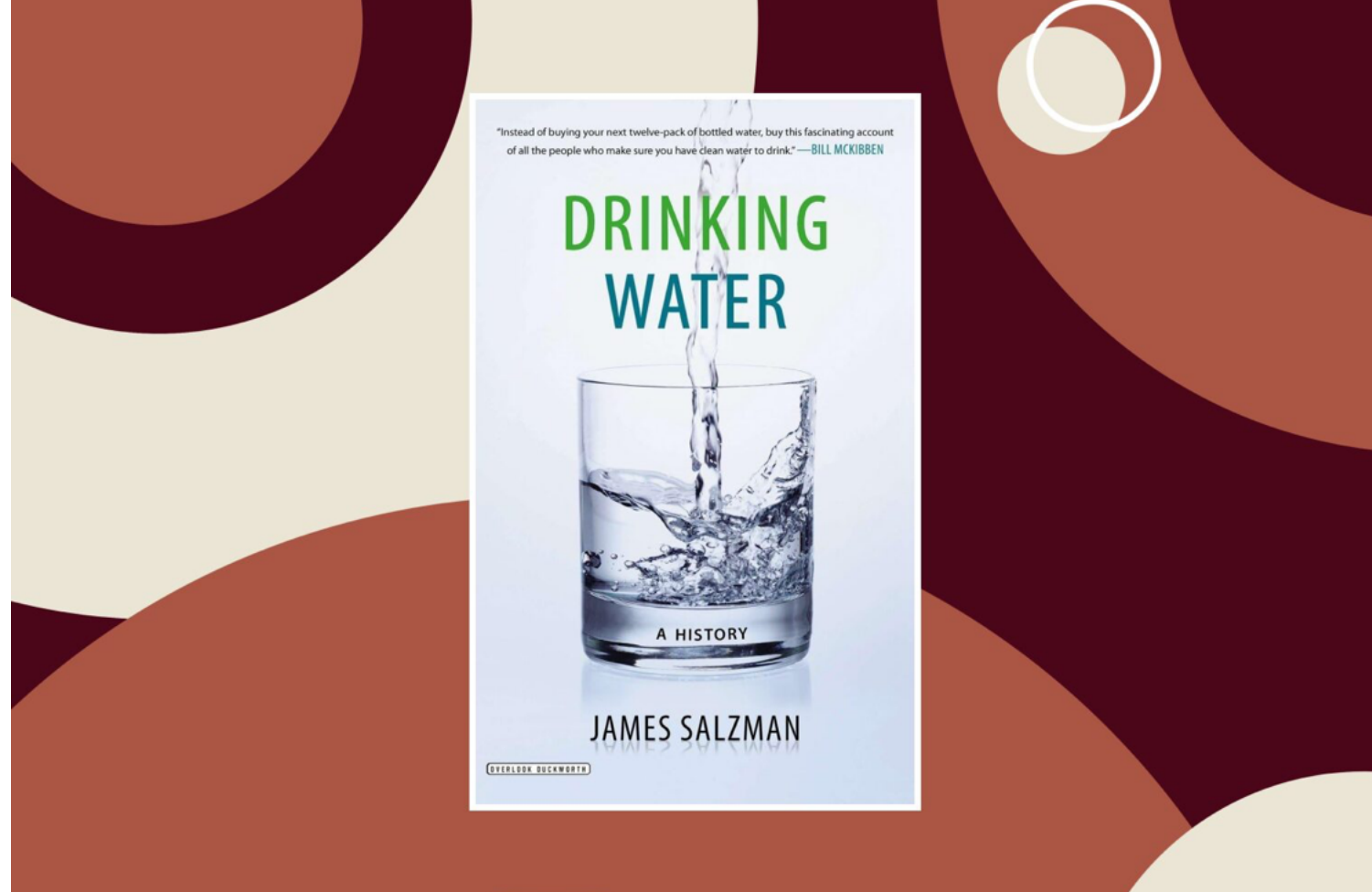


Human Progress

# DOOMSLAYER

a newsletter that cuts through the gloom



[Blog Post | Water & Sanitation](#)

## Grim Old Days: The History of Drinking Water

There is a common belief that prior to industrialization, water was pristine. James Salzman's book, *Drinking Water: A History*, quickly disabuses the reader of that notion.

In many societies, water was so filthy that drinking it was associated with poverty and sometimes even used as a punishment.

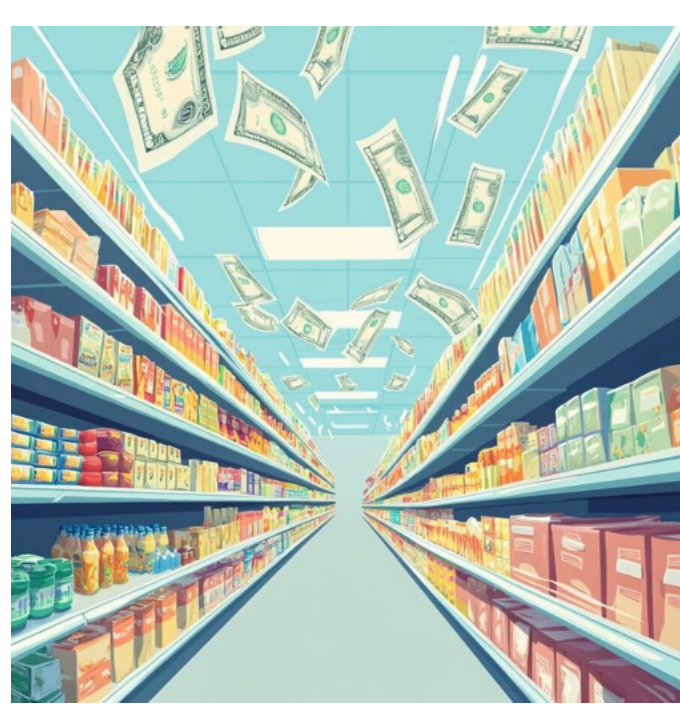
[Read more](#)

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

## Costco Raises Membership Fee, but It's Still 21 Percent Cheaper than in 1983

The time price of a Costco membership has fallen 21 percent since 1980.

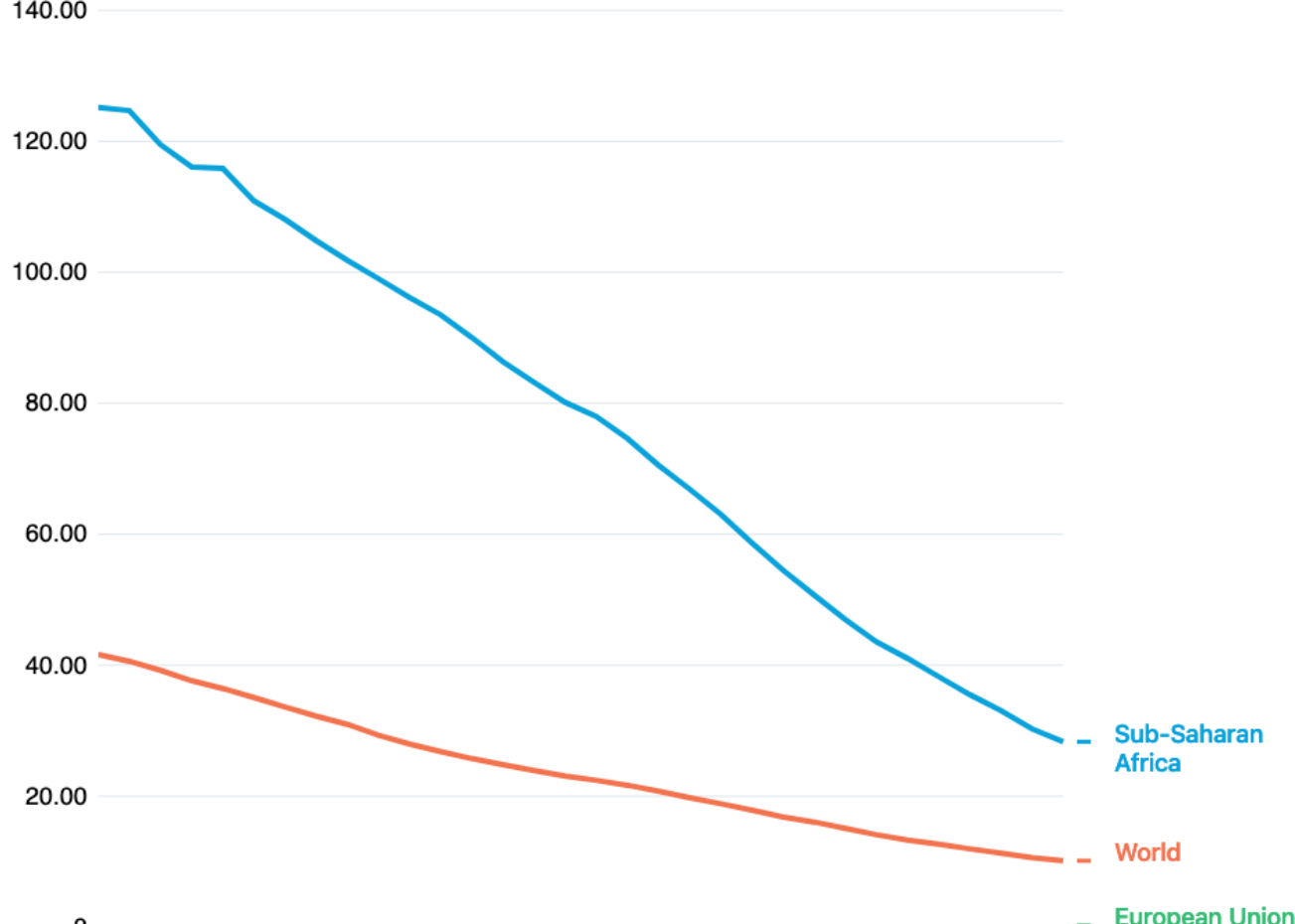
The time price of the Costco hot dog combo dropped even more.



[Read more.](#)

## Deaths from unsafe water sources

per 100,000 people (1990–2021)



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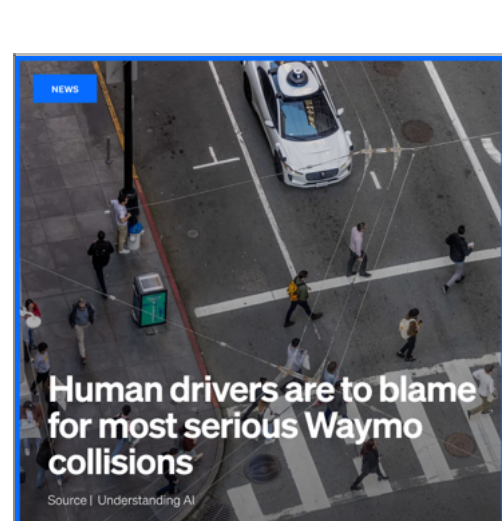
Thanks to centuries of [public health innovation](#), unsafe water is no longer a significant concern in wealthy countries.

Sadly, in poorer countries without adequate sanitation, many people still suffer and die from waterborne illnesses. Fortunately, that is rapidly changing.

Between 1990 and 2021, the death rate from unsafe water in Sub-Saharan Africa fell nearly 80 percent.

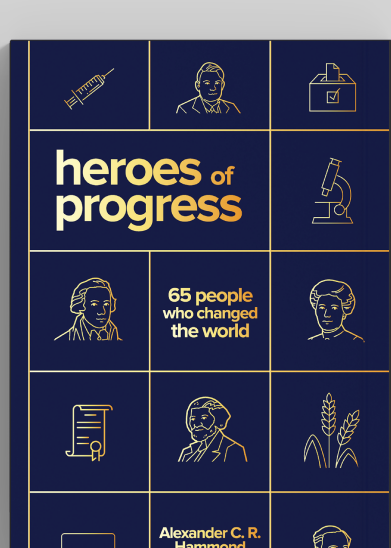
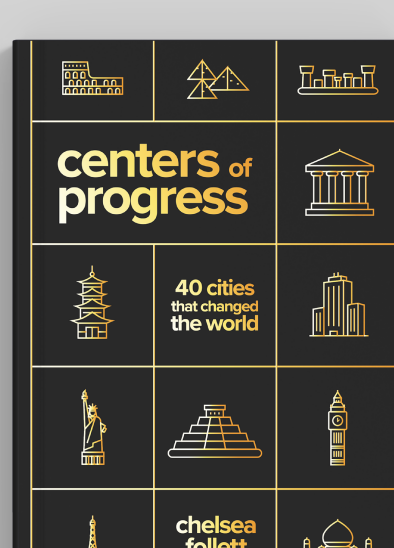
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"In total, Waymo has reported nearly 200 crashes, which works out to about one crash every 100,000 miles. Waymo says 43 percent of crashes across San Francisco and Phoenix had a...



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