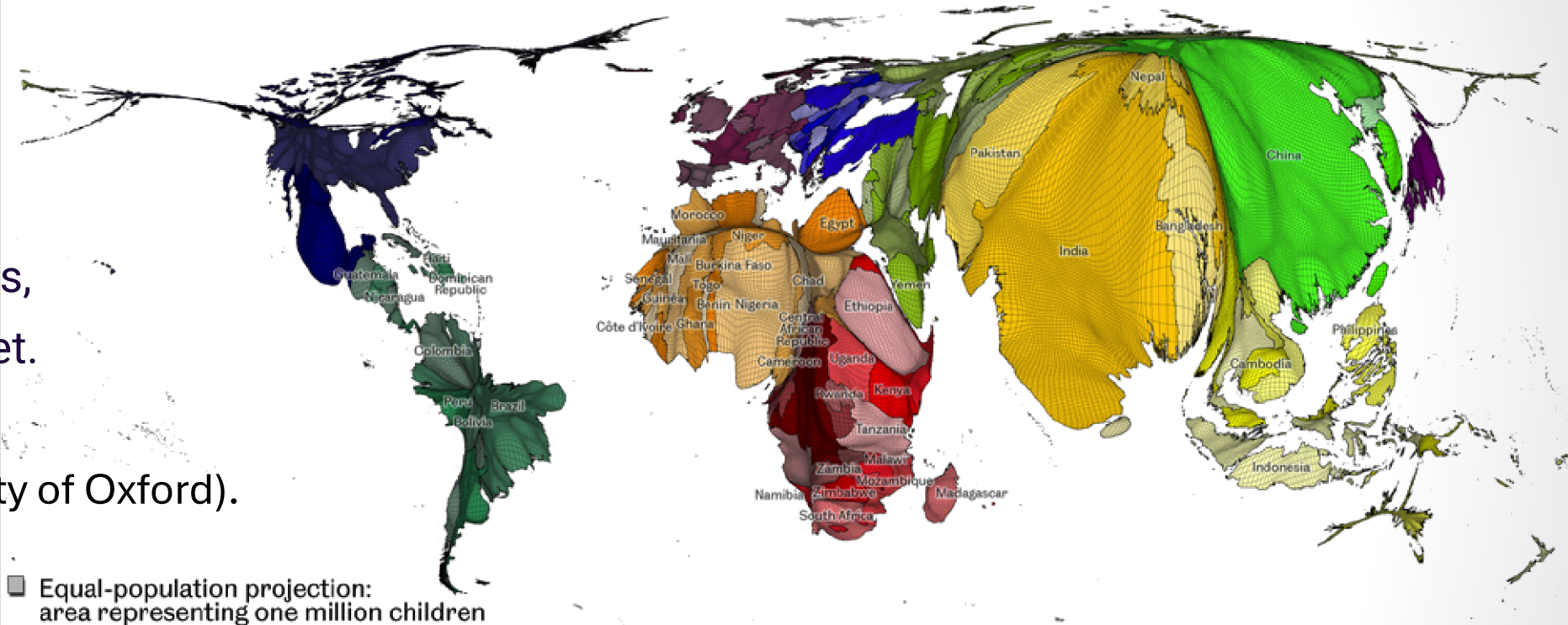


# Bristol GA Lecture, March 6<sup>th</sup> 2025

## Quantitative Human Geographies

- seven children,
- four shattered nations,
- a slowing down planet.

Danny Dorling (University of Oxford).



### A different view of the world - its children in 2010

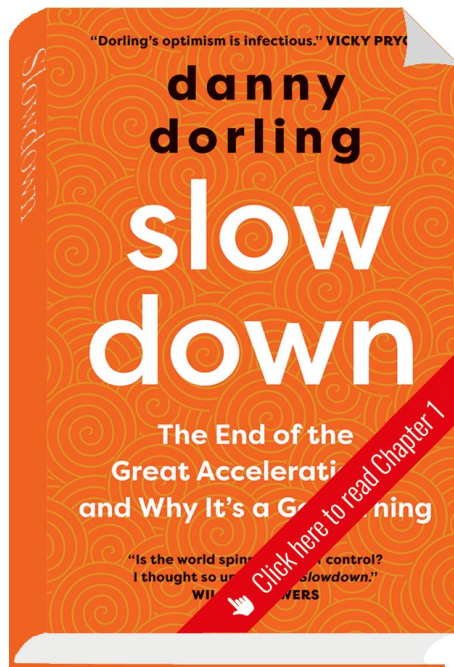
The cartogram gives every child living in the world the same amount of space on the map. In the cartogram, each equally-sized grid cell from the real world is resized according to the number of children living in that space. Named countries are those included in the surveys reported in this chapter - Data source: SEDAC Columbia University (2010)

Some different ways of looking at global trends

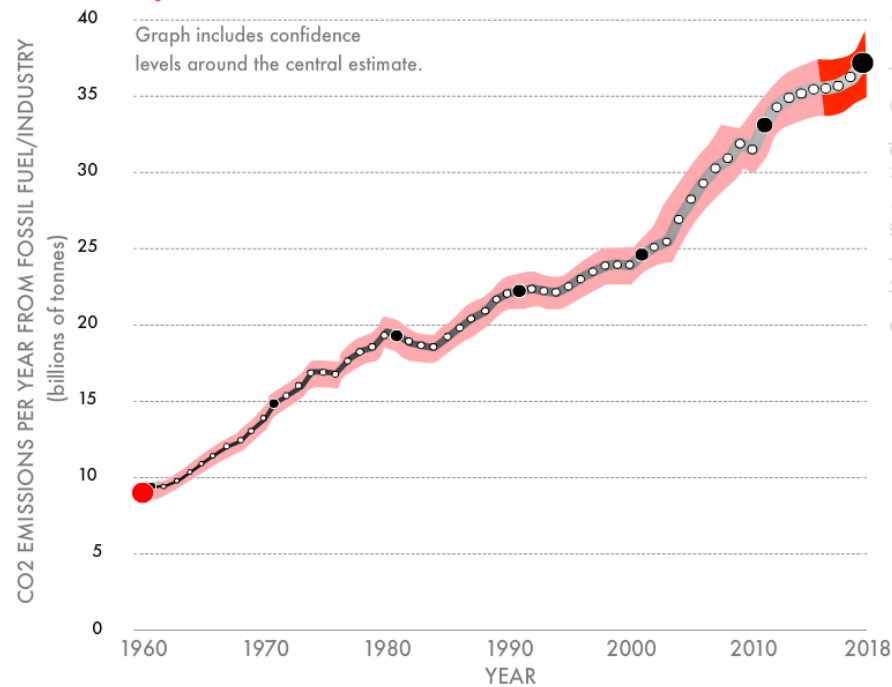
# A shattered Nation

## A slowing down planet: inequality, climate crisis, and hope

### Danny Dorling

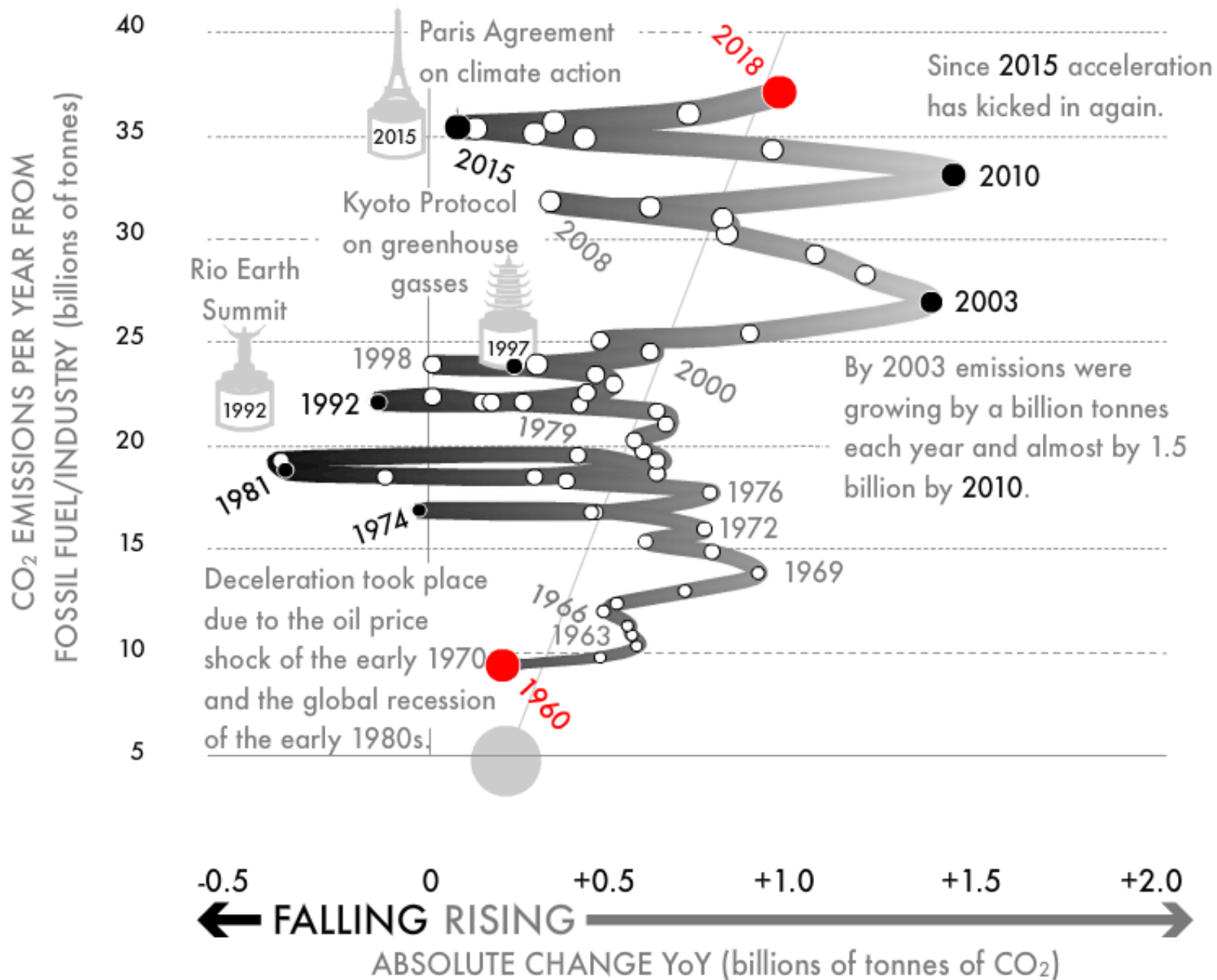


"Slowdown" Fig 15 Emissions 1960-2018



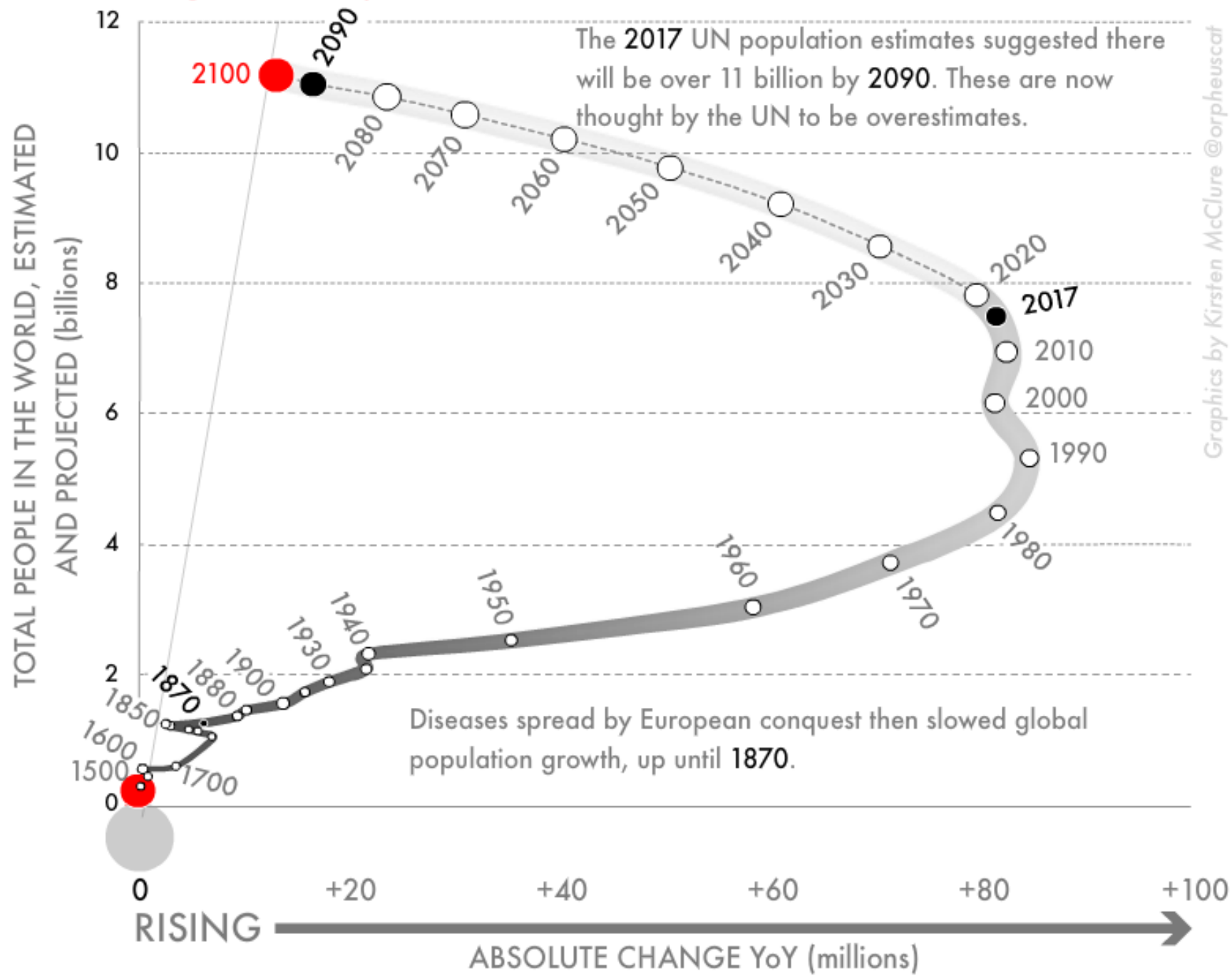
<https://www.dannydorling.org/books/SLOWDOWN/>

"Slowdown" Fig 16 Emissions 1960-2018



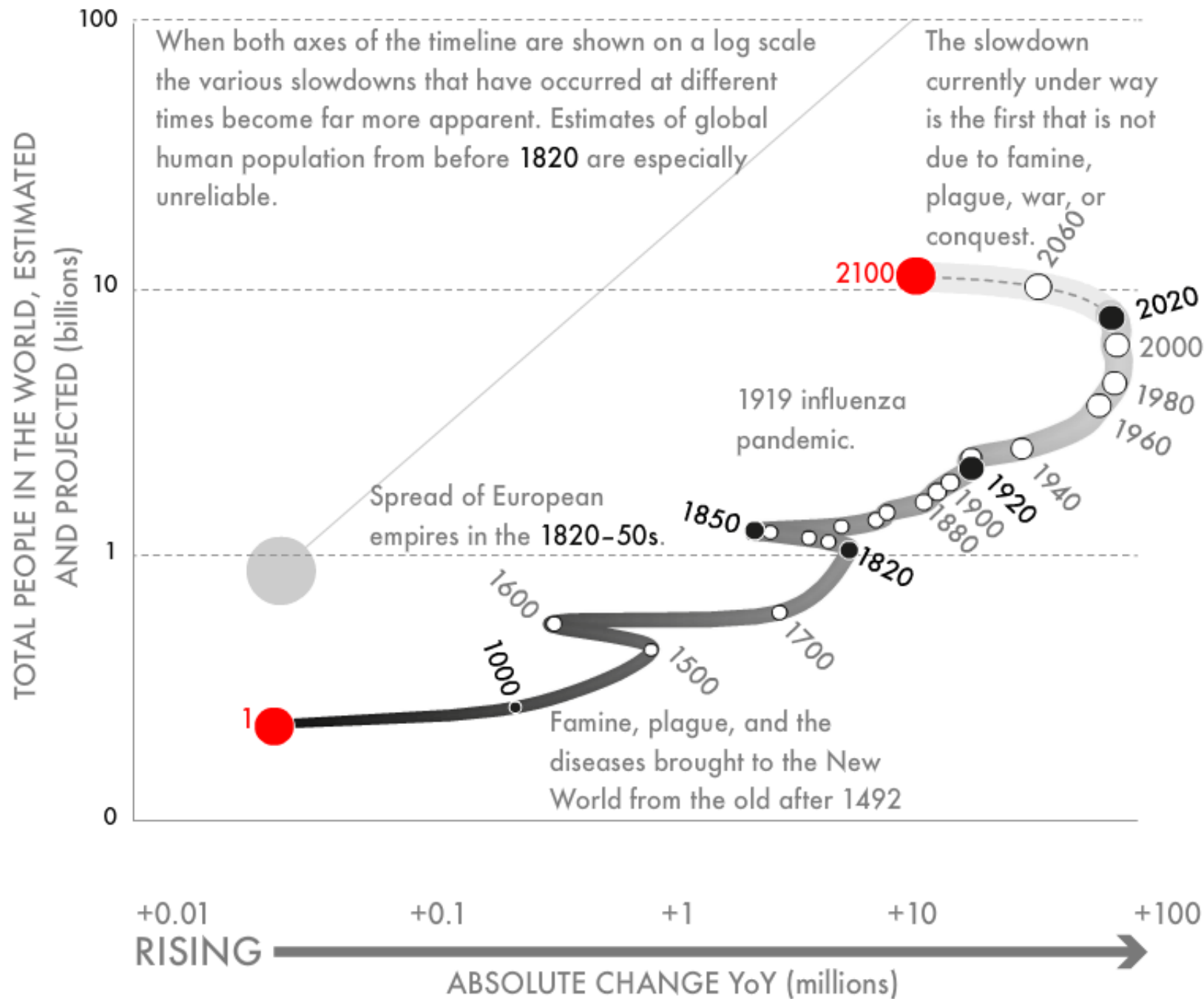
Graphics by Kirsten McClure @orpheuscat

"Slowdown" Fig 21 World Population 1-2100



Graphics by Kirsten McClure @orpheuscat

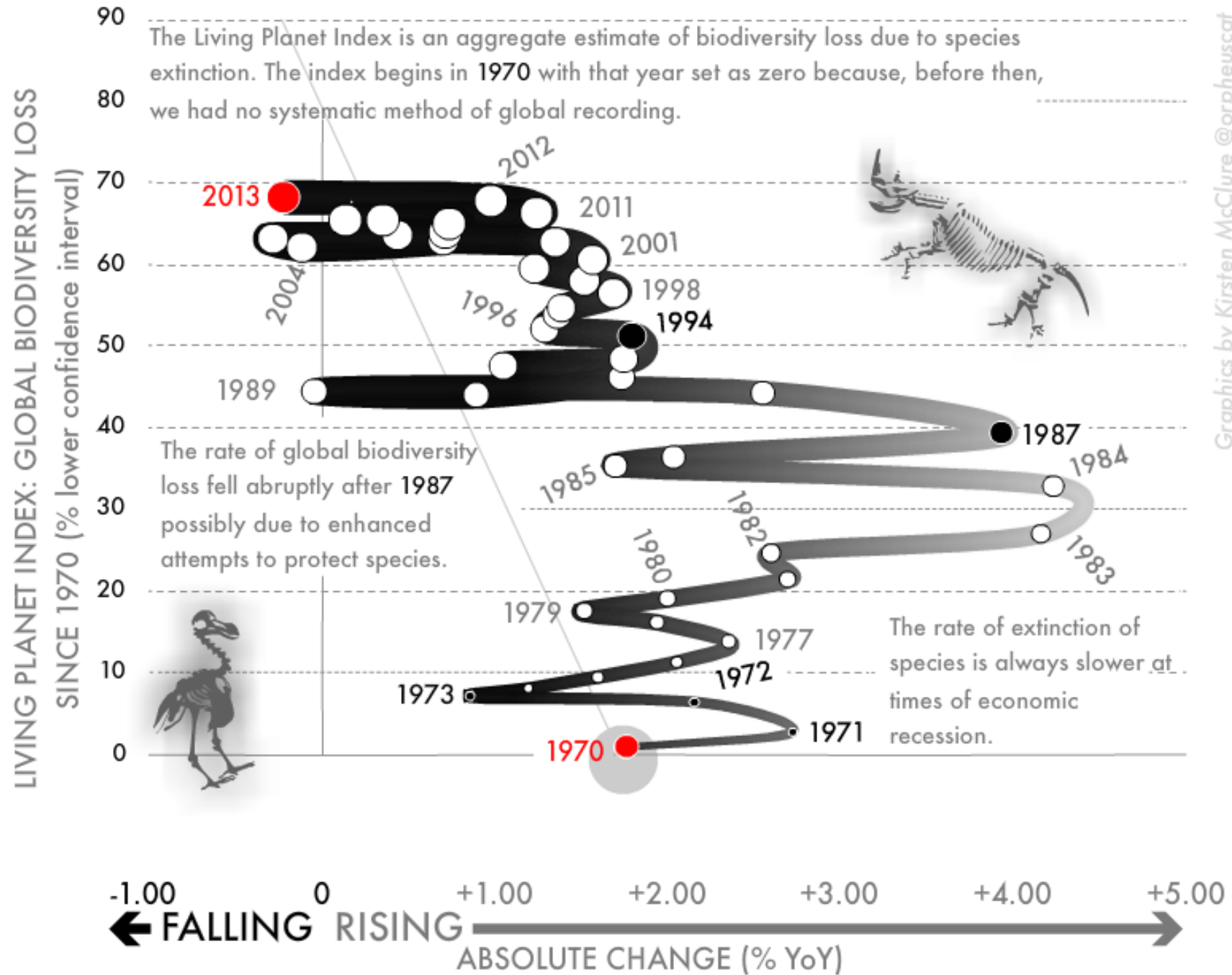
“Slowdown” Fig 22 World Population (log-log scale) Year 1-2100



Graphics by Kirsten McClure @orpheuscat



# "Slowdown" Fig 61 World Species 1970-2014



# SHATTERED NATION

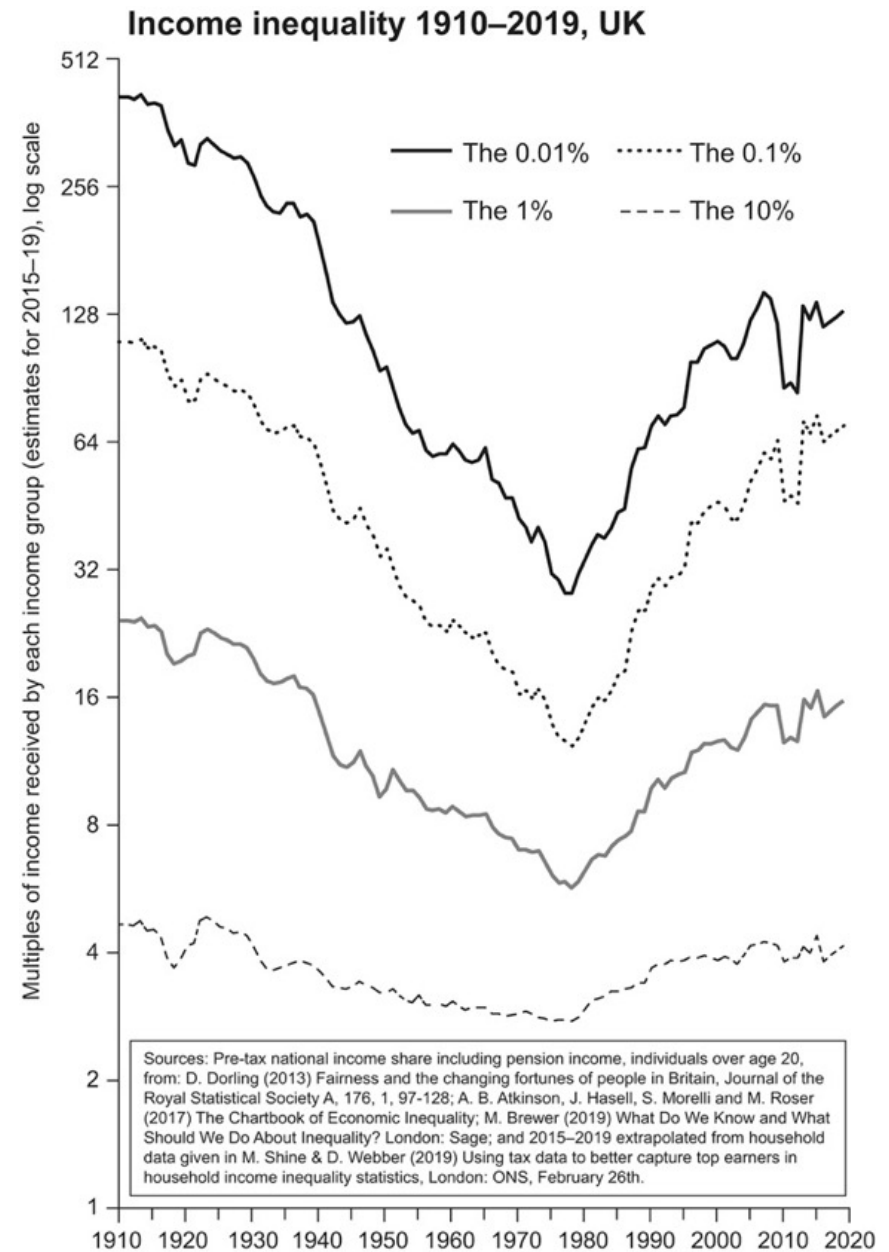
INEQUALITY AND THE  
GEOGRAPHY OF A FAILING STATE



# We may be at a peak of inequality again.

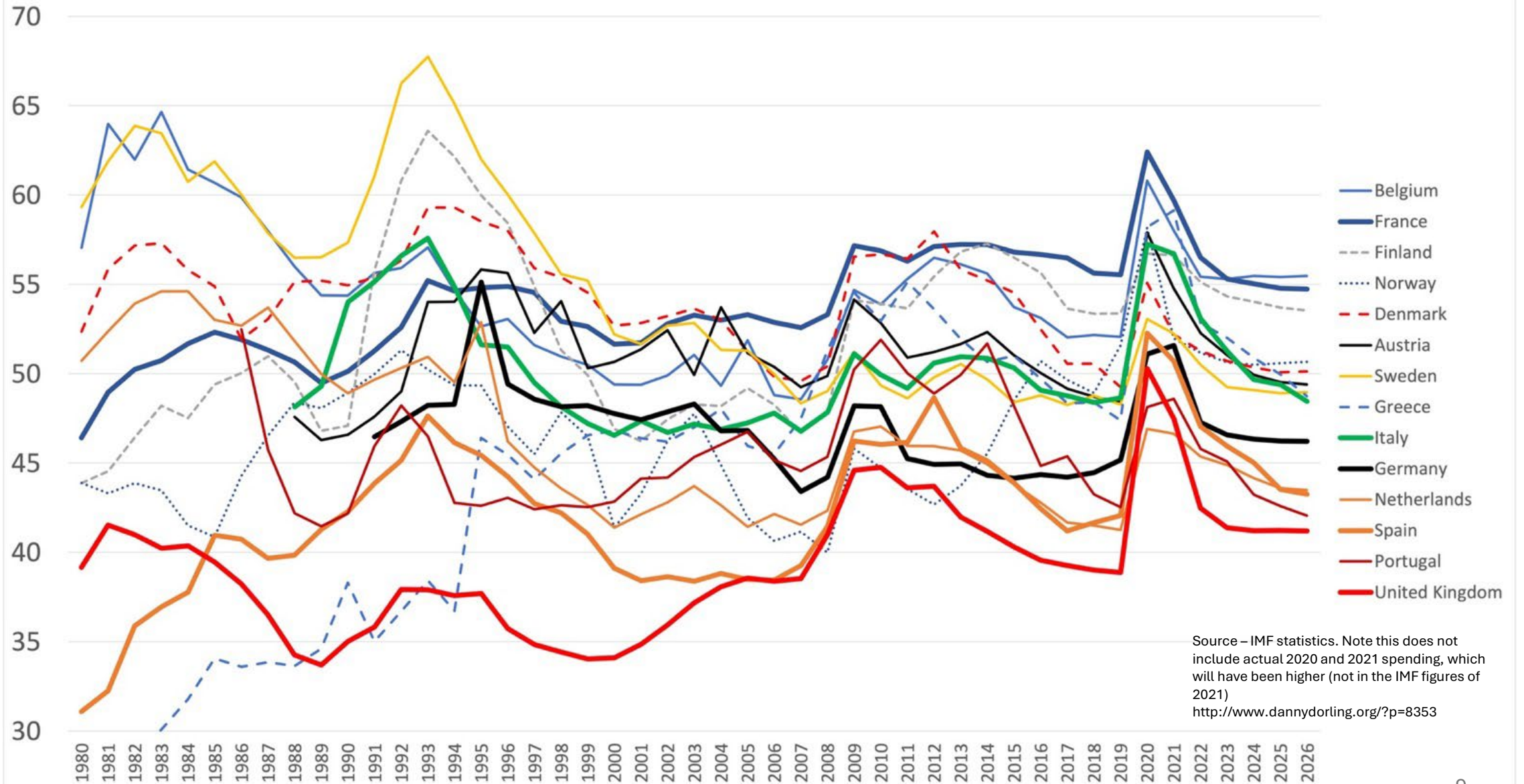
By the time the pandemic hit, the take of the 0.01% was back up to 130 times the average income, the share it had last been around the time the Beveridge Report was published in 1942.

Source: page ix of the preface to the third edition of Danny Dorling (2020) *Inequality and the 1%*, London: Verso, available here: [https://www.dannydorling.org/books/onepercent/Material\\_files/iatopc\\_preface.pdf](https://www.dannydorling.org/books/onepercent/Material_files/iatopc_preface.pdf)





## Public Spending in 14 affluent European countries as a share of GDP (%)



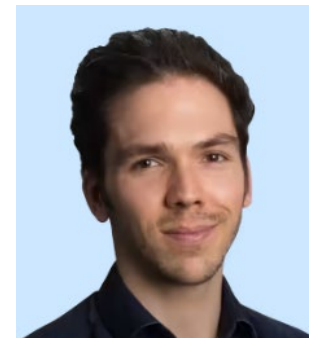
Source – IMF statistics. Note this does not include actual 2020 and 2021 spending, which will have been higher (not in the IMF figures of 2021)  
<http://www.dannydorling.org/?p=8353>

In 2022 the International Monetary Fund pointed out that Estonia and the UK were the two countries in Europe where living costs for the poorest 20% of households were set to rise by about twice as much as those for the wealthiest.



In 2023 Stephanie Flanders, head of Bloomberg Economics, explained that in the UK, “The poorest fifth of the population are now much poorer than [in] most of the poorest countries in central and eastern Europe.”

“On present trends, the average Slovenian household will be better off than its British counterpart by 2024.”  
(John Burn-Murdoch, 2022).

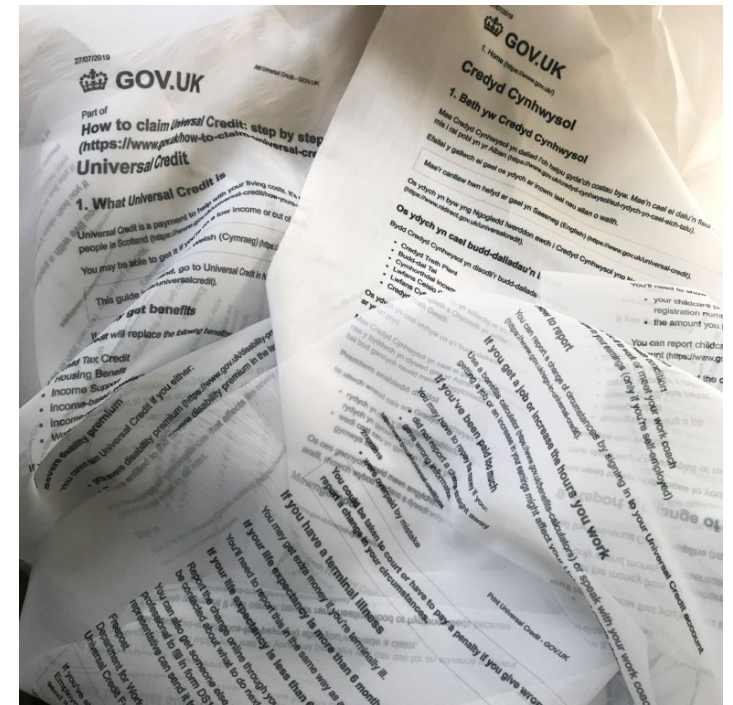


# Universal Credit claim instructions



‘I printed these instructions in Welsh and English on fabric and they became strips which were 17 feet long.’

Sarah Holyfield May 2023





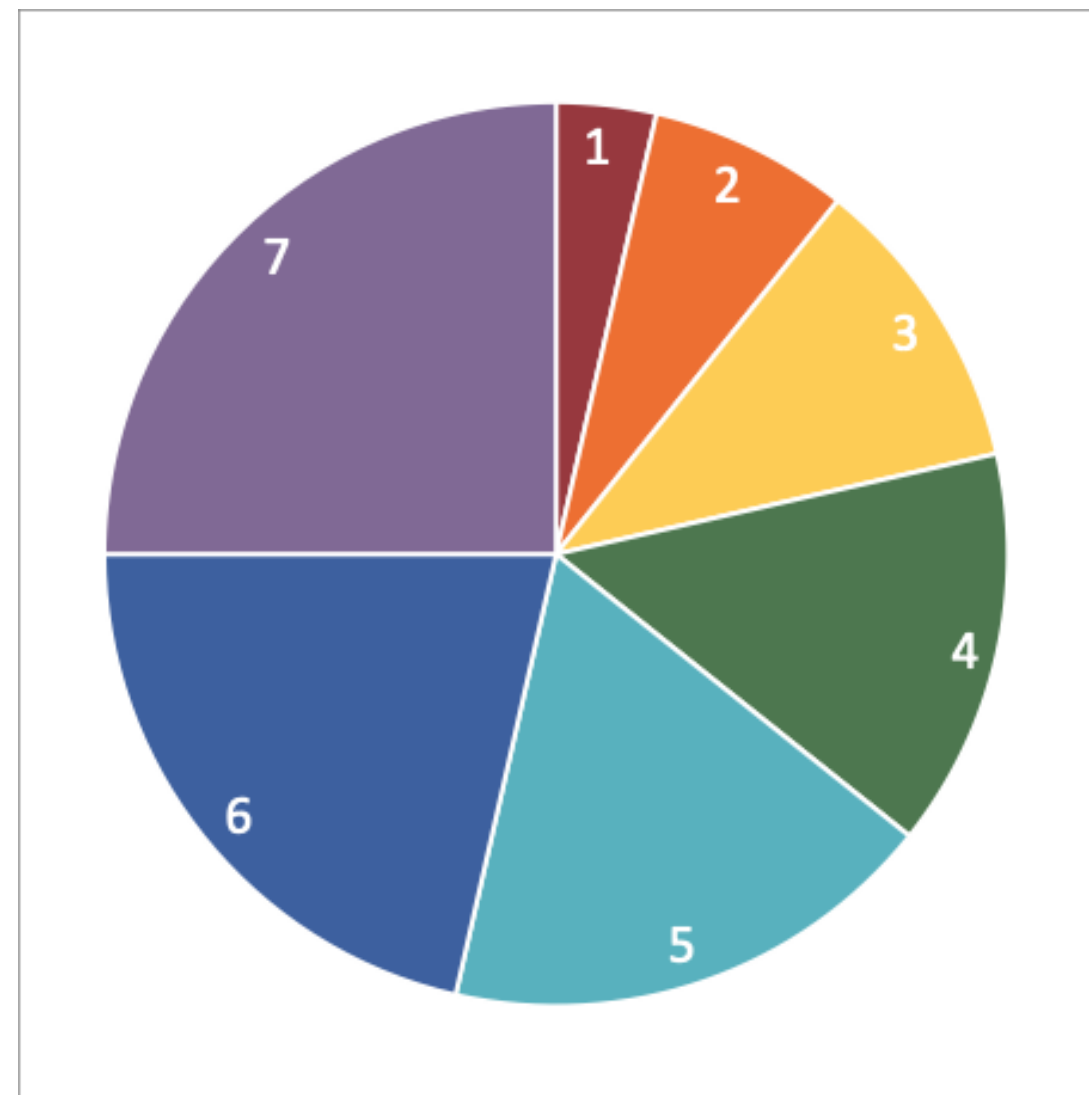
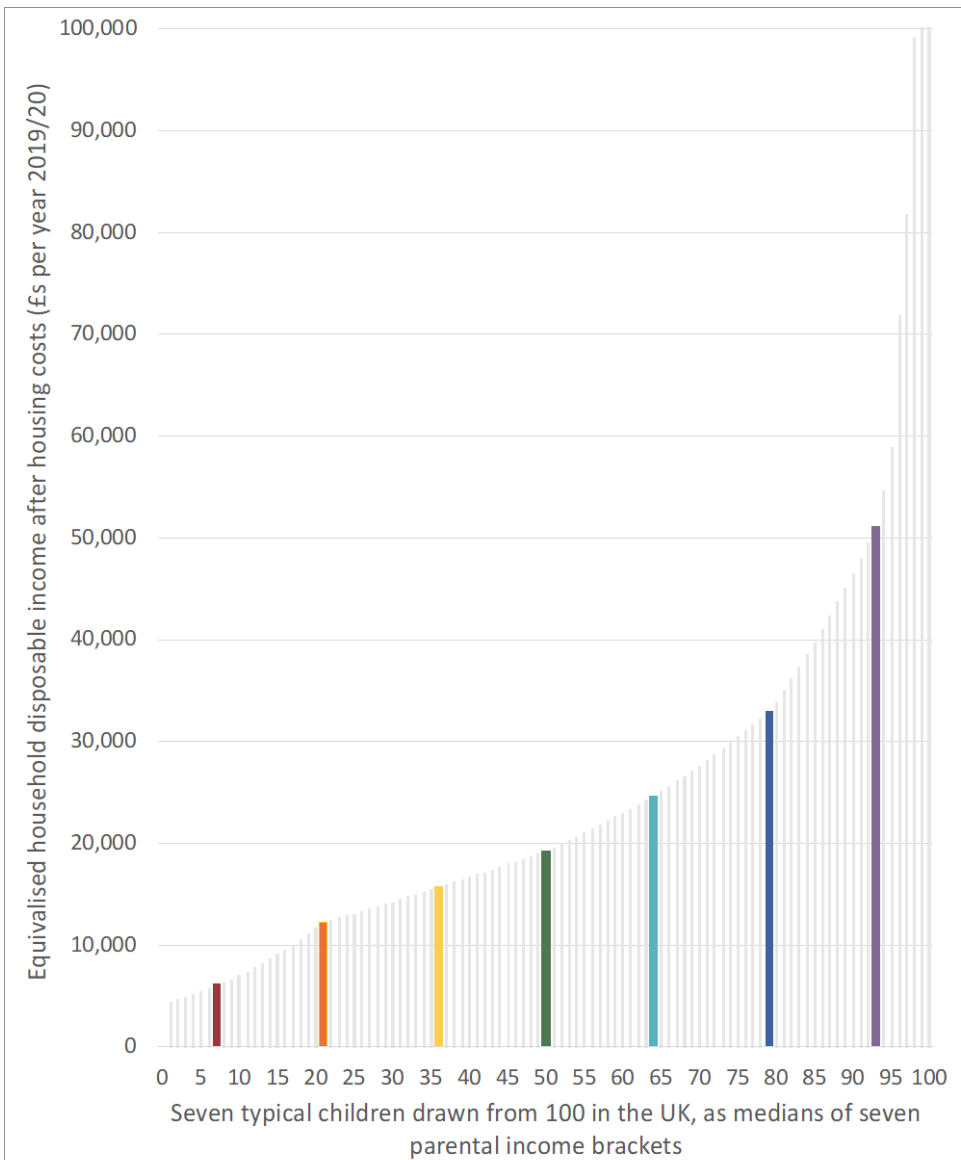
# Seven Children

Inequality and  
Britain's Next  
Generation

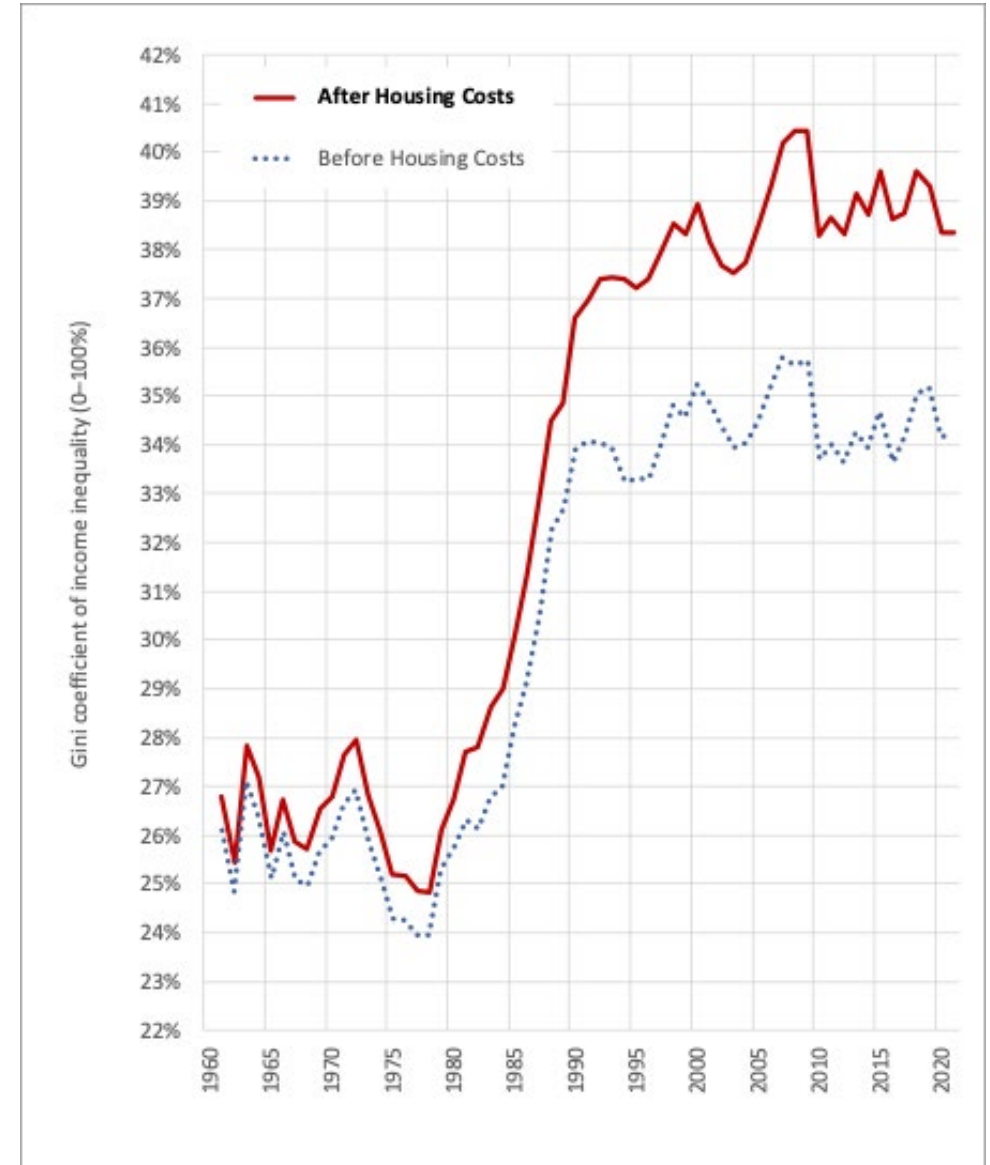
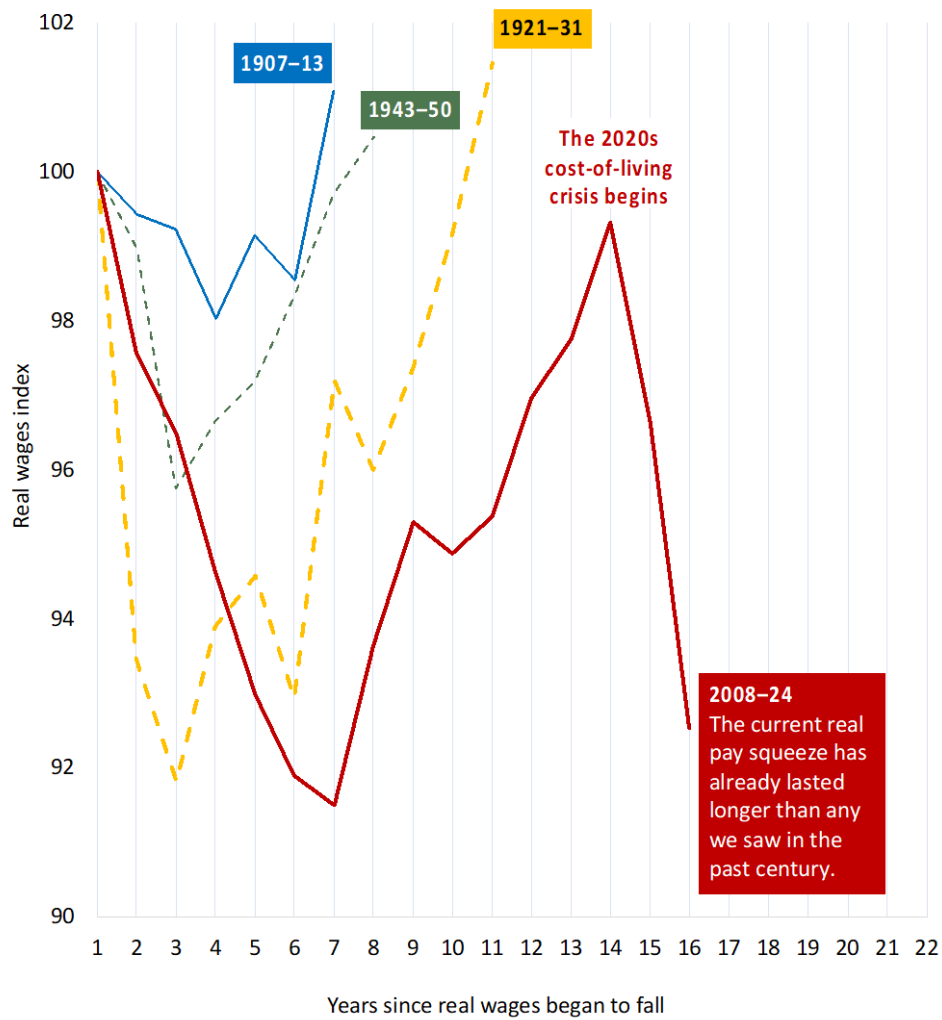


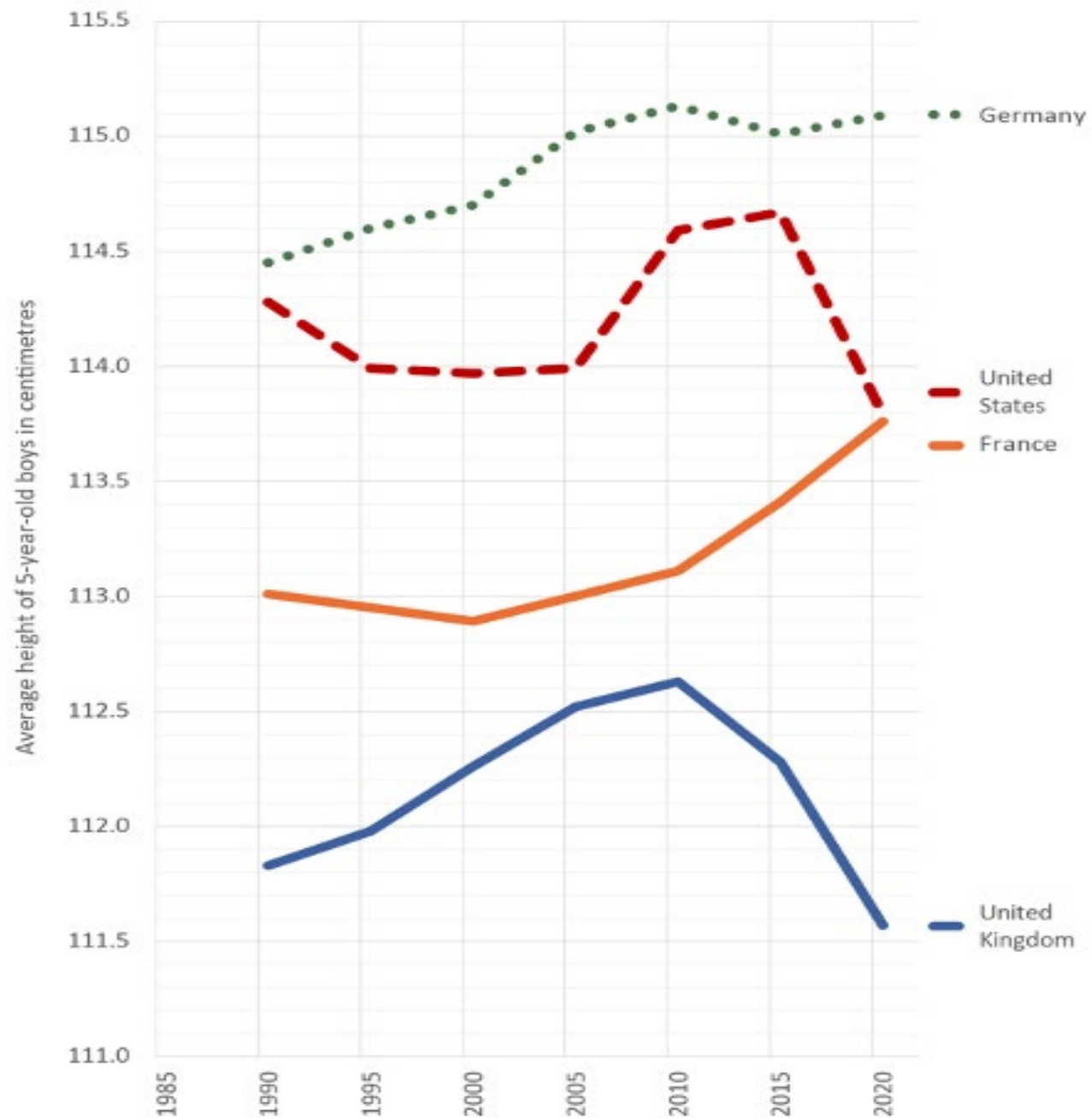
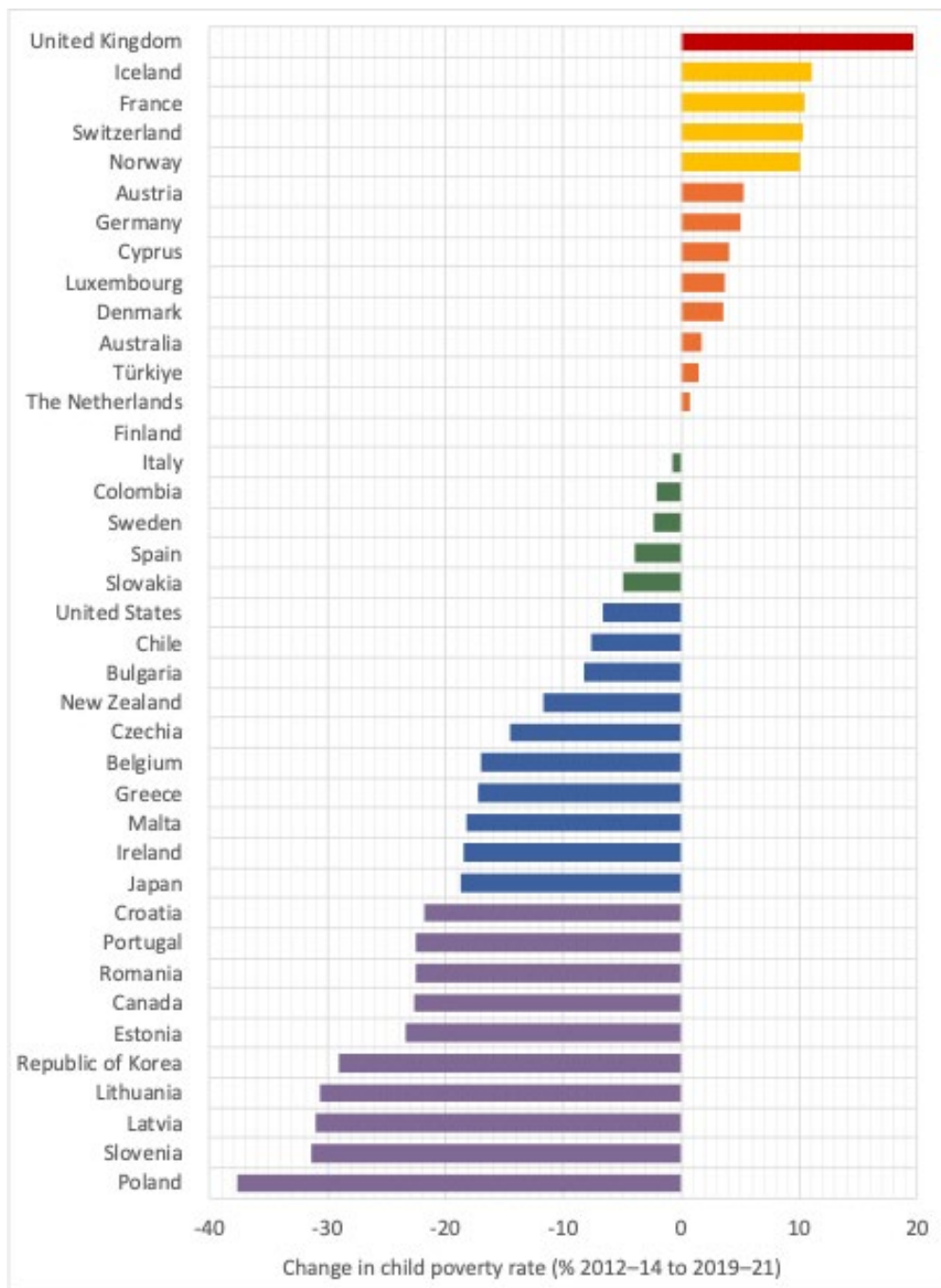
# Inequality and Britain's Next Generation

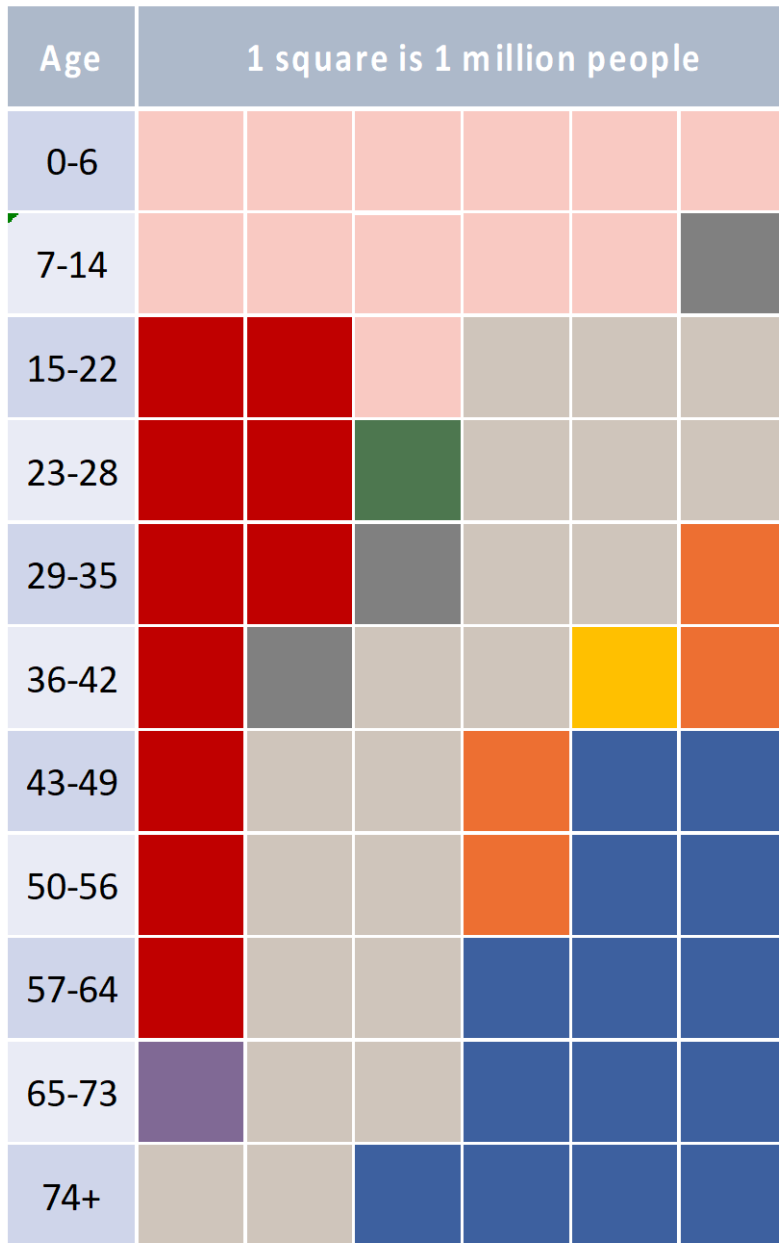












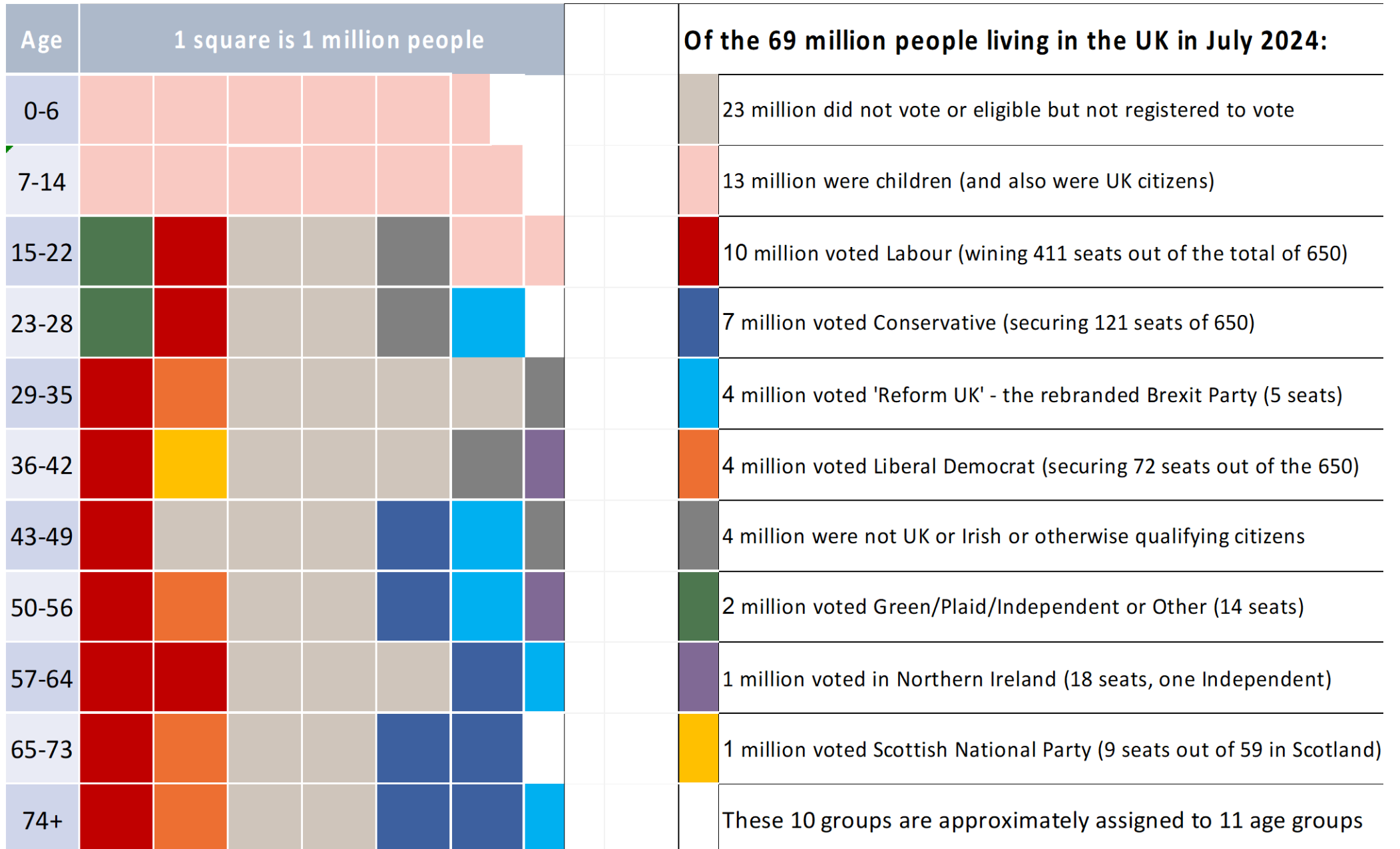
### Of the 66 million people living in the UK

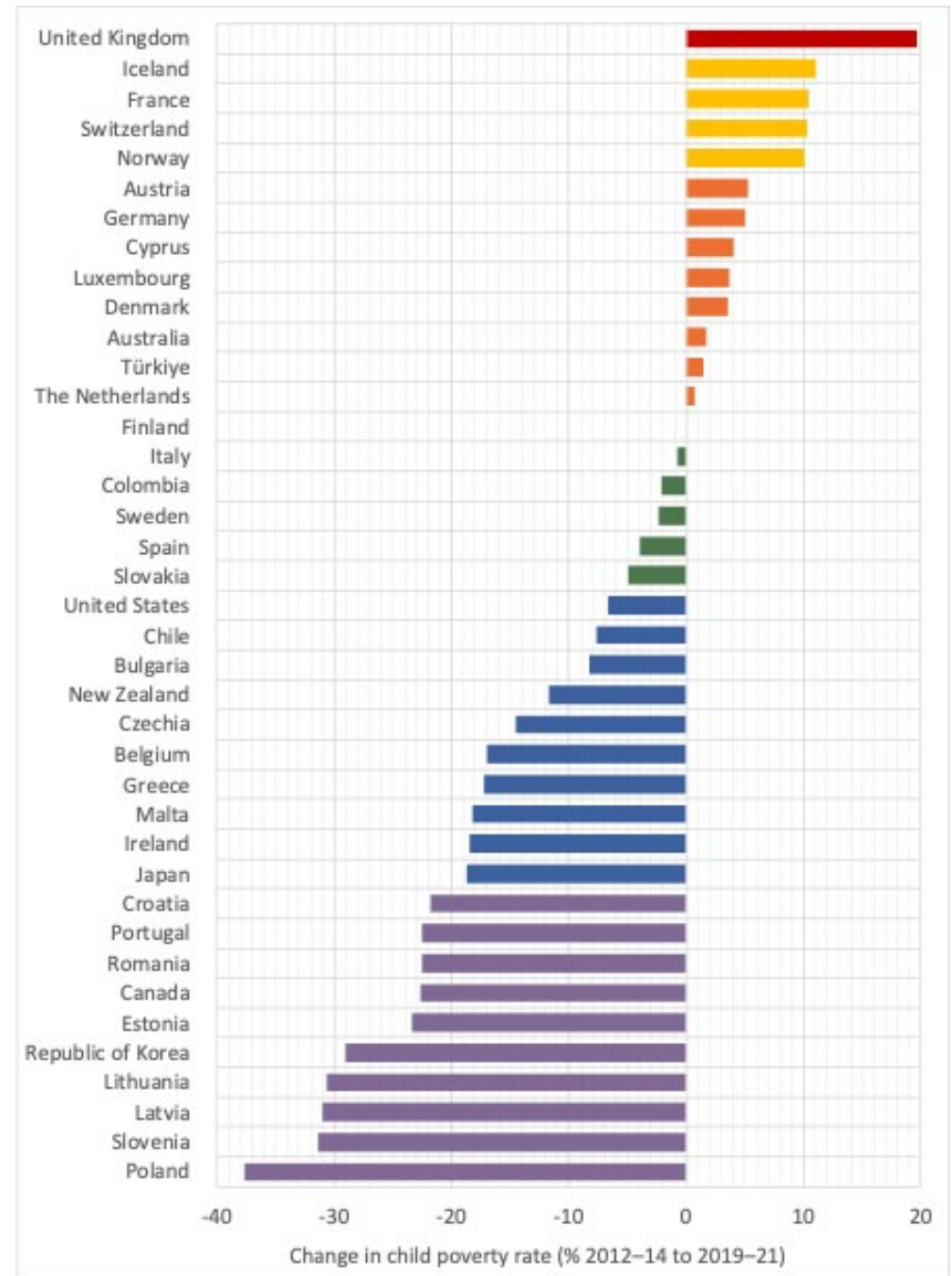
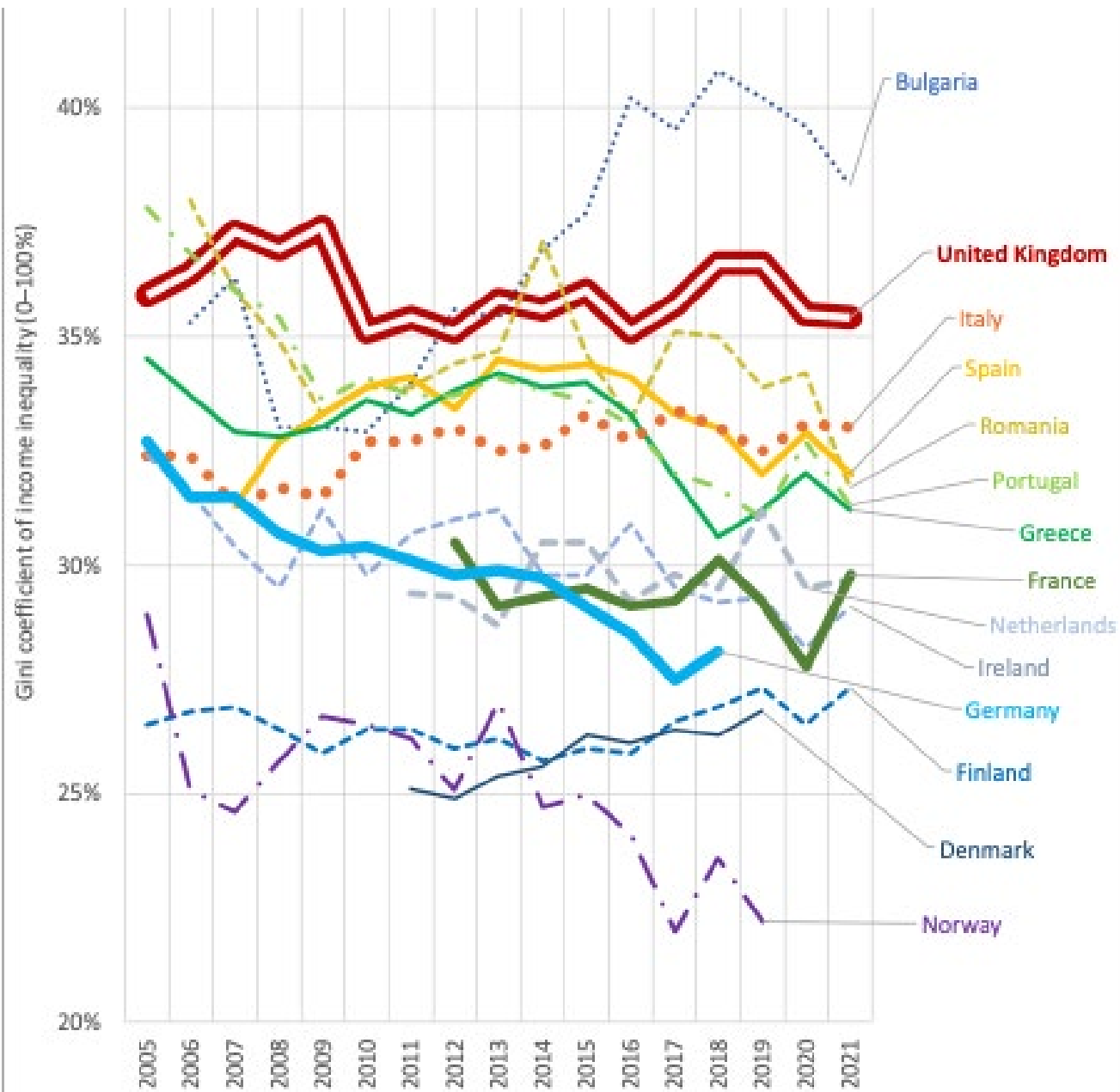
- 20 million did not vote or were eligible but not registered to vote
- 14 million voted Conservative (365 seats of 650)
- 12 million were children (and UK citizens)
- 10 million voted Labour (203 seats)
- 4 million voted Liberal (11 seats)
- 3 million were not UK citizens
- 1 million voted in Northern Ireland (18 seats)
- 1 million voted Scottish National Party (48 seats)
- 1 million voted Green/Plaid or other (5 seats)

These 9 groups approximately assigned to 11 equal sized age groups

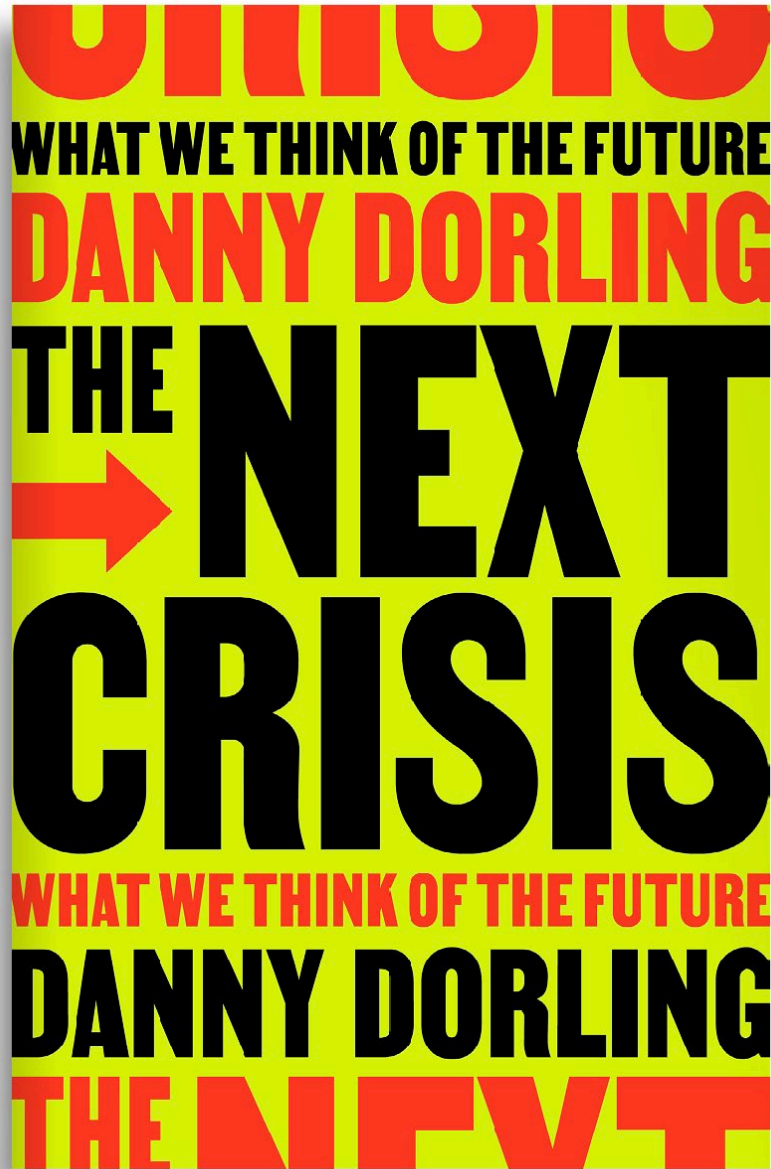
<https://www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/how-britain-voted-2019-election>  
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/young-cosmopolitans-and-ge2019/>







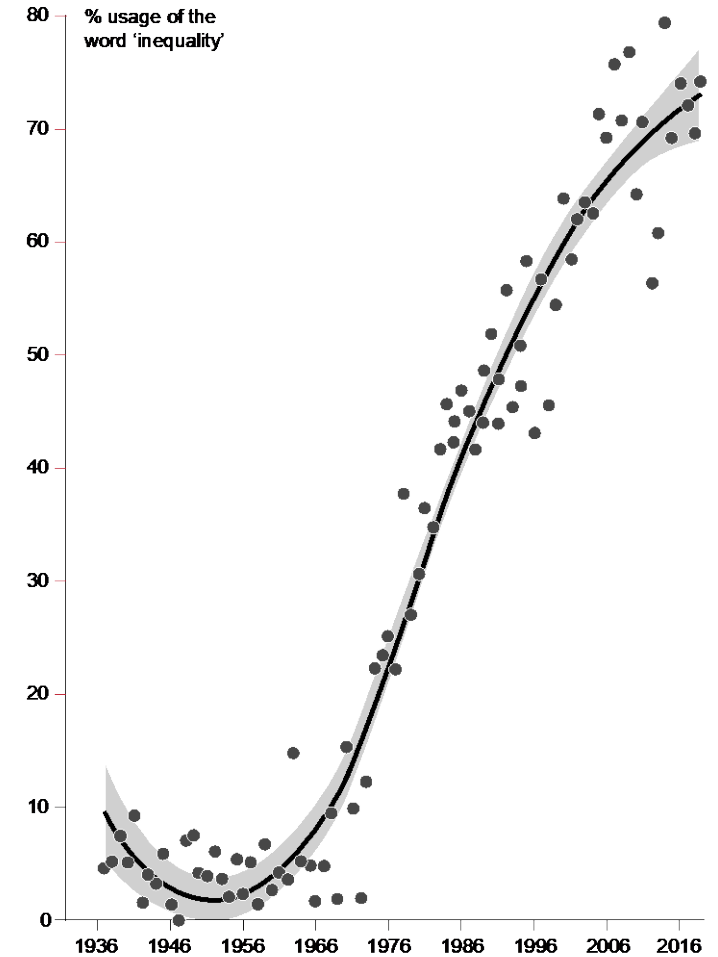




1. Introduction – Worries
2. Those Costs of Living
3. Sharing the Work
4. War and a Home
5. Cradle to Grave
6. Climate Crisis
7. Biodiversity
8. Conclusion

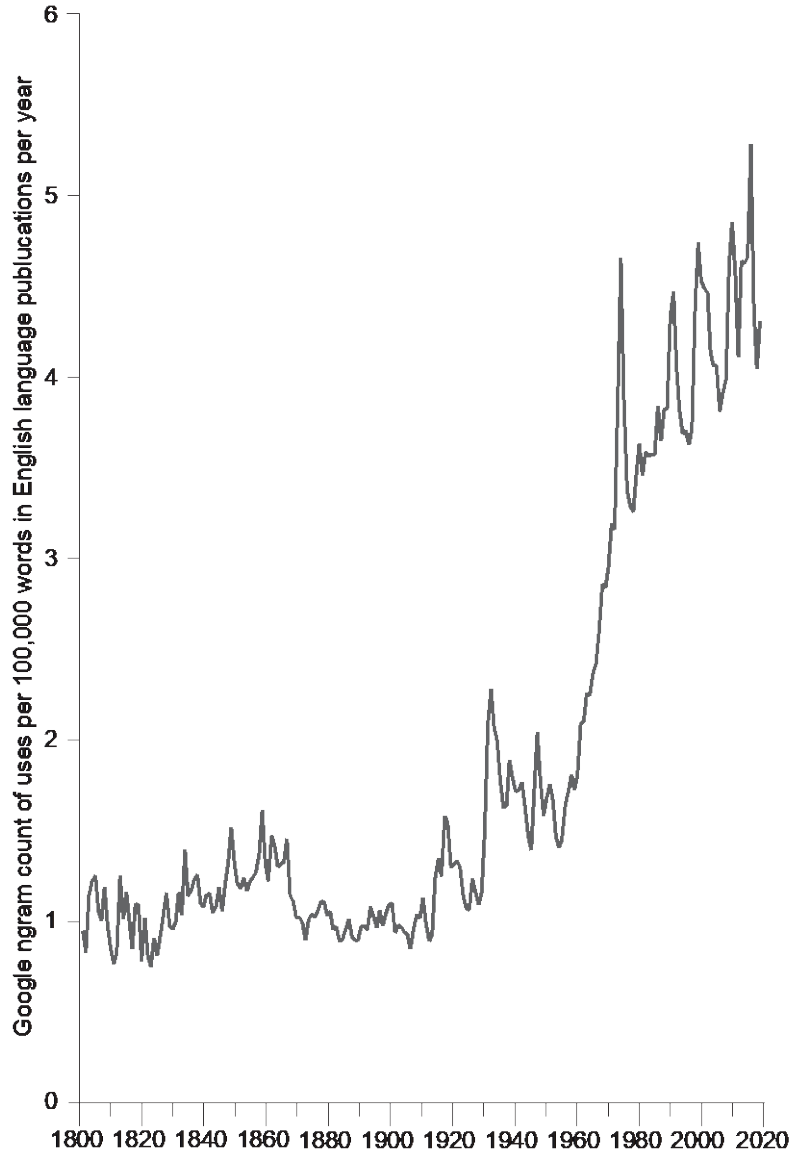
Figure 8.1: Frequency of mentions of inequality , American Sociological Review, 1936-2019

**Inequality in Sociology:** the % of articles using the word 'inequality' in the American Sociological Review , 1936-2019



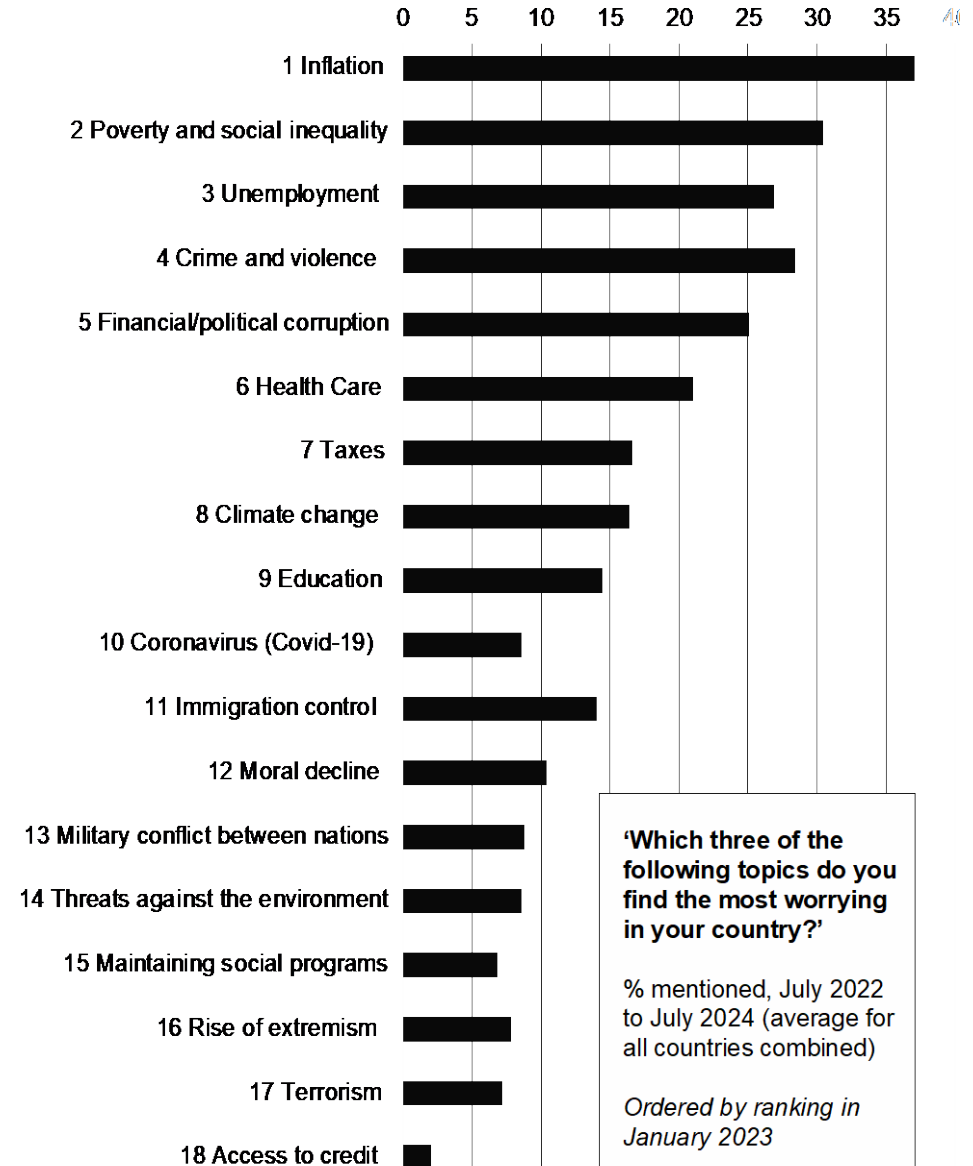
Source: Turgut Keskinürk, Figure 1: Inequality in American Sociological Review, Sociology's Inequality Problem, Blog, 10 October 2023, <https://tkeskinturk.github.io/blog/inequality/>

**Figure 1.1: Frequency of the use of the term 'crisis' in the English language 1800–2019**



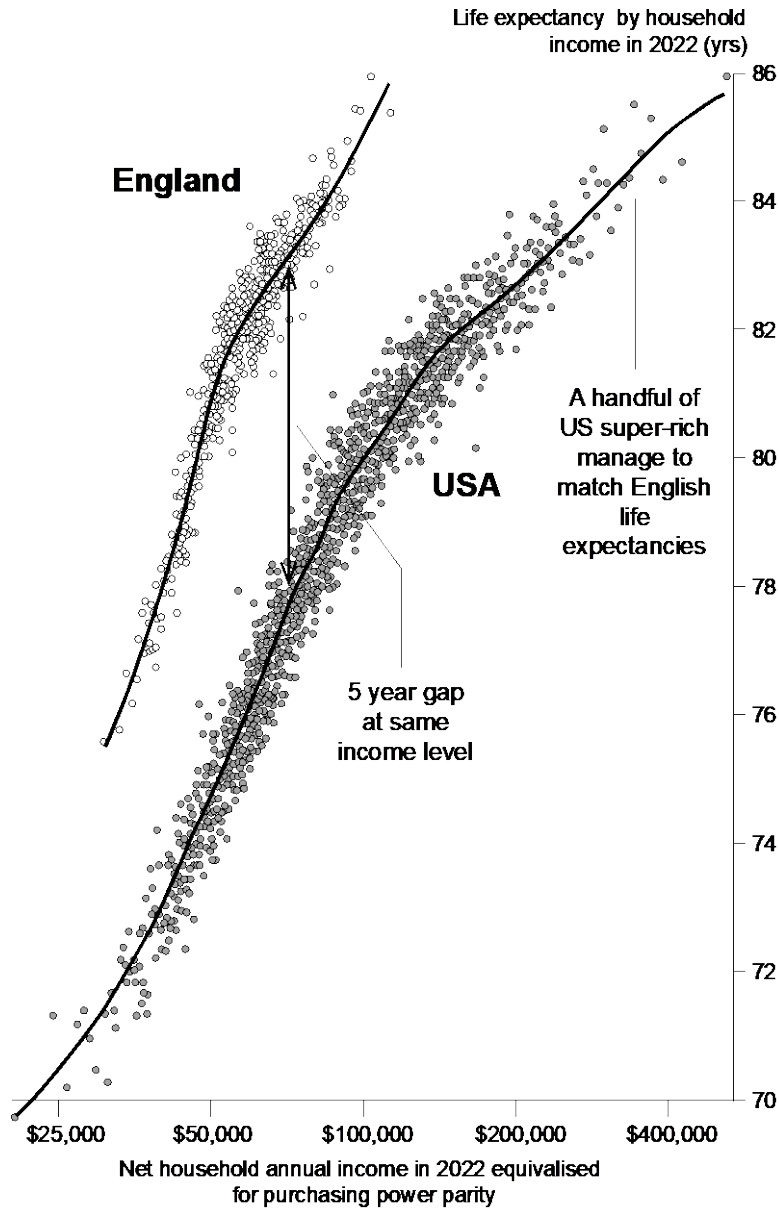
Source: Google Ngram – note that the last data point is 2019, so when Google update their viewer, mentions of the word 'crisis' will be seen to have risen again, because of the coronavirus pandemic which began then.

**Figure 1.2: What the world is most concerned about, 2022–2024**



Source: What Worries the World, Ipsos, surveys of January and July in this time period, averaged.

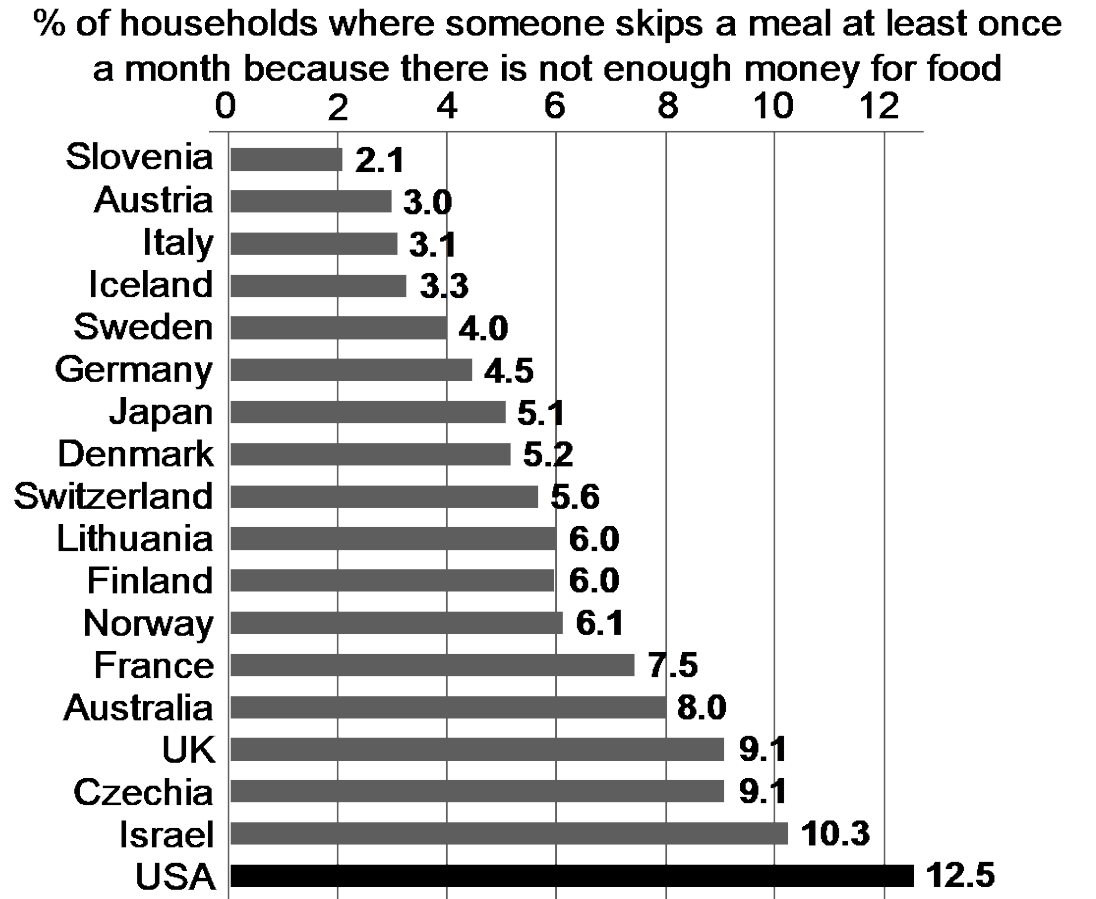
**Figure 5.3: How the USA and England compare in terms of life expectancy.**



Source: Redrawn by hand from data first shown in this way by John Burn-Murdoch, 'Why are Americans dying so young?' *Financial Times*, 31 March 2023.

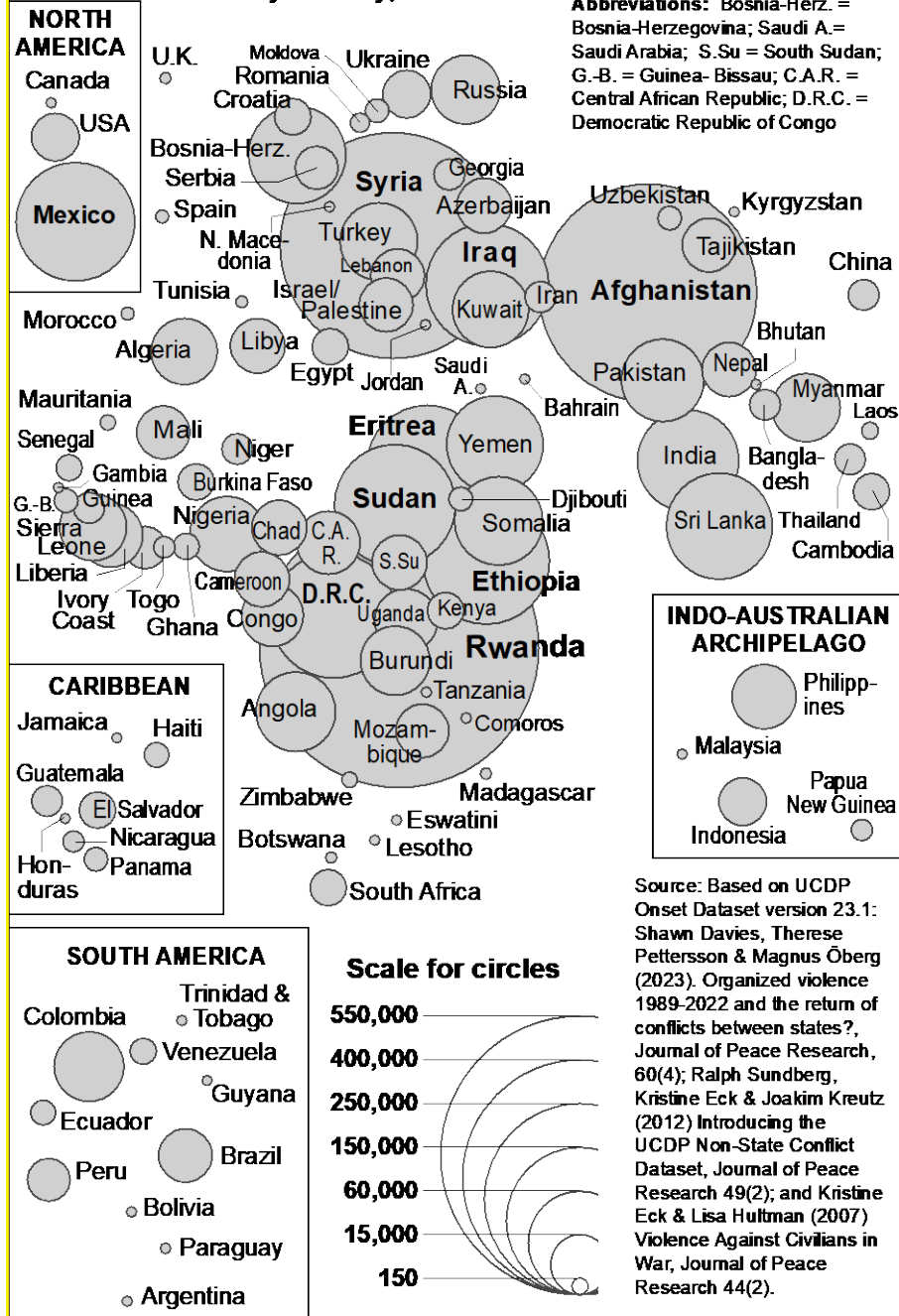
**Figure 7.3: Going hungry is caused by poverty and inequality – not by droughts**

**A country of extremes:** the wealthiest Americans are the richest people in the developed world, but America's poorest are also the most likely to go hungry (2023 or most recent)

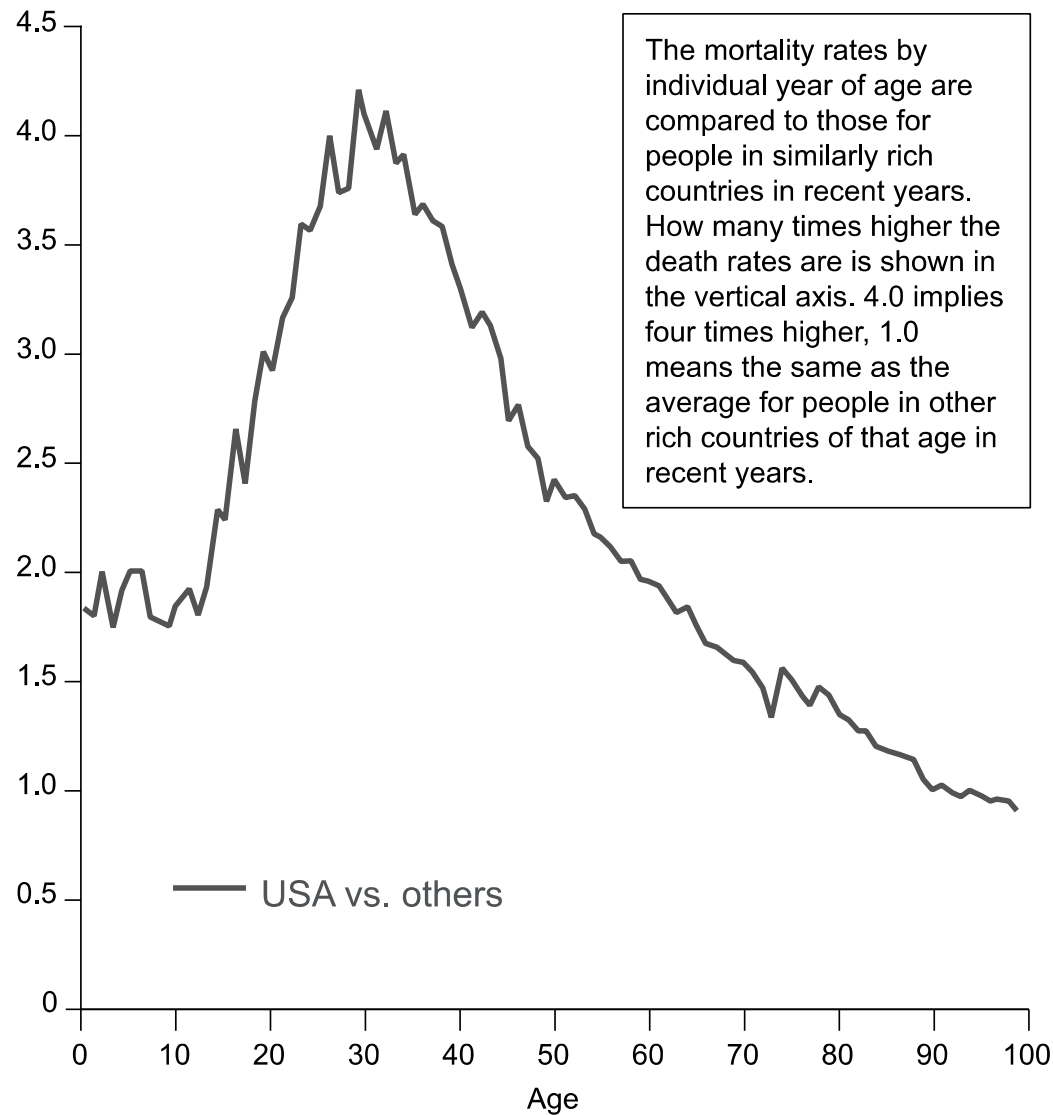


Source: John Burn Murdoch, 'It is inequality not overall prosperity, that causes hunger.' Twitter/X, Tweet of 6:14pm, 8 December 2023. Reporting on his *Financial Times* article based on the Luxembourg Income Study.

**Figure 4.1: Number of conflict-related deaths worldwide by country, 1989–2022**



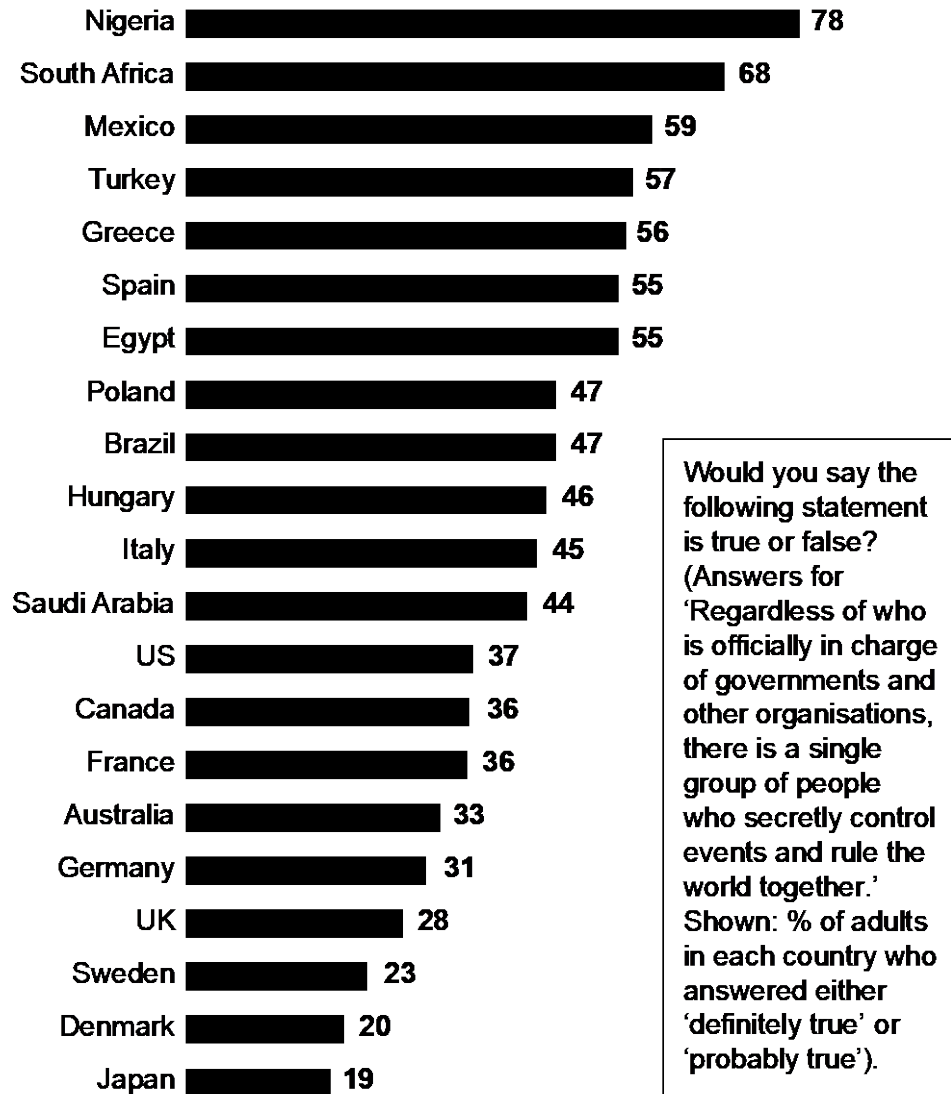
**Figure 5.1: How much more likely people are to die in the USA, by age, 2020s**



Source: Derek Thompson, America Fails the Civilization Test, *The Atlantic*, 21 April 2023.

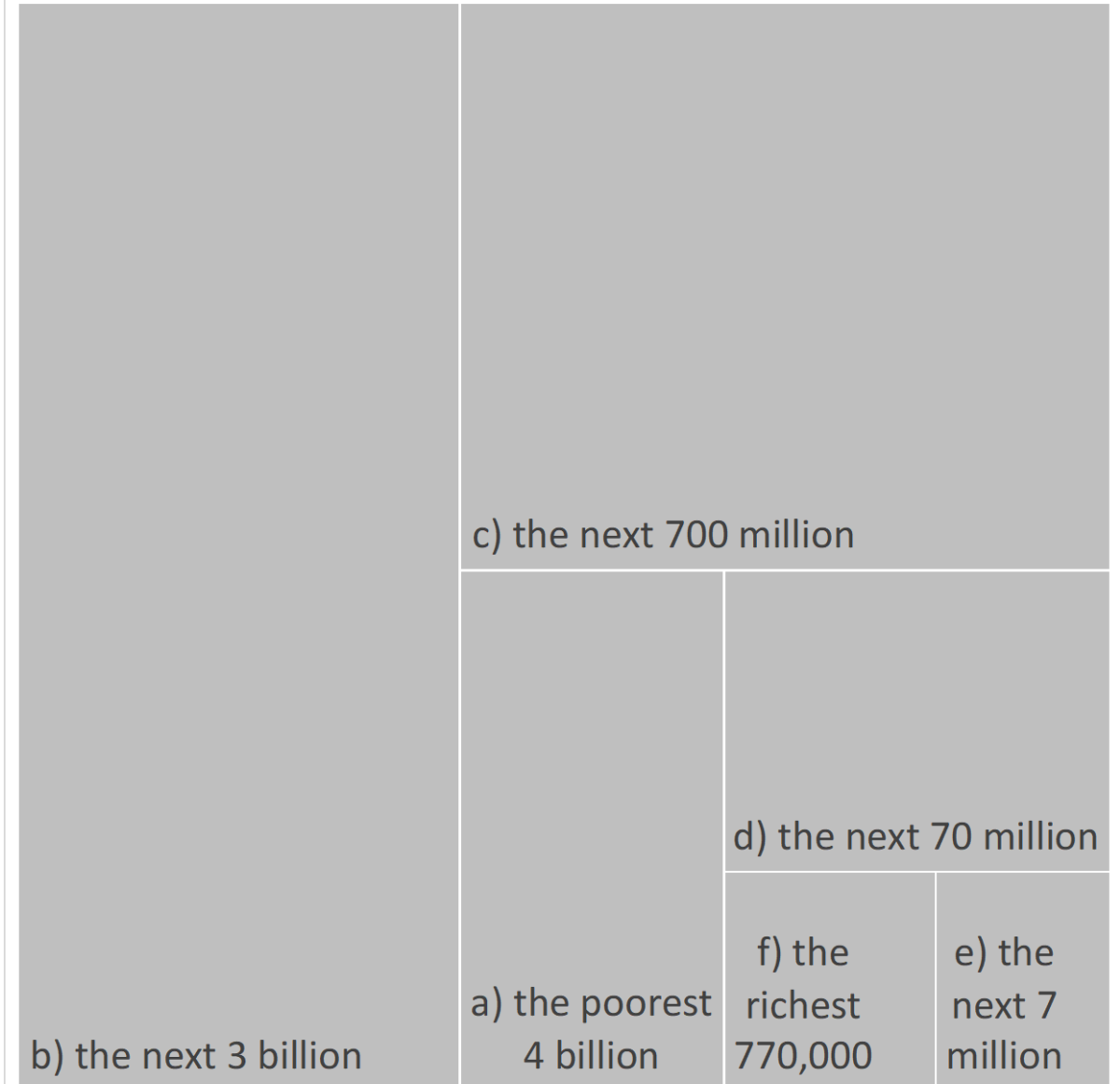
Source: Based on UCDP Onset Dataset version 23.1: Shawn Davies, Therese Pettersson & Magnus Öberg (2023). Organized violence 1989-2022 and the return of conflicts between states?, *Journal of Peace Research*, 60(4); Ralph Sundberg, Kristine Eck & Joakim Kreutz (2012) Introducing the UCDP Non-State Conflict Dataset, *Journal of Peace Research* 49(2); and Kristine Eck & Lisa Hultman (2007) Violence Against Civilians in War, *Journal of Peace Research* 44(2).

**Figure 5.4: Adults who believe a single secretive group rule the world, 2021 (%)**



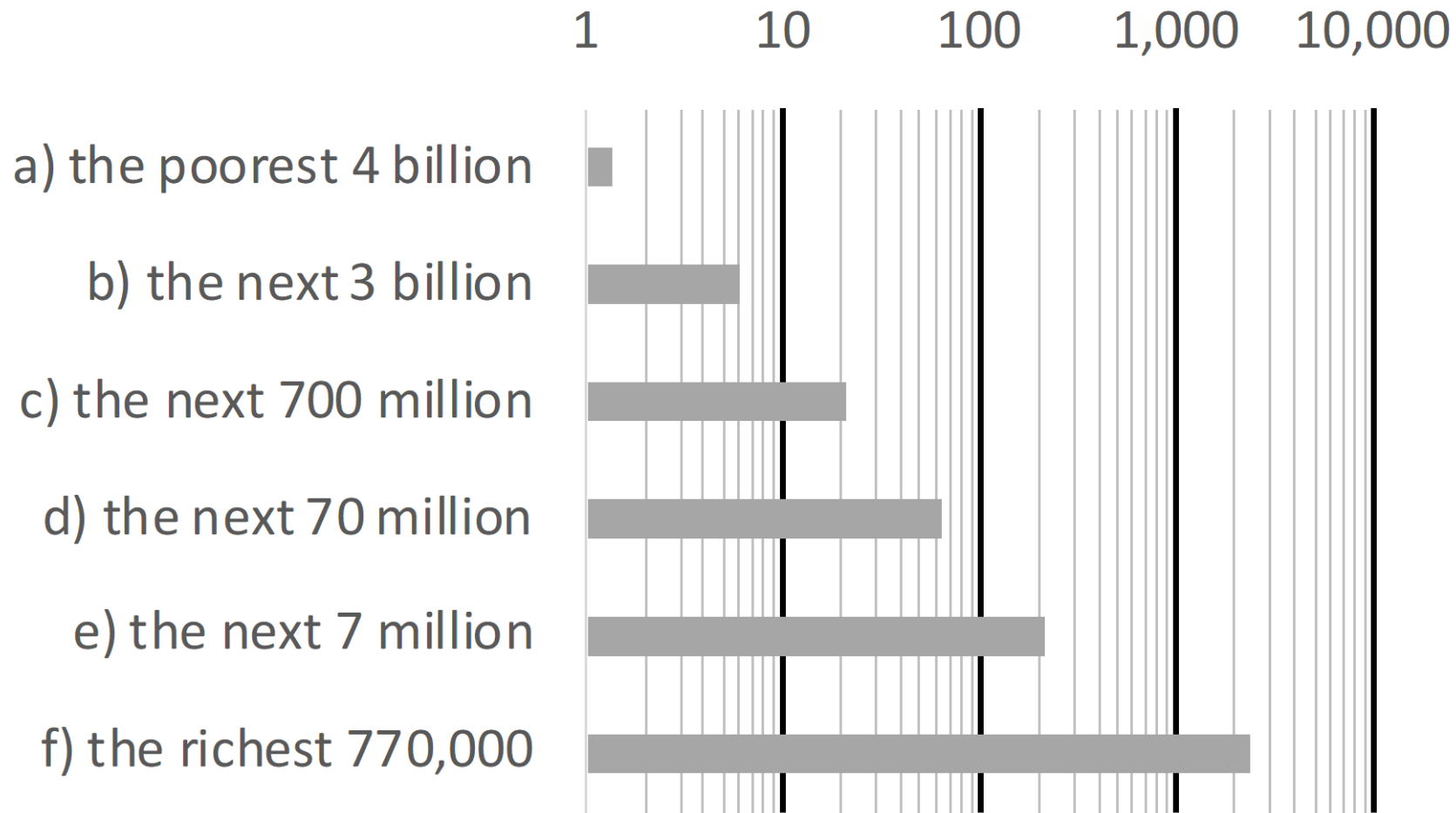
Source: Connor Ibbetson, *Where do people believe in conspiracy theories?* London: YouGov, 18 January 2021.

## Global emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> by income group in 2019





## Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per person per year in 2019



Why were these words written in 1848? (from “All Things Bright and beautiful?”)

**The rich man in his castle,**

**The poor man at his gate,**

**God made them, high or lowly,**

**And ordered their estate.**

**Clue:** In April 1848, Queen Victoria left London for the Isle of Wight under threat of civil unrest.

Source: Lucas Chancel, Global carbon inequality over 1990–2019, Nature Sustainability, Vol. 5, pp.931-938, 29 September 2022.

1. Love your schoolfellows, they will become your fellow workers and companions in life.
2. Love learning, which is the food of the mind; be as grateful to your teacher as to your parents.
3. Make every day holy by good and useful deeds and kindly actions.
4. Honour good people, be courteous and respect all, bow down to none.
5. Do not hate or offend anyone. Do not seek revenge, but stand up for your rights and resist tyranny.
6. Be not cowardly, protect the feeble and love justice.
7. Remember that all good things of the earth are the result of labour. Whoever enjoys them without working for them is stealing the bread of the worker.
8. Observe and think in order to discover the truth. Do not believe what is contrary to reason and never deceive yourself or others.
9. Do not think that he who loves his own country must hate and despise other nations, or wish for war, which is a remnant of barbarism.
10. Help to bring about the day when all nations shall live fraternally together in peace and prosperity.

## Conclusion

In 2025 it might be worth looking back to 1914 and asking why these ten suggestions were so resisted by a few, largely successfully, at that time.

