



IOB
Institute of Development Policy
University of Antwerp

Date (optional)

The Fondation Universitaire – Universitaire Stichting

Migration, population growth in Sub-Saharan Africa and development cooperation

Part of a Lecture cycle "Traveling with Prof. Louis Baeck in the global village"

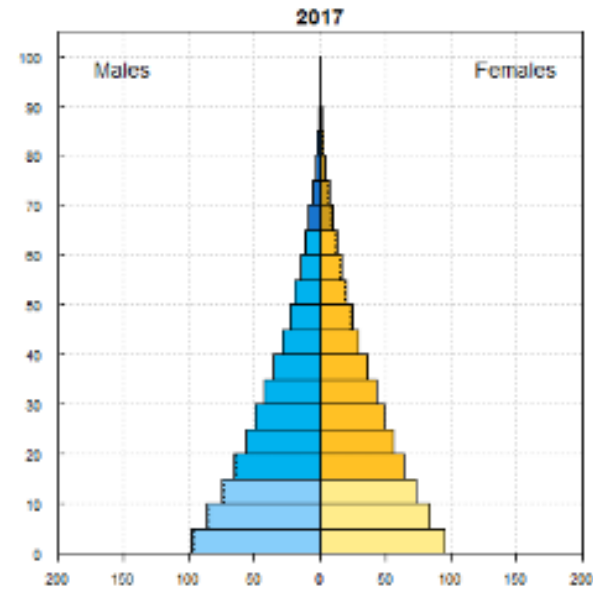
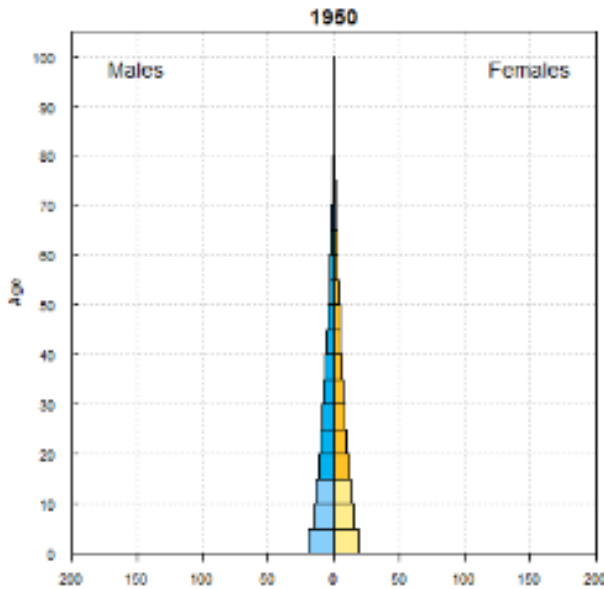
Panel member: Marijke Verpoorten



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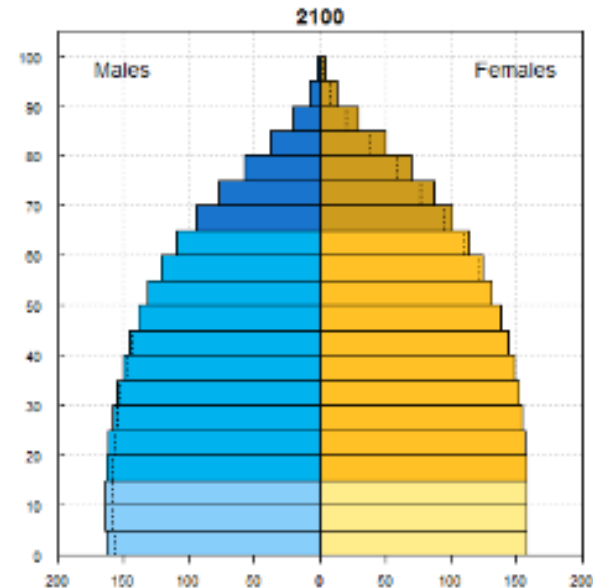
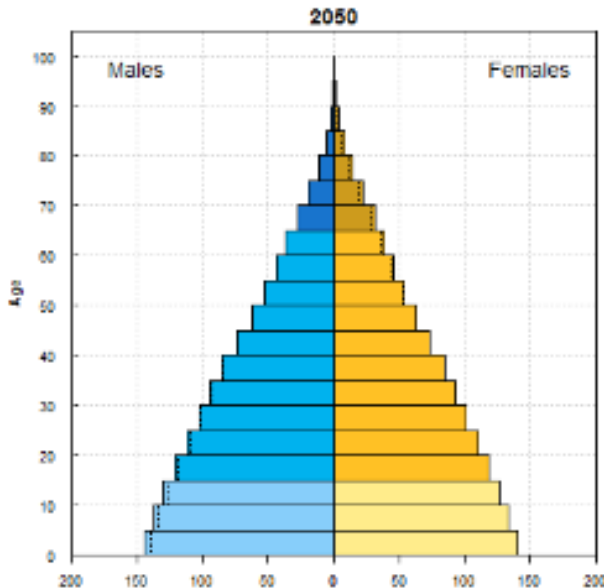
Continued demographic explosion in SSA

221 million
(8.8%)



1.3 (17%)

2.5 (26%)

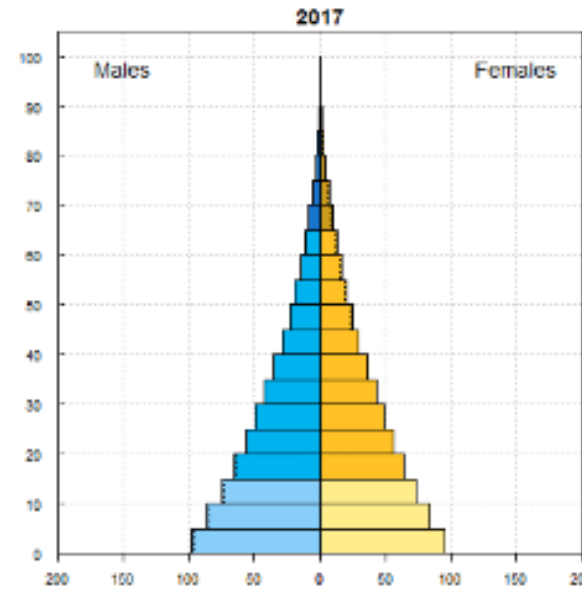
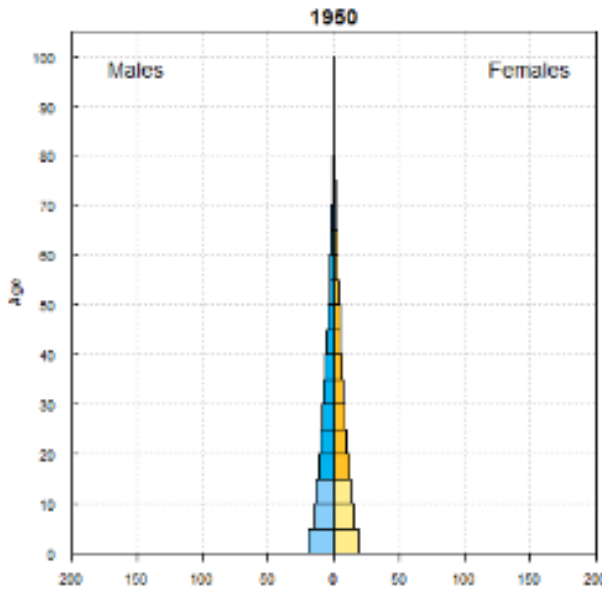


4.5 (40%)

Source: UN,
Population
Division (2017).

Increase of share of active population

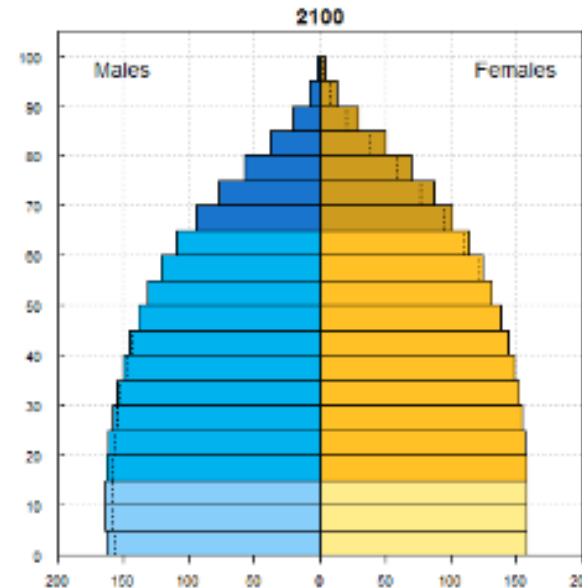
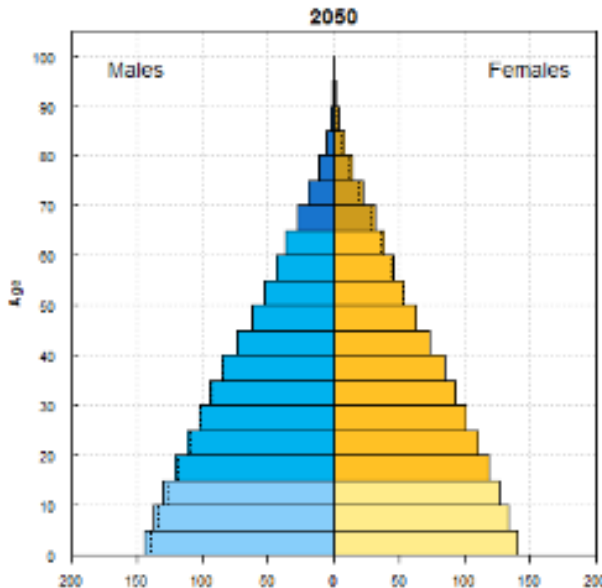
221 million
(8.8%)



1.3 (17%)

15-65: 56%

2.5 (26%)



4.5 (40%)

15-65: 64%

15-65: 62%

Source: UN,
Population
Division (2017).

Demographic Gift...

...depends on the ability of the economy to absorb and productively employ the extra workers

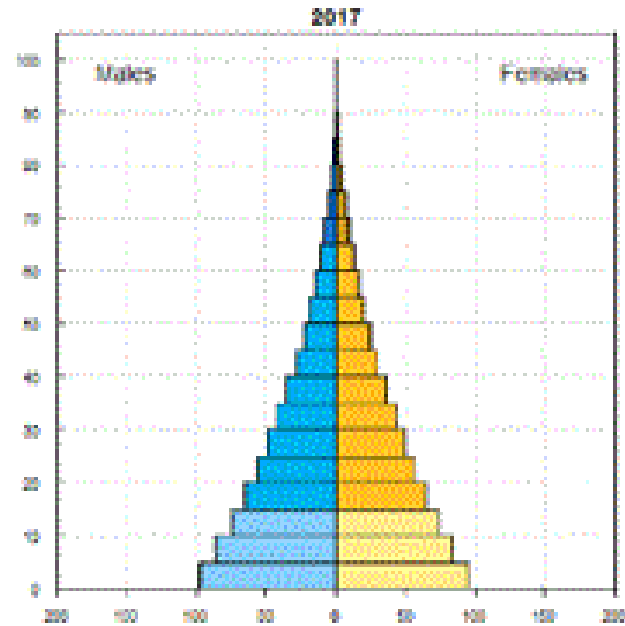
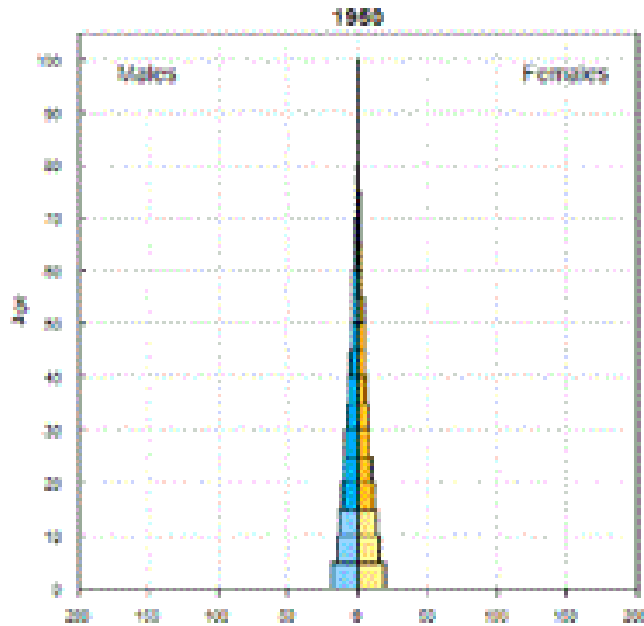
& Youth bulge increases risk of political instability

Four points

- 1) **So far, Africa has not grown more than its fair share**
- 2) The continuation of the demographic explosion in itself is unlikely to make Africa poorer or more violent
- 3) Institutions are key, both to stimulate an economic transformation and to preserve political stability, but they are slow to change
- 4) Whether poor/violent or prosperous/peaceful, the pressure to migrate will increase

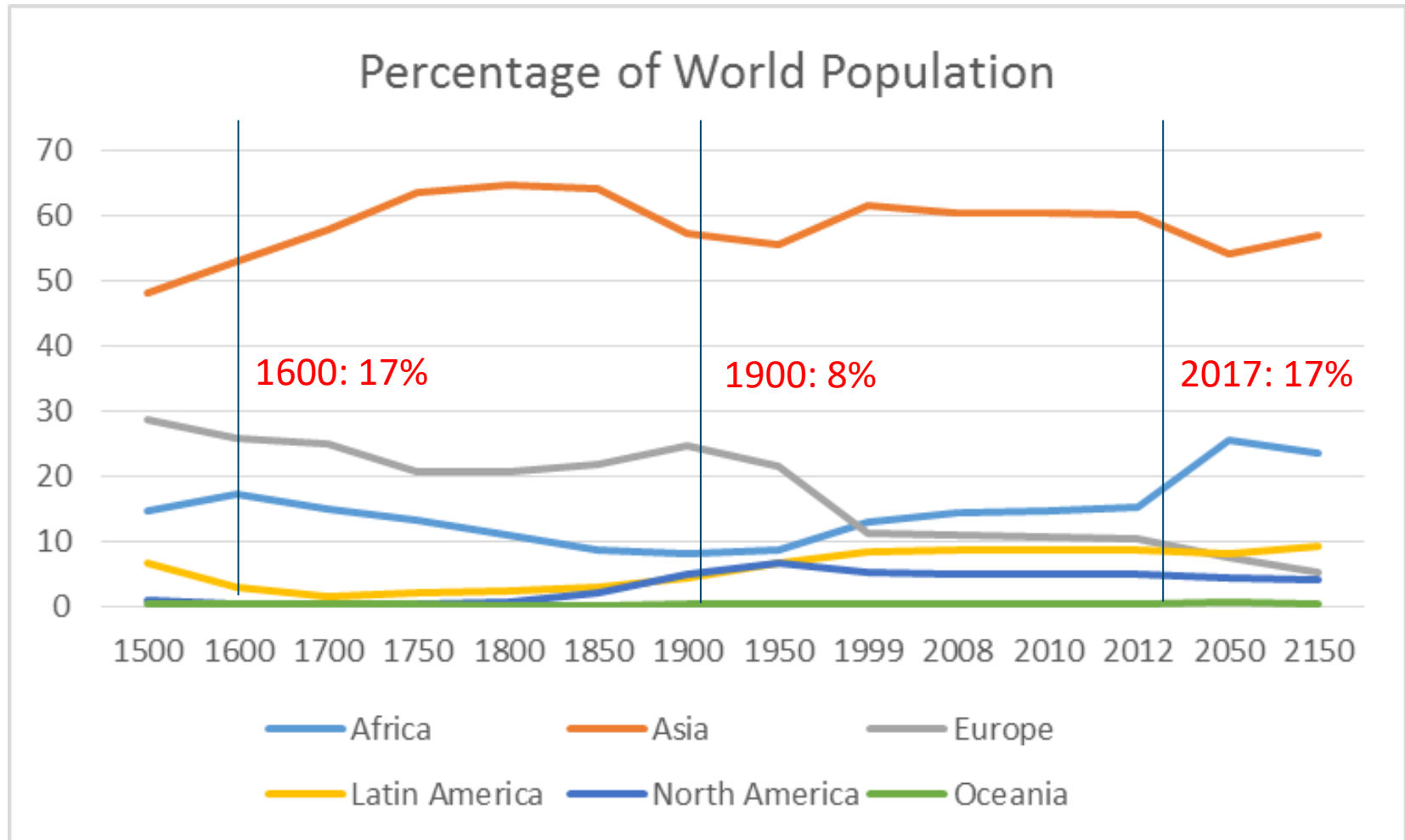
SSA has not grown more than its fair share

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SSA has not grown more than its fair share



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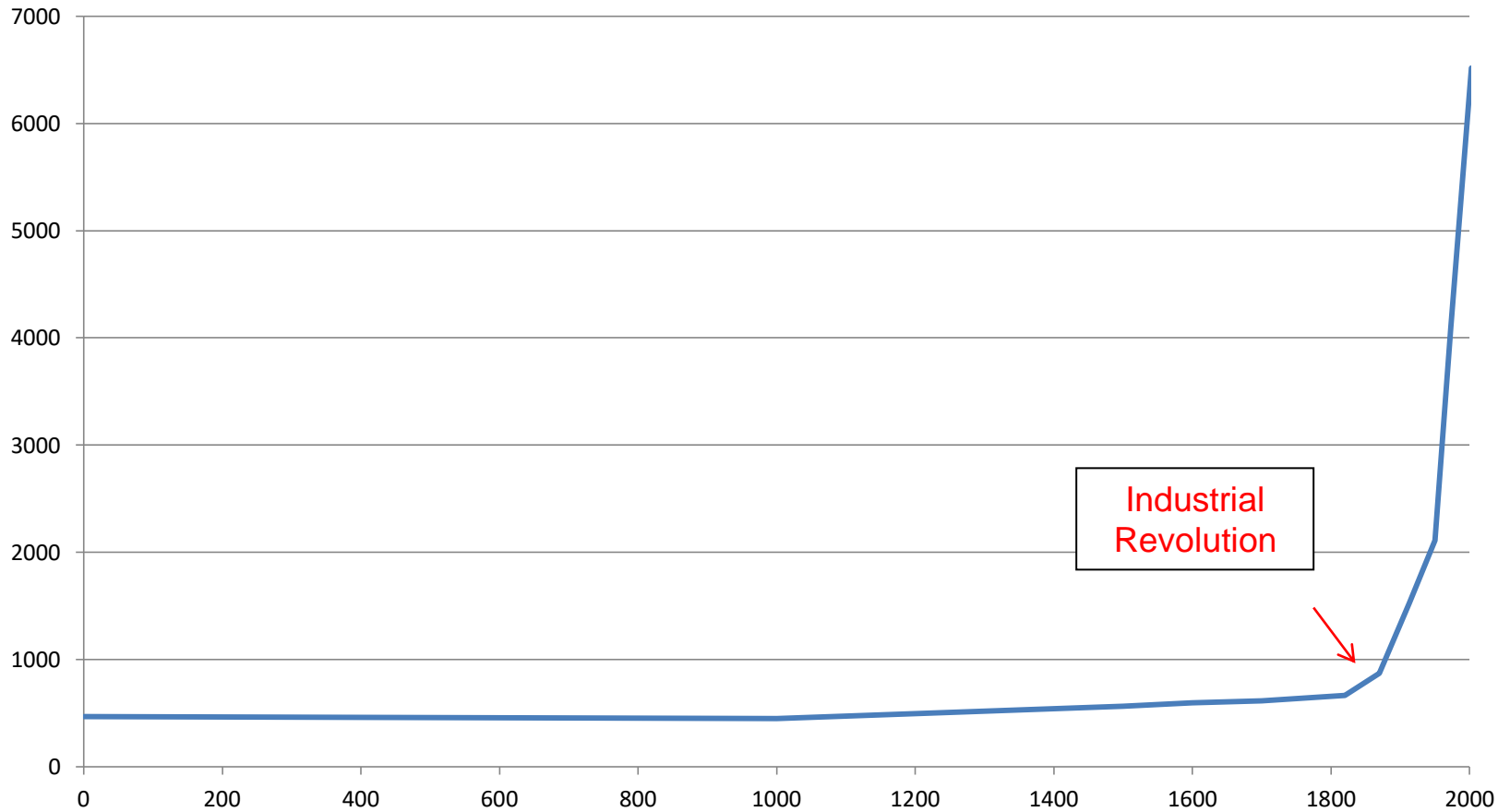
Malthus T.R. 1798. An essay on the principle of population

"The power of population is so superior to the power of the earth to produce subsistence for man, that premature death must in some shape or other visit the human race. The vices of mankind are active and able ministers of depopulation. They are the precursors in the great army of destruction, and often finish the dreadful work"

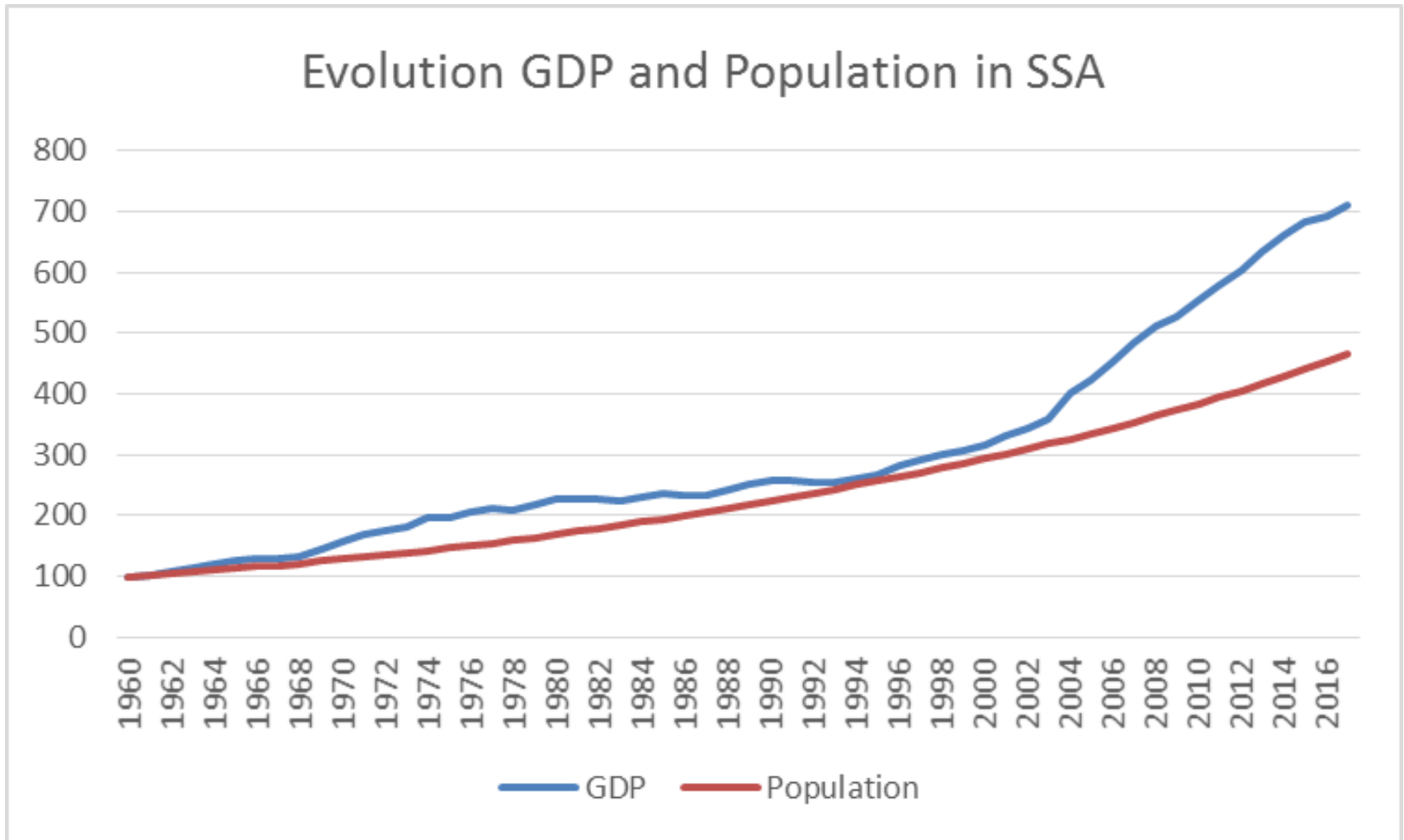


A failed prophet of doom

World Income Per Person, in 1990 US Dollars



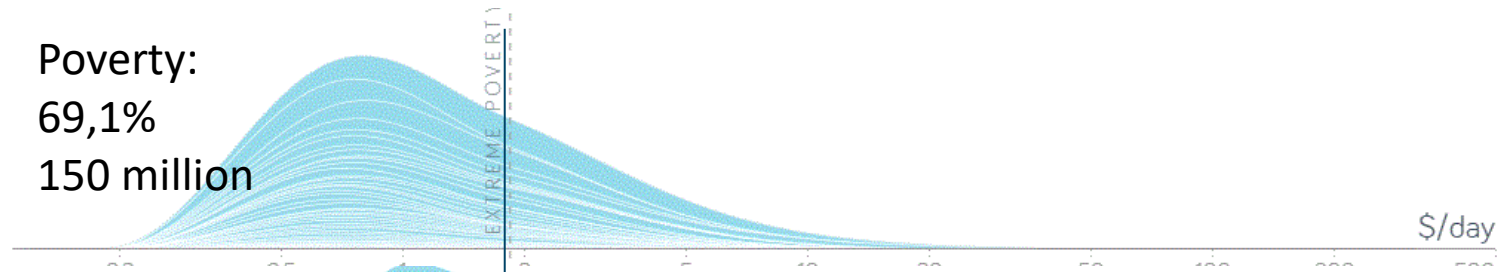
GDP has kept up with Population



1950

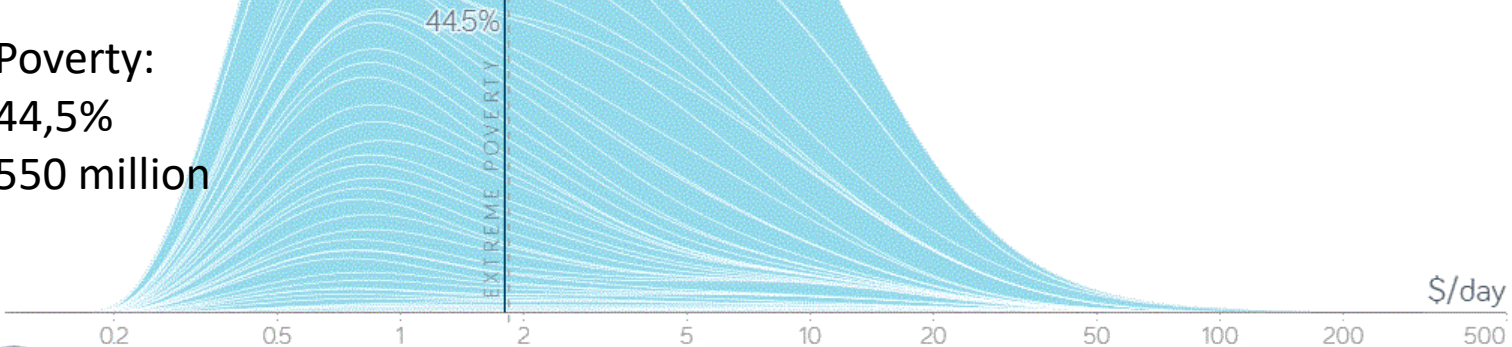
Poverty as a share of the population has declined, but absolute numbers of poor have increased

Poverty:
69,1%
150 million



2015

Poverty:
44,5%
550 million



Rwanda's Malthusian Catastrophe?

- Highest population density of SSA (700/km² arable land)
- In high density areas with many young single men, less Tutsi survived the genocide.
- But these effects are relatively small
- Even scholars who argue that **land scarcity** played a role in the Rwandan genocide agree that it **DID NOT cause the onset of the genocidal campaign**. A combination of historical and macro-political factors did.

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Empirical evidence in support of the relation between demographics and conflict ?

Yes

Correlation between the **youth bulge & political conflict**

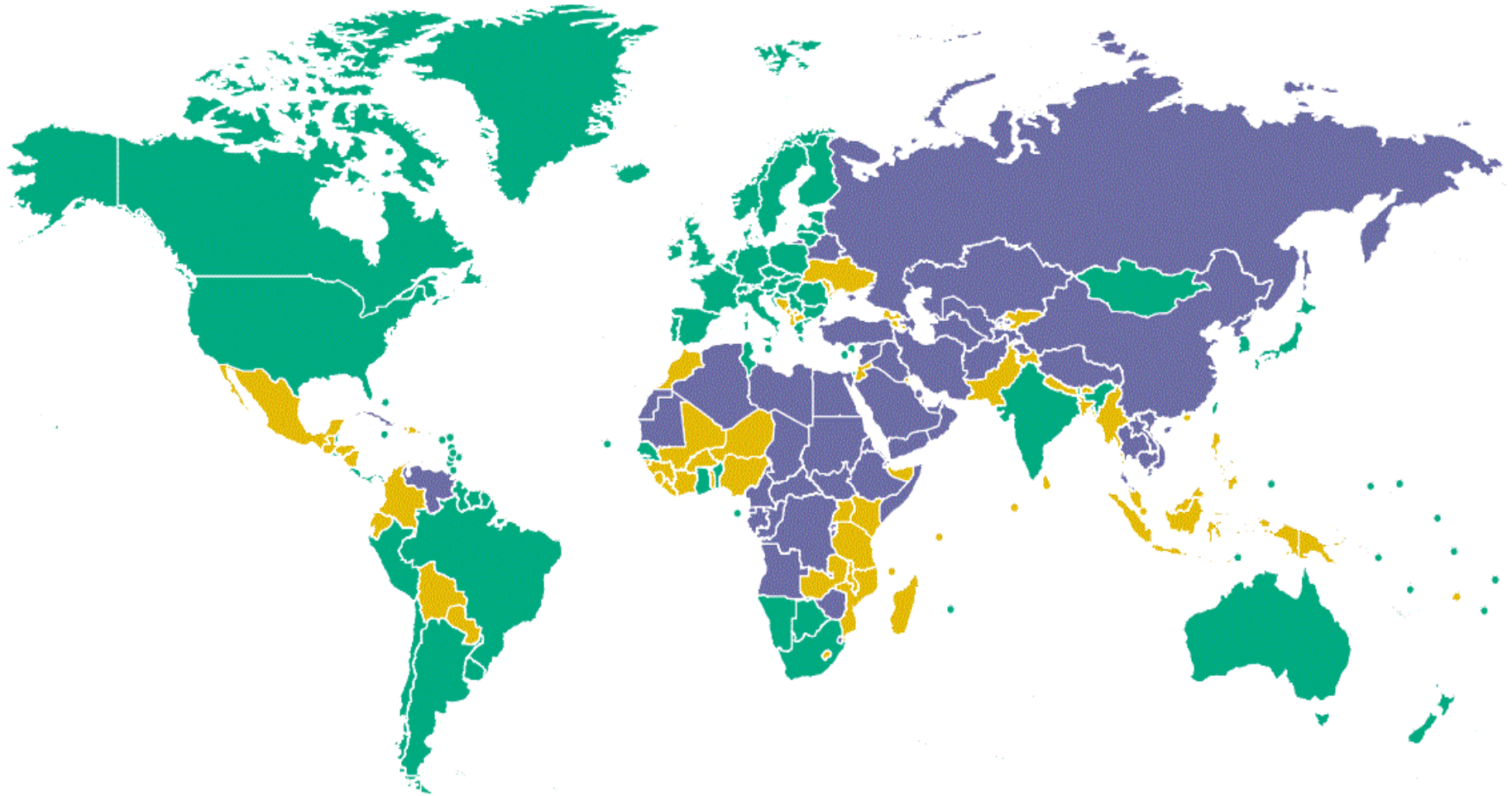
Correlation between **land scarcity & conflict intensity**

No

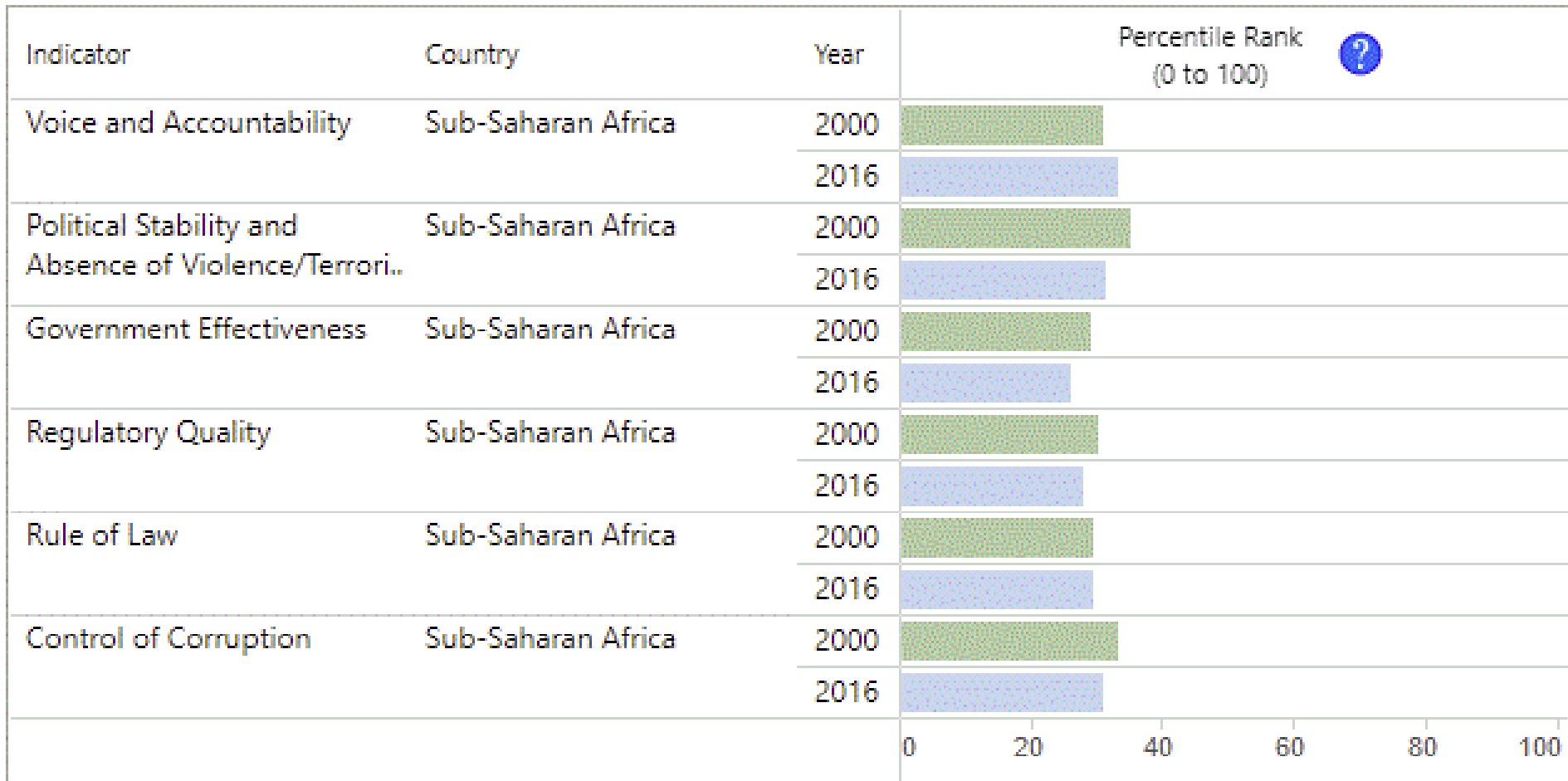
- The **correlations are conditional**, i.e. they occur only in the **absence of institutions** that
 - spur agricultural innovation,
 - allow youth to express grievances in a non-violent way,
 - mitigate the sharpest socioeconomic inequalities
 - ...

But SSA is largely 'not free'

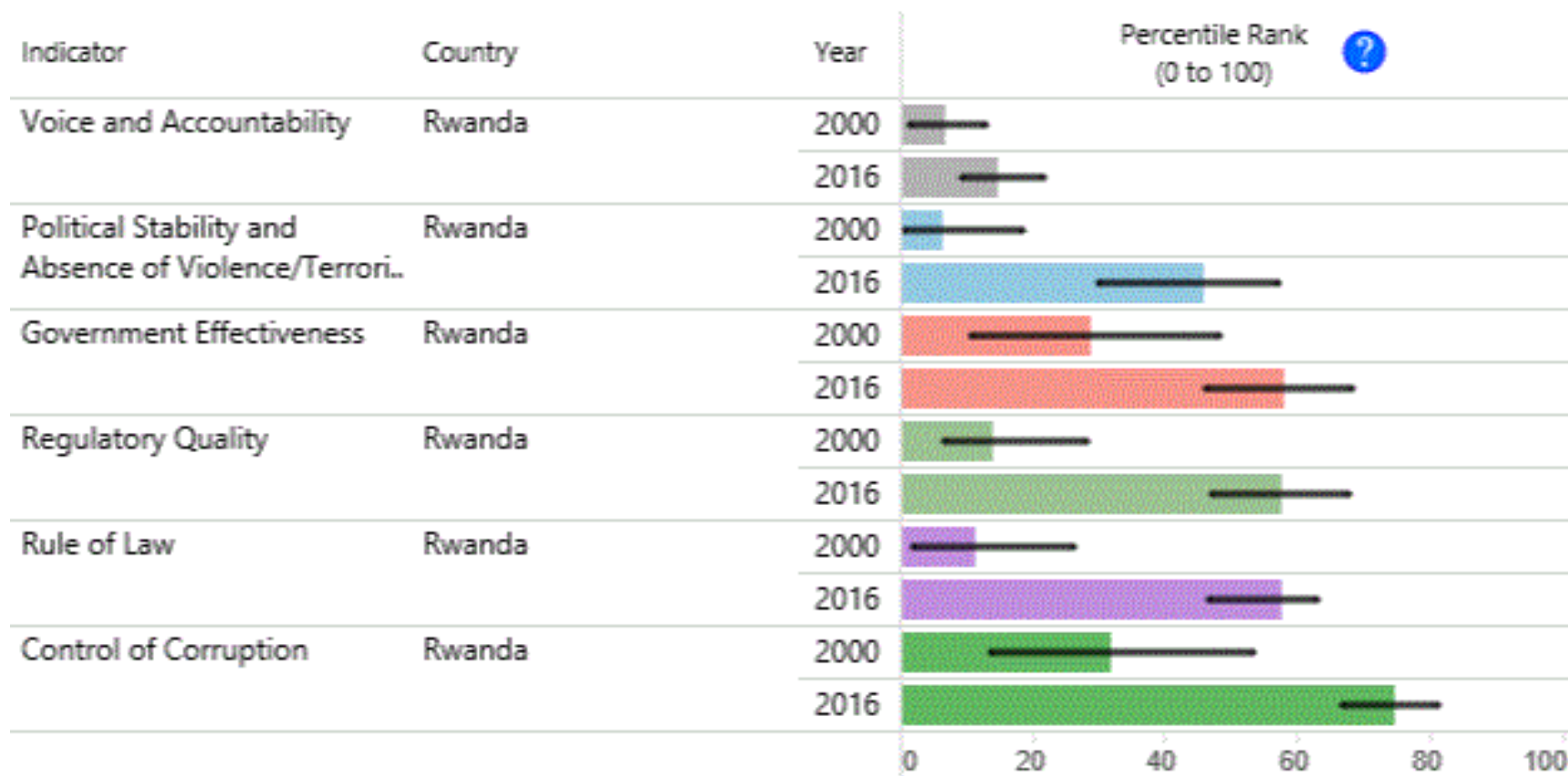
Free Partly Free Not Free



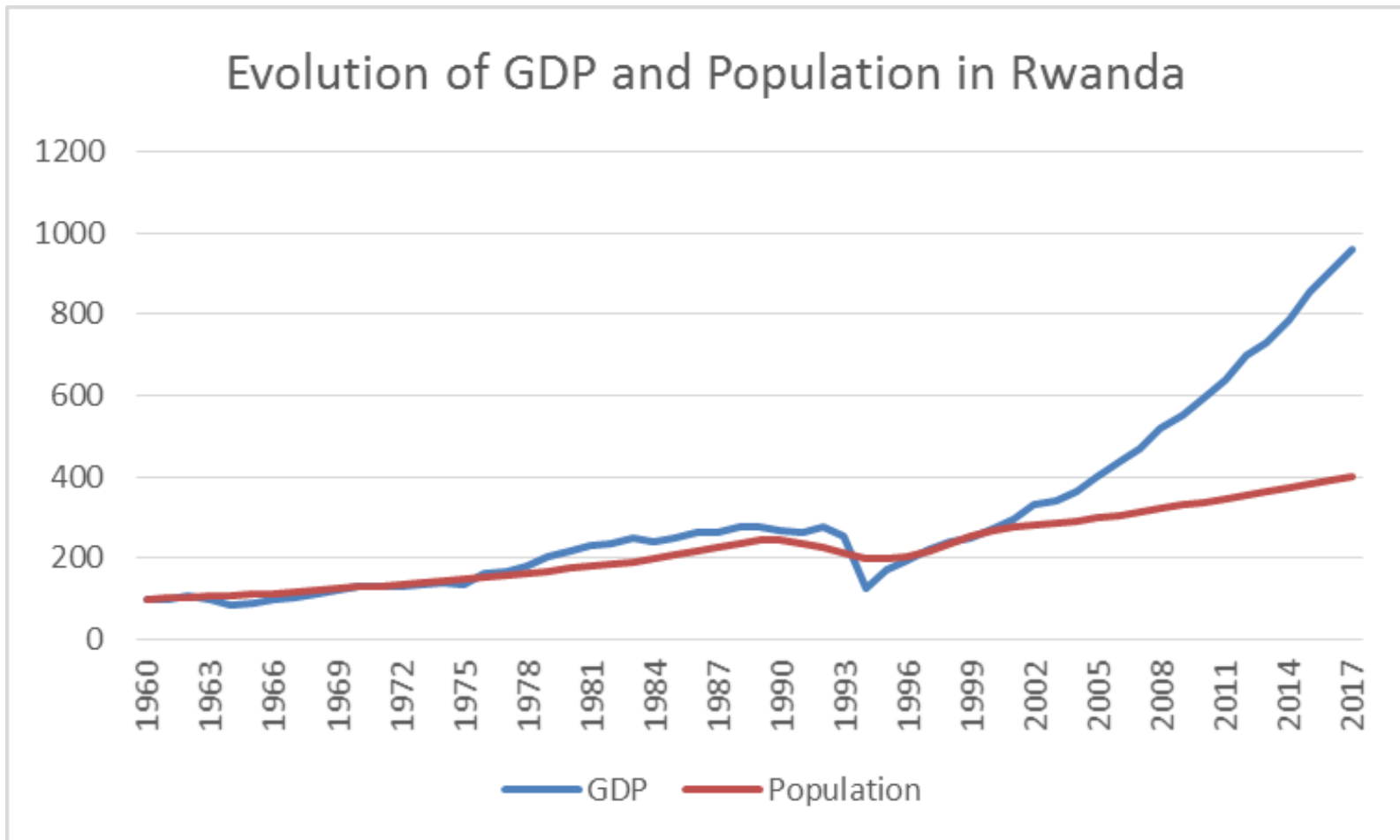
There has been little progress in governance indicators in the past years



Worldwide Governance Indicators: Rwanda



Post-genocide Rwanda

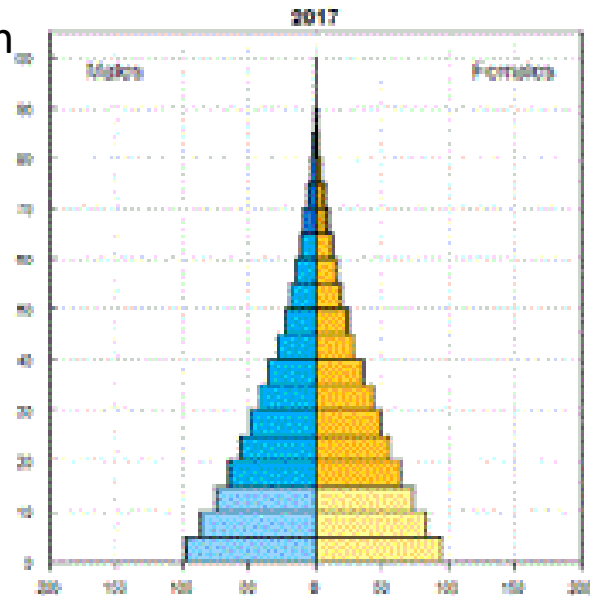


Four points

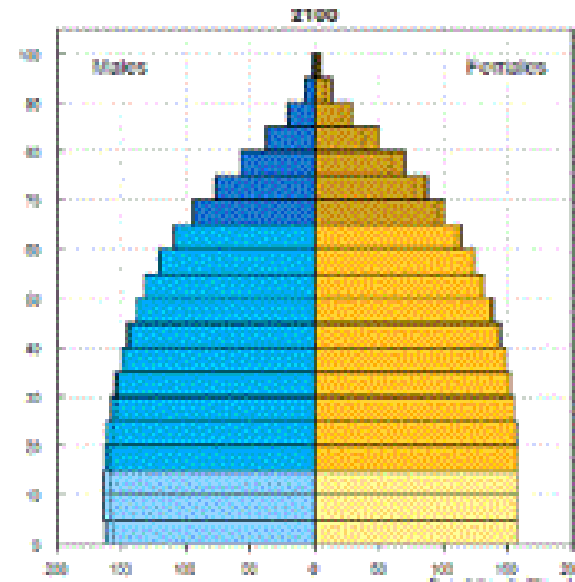
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... because of an additional 3 billion people

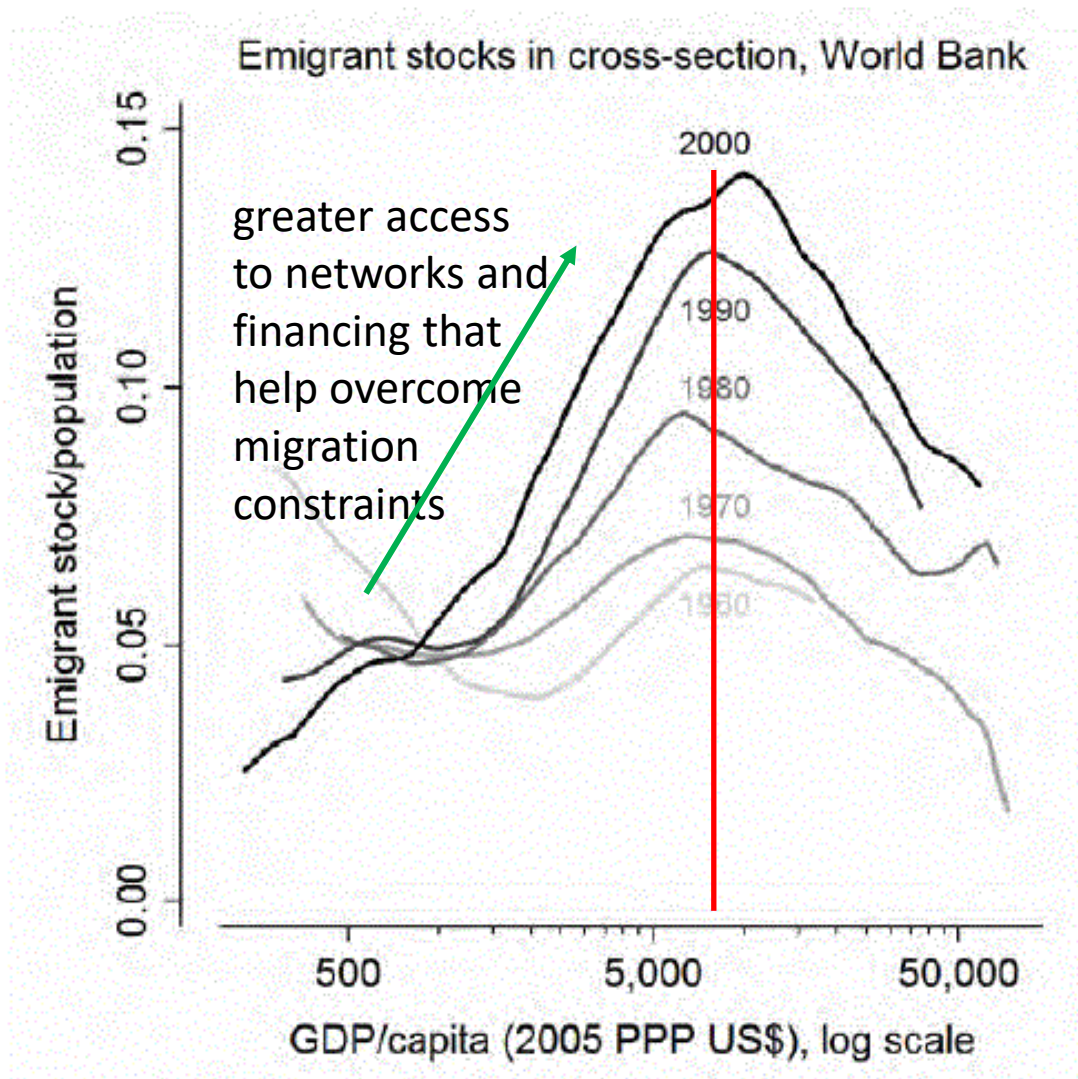
2017:
1,3 billion



2100:
4.5 billion



...because development does not reduce migration



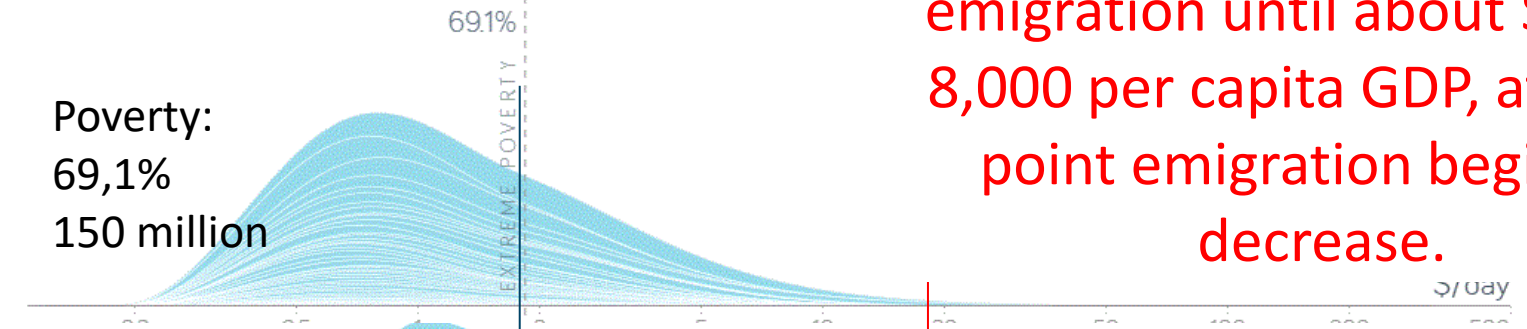
Michael Clemens
(2014)
“Does Development
Reduce Migration?”

Number of people by income ?

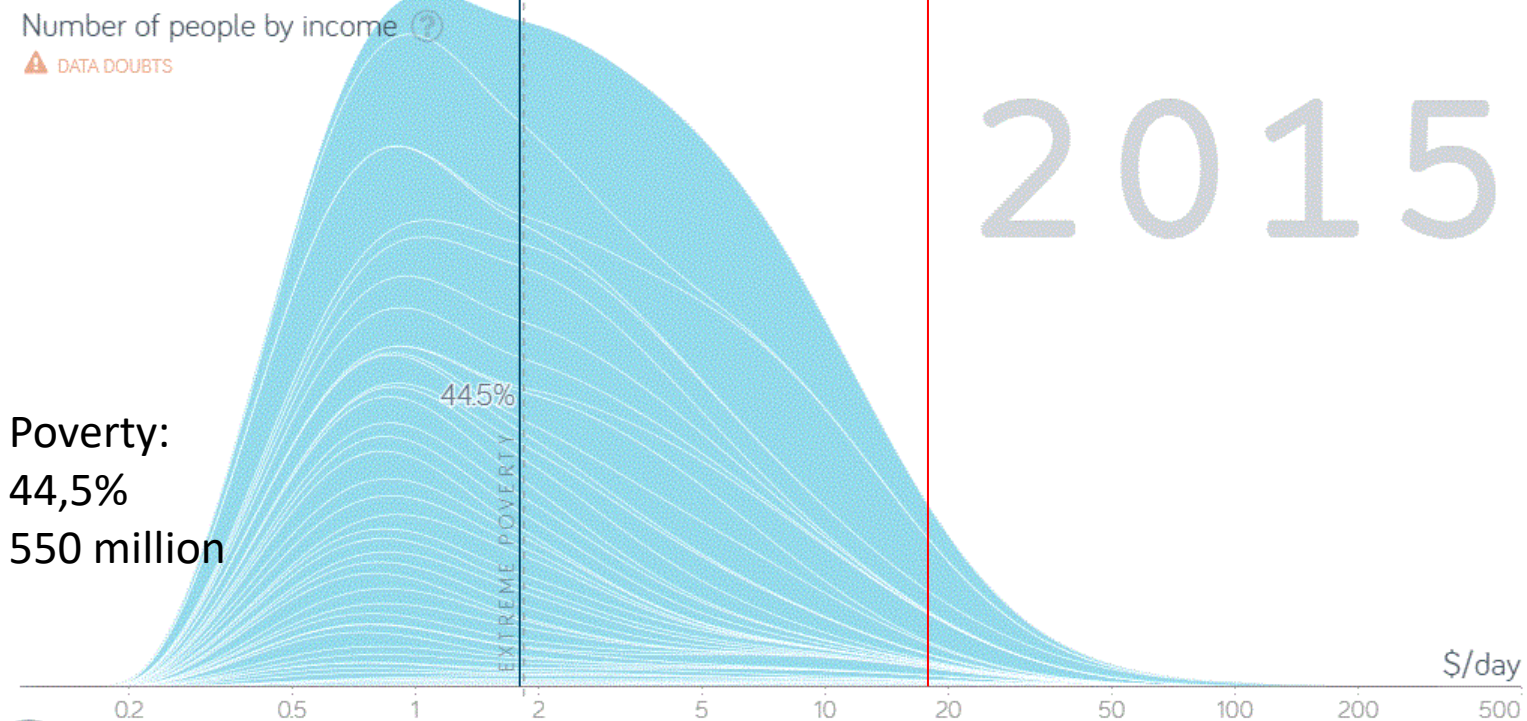
DATA DOUBTS

1950

As incomes rise, so does emigration until about \$6,000-8,000 per capita GDP, at which point emigration begins to decrease.



2015



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