

End of Poverty?

Written by admin

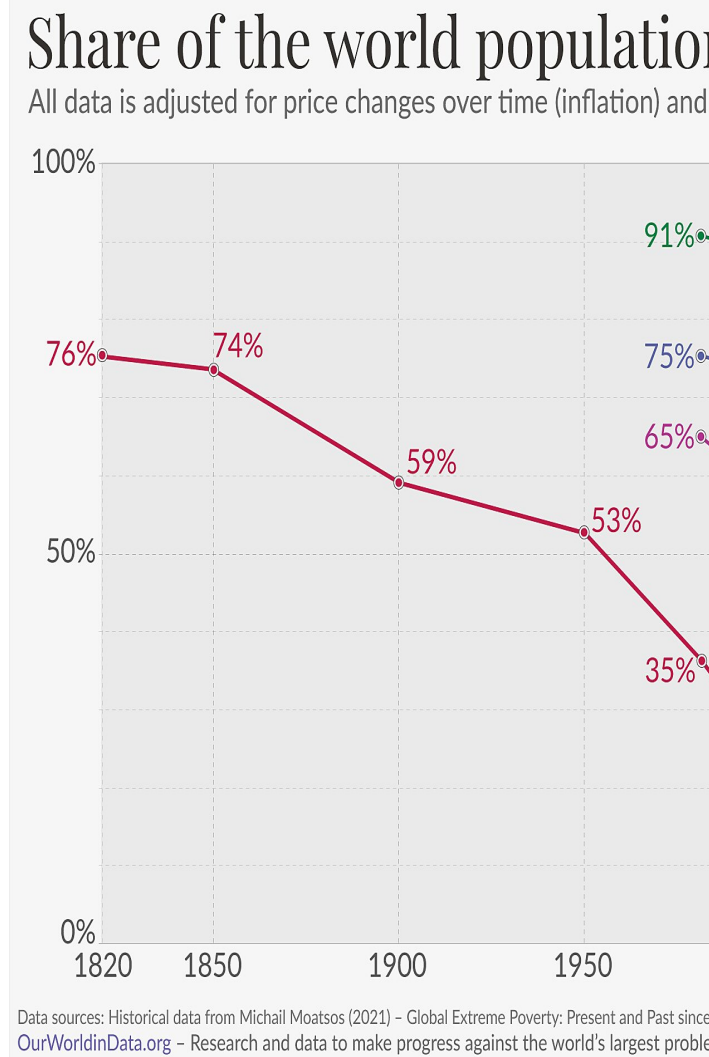
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The history of the end of poverty has just begun..

The decline of global poverty is one of the most important achievements in history, but the end of poverty is still very far away.

[by Max Roser](#) January 11, 2022

It is possible to leave widespread poverty behind.



The Reverend Thomas Malthus asserted that poverty is inevitable. *“It has appeared that from the inevitable laws of our nature, some human beings must suffer from want. These are the unhappy persons who, in the great lottery of life, have drawn a blank.”*

[1](#)

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Writing in the 18th century it is understandable that he came to this conclusion. Poverty was such a persistent reality in humanity's history up to then, that it was unimaginable that it could ever be different.

In the two centuries since Malthus' death we have learned however that he was wrong. The deep poverty of the past is not inevitable. Economic growth is possible and entire societies can leave the widespread poverty of the past behind.

Let's look at one of the societies that has achieved this. Two centuries ago, the huge majority of people in Sweden lived in deep poverty. Every fourth child [died](#) , and close to 90% of the population was so very poor that they could not afford a tiny space to live, some minimum heating capacity, and food that would not induce malnutrition.

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<https://ourworldindata.org/history-of-poverty-has-just-begun>