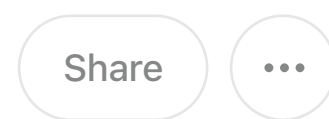
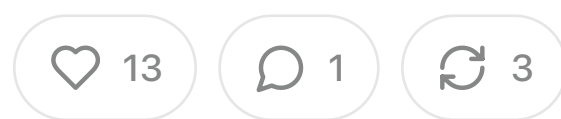


# Our Editor's End of the Year Missive

Key metrics show that 2024 has been the best year ever, for the world and for our website.

HUMAN PROGRESS

DEC 31, 2024



The COVID-19 pandemic and the global response to it reversed some of the most important indicators of human wellbeing, but the upward march of human progress largely resumed in 2023. Consequently, it was of great interest to see if these positive trends continued in 2024. On the plus side, the world's population is now richer and longer living than ever before. However, trends in violence and autocratic governance have continued to rise from their post-New Millennium lows.

According to the [United Nations](#), the average global life expectancy in 2019 was 72.6 years. It dropped to 70.9 years during the pandemic before climbing to an all-time high of 73.3 years in 2024. The average real, which is to say inflation-adjusted, global [gross domestic product](#) (GDP) per capita in 2019 came to \$10,946. That fell to \$10,454 in 2020. In 2023, it stood at an all-time high of \$11,579. The global absolute poverty rate, measured as the share of the world's population living on less than \$2.15 in purchasing power parity-adjusted 2017 dollars, stood at 8.8 percent in 2019 and climbed to 9.7 percent in 2020. The latest estimates from the [World Bank](#) put that rate at 8.5 percent in 2024 – an all-time low.

Thanks for reading Doomslayer! [Subscribe for free](#) to receive new posts in your inbox.

✓ [Subscribed](#)

Last year was also the biggest election year in history. Approximately half of the world's population went to the polls in 74 countries and voted out [32 percent of incumbents](#). On the downside, "71 percent of the world's population now [live in autocracies](#) – an increase from 48 percent ten years ago." Most tragically, there was a 25 percent increase in [political violence](#) over the last 12 months, with conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, and Burma responsible for many of the 233,000 recorded deaths. The bottom line: life continues to improve for many, but (regrettably) not all.

Your favorite team at HumanProgress.org had a busy and productive year. Marian L. Tupy delivered several talks and partook in numerous discussions. Those included: the [Festival de las Ideas](#) in Puebla, Mexico; [el Fundación Rafael del Pino](#) in Madrid, Spain; the Cato Institute's [conference](#) in Buenos Aires, Argentina; the [Freedom Games](#) in Lodz, Poland; and the first-ever Human Progress gathering in [Berkeley](#), California. He has published an essay [defending globalization](#) and co-published, with Dr. Gale L. Pooley, the 2024 edition of the [Simon Abundance Index](#). His video with John Stossel, which was shared by [Elon Musk](#), was seen by 60 million people. He intends to start working on a new book in 2025.

Chelsea Follett was hard at work on her second book – you can browse excerpts from some of the books comprising her background research at the [Grim Old Days project page](#) – and recording [podcasts](#). She also continued to promote her book *Centers of Progress* on podcasts and through in-person events, including [multiple presentations](#) in Poland. In 2024, she and her husband also welcomed their third child. In 2025, Chelsea plans to complete a draft of *Grim Old Days: An Introduction to the Pre-Industrial Past* and publish a new edition of the Inequality of Human Progress Index, which she co-authors with George Mason University's Vincent Geloso.

Malcolm Cochran continued to manage our online presence. This year, under his oversight, our follower base grew by 15 thousand, and our content was seen over 25 million times. He also transitioned [our newsletter](#) to Substack, where you can now subscribe to and read our work. Part of Malcolm's duties include collecting news items that document human progress, 1,066 of which you can browse in his [annual news roundup](#).

Saul Zimet has deployed new AI tools across our website. AI-generated videos now make blog posts more dynamic, and an [AI avatar of Chelsea Follett](#), which clones both her voice and appearance, can be seen discussing her [Grim Old Days](#) project and other writings in videos on our social media accounts. Saul has also implemented new features to improve search engine optimization and accessibility across HumanProgress.org, including blog-post summaries at the top of each post and alt text for images.

Finally, we are expanding. In 2025, HumanProgress.org will add three new positions. First, a Research Assistant to help us consolidate, expand, and update our [database](#). Second, an economist to help us analyze and address common criticisms of human progress, including environmental degradation, inequality, materialism and consumerism, the ambiguous or harmful nature of technological advances, the loss of meaningful work and skills, atomization, and alienation. Third, a psychologist to help us investigate the potentially negative psychological impacts of progress, including the rise in anxiety and crisis of meaning in wealthy countries, as well as those aspects of human psychology that hinder widespread acknowledgment of real, measurable progress.

May you have a healthy, happy, prosperous, and peaceful 2025.

*Author: Marian Tupy, the editor of HumanProgress.org, a senior fellow in the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity, and an author of the book [Superabundance: The Story of Population Growth, Innovation, and Human Flourishing on an Infinitely Bountiful Planet](#).*