

Human Progress

a newsletter that cuts through the gloom



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Is This the Best Time to Be Alive?

The “good old days” were very bad for the great majority of humanity.

They lacked basic medicines and died young. They worked in the fields from sunrise to sunset, yet hunger and famines were common. Ignorance and illiteracy were rife.

Over the last two centuries, we have become richer, longer-lived, better fed, better educated, and more humane.

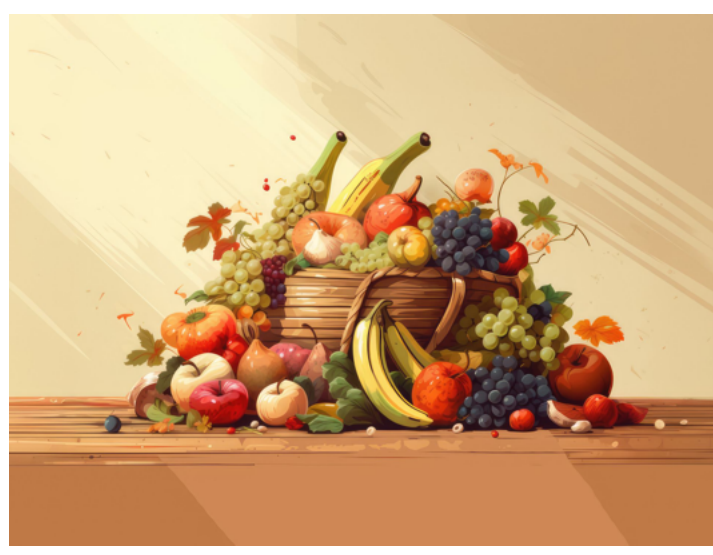
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Eight Centuries of Increasing Food Abundance in England

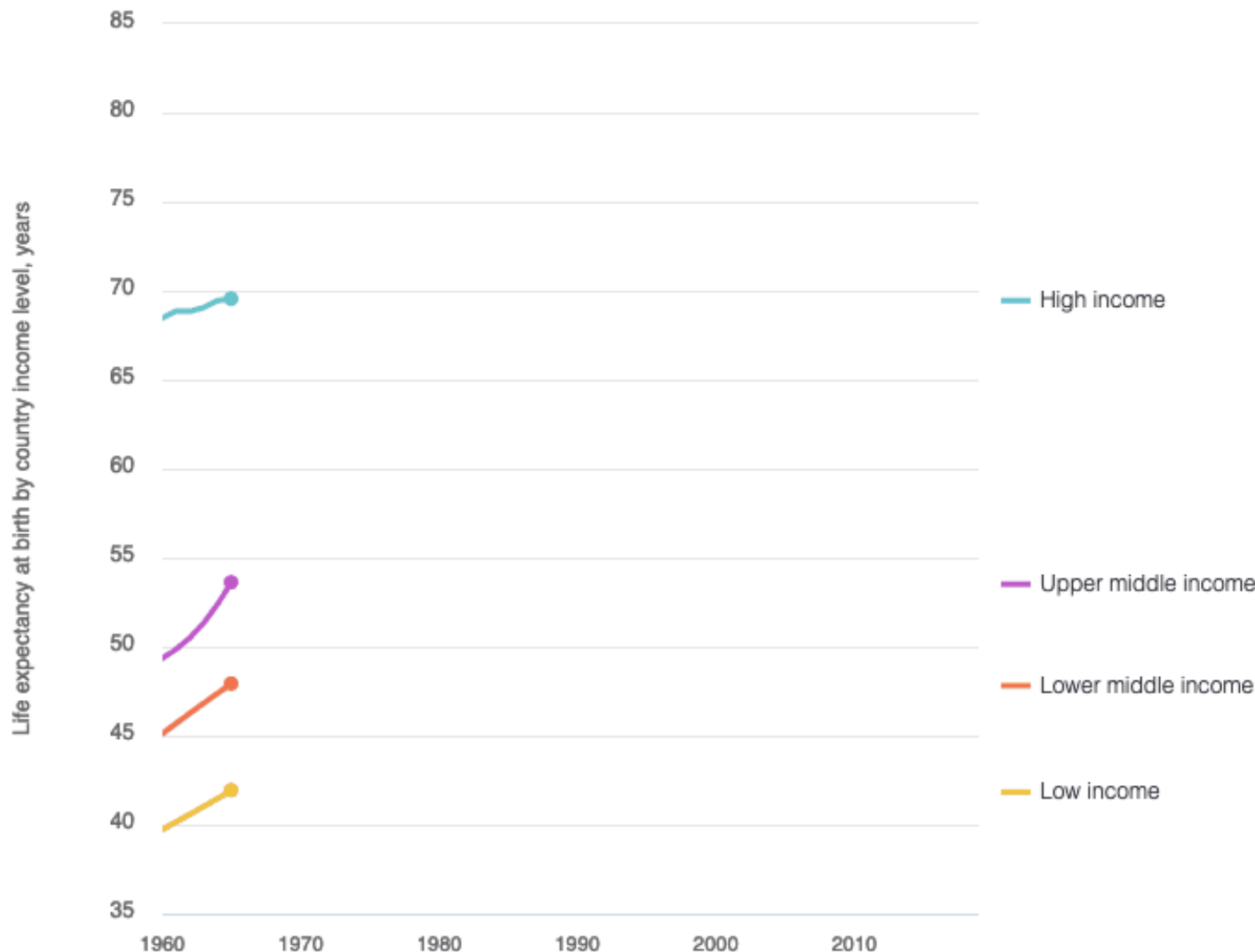
Human progress is often incremental, but positive trends become clearly visible over time. One of these trends is the growing abundance of food.

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Life expectancy at birth by country income level

years, 1960-2019



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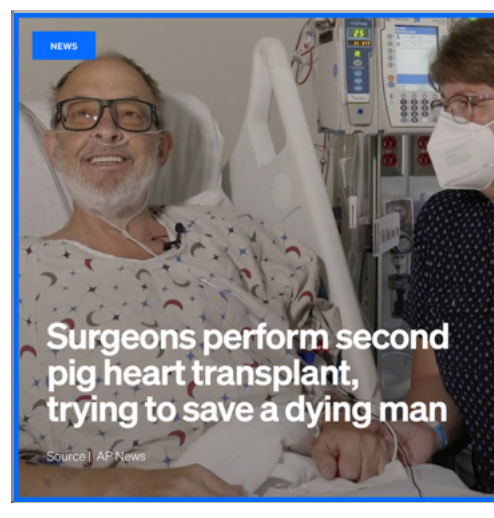
Not only is human life improving, but those gains are also becoming more widely shared.

In 1960, there was a 30-year life expectancy gap between the richest and poorest countries.

By 2019, that shrank to just 17 years.

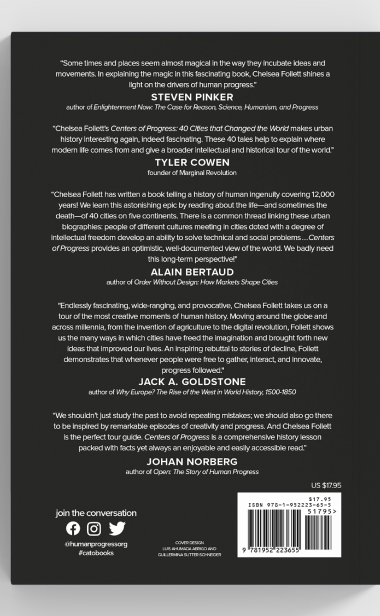
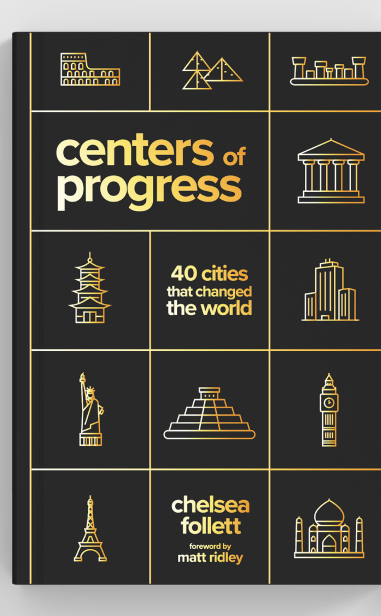
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