

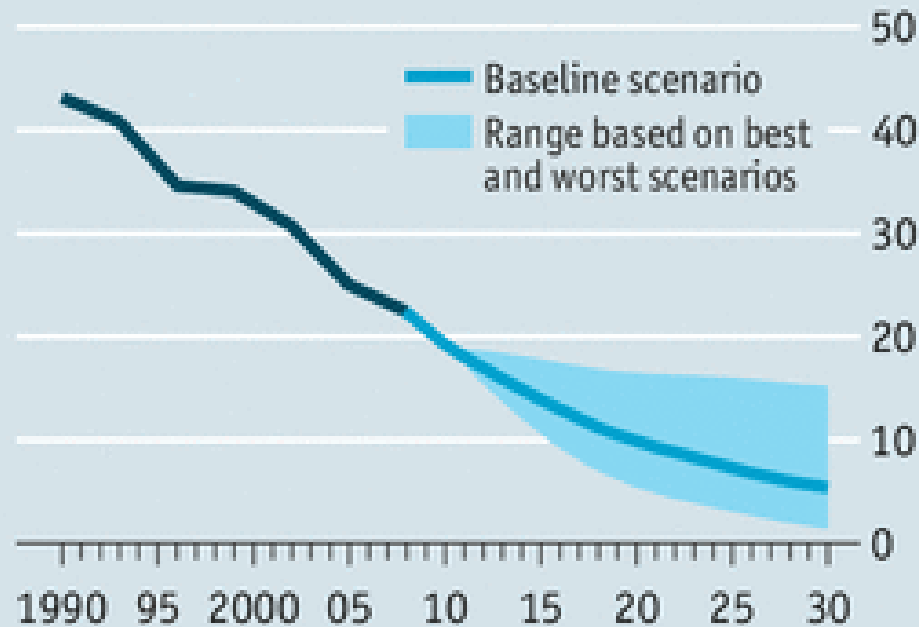
“Smoke and mirrors”
The science and sorcery of poverty

Julian May

Hooray!

1

Global poverty rate, %



Source: Laurence Chandy, Natasha Ledlie and Veronika Penciakova









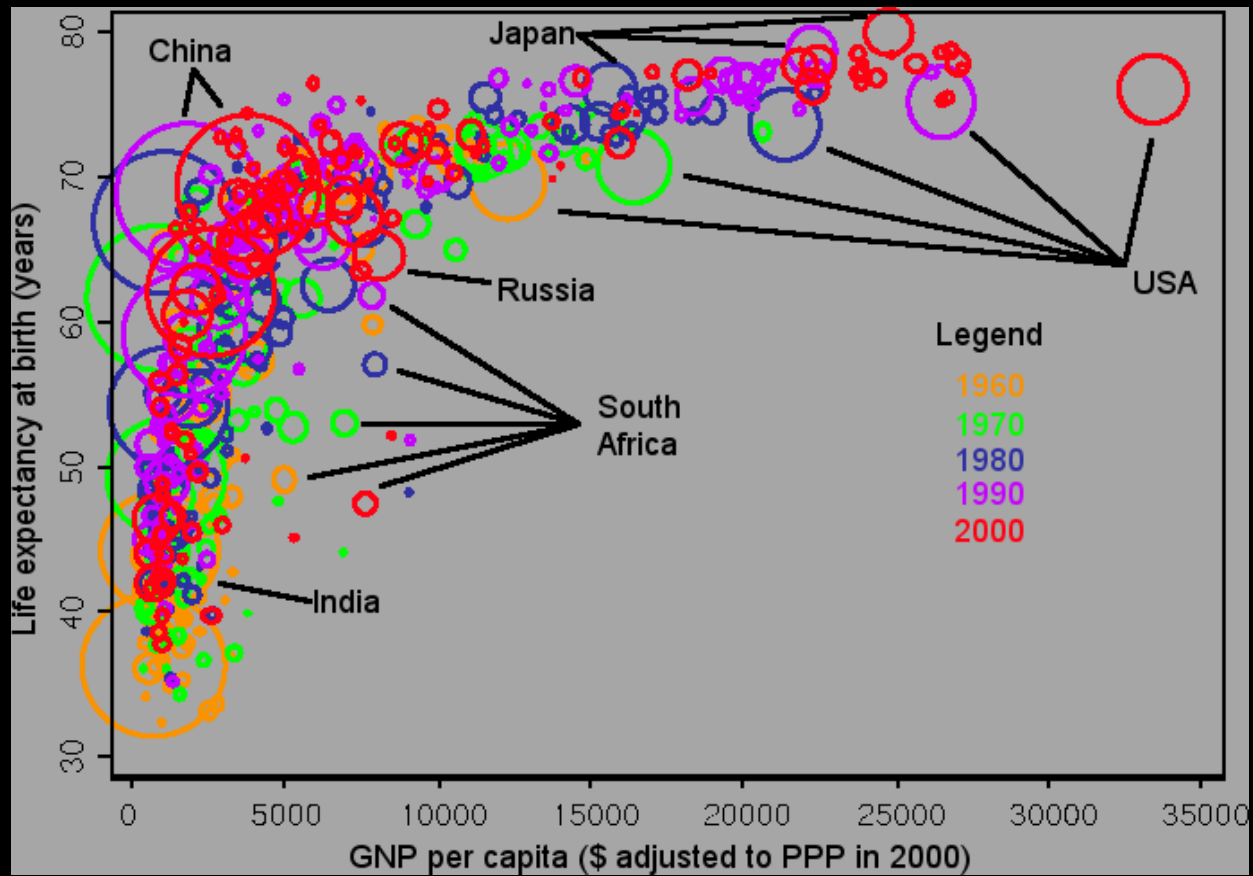
- “Any statement of policy to reduce poverty contains an implicit if not explicit explanation of its cause. Any explanation of poverty contains an implicit prescription for policy. Any conceptualisation of poverty contains an implicit explanation of the phenomenon.”
(Peter Townsend, 1979: 64)

John Finnis

- Life - survival, health, and reproduction.
- Knowledge including understanding, education, and also aesthetic experience.
- Meaningful Work and Play
- Friendship and other valued kinds of human relationships
- Self-Integration (inner peace)
- Authentic Self-Direction (participation, self-determination, practical reason)
- Transcendence 'peace with God, or the gods, or some non-theistic but more-than-human source of meaning and value.'

Martha Nussbaum

- Life
- Bodily health
- Bodily integrity
- Senses, thought, imagination
- Emotions
- Practical reason
- Affiliation
- Other species
- Play
- Control over one's environment



Can't get ahead...

*Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure
nineteen nineteen six, result happiness.*



*Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure
twenty pounds naught and six, result misery.*



(Mr Micawber from David Copperfield)

- “...poverty can be defined objectively and applied consistently only in terms of relative deprivation.
- Individuals, families and groups can be said to be in poverty when they lack the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities and have living conditions and amenities which *are customary, or at least widely encouraged or approved in the societies to which they belong.* (Peter Townsend, 1979:31).

Poverty Politics

MOST BANTU 'BELOW THE POVERTY LINE'

CT 21 Apr

Wages 'Should Be £16 10s. Higher'

Cape Times Industrial Correspondent

WITH Cabinet Ministers and industrial and commercial leaders emphasizing the need for increases in African wages and productivity, point is given to the questions what the minimum wage should be and what is, in fact, being paid now.

According to Dr. O. D. Wollheim, warden of Cafda, it has been accepted that the minimum cash wage necessary to keep an average African family of four—two adults and two children under 12—alive is about £23 a month in an urban area, such as the Cape Peninsula.

He said yesterday that he knew of no unskilled occupation in the Peninsula that paid

spirits £2 18s. 3d.; woodworking £2 3s. 9d.

Among the biggest employers of African unskilled labour in the Peninsula are the building industry, which has one of the lowest minimum wage rates, and the brickmaking and quarrying industries, whose minimum rates are among the lowest.

Most of the lowest minima are those fixed by the Wage Board. Some of these determi-

News in our 'Smalls'

'A Fabulous Car' is for Sale

- ★ Something different — a specially imported luxury car, 1959/60 Maretti Special, 2-door, sports saloon, seats four, mileage only 2,600 — "a fabulous car".
- ★ Men's hairdresser is required at once, must have references.
- ★ Caravans for hire (4-berth) fully equipped and insured.
- ★ Part-time employment wanted by lady, clerical, cashier or sales.
- ★ Student's cage lost on Hout Bay bus Tuesday afternoon, reward.
- ★ Electric stove for sale with automatic oven in beautiful condition — £25.
—Cape Times "Smalls" and Classifieds, pages 12, 13 and 15.

- “. . . social research and social policy derived essentially from professional and middle-class anxieties to maintain the stability of institutions by correcting the measured costs and inefficiencies of social wastage”.
(McGregor 1957)

- “So long as authority inspires awe, confusion and absurdity enhance conservative tendencies in society. Firstly, because clear and logical thinking leads to a cumulation of knowledge and the advance of knowledge sooner or later undermines the traditional order. Confused thinking, on the other hand, leads nowhere in particular and can be indulged indefinitely without producing any impact upon the world.” (Stanislav Andreski, 1972)

