

# BUSINESS INSIDER

## 31 Charts That Will Restore Your Faith In Humanity

By: Rob Wile – May 22, 2013

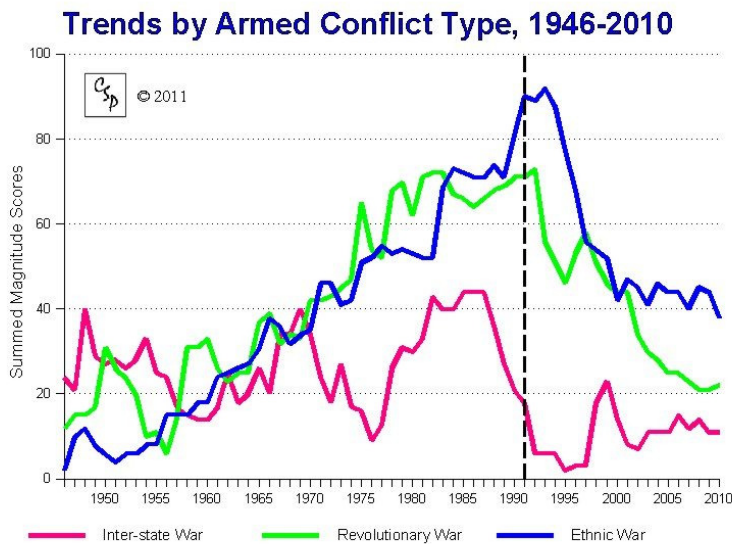
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Lately, it feels like the news has been dominated by tragedy caused by natural disasters, evil people, and sometimes just carelessness.

However, it would be a mistake to turn into a cynic.

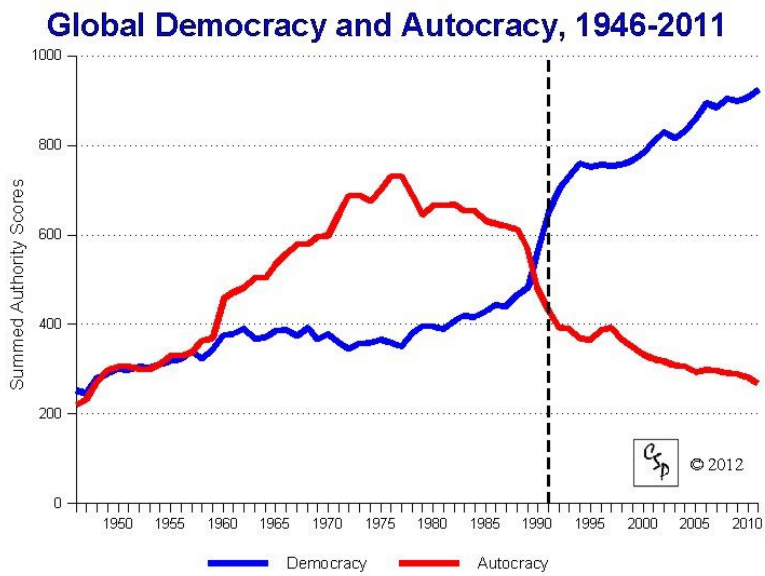
We've put together 31 charts that we think will help you restore your faith in humanity.

1) We've stopped fighting each other.



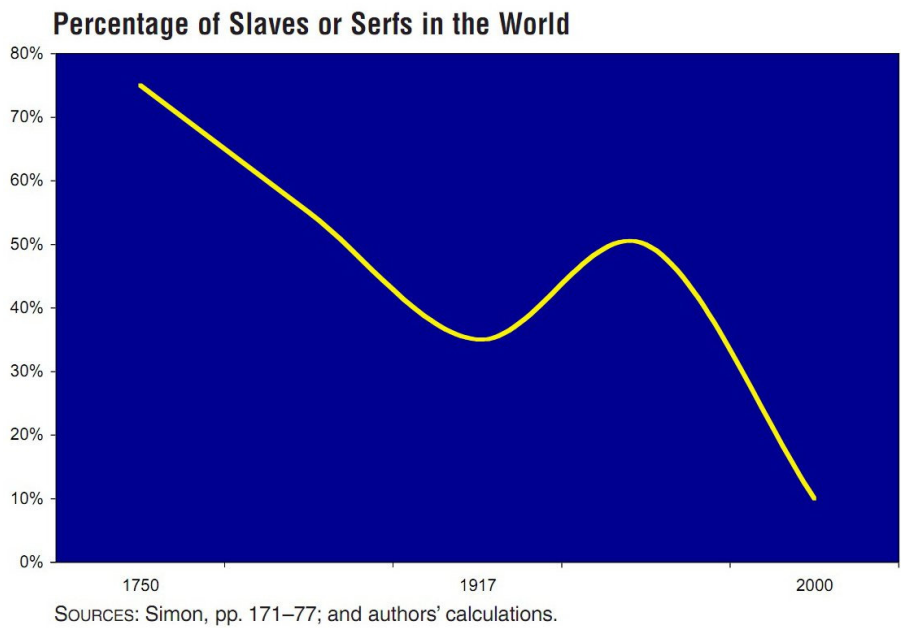
Systemic Peace

2) Democracy's in. Autocracy's out.



Systemic Peace

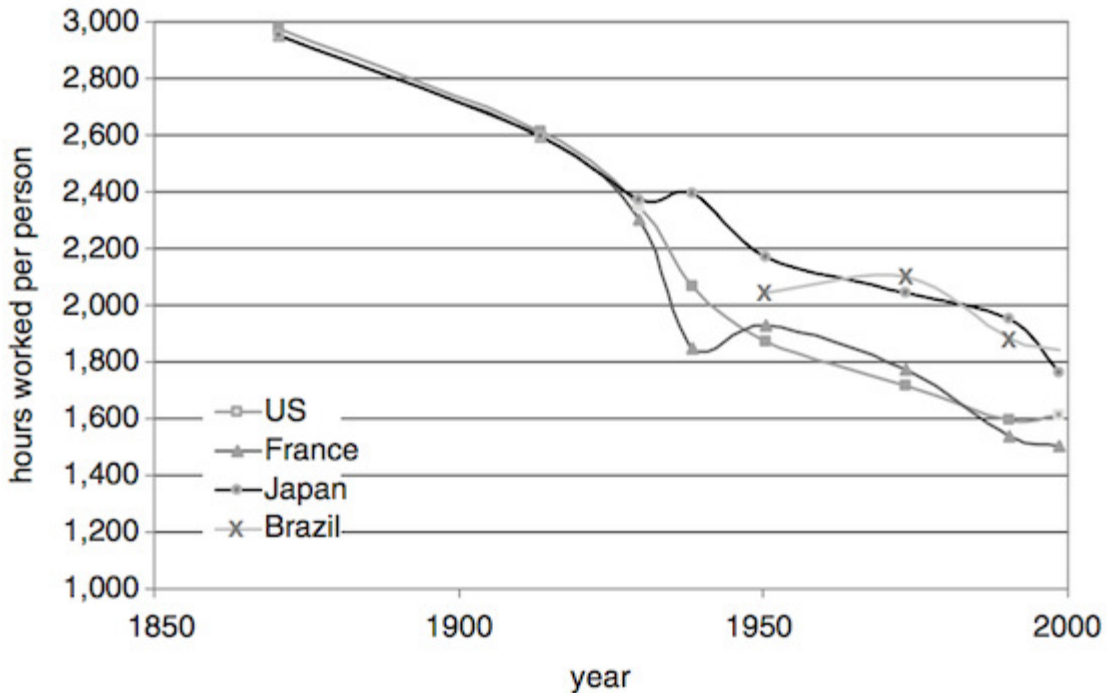
3) Slavery is disappearing.



It's Getting Better All The Time / Stephen Moore & Julian Simon

4) Everyone's working way less.

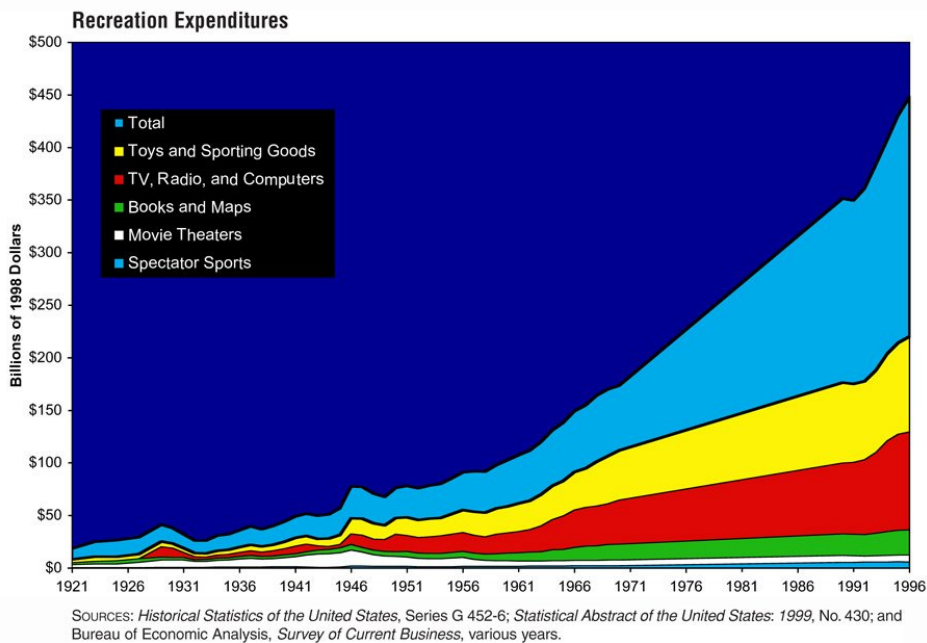
## ANNUAL HOURS WORKED PER PERSON, 1870–1978



SOURCES: Angus Maddison, *Chinese Economic Performance in the Long Run* (Paris: OECD, 1998); Angus Maddison, *The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective* (Paris: OECD, 2001).

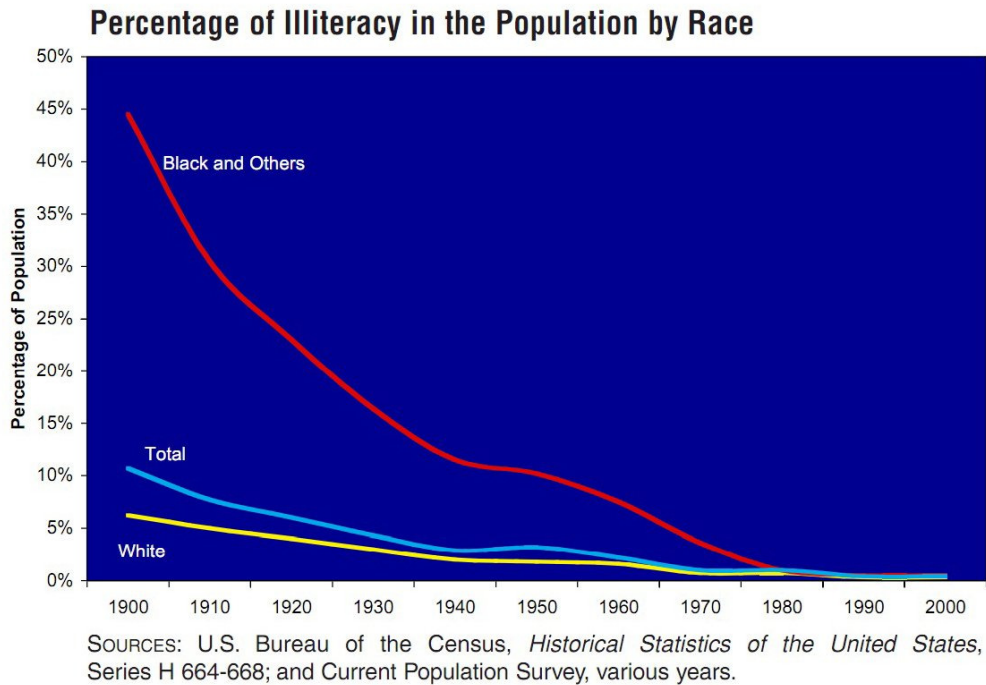
"The Improving State of the World" (c) Cato Institute 2007. Used with permission

5) We have more money to spend on leisure.



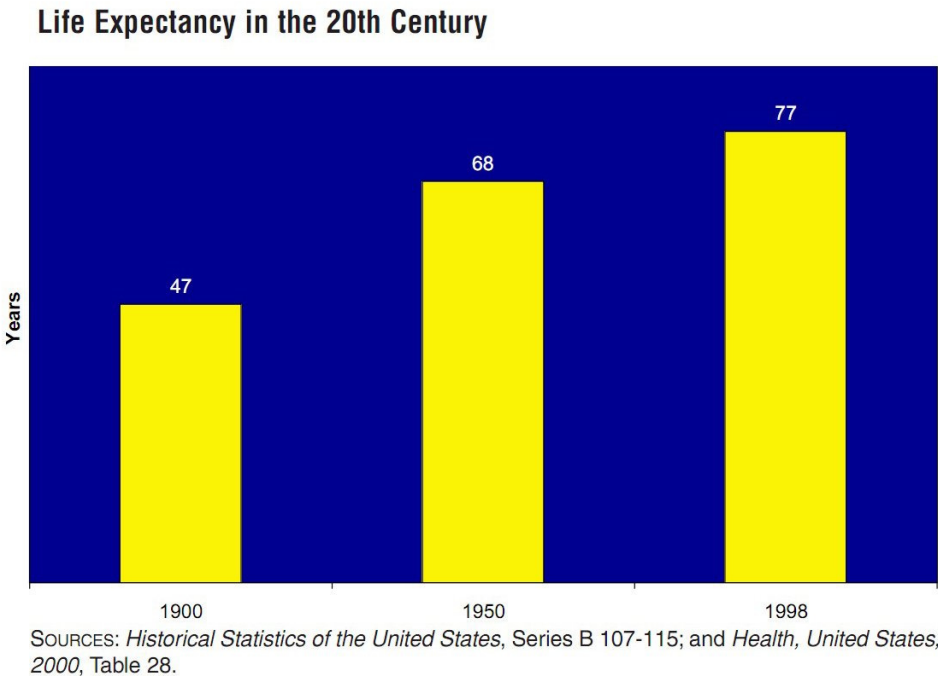
It's Getting Better All The Time / Stephen Moore & Julian Simon

6) Illiteracy in America has been obliterated.



It's Getting Better All The Time / Stephen Moore & Julian Simon

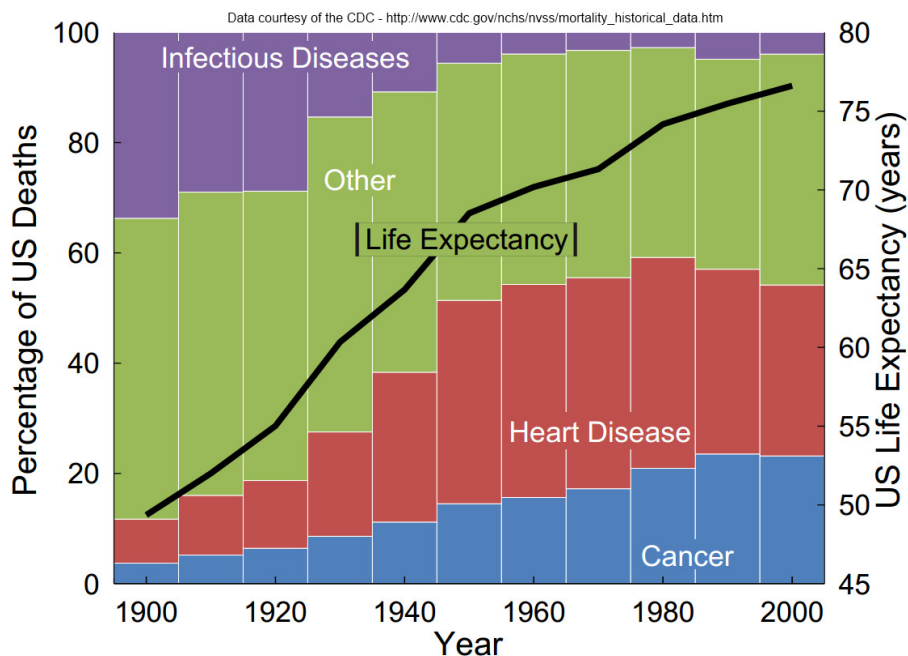
7) People used to die at 47. Now people are living to 77.



It's Getting Better All The Time / Stephen Moore & Julian Simon

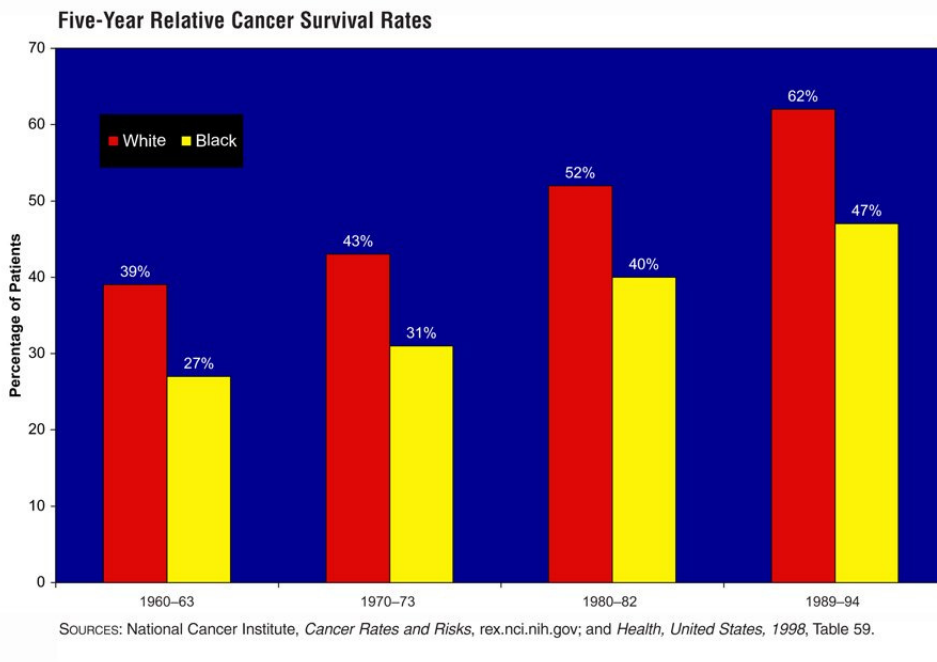
8) Preventable illness are under control.

## US Deaths Over Time By Primary Cause



Reddit

9) People with cancer are living longer.

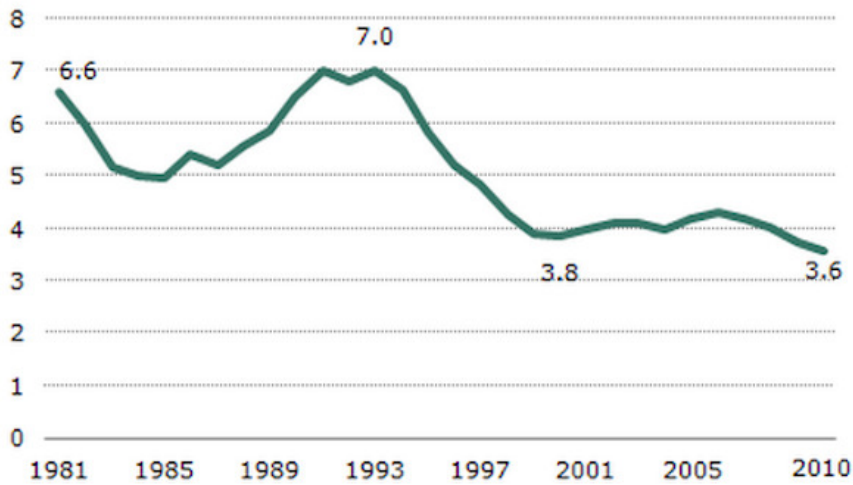


It's Getting Better All The Time / Stephen Moore & Julian Simon

10) Fewer and fewer people are dying from guns.

## Rate of Firearm Homicide Deaths, 1981-2010

Per 100,000 people



Note: Data labels shown for 1981, 1993, 2000 and 2010.

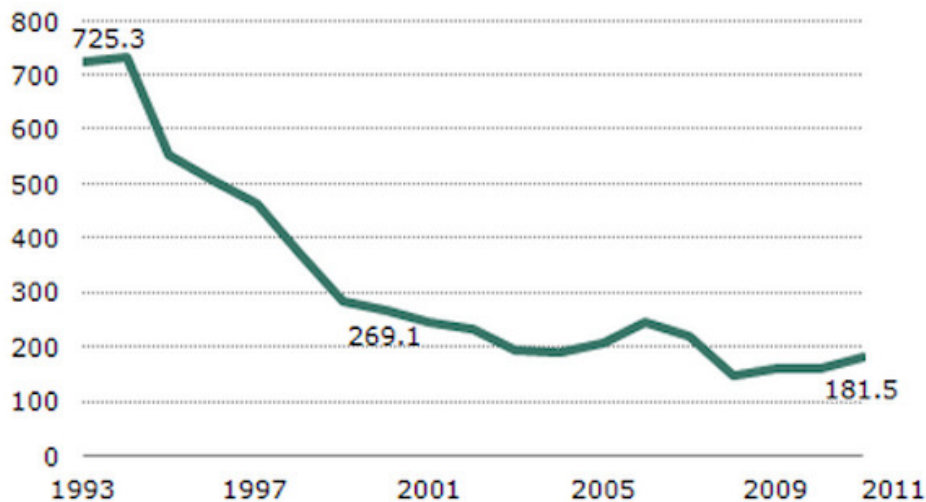
Source: CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

Pew

11) And we're shooting each other less.

## Rate of Non-fatal Firearm Crime, 1993-2011

Victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older



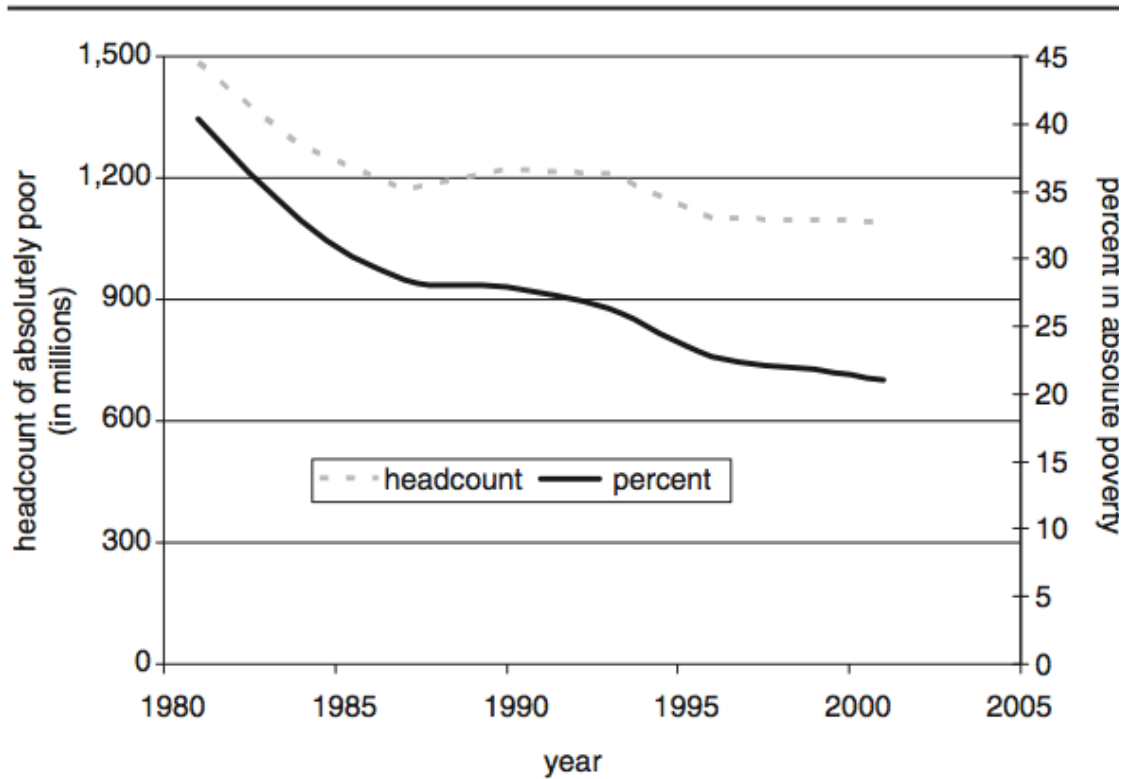
Note: Data labels shown for 1993, 2000 and 2011. 2006 NCVS estimates are not comparable with those in other years. See Methodology for details.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Justice Department

Pew

12) Global poverty is on the wane.

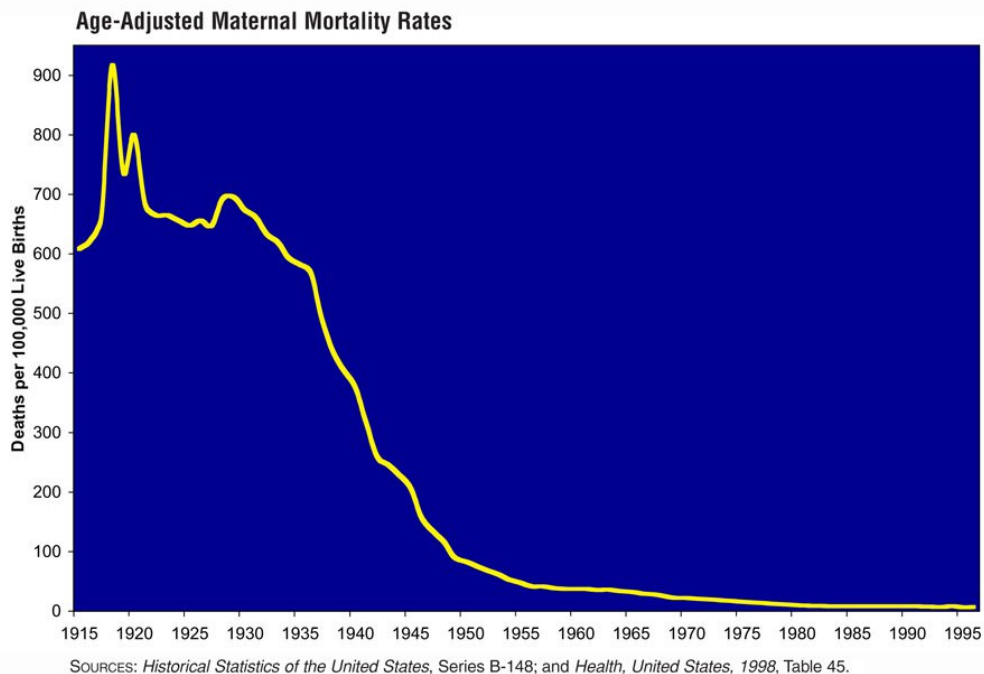
## GLOBAL POVERTY, 1980–2001



SOURCE: World Bank, *World Development Indicators*, <http://devdata.worldbank.org/dataonline> (accessed July 12, 2005).

"The Improving State of the World" (c) Cato Institute 2007. Used with permission.

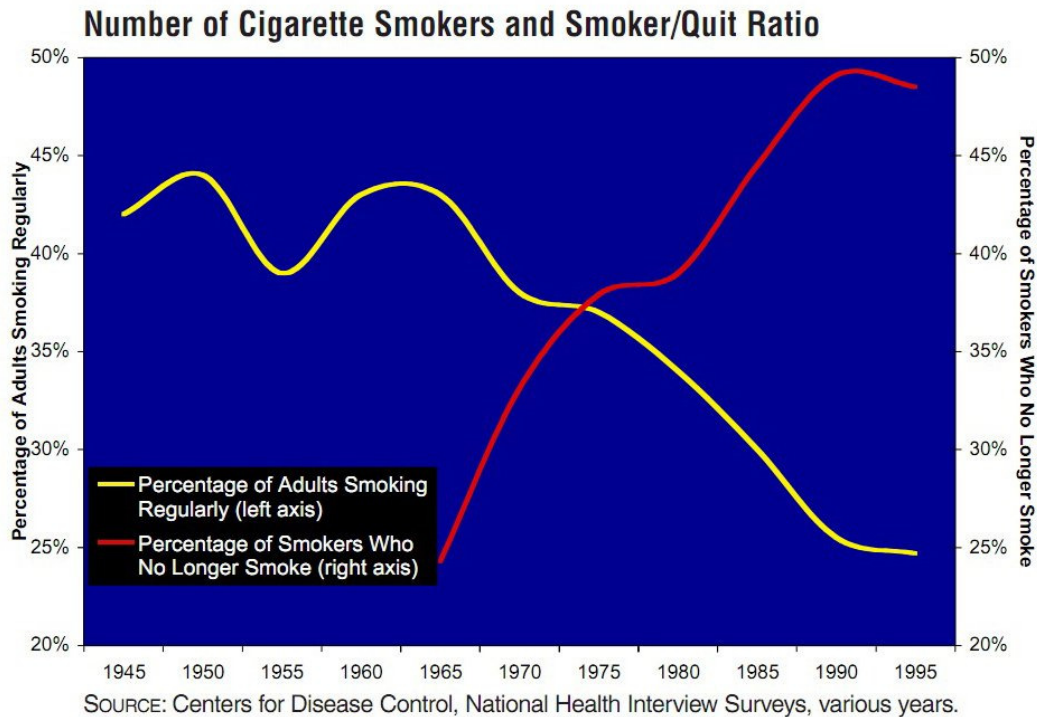
13) In the U.S., mothers have stopped dying in childbirth.



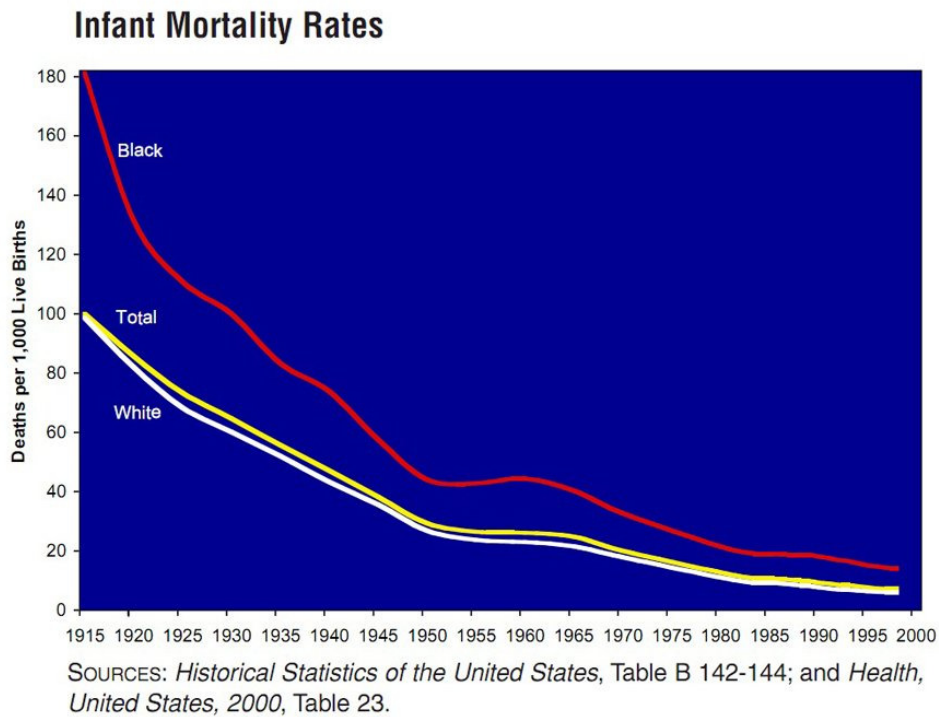
SOURCES: *Historical Statistics of the United States*, Series B-148; and *Health, United States, 1998*, Table 45.



14) Smoking has declined.

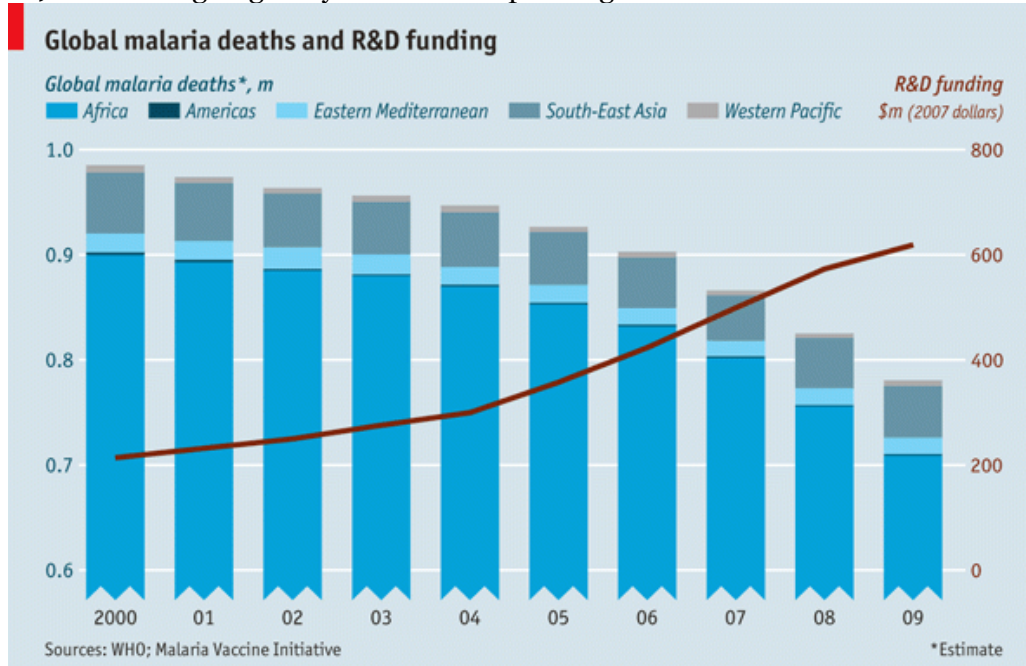


15) Infant mortality is collapsing.





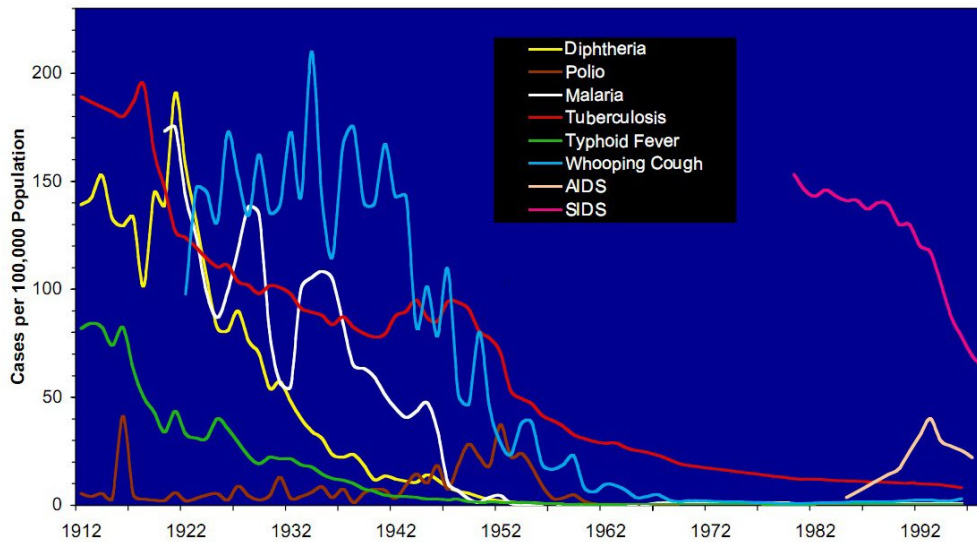
16) Malaria is going away as research spending rises.



Economist

17) Infectious diseases in the U.S. are pretty much gone.

**Incidence of Selected Diseases in the United States**

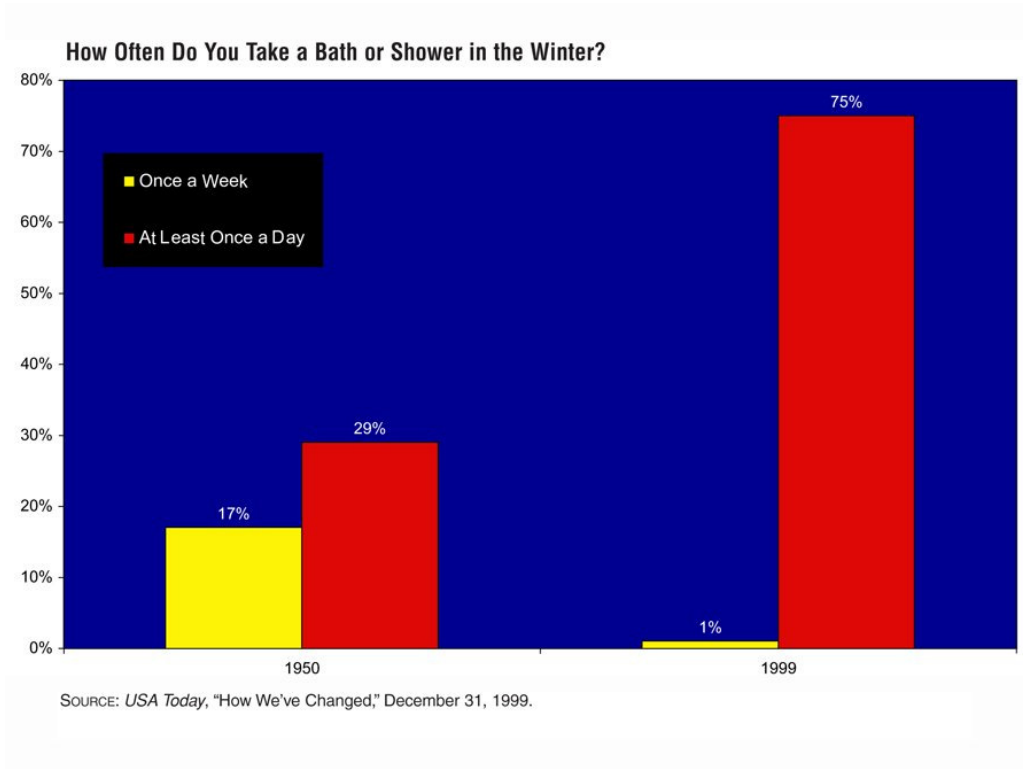


SOURCES: *Historical Statistics of the United States*, Series B 149, B 291, B 295, B 299-300, B 303; *Health, United States, 1999*, Table 53; and American SIDS Institute, [www.sids.org/research/webrate/sld001.htm](http://www.sids.org/research/webrate/sld001.htm).

NOTE: SIDS rate is per 100,000 live births. AIDS definition was substantially expanded in 1985, 1987, and 1993. TB rate prior to 1930 is estimated as 1.3 times the mortality rate.

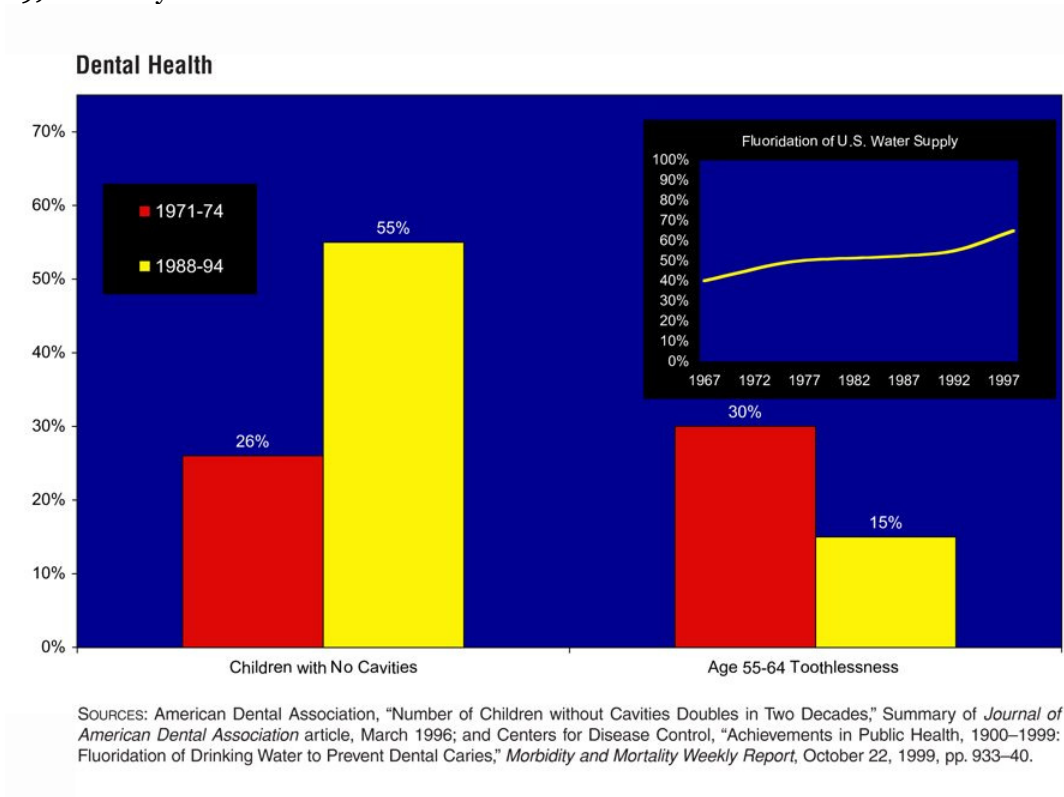
It's Getting Better All The Time / Stephen Moore & Julian Simon

18) People now take showers all the time.



It's Getting Better All The Time / Stephen Moore & Julian Simon

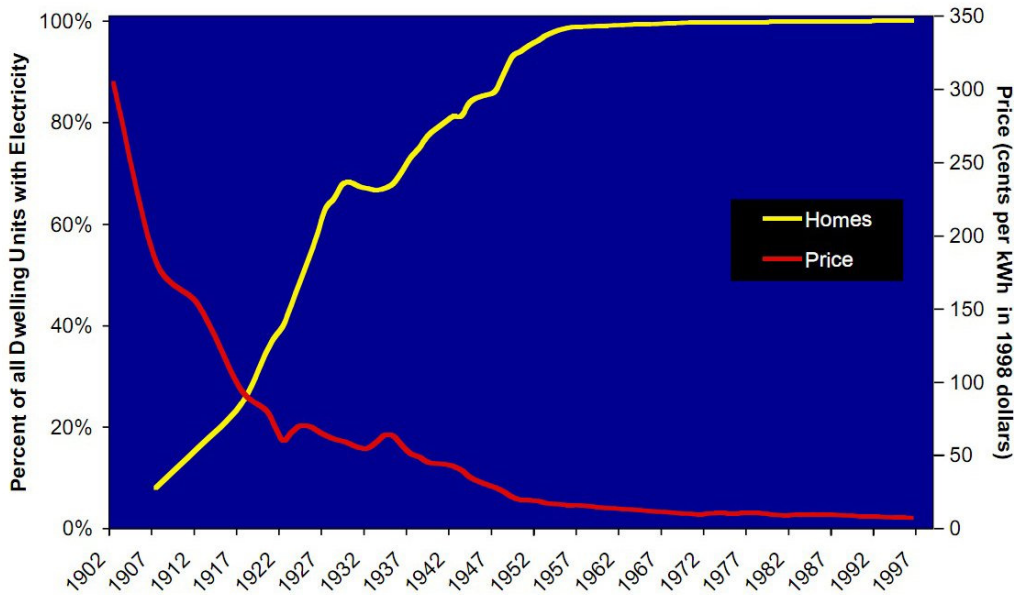
19) And they brush their teeth.



It's Getting Better All The Time / Stephen Moore & Julian Simon

20) All U.S. homes are electrified, as power costs have dropped.

## Electrification of U.S. Homes

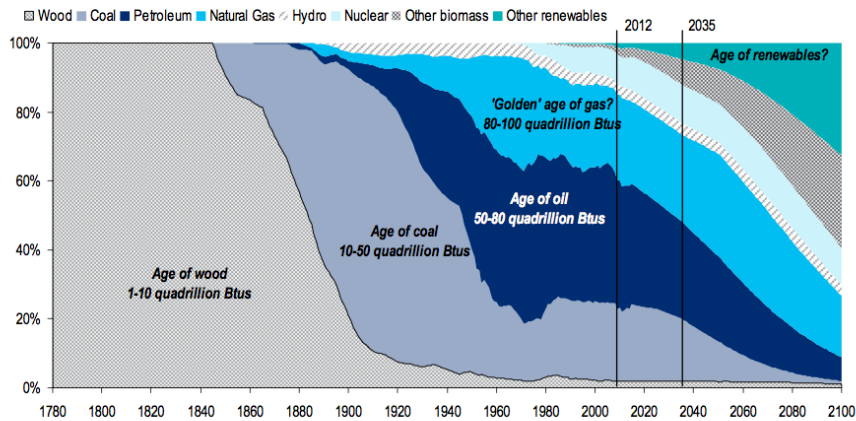


SOURCES: *Historical Statistics of the United States*, Series S 109, S 116; and *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1998*, Table 959.

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21) More efficient or more environmentally friendly energy sources continue to win out.

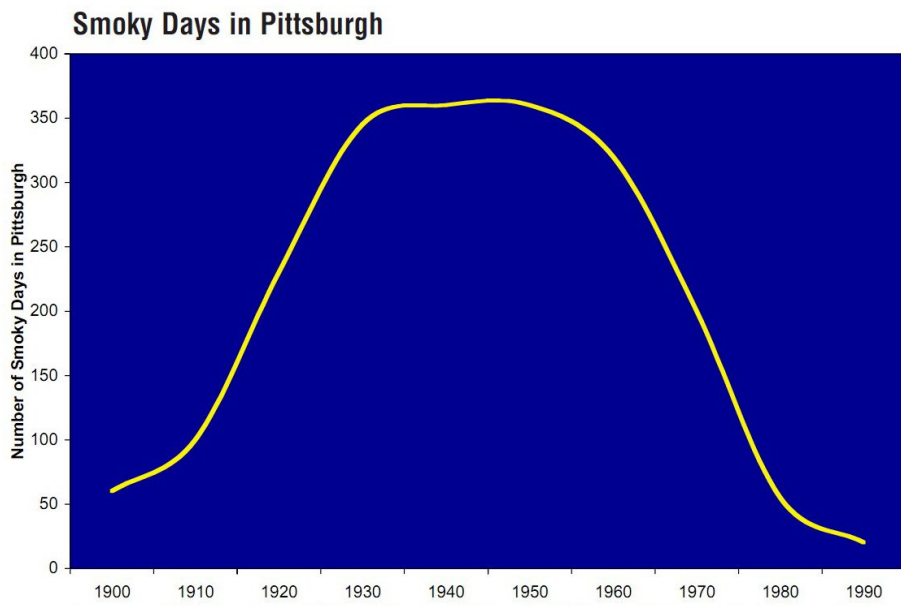
**Figure 7. The share of US primary energy demand from 1780-2100 demonstrates the substitutional nature of shifts in the generation mix, a trend that we believe is likely to continue**



Source: Citi Research, IEA, EIA

Citi

22) Pittsburgh is no longer a single massive smokestack.

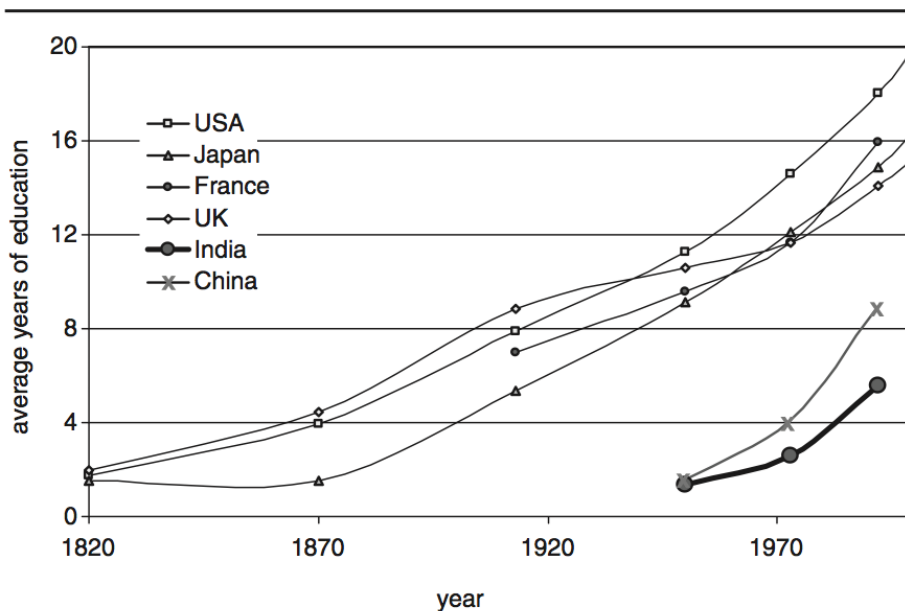


SOURCES: Cliff I. Davidson, "Air Pollution in Pittsburgh: A Historical Perspective," *Journal of the Air Pollution Control Association* 29 (1979): 1035-41; and Council on Environmental Quality, *Annual Report*, various years.

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23) Everyone is staying in school longer.

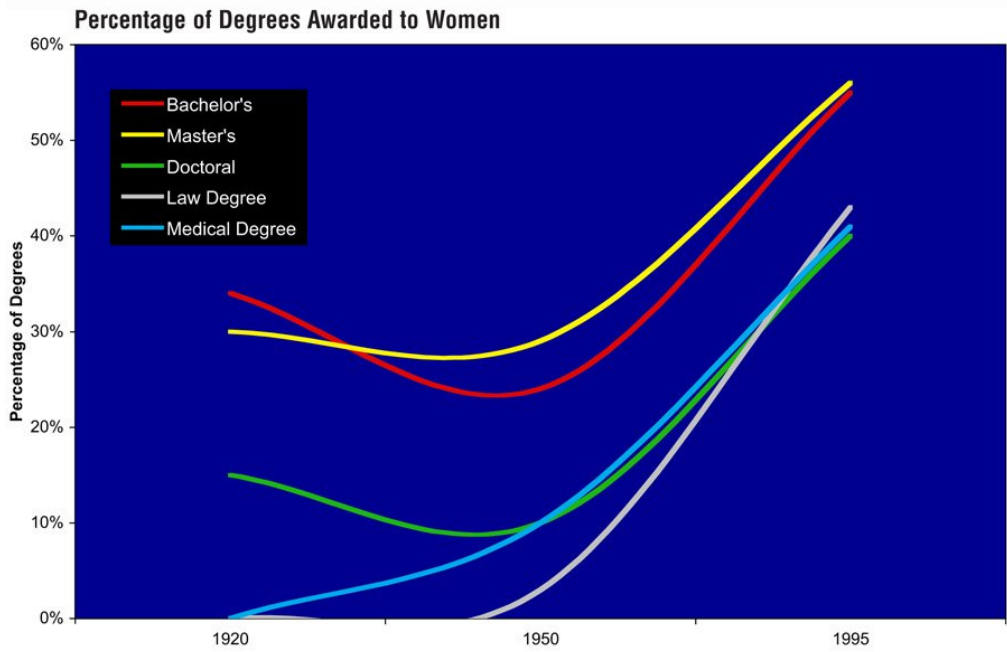
#### YEARS OF EDUCATION PER PERSON, 1820-2001



SOURCES: Angus Maddison, *Monitoring the World Economy, 1820-1992* (Paris: OECD, 1995); Angus Maddison, *Chinese Economic Performance in the Long Run* (Paris: OECD, 1998); Angus Maddison, *The World Economy: Historical Statistics* (Paris: OECD, 2003), <http://ggdc.net/~maddison> (accessed July 1, 2005).

"The Improving State of the World" (c) Cato Institute 2007. Used with permission

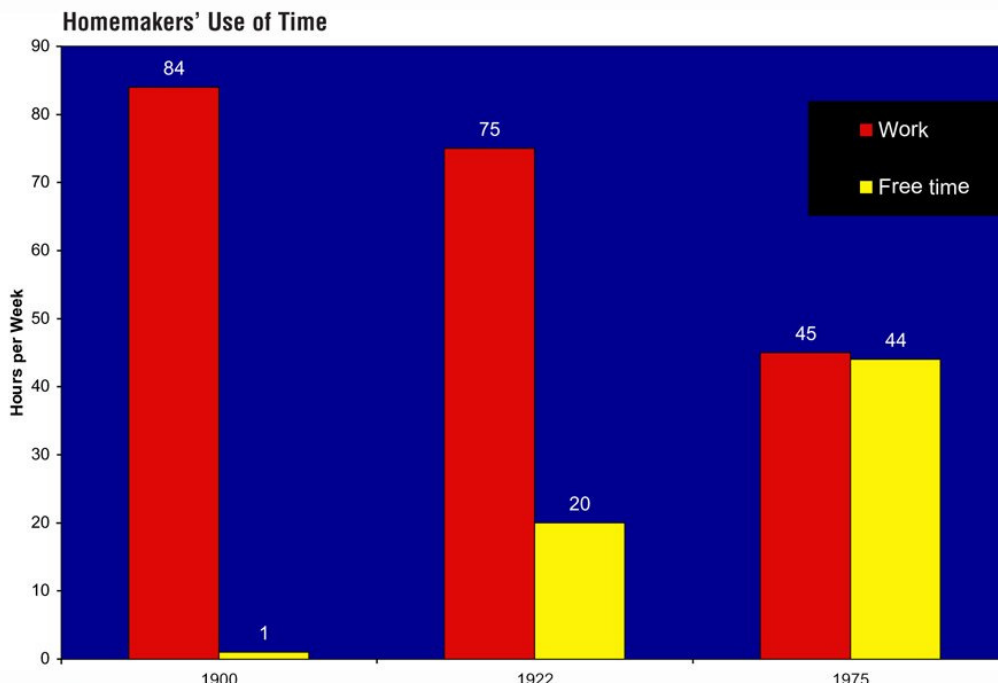
24) Women's education has more than caught up.



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems, *Completions*, Washington, various years.

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25) Women aren't stuck at home anymore.



SOURCE: Stanley Lebergott, *The Americans: An Economic Record* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1984).

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26) Gadgets you can't live without are now way cheap.

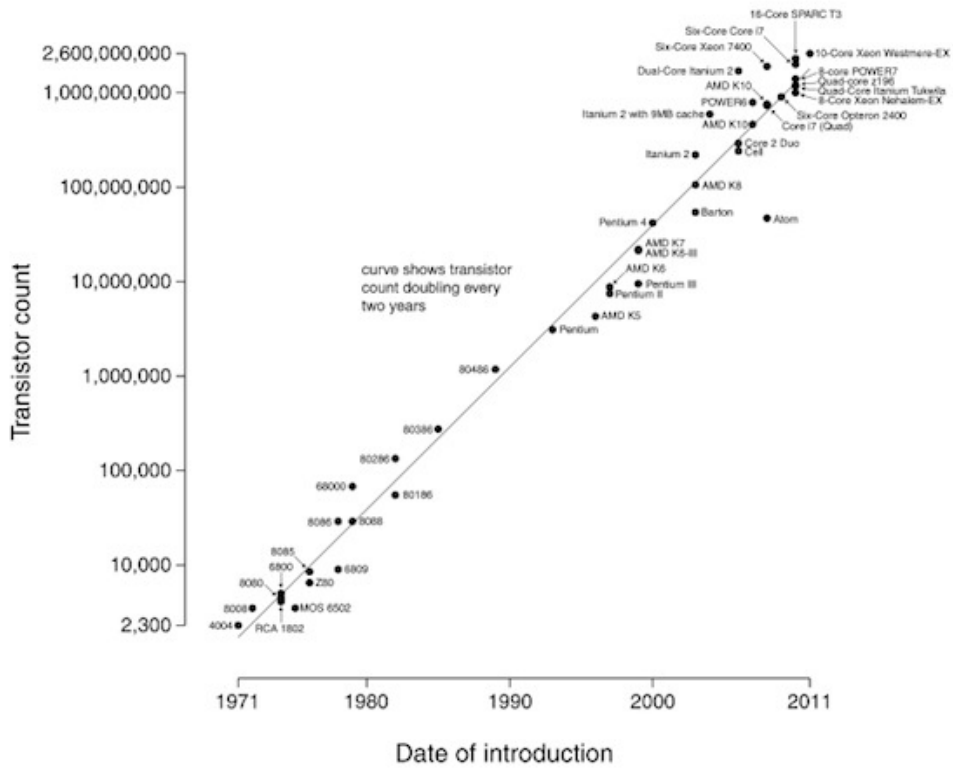
Average Price After Discount for PDAs/Smartphones and All Handsets<sup>831</sup>



FCC

27) Computers are getting crazy fast.

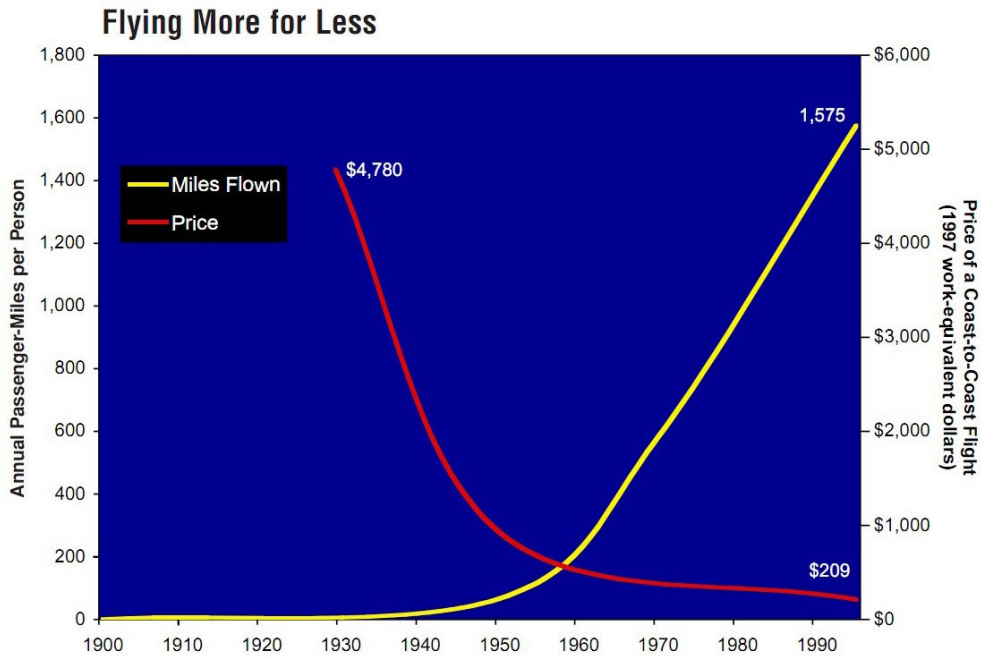
Microprocessor Transistor Counts 1971-2011 & Moore's Law



Wikimedia



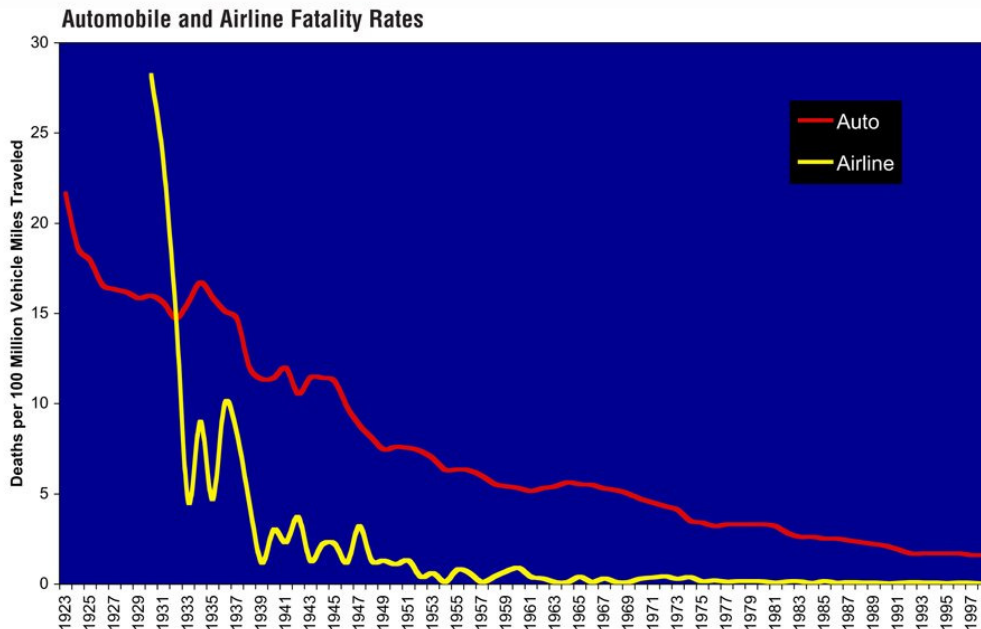
28) It's never been cheaper to fly.



SOURCE: Cox and Alm, 1997 Annual Report, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, p. 13.

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29) Or safer.

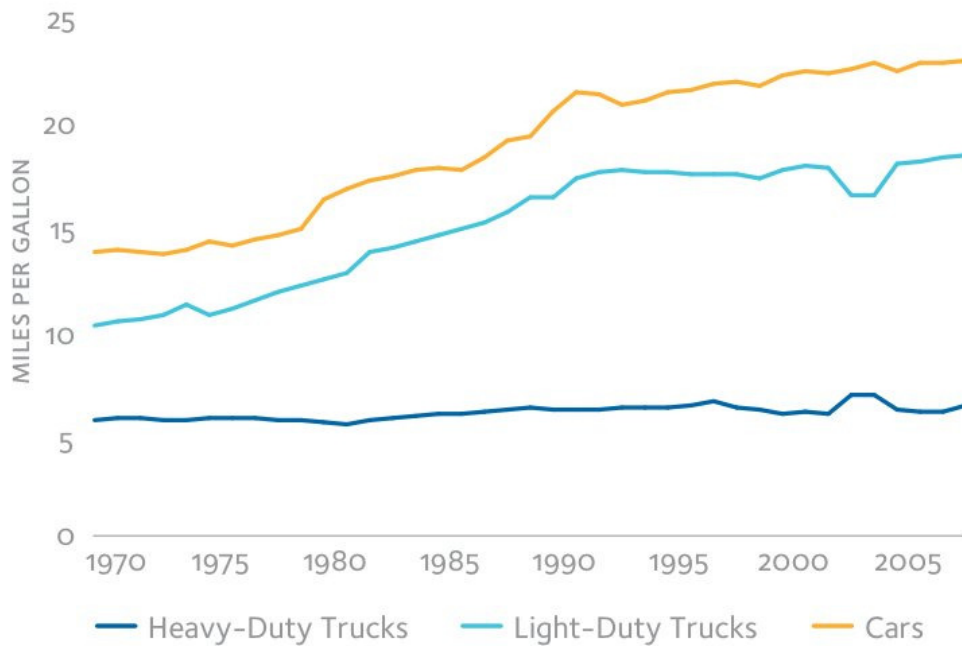


SOURCES: *Historical Statistics of the United States*, Series B 163, Q 627; National Safety Council, *Accident Facts* (various years); and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, *Traffic Safety Facts* (various years).

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30) You're getting a lot farther on a gallon of gas.

## U.S. MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL ECONOMY



Source: DOE, EIA. Data is observed fuel efficiency for the full fleet based on miles traveled and fuel consumed.

### Securing America's Future Energy

**BONUS:** It takes less and less time to buy all kinds of stuff. A bicycle in 1895 used to take 260 working hours to buy. By 1997 it was down to 7.2.

**Exhibit 5: Labour time costs of commodities (1895-1997)**

Commodity	Time-to-Earn in 1895 (Hours)	Time-to-Earn in 1997 (Hours)	Productivity Multiple
Horatio Alger books (6 vols.)	21	0.6	35.0
One-speed bicycle	260	7.2	36.1
Cushioned office chair	24	2.0	12.0
100-piece dinner set	44	3.6	12.2
Hair brush	16	2.0	8.0
Cane rocking chair	8	1.6	5.0
Solid gold locket	28	6.0	4.7
<i>Encyclopedia Britannica</i>	140	4	35.0
Steinway piano	2400	1107.6	2.2
Sterling silver teaspoon	26	34.0	0.8
Oranges (dozen)	2	0.1	20
Ground beef (1 lb.)	0.8	0.2	4
Milk (gallon)	2	0.25	8
Television	∞	15	∞
Plane ticket: SFO-BOS	∞	20	∞
Antibiotic strep throat cure	∞	1	∞
Dental x-ray	∞	2	∞
Laptop computer	∞	70	∞

Source: 1895 Montgomery Ward Catalogue

Jefferies