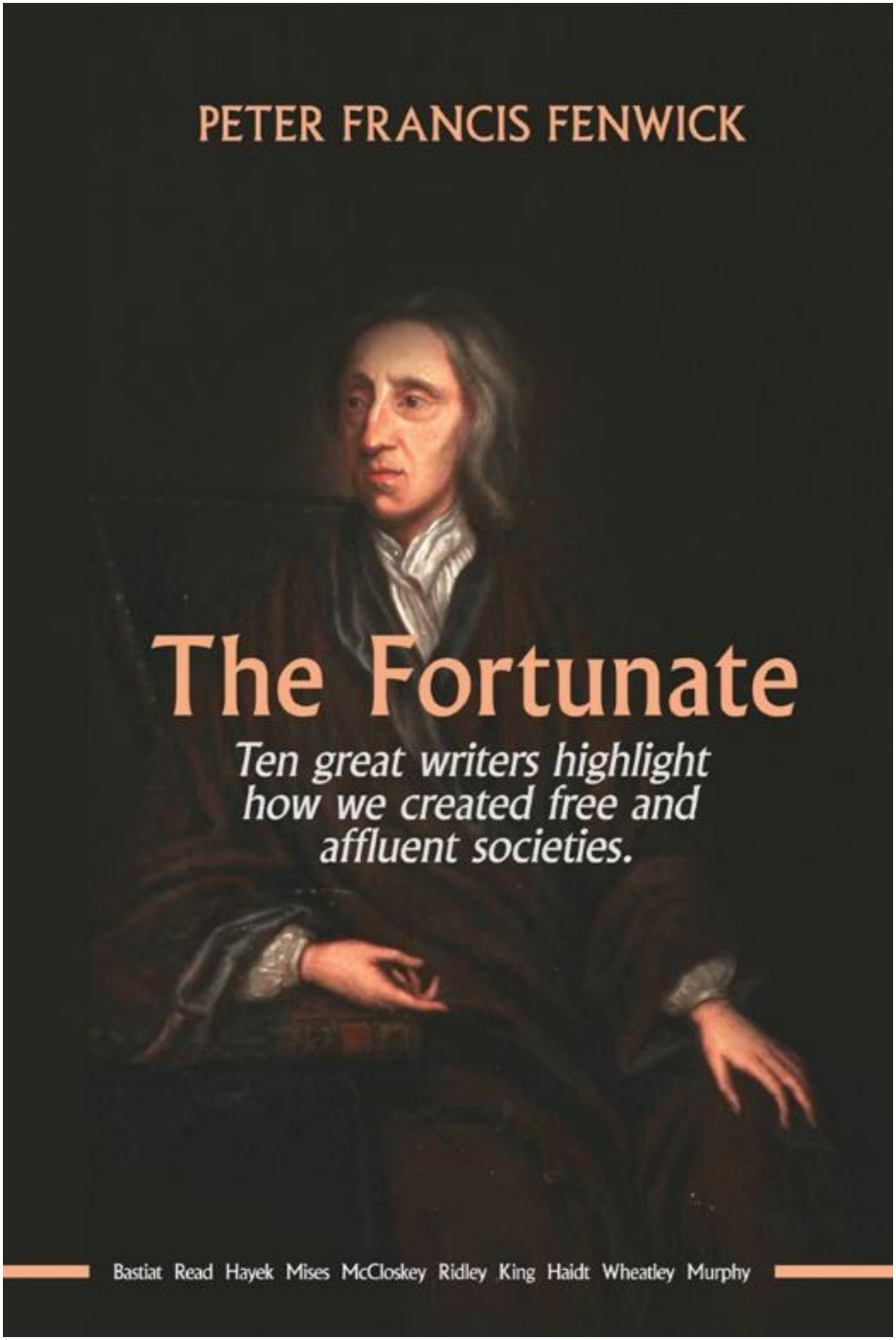
PETER FRANCIS FENWICK
The Fortunate
Ten great writers highlight how we created free and affluent societies.
Bastiat Read Hayek Mises McCloskey Ridley King Haidt Wheatley Murphy

Appendices

I. One hundred years of growth worldwide

Our World in Data is a treasure trove of information on poverty, disease, hunger, climate change, war, existential risks, and inequality. It has been built by Max Rosser and his team in collaboration with the University of Oxford. On their website you will be able to find charts of GDP per capita reconstructed over time for individual countries and for the entire world. [1]

The immediate reports of disastrous events that we hear on the nightly news or read in the daily papers tend to distort our views. We gain a better understanding of the world by examining trends.

The following graphs illustrate the increasing affluence of the citizens of most countries over the past hundred years, and for some, more particularly over the past thirty. For each region, I have chosen a representative sample. Observe the contrasts: China and Taiwan; North and South Korea; Estonia and Ukraine; Botswana and Zimbabwe. Note which countries are not on the upward trend. Think about the reasons why Syria and Venezuela, going against the trend, are in decline.

You can access the data at www.ourworldindata.org and create your own versions or find information about other countries and other times. Enjoy.

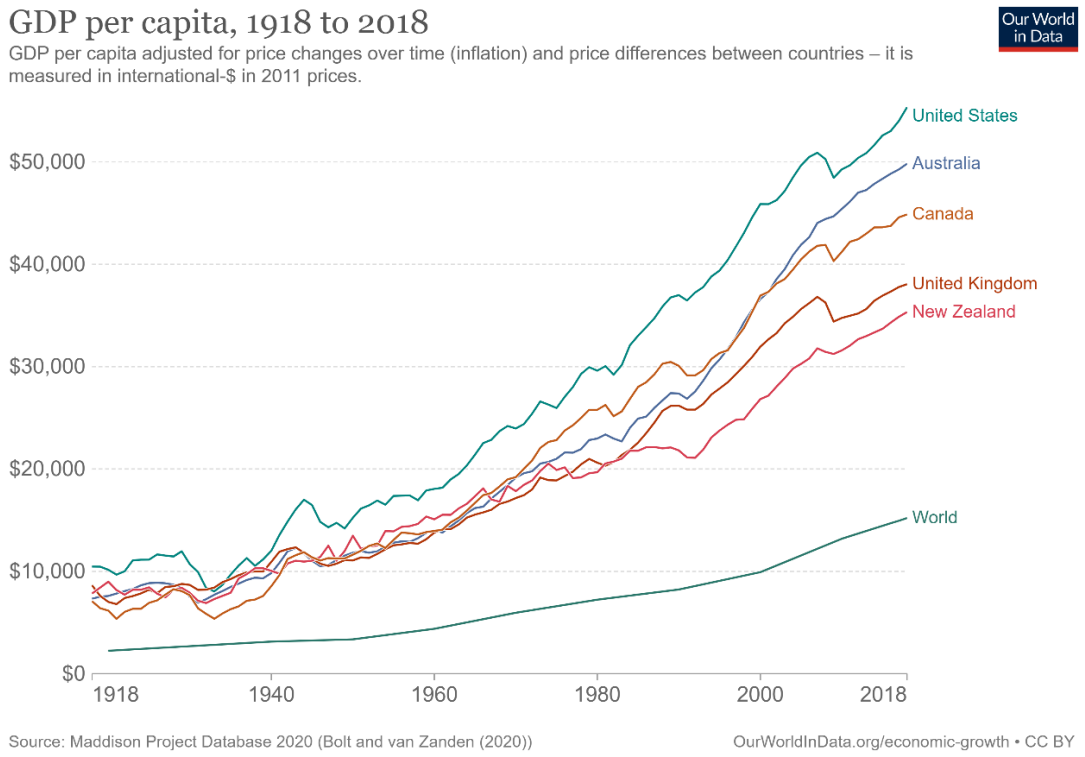

Fig. 1 The Anglosphere

[1] www.ourworldindata.org

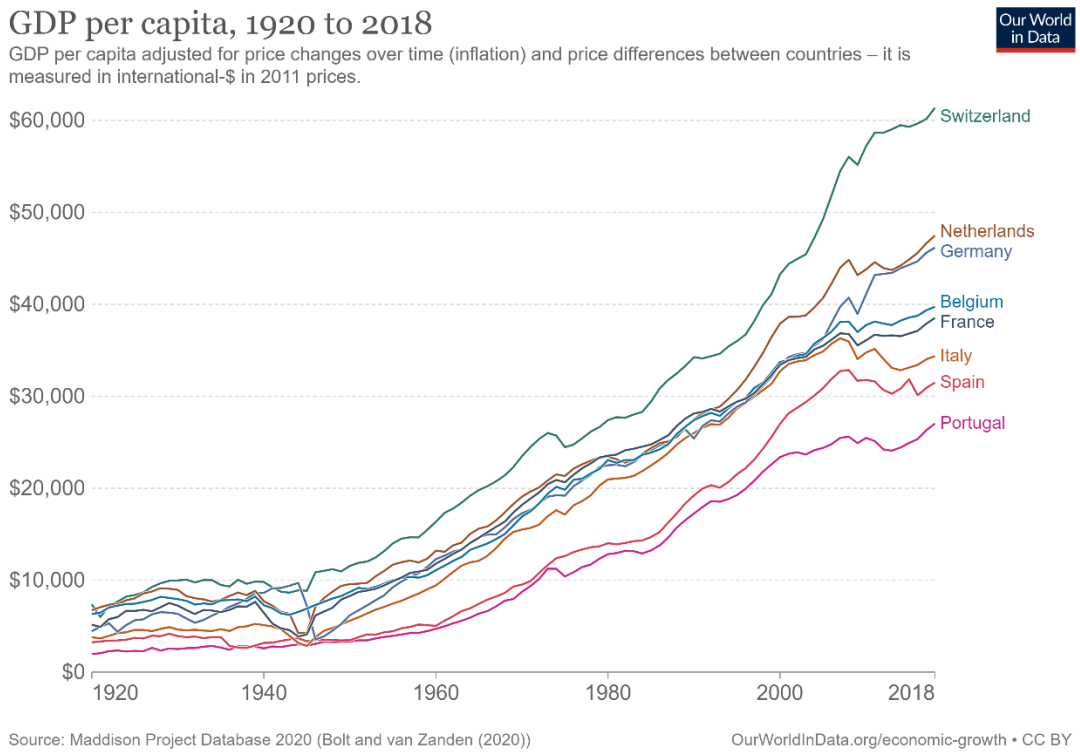

Fig. 2 Western Europe

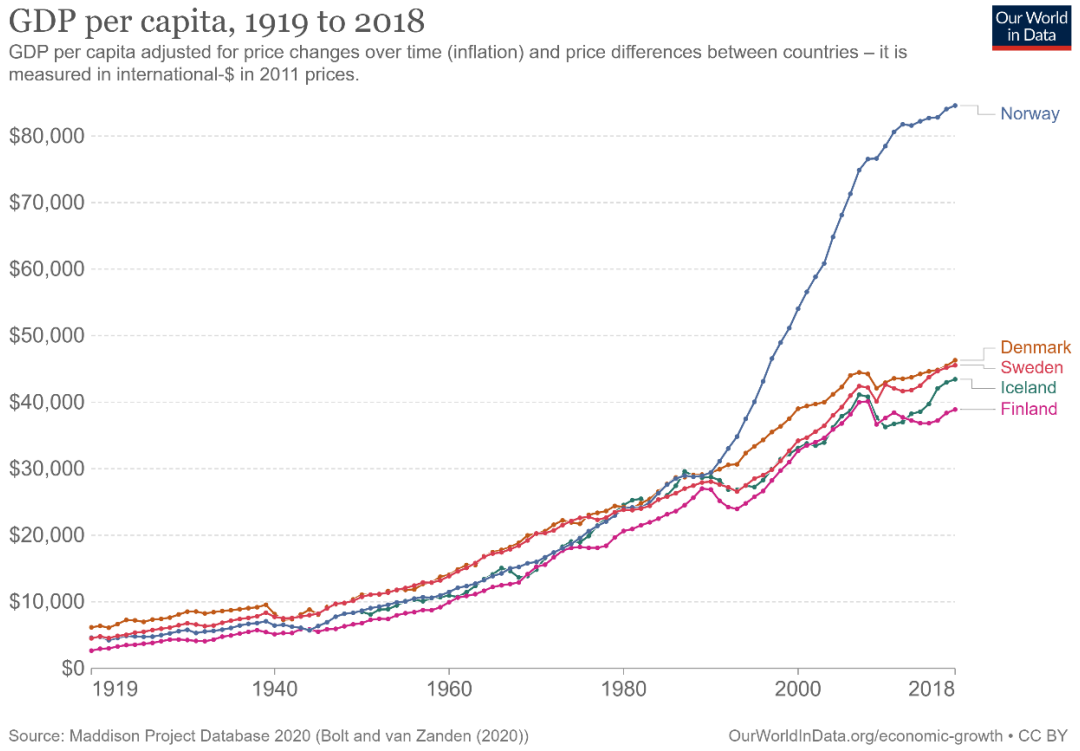

Fig 3 Scandinavia & Finland

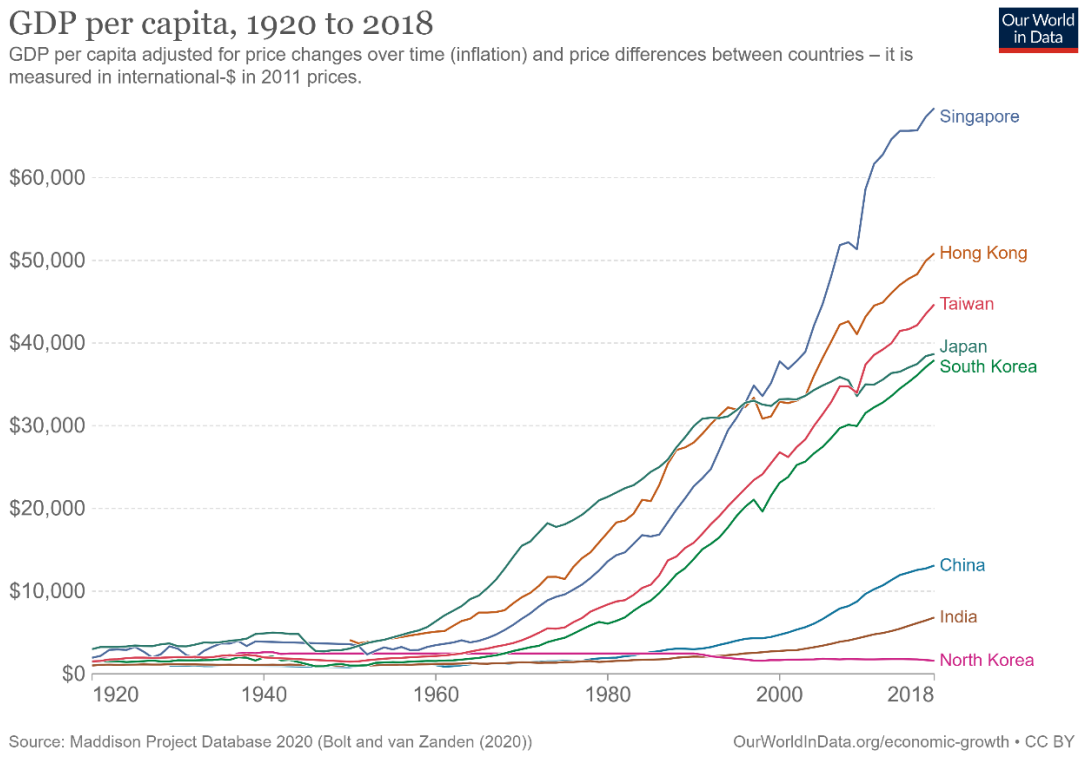

Fig. 4 Asia

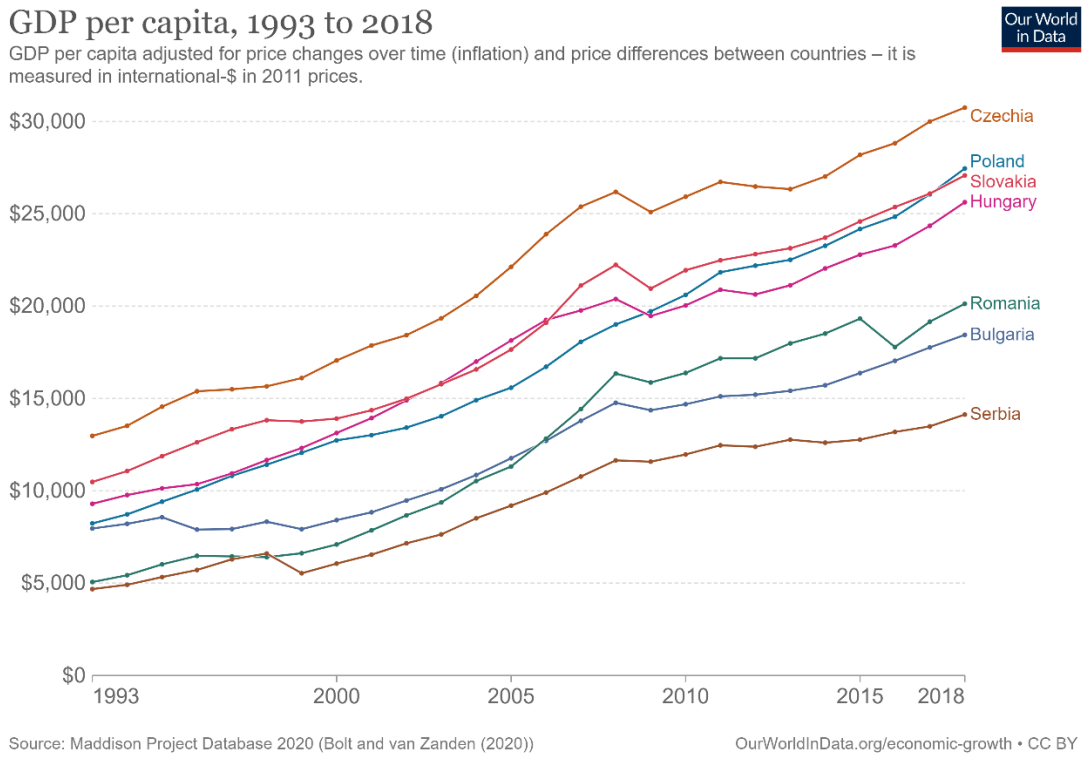

Fig. 5 Eastern Europe

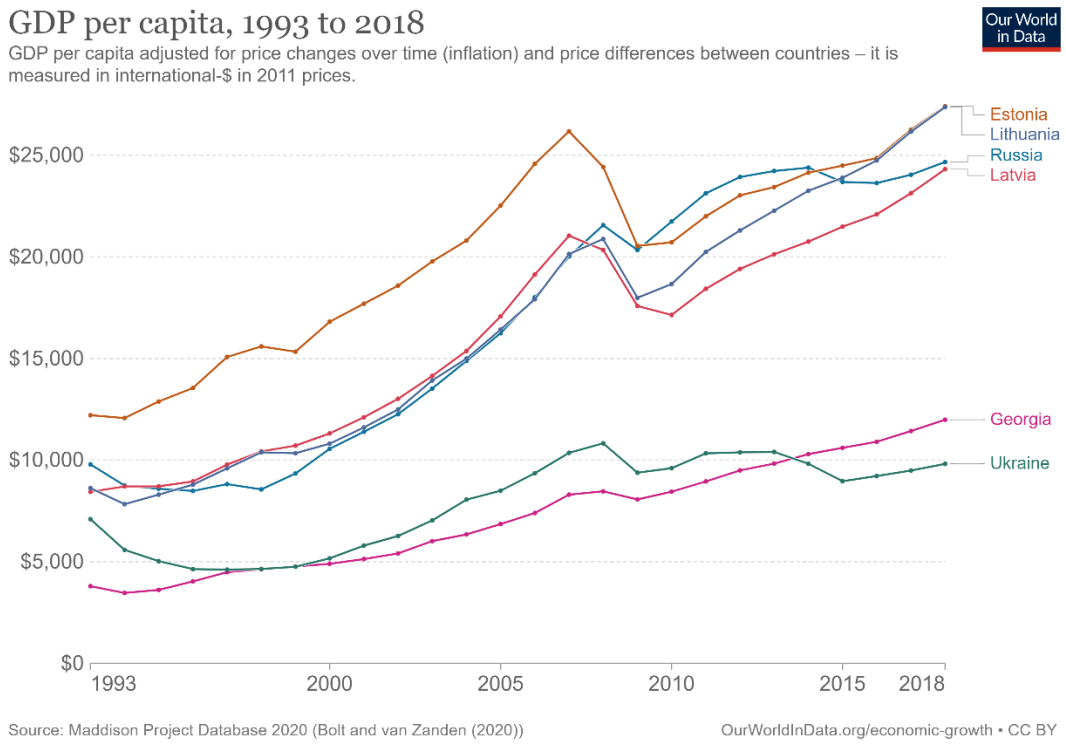

Fig. 6 The Former USSR

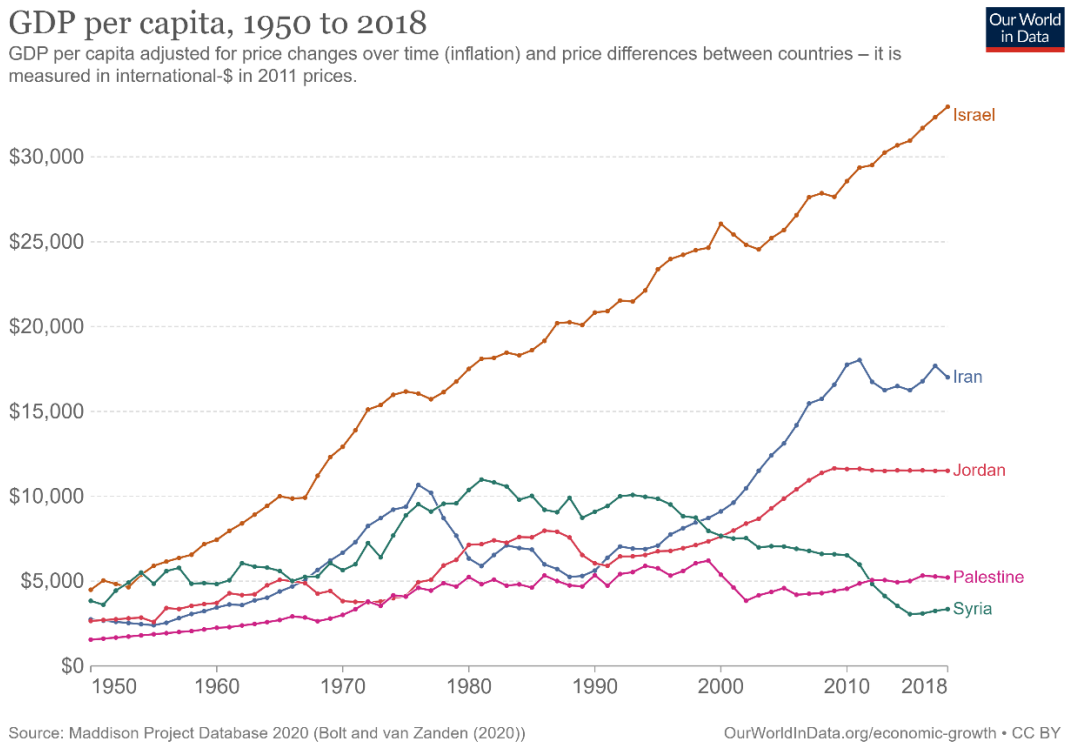

Fig. 7 Middle East

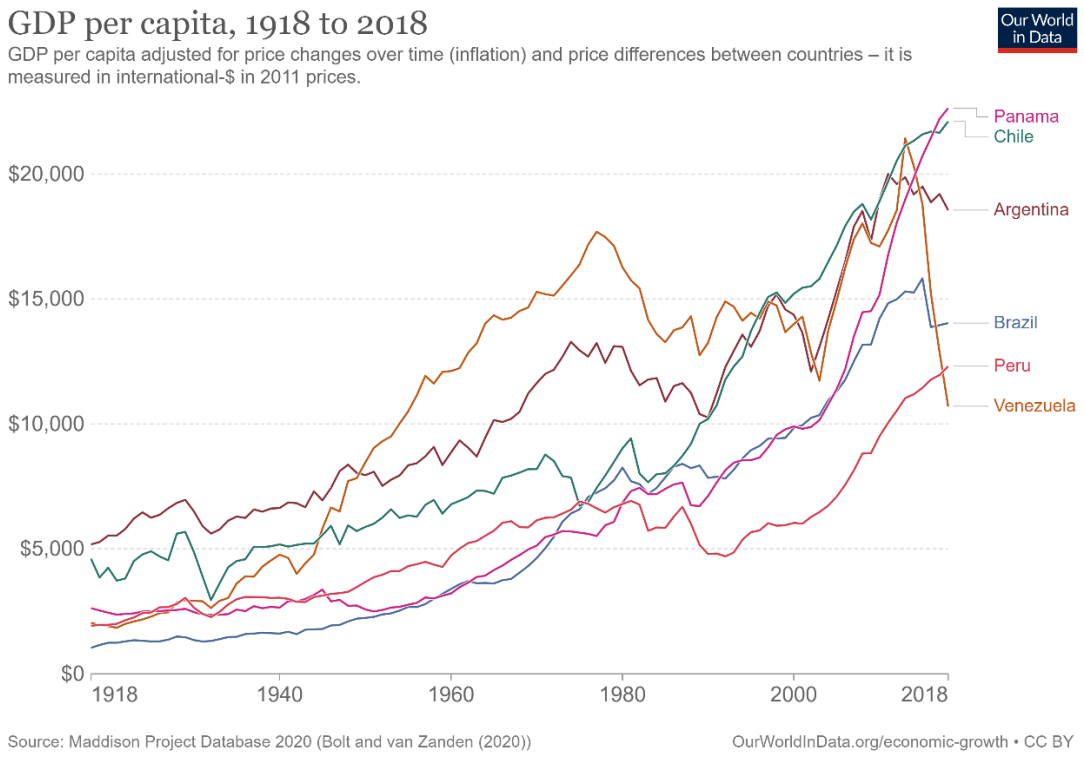

Fig. 8 South America

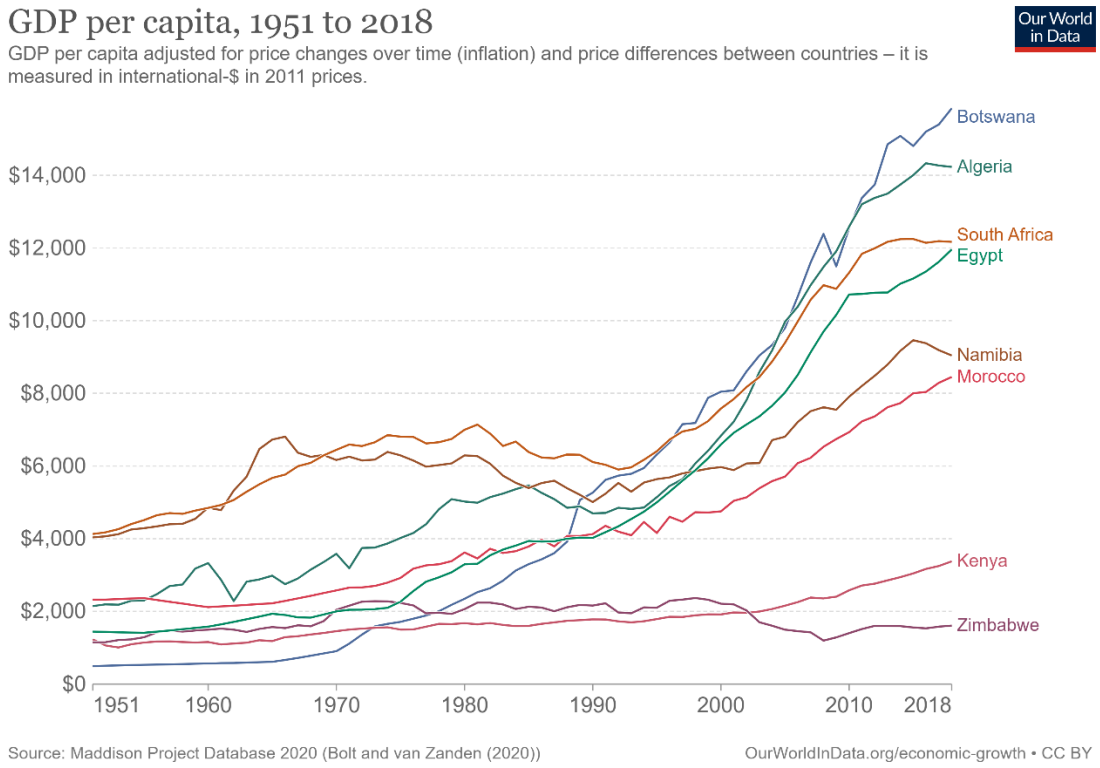

Fig. 9 Africa

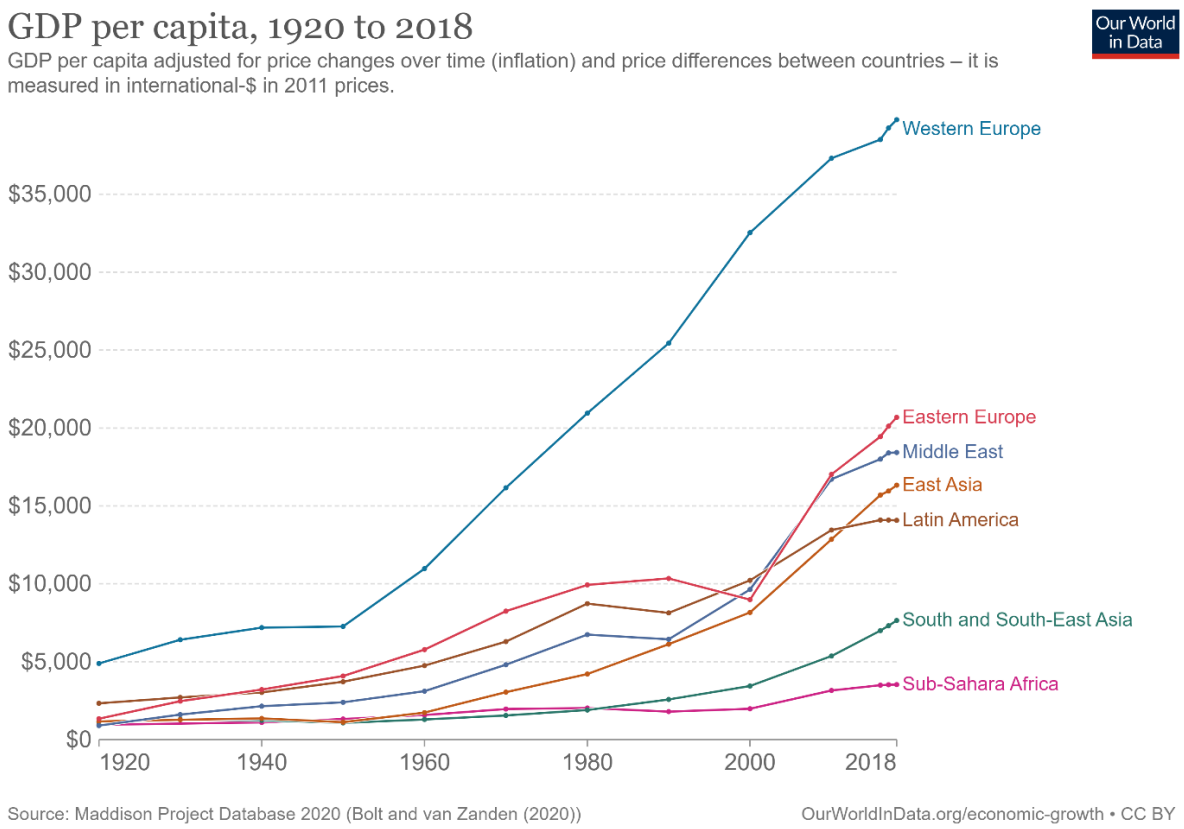

Fig. 10 Regions

Permission to use the above graphs has been provided free of charge by Our World in Data.

II. Recommended reading

Steven Pinker *Enlightenment Now, 2018*

If we follow the headlines, the world in the twenty-first century appears to be sinking into chaos, hatred and irrationality. Yet, as Steven Pinker shows, if we follow the trendlines, we discover that our lives have become longer, healthier, safer and more prosperous – not just in developed nations, but worldwide. Such progress is no accident: it's the gift of a coherent value system that many of us embrace without even realising it. These are the values of the Enlightenment: of reason, science, humanism and progress. The challenges we face today are formidable. But the way to deal with them is not to sink into despair or try to lurch back to a mythical, idyllic past; it's to treat them as problems we can solve, as we have solved other problems in the past. This is the case for an Enlightenment newly recharged for the twenty-first century.

Daniel Hannan *Inventing Freedom, 2013*

Daniel Hannan tells us how the English-speaking peoples made the modern world.

"The inhabitants of a damp island at the western tip of the Eurasian landmass stumbled upon the idea that the government ought to be subject to the law, not the other way around. The rule of law created security of property and contract, which in turn led to industrialisation and modern capitalism. For the first time in the history of the species, a system grew up that, on the whole, rewarded production better than predation. That system proved to be highly adaptable. It was taken across the oceans by English-speakers, sometimes imposed by colonial administrators, sometimes carried by patriotic settlers. In the old courthouse in Philadelphia, it was distilled into its purest and most sublime form as the U.S. Constitution." [2]

Jonah Goldberg *Suicide of the West, 2018*

Goldberg argues that authoritarianism, tribalism, identity politics, nationalism and cults of personality are rotting democracies from within. To survive, societies must renew their sense of gratitude for what our civilisation has given us and rediscover our ideals.
Suicide is painless, liberty takes work.

Yuval Levin *The Fractured Republic, 2016*

Yuval Levin argues that the politics of nostalgia is destroying us. Individualism, dynamism and liberalisation have come at the cost of dwindling solidarity, cohesion and social order. This has left us with more choices in every realm of life, but less security, stability and national unity. Levin calls for the revival of the middle layers of society: families and communities, schools and churches, charities and associations, local governments and markets.

David Kemp *The Land of Dreams, 2018*

As the first book in a landmark five-volume Australian Liberalism series, *The Land of Dreams* describes how Australians laid the foundation for one of the world's most successful countries, with unprecedented levels of personal liberty and social equality.

---

[2] Hannan, D. (2013). p. 12

Henry Hazlitt Economics in One Lesson, *1946/2020*

In 1946, Hazlitt expanded on Frédéric Bastiat's *That Which is Seen and That Which is Unseen* to create what is still regarded as the clearest exposition of economics for a lay audience ever written. The Mises Institute published a new edition in 2020.

Saifedean Ammous The Bitcoin Standard, *2018*

Ammous elucidates the economic, social, cultural, and political benefits of sound money over unsound money to enable an informed discussion of the potential role Bitcoin could play in the digital economy of the future.

F.A. Hayek The Constitution of Liberty, *1960/2011*

Hayek defends the principles of a free society, casting a sceptical eye on the growth of the welfare state and examining the challenges to freedom posed by an ever-expanding government – as well as the corrosive effects on the creation, preservation and utilisation of knowledge.

Ludwig von Mises The Best of Ludwig von Mises, *2019*

Jeffrey Tucker has edited a collection of five of Mises's essays, including *Economic Calculation in the Socialist Commonwealth.* Read these before you tackle *Human Action.*

Frédéric Bastiat The Best of Frederic Bastiat, *2020*

Brad Devos has edited a collection of five of Bastiat's essays, including *That Which is Seen and That Which is Unseen* and *A Negative Railroad.* If you enjoyed *The Petition of the Candlemakers,* you will love these.

Deirdre McCloskey *Bourgeois Equality, 2016*

McCloskey believes that it was ideas that drove "trade tested betterment" – the bizarre liberal ideas of equal liberty and dignity for ordinary folk. Commoners were encouraged to have a go, the bourgeoisie took up the Bourgeois Deal, and we were all enriched.

Matt Ridley The Rational Optimist, *2011*

Ridley takes a positive view and explains how, due to specialisation and exchange, life just gets better and better.

John Mueller *Capitalism, Democracy & Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery, 1999*

Mueller declares that what is true of Garrison Keillor's fictional store, 'Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery', is also true of democracy and capitalism: if you can't find what you want there, you can probably get along without it. This is an entertaining guide filled with thought-provoking ideas.

III. References

Acemoglu, D. & Robinson, J.A. (2012). *Why Nations Fail: The origins of power, prosperity and poverty,* Profile Books.

Agrawal, V., Cantor, J.H., Sood, N., & Whaley, C.M. (2021). *The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Policy Responses on Excess Mortality,* National Bureau of Economic Research.

Allen, D.W. (2021). *Covid Lockdown Costs/Benefits: A Critical Assessment of the Literature,* Simon Fraser University.

Ammous, S. (2018). *The Bitcoin Standard*, John Wiley & Sons

Aristotle, (350 BCE). *Nicomachean Ethics*, *Book II*, Translated by W.D. Ross, The Internet Classics Archive.

Bastiat, C.F. (2007). *The Bastiat Collection*, Ludwig von Mises Institute.

Brown, S.L. et. al. (1974). *The Incredible Bread Machine*, World Research, Inc.

Bylund, P. (2006). *How the Welfare State Corrupted Sweden*, Mises Daily, May 31, 2006.

Diamond, J. (1997). *Guns, Germs and Steel,* Chatto & Windus.

Devos, B. ed. (2020). *The Best of Frederic Bastiat*, American Institute for Economic Research.

Drucker, P. (1954/1968). *The Practice of Management,* Pan Books.

Hobbes, T. (1651/2009). *Leviathan,* Oxford World's Classics.

Fenwick, P. (2016). *Liberty at Risk*, Connor Court.

Friedman, M. & Freidman, R. (1980). *Free to Choose*, Macmillan Company of Australia.

Frijters, P., Foster, G. & Baker M. (2021). *The Great Covid Panic*, Brownstone Institute.

Goldberg, J. (2018). *Suicide of the West*, Crown Forum.

Gupta, S., Bhattacharya, J. & Kulldorff, M. (2021). *The Great Barrington Declaration,* https://gbdeclaration.org.

Haidt, J. (2006). *The Happiness Hypothesis: Finding modern truth in ancient wisdom*, Basic Books.

-- *(2012). The Righteous Mind: Why good people are divided by politics and religion, Penguin.*

Haidt. J. & Lukianoff, G. *(2018). The Coddling of the American Mind: How good intentions and bad ideas are setting up a generation for failure*, Penguin.

Hannan, D. (2013). *Inventing Freedom: How the English-speaking peoples made the modern world*, HarperCollins Publishers.

Harari, Y. N. (2011). *Sapiens: A brief history of humankind,* Vintage Books.

Hayek, F.A. (1944/2007). *The Road to Serfdom*, University of Chicago Press.

-- (1960/2011). *The Constitution of Liberty*, University of Chicago Press.

-- (1988). *The Fatal Conceit*, University of Chicago Press.

Hazlitt, H. (1946/2020). *Economics in One Lesson*, Mises Institute.

Hobbes, T. (1651/2009). *Leviathan,* Oxford World's Classics.

Kemp, D. (2018) *The Land of Dreams: How Australians won their freedom*, The Miegunyah Press.

Levin, Y. (2011). *Beyond the Welfare State,* National Affairs, 2011 issue 7.

-- (2016). *The Fractured Republic: Renewing America's Social Contract in the Age of Individualism,* Basic Books.

Lindsay, J and Boyle, P. (2017). *The conceptual penis as a social construct, Cogent Social Sciences.*

McCloskey, D.N. (2006). *The Bourgeois Virtues: Ethics for an age of commerce*, University of Chicago Press.

-- (2010). *Bourgeois Dignity: Why economics can't explain the modern world*, University of Chicago Press.

-- (2016). *Bourgeois Equality: How ideas, not capital or institutions, enriched the world*, University of Chicago Press.

-- (2019). *Economical Writing*, University of Chicago Press.

-- (1999, 2019). *Crossing: A transgender memoir,* University of Chicago Press.

-- (2019). *Why Liberalism Works: How true liberal values produce a freer, more equal, prosperous world for all,* Yale University Press.

-- (2020). *The Bourgeois Deal,* University of Chicago Press.

McCloskey, D.N. & Carden, A. (2020). *Leave Me Alone and I'll Make You Rich,* University of Chicago Press.

Mill, J.S. (1859/2003). *On Liberty,* Penguin.

Mises, L. von, (1912/1932). *The Theory of Money and Credit*, Jonathan Cape.

-- (1922/1951). *Socialism: An Economic and Sociological Analysis,* Yale University Press.

-- (1927/1962). *Liberalism,* D. Van Nostrand.

-- (1929/1976). *A Critique of Interventionism*, Arlington House.

-- (1933/1960). *Epistemological Problems in Economics*, D. Van Nostrand.

-- (1944). Omnipotent Government: *The Rise of the Total State & Total War,* Yale University Press.

-- (1944). *Bureaucracy,* Yale University Press.

-- (1949). *Human Action,* Yale University Press.

Mueller, J. (1999). *Capitalism, Democracy & Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery*, Princeton Paperbacks.

Murakami, H. (2003). *Norwegian Wood*, Random House.

Murphy, P. (2001). *Civic Justice: From ancient Greece to the modern world,* Prometheus Books.

-- (2012). The Collective Imagination: The creative spirit of free societies, Routledge.

-- (2015). Universities and Innovation Economies: The creative wasteland of post-industrial societies, Ashgate.

-- (2017). Auto-industrialism: DIY capitalism and the rise of the auto-industrial society, Sage Publications.

-- (2019). Limited Government: The public sector in the auto-industrial age, Routledge.

-- (2020-1). The Political Economy of Prosperity: Successful societies and productive cultures, Routledge.

-- (2020-2). COVID-19: Proportionality, public policy and social distancing, Palgrave Pivot.

Newman, J. H. (1853,1858/ 1959). *The Idea of a University*, Image Books.

Palmer, T.G. ed. (2011). *The Morality of Capitalism: What your professors won't tell you*, Jameson Books.

Perrottet, D. (2016). *Deconstructing Greer,* The Spectator, 23 April 2016.

Pinker, S. (2013). *The Better Angels of Our Nature: A history of violence and humanity*, Penguin.

-- (2018). *Enlightenment Now: The case for reason, science, humanism and progress,* Allen Lane.

Prins, G. (2021). *The Worm in the Rose,* The Global Warming Policy Forum

Rawls, J. (1996). *Political Liberalism,* Columbia University Press

Ricardo, D. (1817/2004). *Principles of Political Economy and Taxation*, Dover Publications.

Ridley, M. (2010). *The Rational Optimist: How prosperity evolves,* Harper Perennial.

-- (1998). *The Origins of Virtue: Human instincts and the evolution of cooperation*, Penguin.

-- (2000). *Genome: The autobiography of a species in 23 chapters*, Penguin.

-- (2003). *The Red Queen: Sex and the evolution of human nature*, Harper Perennial.

-- (2004). *The Agile Gene: How nature turns on nurture*, Harper Perennial.

-- (2011). *Francis Crick: Discoverer of the genetic code,* Harper Perennial.

-- (2016). *The Evolution of Everything: How new ideas emerge*, Fourth Estate.

-- *(2020). How Innovation Works: And why it flourishes in freedom*, Fourth Estate.

Rothbard, M.N., (1963/2005). *What has Government Done to Our Money?*, Ludwig von Mises Institute

-- (1963/2013). *America's Great Depression*, Ludwig von Mises Institute.

Saad, G. (2020). *The Parasitic Mind: How infectious ideas are killing common sense*, Regnery Publishing.

Sabhlok, S. (2020). *The Great Hysteria and the Broken State,* Connor Court.

Shlaes, A. (2019). *Great Society: A new history*, Harper Perennial.

Smith, A. (1776/1964). *The Wealth of Nations*, Everyman's Library, J.M. Dent & Sons

Solzhenitsyn, A. (1973/2018). *The Gulag Archipelago*, Vintage Classics

Stockman, D. (2013). *The Great Deformation*, Public Affairs.

Tucker, J. ed. (2019). *The Best of Ludwig von Mises*, American Institute for Economic Research

Wheatley, M.J. (1992/2018). *Leadership. and the New Science: Discovering order in a chaotic world*, Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

-- (2006). *Finding Our Way: Leadership. for an uncertain time,* Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

-- (2009). *Turning to One Another: Simple conversations to restore hope for the future*, Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

-- (2012). *So Far from Home: Lost and found in our brave new world,* Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

-- (2010). *Perseverance,* Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

-- (2017). *Who Do We Choose to Be? Facing reality, claiming leadership, restoring sanity,* Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

Wheatley, M.J. & Kellner-Rogers, M. (1996). *A Simpler Way*, Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

Wheatley, M.J. & Frieze, D. (2011). *Walk Out Walk On: A learning journey into communities daring to live the future now*, Berrett-Koehler Publishers

In The Fortunate, Peter Fenwick discusses the history, economics, and philosophies that underpin our modern world – the Lockean Revolution - highlighted by essays from some of his favourite writers.

Here, you will find Frédéric Bastiat wittily demolishing protectionism; Leonard E. Read describing the miracle of the price mechanism; F.A. Hayek analysing sound economic decision-making; Ludwig von Mises explaining how life changes when 'the customer becomes king'; Martin Luther King Jr dreaming of a United States in which its founding principles will apply equally regardless of race; Jonathan Haidt, Meg Wheatley and Peter Murphy warning us about disturbing trends in our society; Matt Ridley reviewing 100 years of communism; and Deirdre McCloskey explaining how the Great Enrichment came about due to a change in rhetoric about liberty and human dignity.

The philosophers of the Enlightenment told us that liberty works and that prosperity flows from it. Two hundred years of history has shown us that this is true - that it works in practice. Moreover, it applies, not just in the Anglosphere or in the developed world. The concepts are valid universally.

Societies which have embraced liberal democratic principles – individual rights, private property, the rule of law, and representative government – have thrived. Now everyone can live happy, prosperous and meaningful lives if they and their leaders choose to build their societies on these principles.

We should be proud of our heritage, confident in our achievements, and prepared to fight against forces that might unwittingly seek to destroy them. We are the fortunate. Let's keep it that way.