

HumanProgress



A recent *New York Times* op-ed criticizes the "progress narrative" as an excuse for inaction:

"The Panglossian scenario painted by these new optimists naturally appeals to defenders of the status quo. If things are really getting better, there is clearly no need for transformative change to confront the most pressing problems of our time."

This profoundly flawed conclusion reveals a misunderstanding of the history of progress. From the abolition of slavery to the Green Revolution, progress has often come from transformative change. And while things are gradually improving, there are still many problems to solve. Progress can—and should—be faster.

[Read more.](#)

It's true that we live on a delicate planet that is composed of a finite number of atoms. But as this fascinating and heartening book shows, it's also true that we humans can increase both our population and prosperity as much as we want without endangering the earth. The key, as Tupy and Pooley show, is innovation. Read Superabundance to have your assumptions challenged and your sense of hope restored.

ANDREW MCAFEE

author of *More from Less: The Surprising Story of How We Learned to Prosper Using Fewer Resources—and What Happens Next*

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