

# Human Progress DOOMSLAYER

a newsletter that cuts through the gloom



[Blog Post | Natural Disasters](#)

## Thousands of Deaths Averted in Taiwan Earthquake

In 1999, the devastating Jiji earthquake killed over 2,400 people in Taiwan.

Over the next few decades, the Taiwanese fortified their infrastructure, developed an advanced early-warning system, and fostered a culture of earthquake preparedness.

Their efforts paid off: on April 3rd, an earthquake of similar magnitude struck Taiwan and claimed just under 20 lives.

[Read more](#)

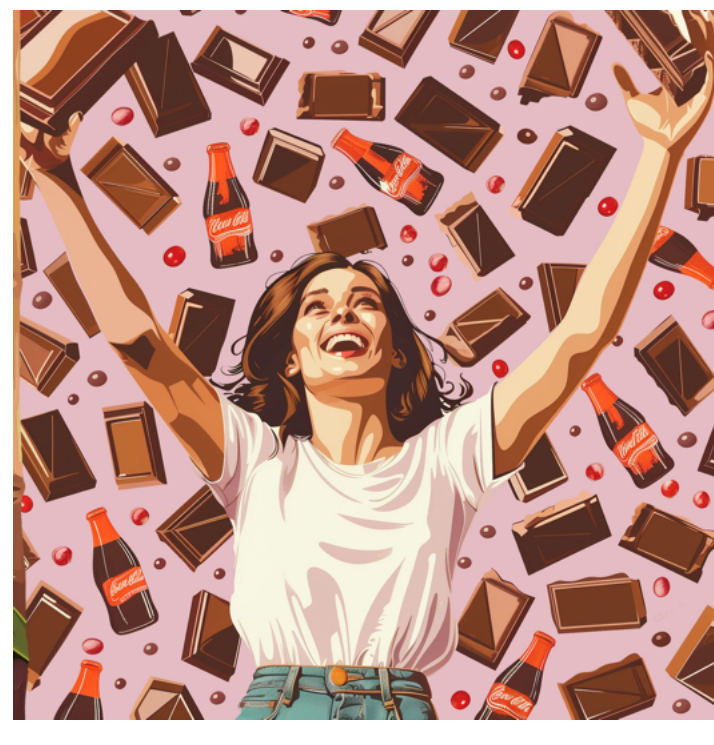
[Blog Post | Cost of Material Goods](#)

## The Good Old Days Were Really Expensive

In 1900, a dime could buy a 1-ounce Hershey chocolate bar and a 6.5-ounce bottle of Coca-Cola.

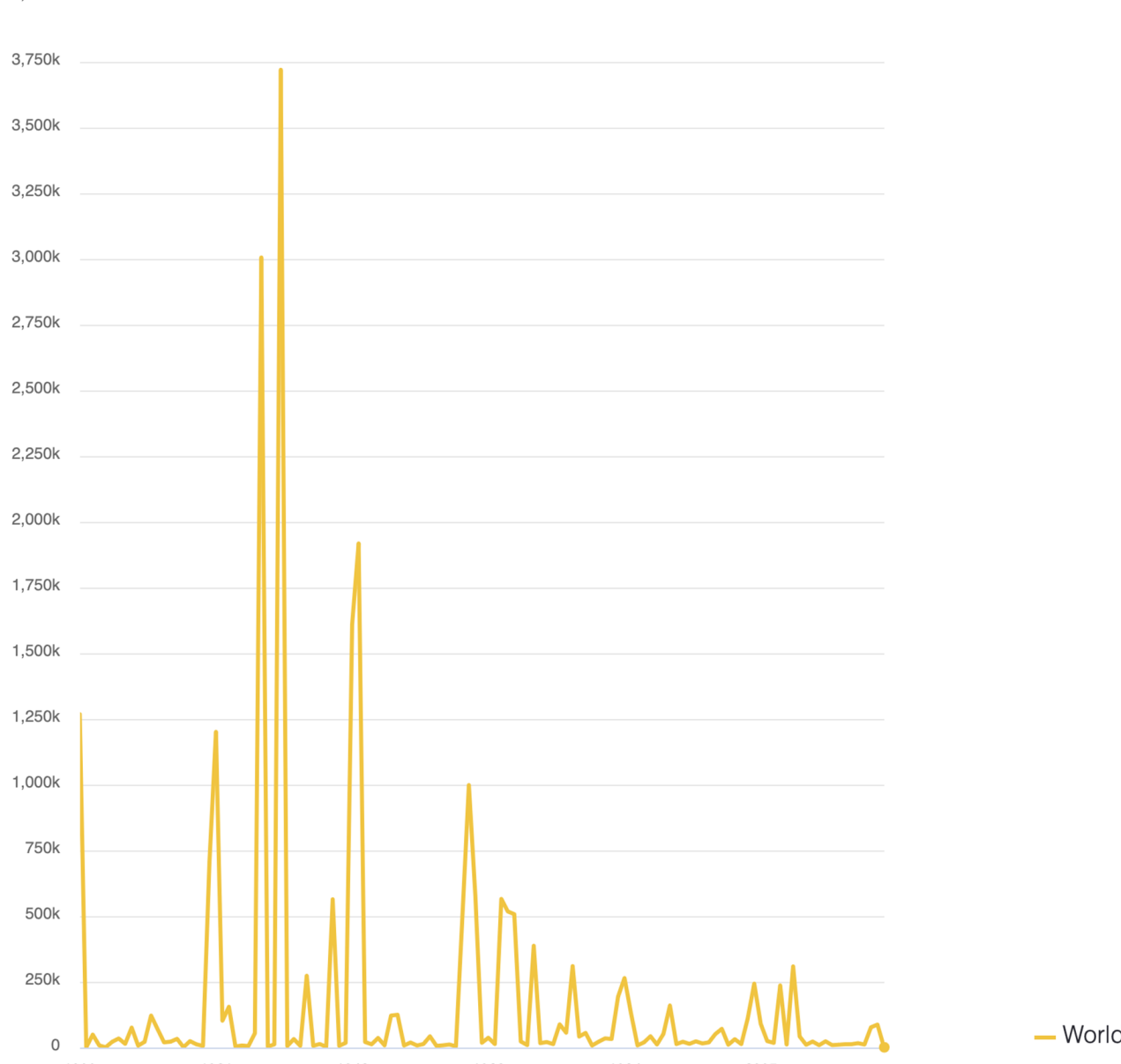
Unfortunately, back then, blue-collar workers earned just 14 cents an hour.

[Read more.](#)



### Annual deaths from natural disasters

number, 1900-2024



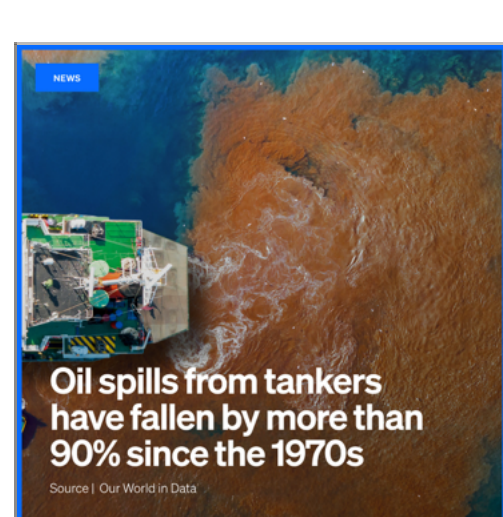
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Taiwan's improved earthquake resilience is part of a broader trend.

Thanks to economic growth and technological progress, the chance of a person dying in a natural catastrophe has declined by nearly 99 percent since the 1920s and 1930s.

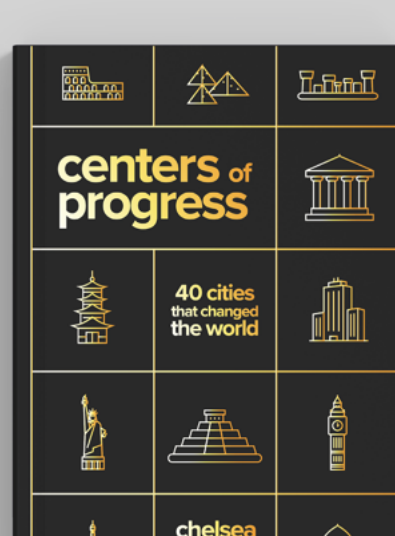
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"In the 1970s, oil spills from tankers — container ships transporting oil — were common. Between 70 and 100 spills occurred per year. That's one or two spills every week. This..."



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