renewable resources
 2. pace of consumption of renewable resources
 3. pollution
 4. inequality

but we can avoid them

- a topic for another time...



So why the mismatch?

“LOCALIST” PREFERENCES

local

known

small

hand-made

natural

“GLOBALIST” ACTIONS

global

unknown

big

machine-made

artificial





localist

distance trade in luxury goods

capitalism — globalist

50,000

40,000

30,000

20,000

10,000

now



So what should we do?

learn from the best sources you can find

think rigorously

act focus on what matters most

1. consumption of non-renewable resources
2. pace of consumption of renewable resources
3. pollution
4. inequality





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