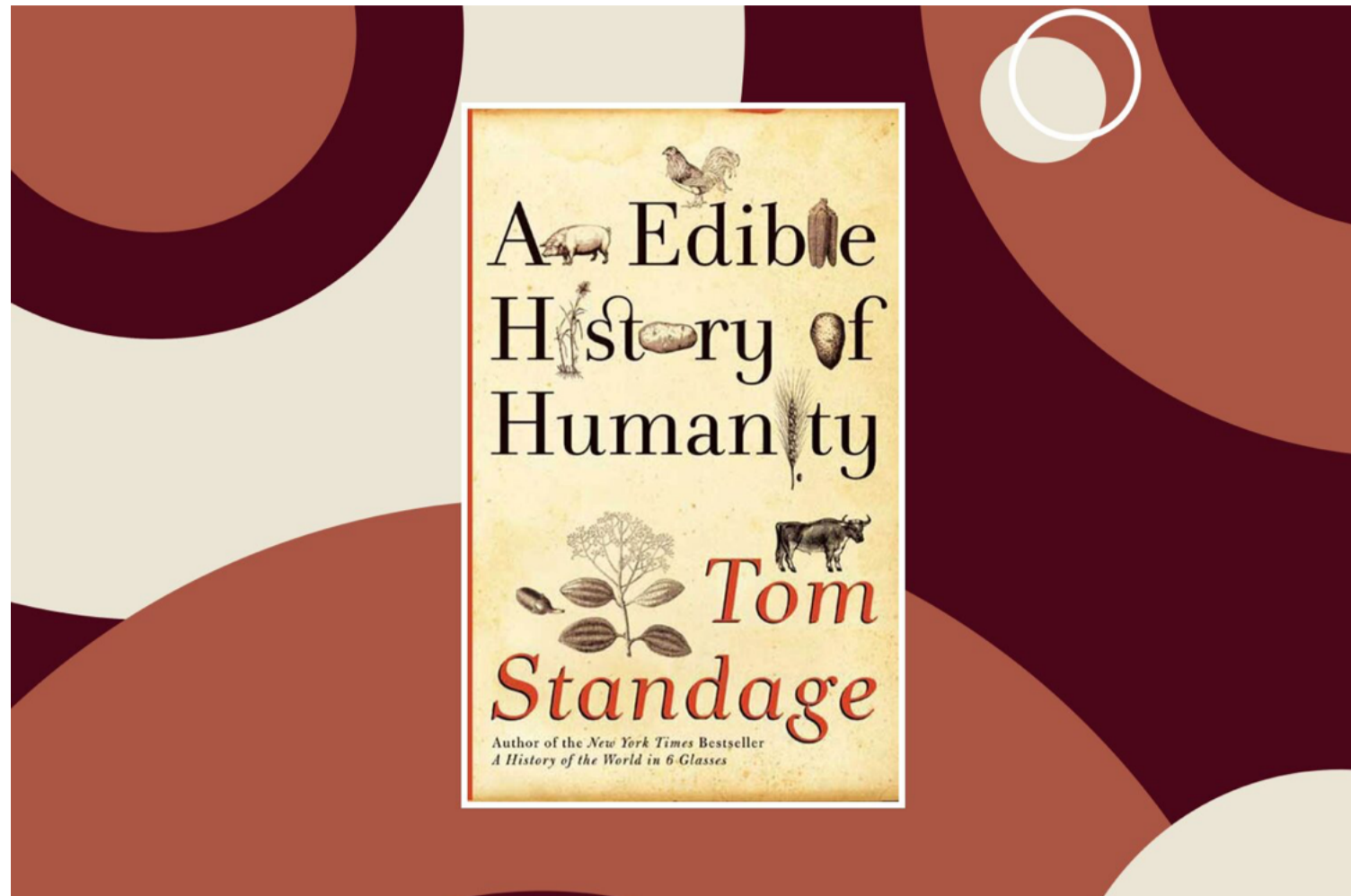


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a newsletter that cuts through the gloom



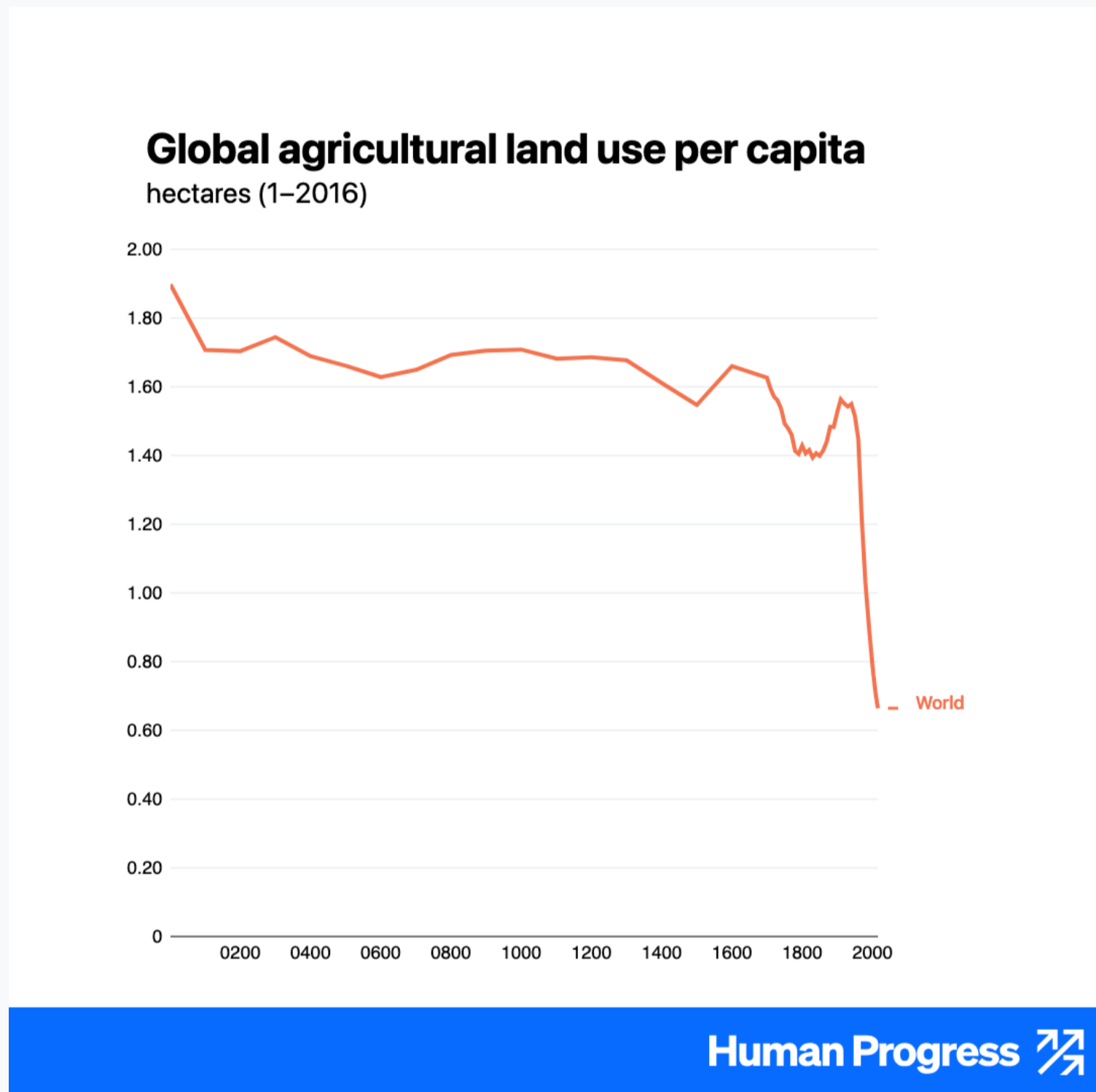
[Blog Post | Food & Hunger](#)

## Grim Old Days: Tom Standage's Edible History of Humanity

Tom Standage's *An Edible History of Humanity* traces the history of food from the dawn of agriculture to modern times.

The result is a dramatic story of progress, recounting our escape from a world where villages burned over spices, human sacrifice was considered a fertilizer, and pineapples were exclusively “the fruit of kings.”

[Read more](#)



Not only has food production massively increased, but it has also become much more efficient.

Even with today's richer diets, agricultural land use per person has fallen to around a third of what it was in the pre-industrial era.

[Explore the data](#)

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“The average worker in wealthy countries now works only about half as many hours per year as in the late 19th century. Based on data from economic historians Michael Huberman and...



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