

# The Horrors of Pre-Industrial Farming

The realities of preindustrial farming are at odds with the popular imagination.

HUMAN PROGRESS

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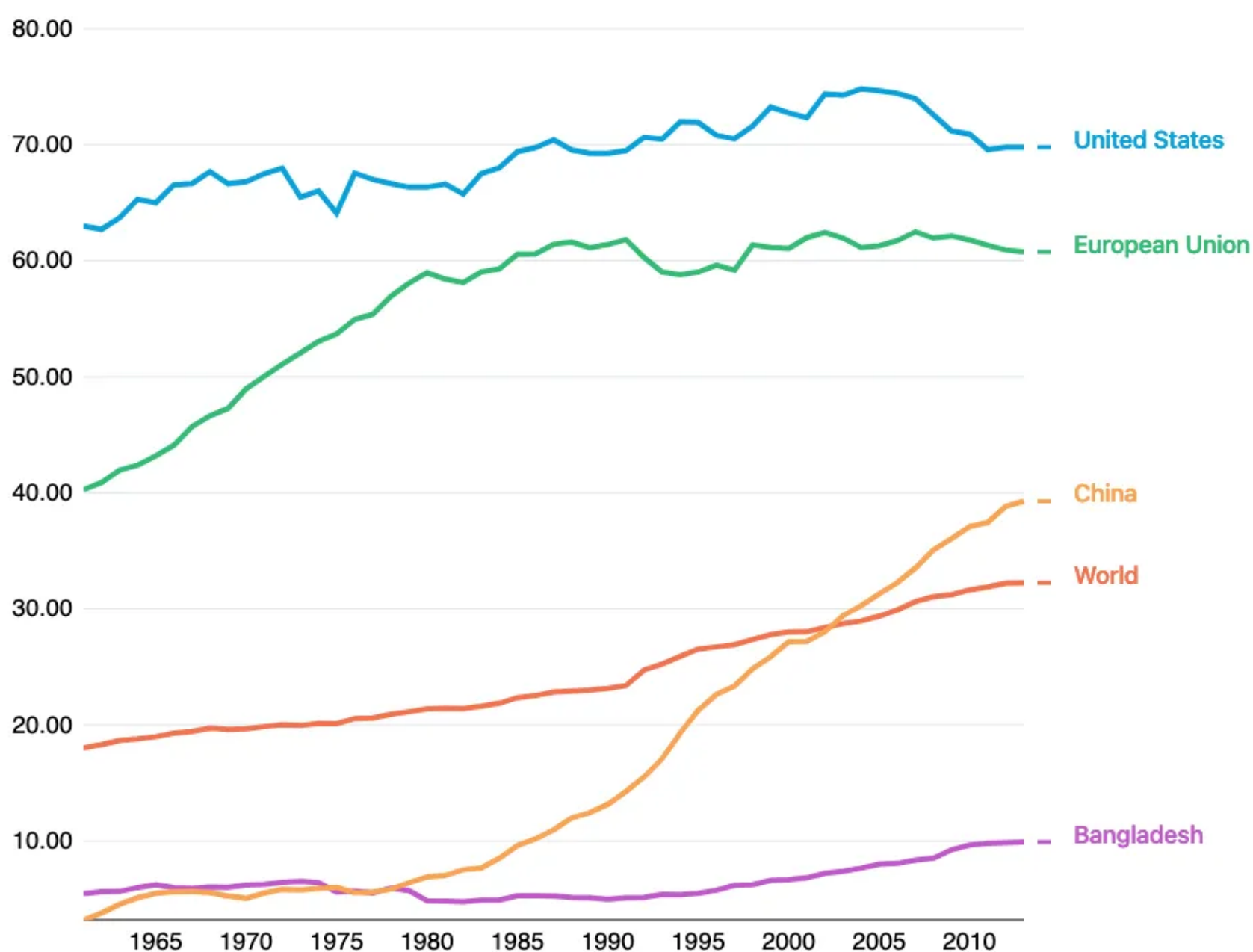


Many people assume that livestock lived in peace and happiness before factory farming—with pristine, spacious surroundings, fresh grass to eat, and kind treatment from good-natured family farmers.

Sadly, real conditions on preindustrial farms were often far removed from that image.

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## Proteins of animal origin, per person, per day grams (1961–2013)



Human Progress

[Explore the data](#)

While animals still suffer on modern farms, the industrialization of livestock production has massively improved human diets.

As [meat prices have plummeted](#) and the global population has grown wealthier, increasing numbers of people have gained access to tasty and nutritious animal products.

[Read more about this trend](#)