

Mitigation and Adaptation Studies



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Class 26: Developing Options: Changing Economy

- Normative ethics and current reality
- Towards a new economy for humanity and the planet





An aerial photograph of an industrial waterfront area, likely a shipyard or port. The foreground shows several large white cylindrical storage tanks, various industrial buildings, and a large body of water filled with numerous boats, barges, and ships. In the background, a city skyline is visible across a wide river or bay, with a large bridge spanning the water. The sky is clear and blue. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing text.

Change will come slowly, across generations, because old beliefs die hard even when demonstrably false.

E. O. Wilson

Normative versus Descriptive Ethics

Normative ethics:

- Duty not to contribute to harm - not to contribute to massive, systemic harm
- Duty to justice
- Obligation to our children's future

No massive harm

Normative Ethics:

Duty not to contribute to harm - not to contribute to massive, systemic harm

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Example of migration

Migration Causing Massive Harm

Forced migration: often caused by persecution, development, or exploitation.

- African slave trade: Most devastating forced migration in human history: moved 12 to 30 million Africans from Africa to North America, Latin America, and the Middle East.
- Trail of Tears: Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced tens of thousands of Native Americans living the Southeast to migrate.
- Construction of China's Three Gorges Dam: displaced nearly 1.5 million people and put 13 cities, 140 towns and 1,350 villages underwater.

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Reluctant migration: individuals move because of an unfavorable situation at their current location.

- Hurricane Katrina: many people decided to either move further from the coast or out-of-state.
- Bangladesh: 20 M on the move from river delta into Dhaka
- Syria and African countries: migration to mainly Europe

- Forced migration:** often caused by
- African slave trade: Most devastating to 30 million Africans from Africa to East.
 - Trail of Tears: Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced Americans living in the Southeast to relocate.
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- Reluctant migration:** individuals who do not want to leave their current location.
- Hurricane Katrina: many people displaced out-of-state.
 - Bangladesh: 20 M on the move from rural to urban areas.
 - Syria and African countries: migration due to conflict and economic hardship.

By GLOBAL POST / CBS NEWS / September 19, 2010, 3:50 PM

Dhaka, Bangladesh: Fastest Growing City in the World



Raw sewage drains from slum neighborhood directly onto the trash-strewn banks of the Buriganga River in Dhaka, Bangladesh. / GLOBAL POST

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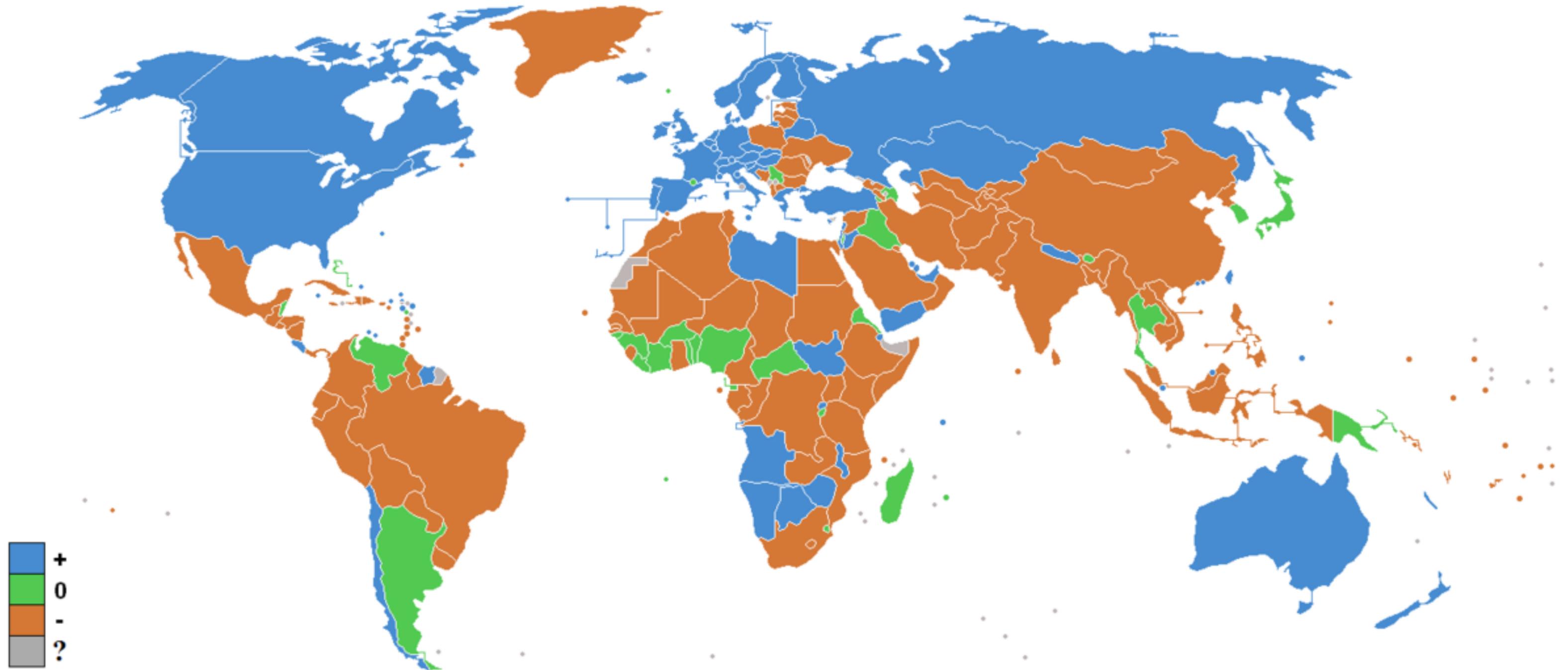
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Migration Causing Massive Harm



Migration
Opinion

Mass migration is no 'crisis': it's the new normal as the climate changes

Ellie Mae O'Hagan



What's the common factor between the tragic deaths of refugees in the Mediterranean and the Arab spring? Food shortages driven by global warming

Tuesday 18 August 2015
10.27 EDT



13k 1,455



Migrants from Pakistan rest in a field on the Greek island of Kos Photograph: Alkis Konstantinidis/Reuters

Advertisement



Take On car l

Replay

Migration Causing Massive Harm



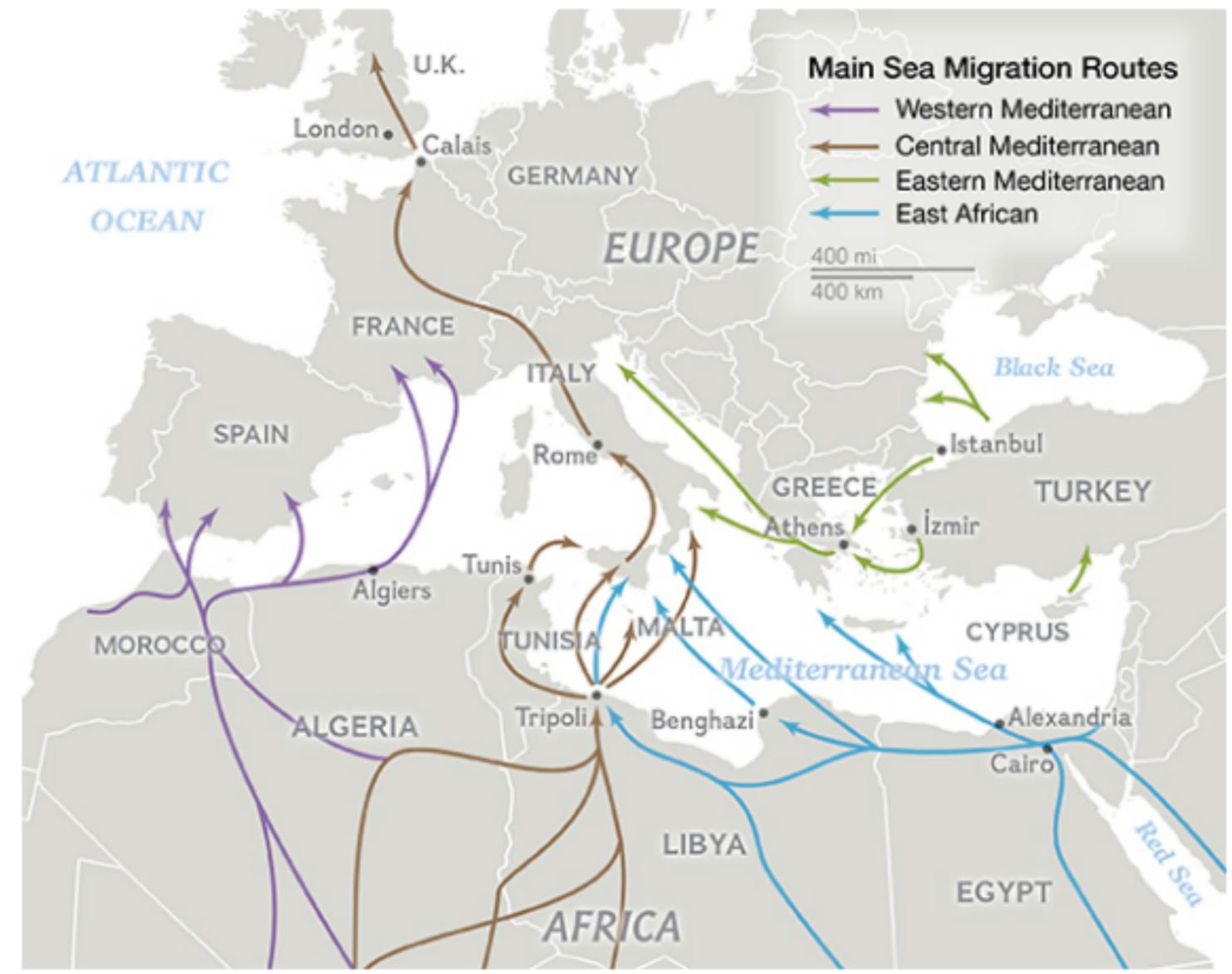
Migration Causing Massive Harm

Eastern Mediterranean Route



NG STAFF
 SOURCES: MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION; UNHCR; I-MAP;
 REGIONAL MIXED MIGRATION SECRETARIAT

Mediterranean Sea Route



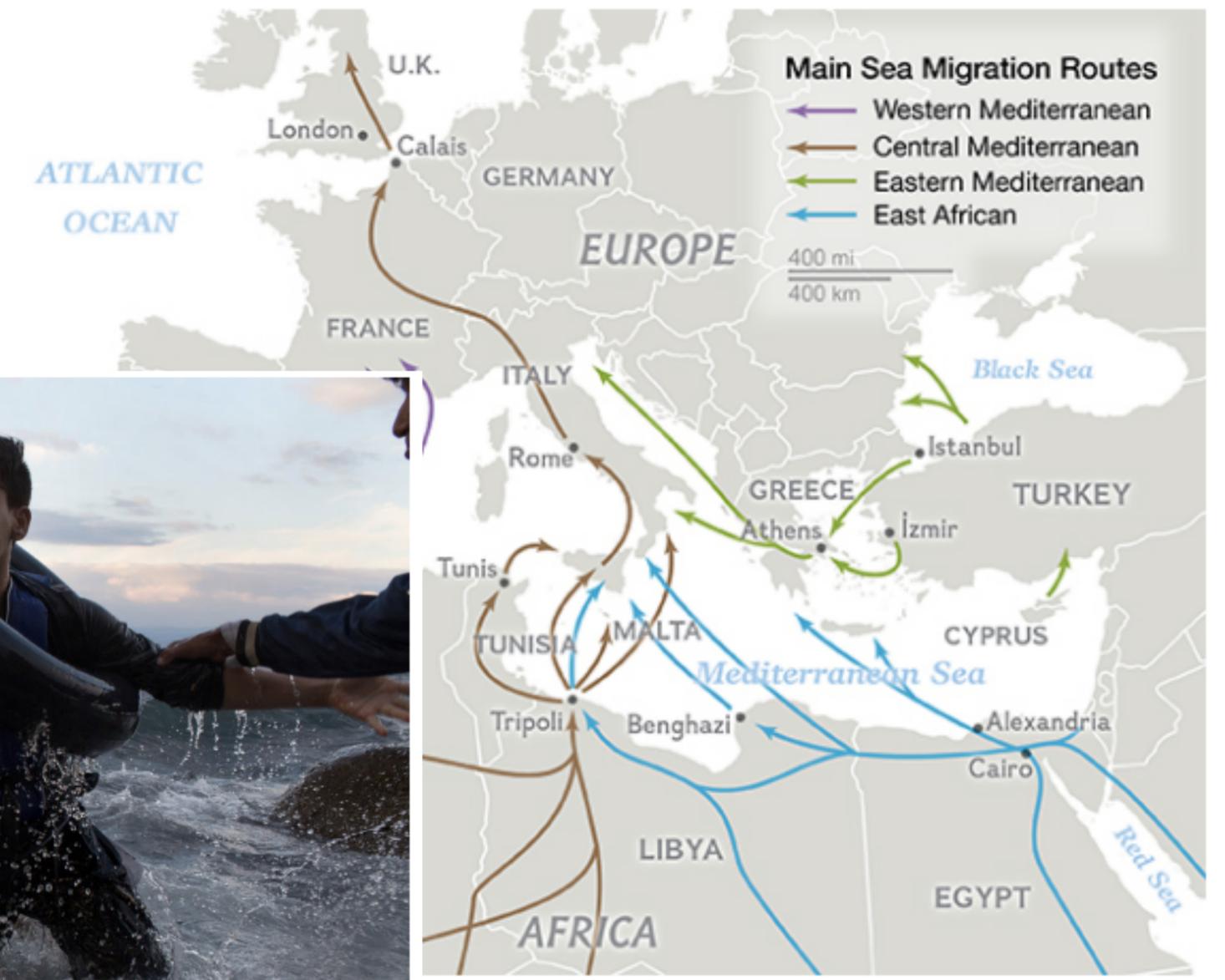
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NT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION; UNHCR; I-MAP; RIAT

Migrants landed on Lesbos from Turkey this month after battling rough seas. Aid groups say the chaotic nature of human traffic has left them without a full picture of the people reaching Europe.

Tyler Hicks/The New York Times

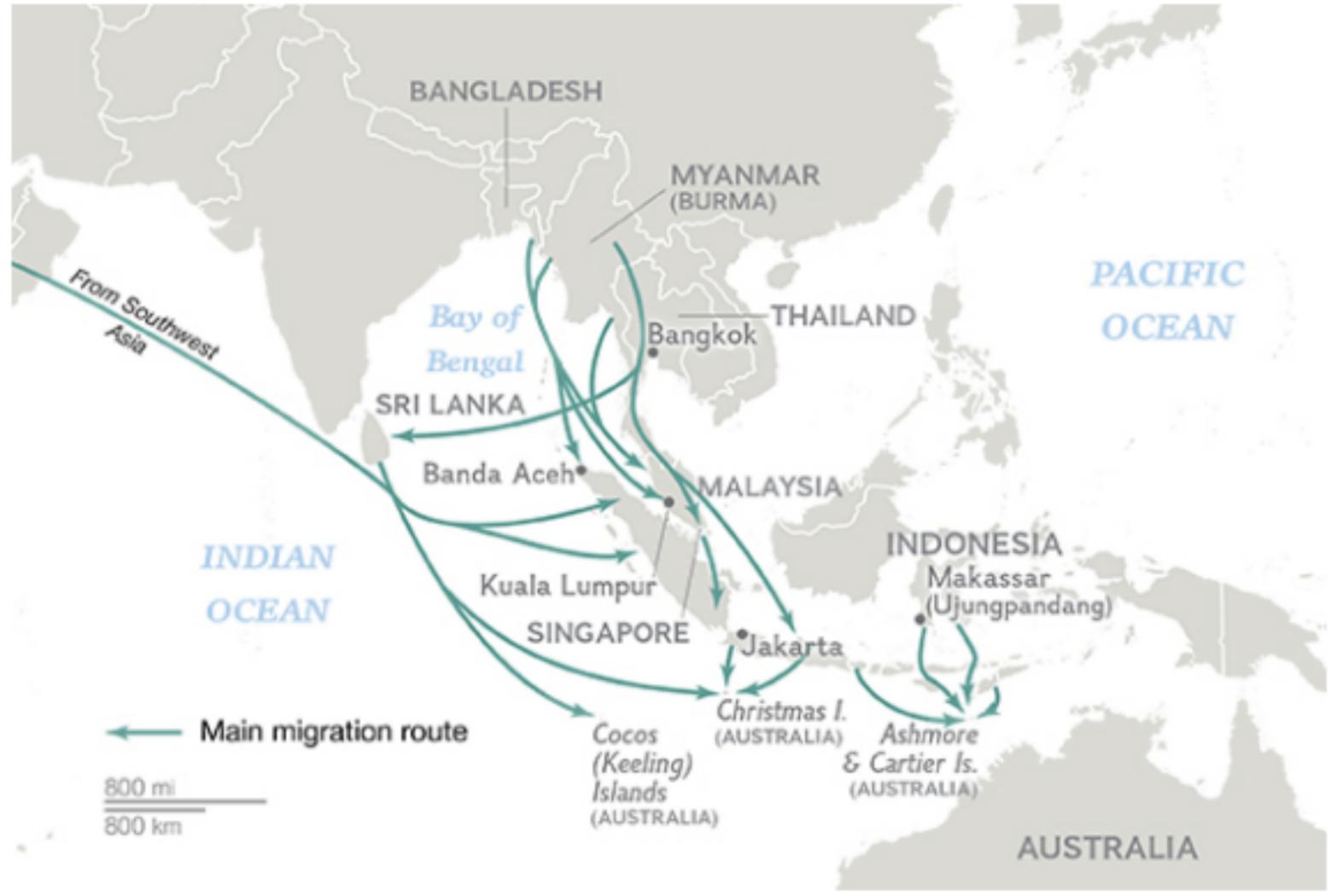
Migration Causing Massive Harm

Central American Route



NG STAFF
SOURCE: MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Southeast Asian Route



NG STAFF
SOURCE: MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Migration Causing Massive Harm

Central American Route



NG STAFF
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Southeast Asian Route



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION



Rohingya refugees on a boat off the coast of Indonesia in May.

Januar/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

No massive harm

Normative Ethics:

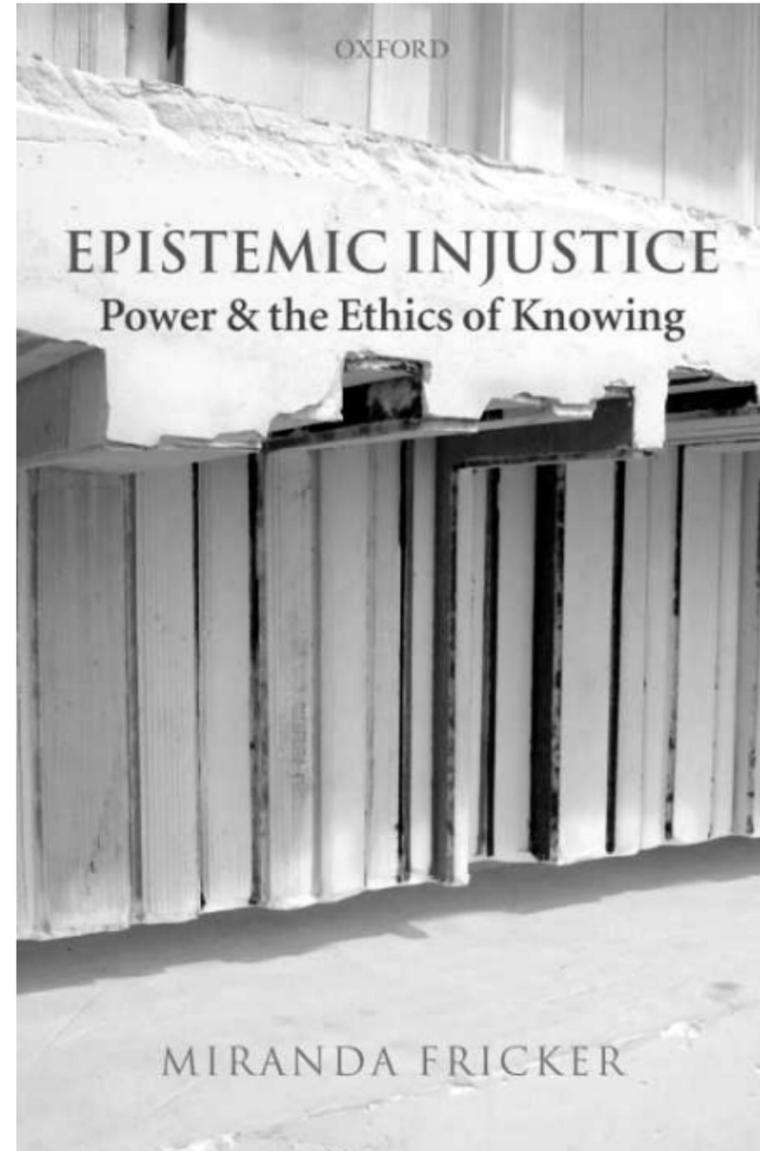
Duty not to contribute to harm - not to contribute to massive, systemic harm

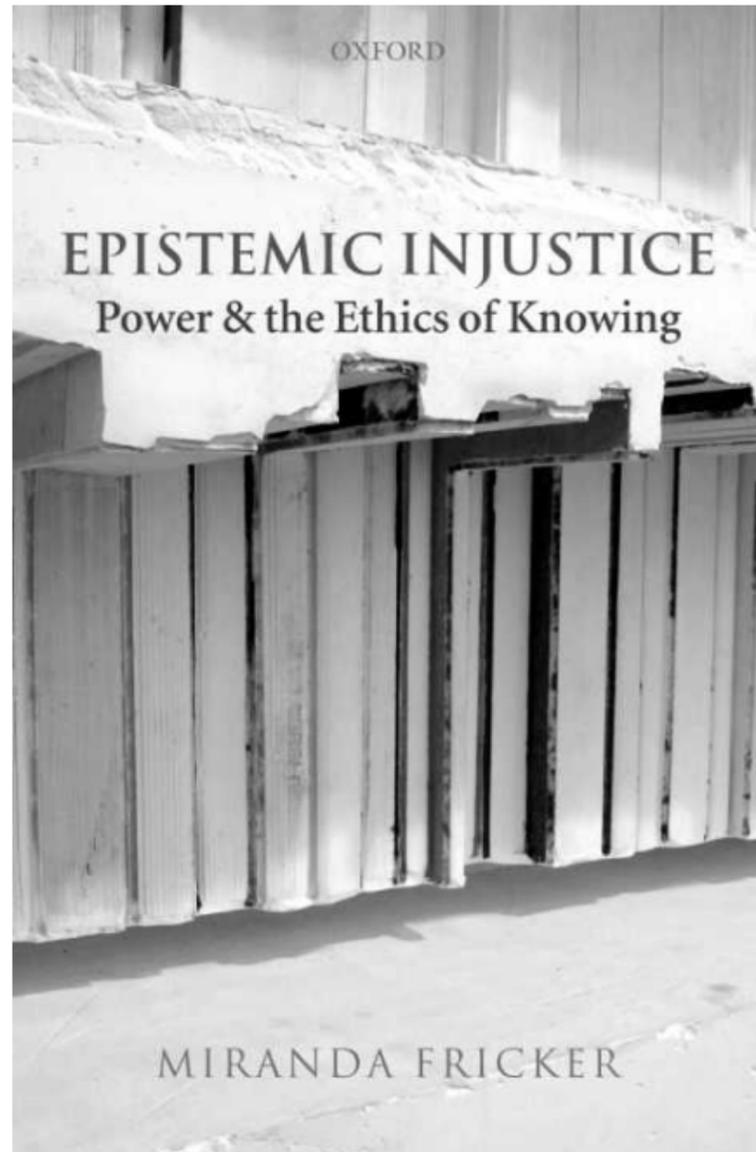
Today's global governance and structure is causing massive harm

Normative Ethics:
Duty to justice

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Duty to justice

Example: Knowledge - epistemic injustice





I call them testimonial injustice and hermeneutical injustice. Testimonial injustice occurs when prejudice causes a hearer to give a deflated level of credibility to a speaker's word; hermeneutical injustice occurs at a prior stage, when a gap in collective interpretive resources puts someone at an unfair disadvantage when it comes to making sense of their social experiences. An example of the first might be that the police do not believe you because you are black; an example of the second might be that you suffer sexual harassment in a culture that still lacks that critical concept. We might say that testimonial injustice is caused by prejudice in the economy of credibility; and that hermeneutical injustice is caused by structural prejudice in the economy of collective hermeneutical resources.

Miranda Fricker. *Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing* (Kindle Locations 60-64). Kindle Edition.

Normative Ethics:
Duty to justice

There is testimonial injustice in acceptance of scientific knowledge and hermeneutical injustice in creating knowledge about the role of economy for sustainability

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Example: wealth growth and distribution

Global Wealth Report 2016

 Share  Print

The Credit Suisse Research Institute's Global Wealth Report is the most comprehensive source of information on global household wealth. It provides complete estimates of wealth, covering all regions and the entire wealth spectrum. In its seventh edition, the report gives a special focus to the poorest billion.

Wealth growth and distribution

Interesting Facts & Figures

256

trillion USD global wealth
in 2016

71600

USD – 10% of all adults
own more than that

248

USD – 1 billion adults
globally own less than
that

334

trillion USD global wealth
by 2021

Download the Global Wealth Reports and Global Wealth Databook

Below you can find all the Global Wealth Reports and Databooks since 2010 in PDF form.

2016

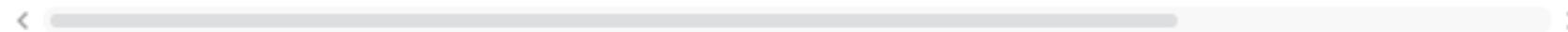
2015

2014

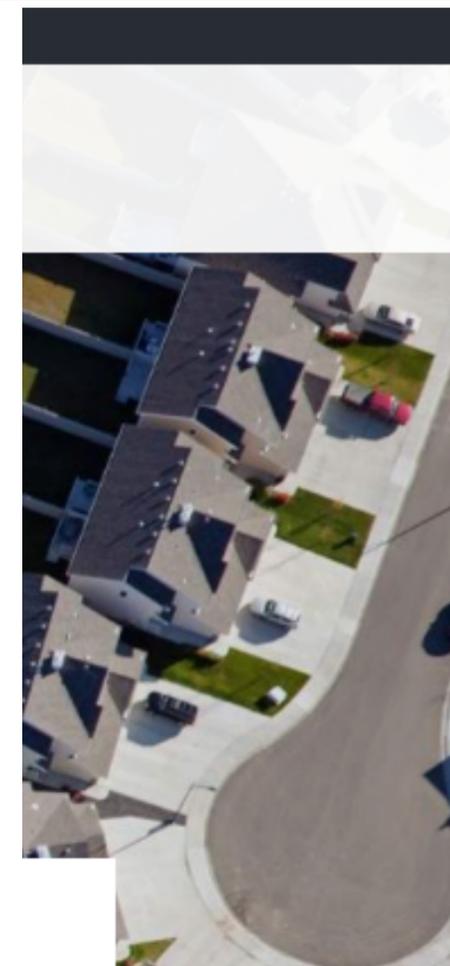
2013

2012

2011



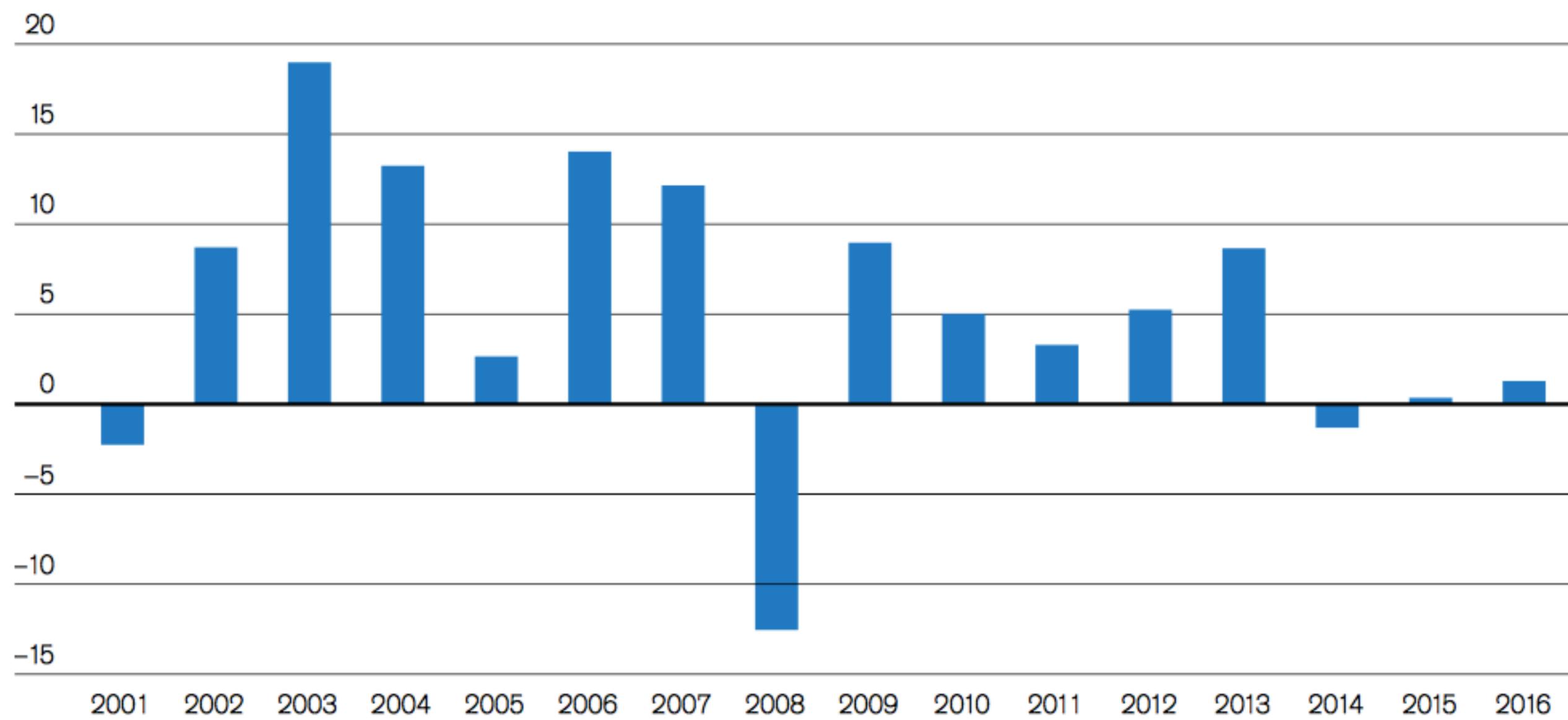
- [Global Wealth Report 2016 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Global Wealth Databook 2016 \(PDF\)](#)
- [2016 Wealth in Switzerland \(PDF\)](#)



Wealth growth and distribution

Figure 1

Annual percentage change in total global wealth, 2000–2016



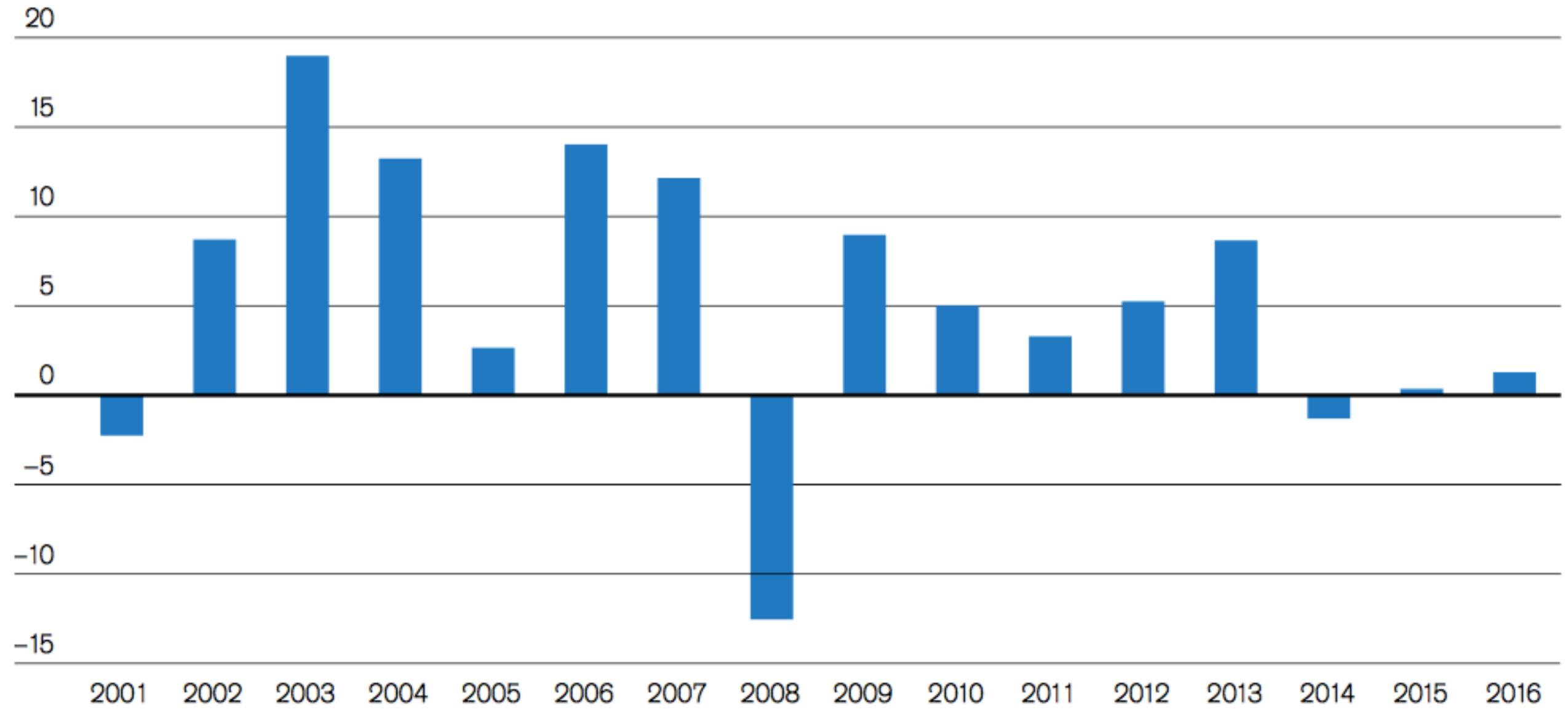
Source: James Davies, Rodrigo Lluberas and Anthony Shorrocks, Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook 2016

Wealth growth and distribution

Today's economy increases inequality

Does not account for natural wealth!

Figure 1
Annual percentage change in total global wealth, 2000–2016



Source: James Davies, Rodrigo Lluberas and Anthony Shorrocks, Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook 2016

Today's economy increases inequality
Global Wealth 2016: The Year in Review

*Does not account for natural
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Today's economy increases inequality

Global Wealth 2016: The Year in Review

Today's economy increases inequality

Number of people: 7.356 Billion

Global Wealth 2016: The Year in Review

Number of adults: 4.848 Billion

Weak global wealth growth.

Global wealth has risen by USD 3.5 trillion to USD 256 trillion

Increase of 1.4%.

Wealth creation has merely kept pace with population growth

In 2016, wealth per adult was unchanged for the first time since 2008

Wealth is at approximately USD 52,800 per adult

Among the major economies, the USA and Japan were able to generate substantial additional wealth

United Kingdom recorded a significant decline as a result of currency depreciation.

Today's economy increases inequality
Global Wealth 2016: The Year in Review

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Today's economy increases inequality

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Global Wealth 2016: The Year in Review

Number of adults: 4.848 Billion

To be in the wealthiest 10%, a person needs USD 71,600.

Half of all adults all over the world own less than USD 2,222

Bottom 20% (close to 1 Billion adults) own less than USD 248.

The **economic inequality has increased this year.**

Top 1% own 50.8% of global household assets, on average

Up from 45.4% in 2009

Top 1%:

2000 49.6%

2009 45.4%

2016 50.8%

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Top 1%: Own on average USD 1.8 Million

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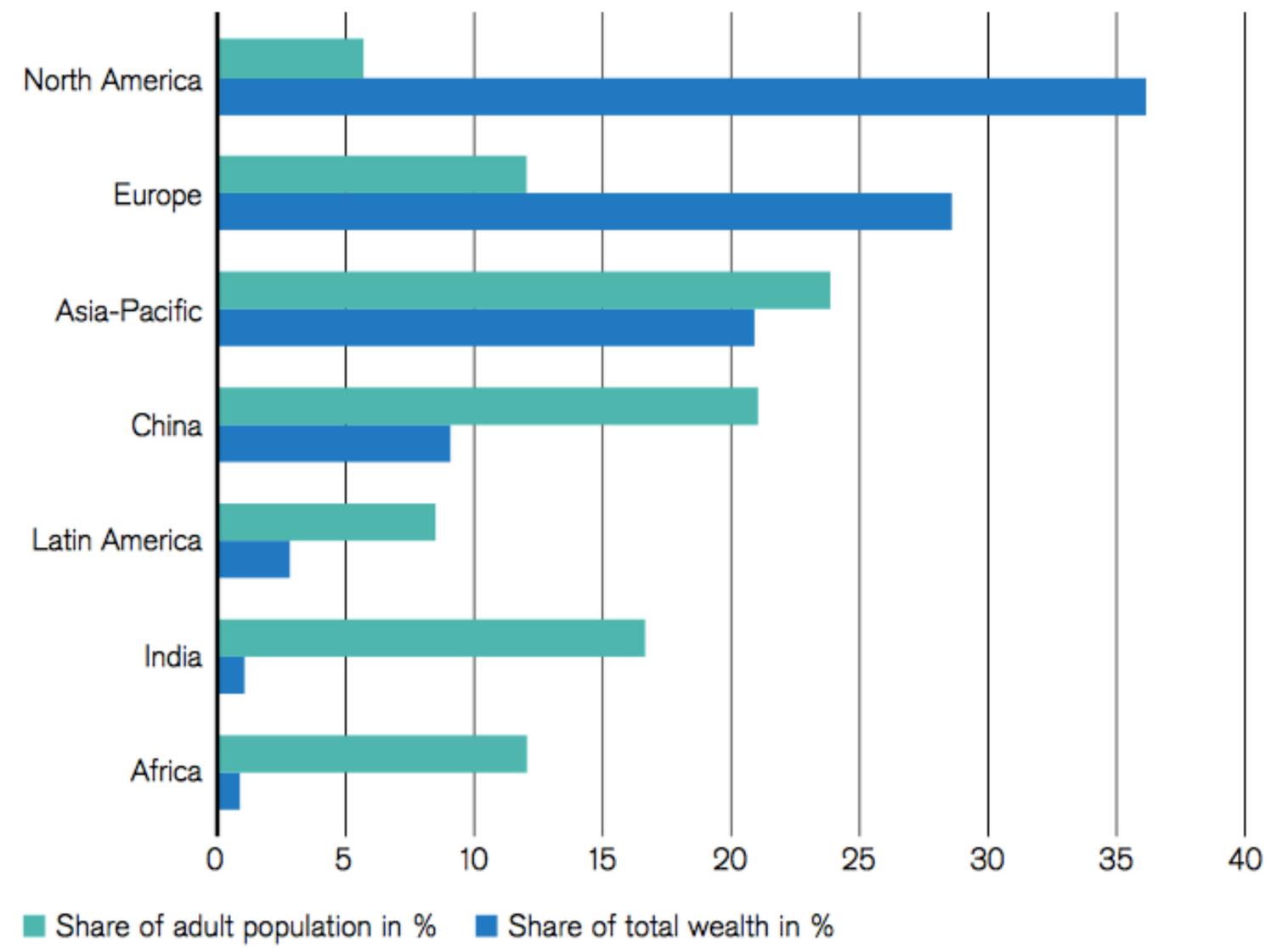
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Geographic inequality is increasing

Wealth and population by region, 2016



Source: James Davies, Rodrigo Lluberas and Anthony Shorrocks, Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook 2016

Normative Ethics:
Duty to justice

Today's economy is increasing inequality

Normative Ethics:

Duty to care about the future of our children

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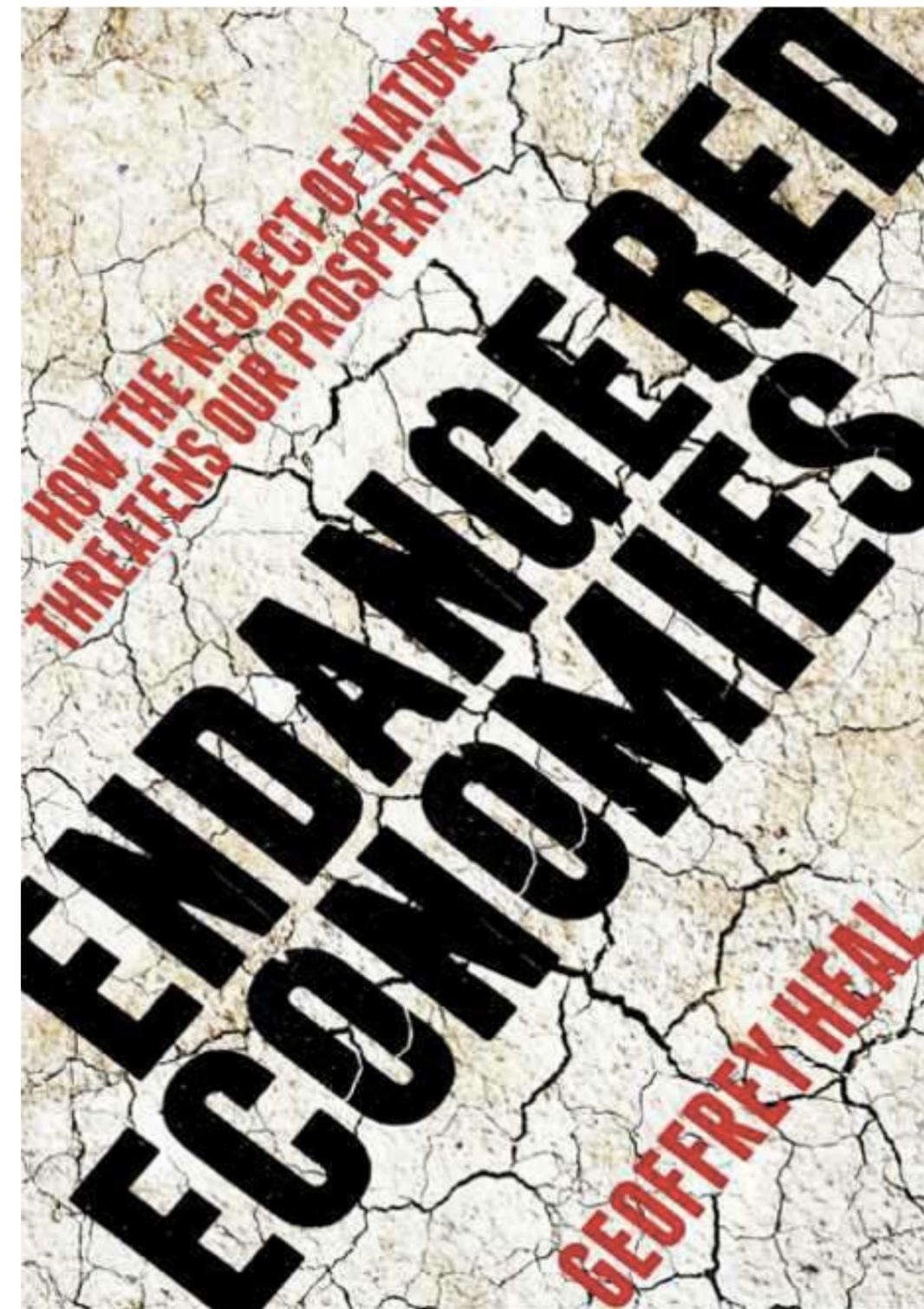
Vision: A prosperous society on a healthy planet

Normative Ethics:

Duty to care about the future of our children

- leaving the safe operating space for humanity
- extinction
- climate change
- growth addiction

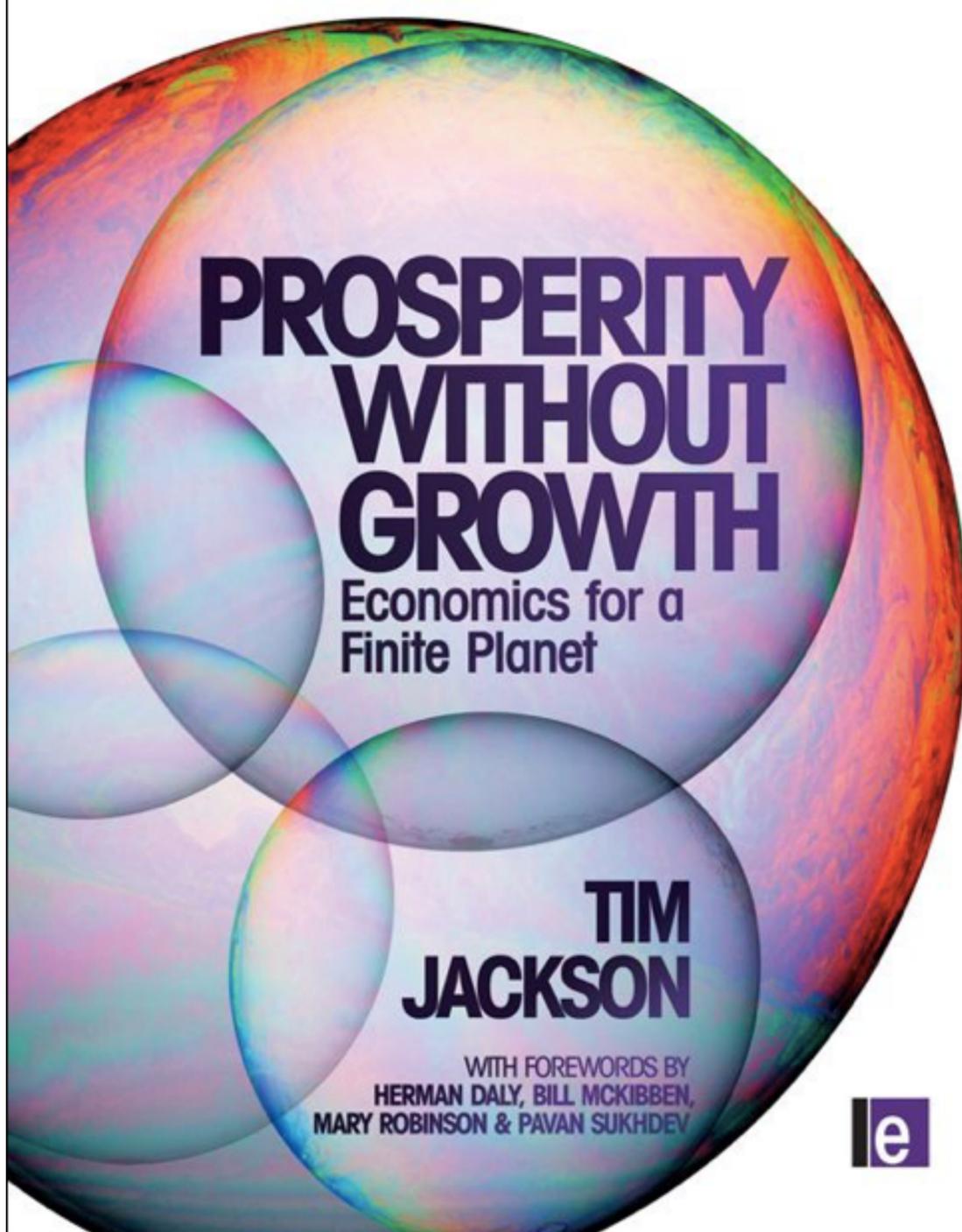
Vision: A prosperous society on a healthy planet



I love the natural world, and I love the fruits of economic and technological progress. There are those who say that I can't have both: that economic progress comes at the expense of the natural world and conservation at the expense of progress. Fortunately, this is wrong: not only can they go together, but in the long run, they must go together. We cannot have sustainable prosperity without the natural world: it provides infrastructure essential to our well-being. Why is conventional wisdom so wrong? Because historically there has been a conflict between economic progress and nature, with the former coming at the expense of the latter. But this is a historical coincidence stemming from the way in which we have organized our economic activity and not in any way a logical necessity. We—humanity—can certainly have progress without the destruction of nature: it is a matter of organizing our economic activity more thoughtfully.

Heal, Geoffrey. *Endangered Economies: How the Neglect of Nature Threatens Our Prosperity*. Columbia University Press. Kindle Edition.

'Business as usual is not an option.'
Oliver James, author of *Affluenza*



PROSPERITY WITHOUT GROWTH

**Economics for a
Finite Planet**

**TIM
JACKSON**

WITH FOREWORDS BY
HERMAN DALY, BILL MCKIBBEN,
MARY ROBINSON & PAVAN SUKHDEV



The existence of a credible and robust mechanism for achieving prosperity matters. And this is more than just a question of the machinery of doing well. The legitimacy of the means to live well is part of the glue that keeps society together. Collective meaning is extinguished when hope is lost. Morality itself is threatened. Getting the mechanism right is vital.

One of the key messages of this book is that we're failing in that task. Our technologies, our economy and our social aspirations are all mis-aligned with any meaningful expression of prosperity. ... In pursuit of the good life today, we are systematically eroding the basis for well-being tomorrow. We stand in real danger of losing any prospect of a shared and lasting prosperity.

Jackson, Tim. *Prosperity without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet* (Kindle Locations 356-364). Taylor and Francis. Kindle Edition.

HALF- EARTH



*Our Planet's
Fight for Life*

EDWARD O.
WILSON

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

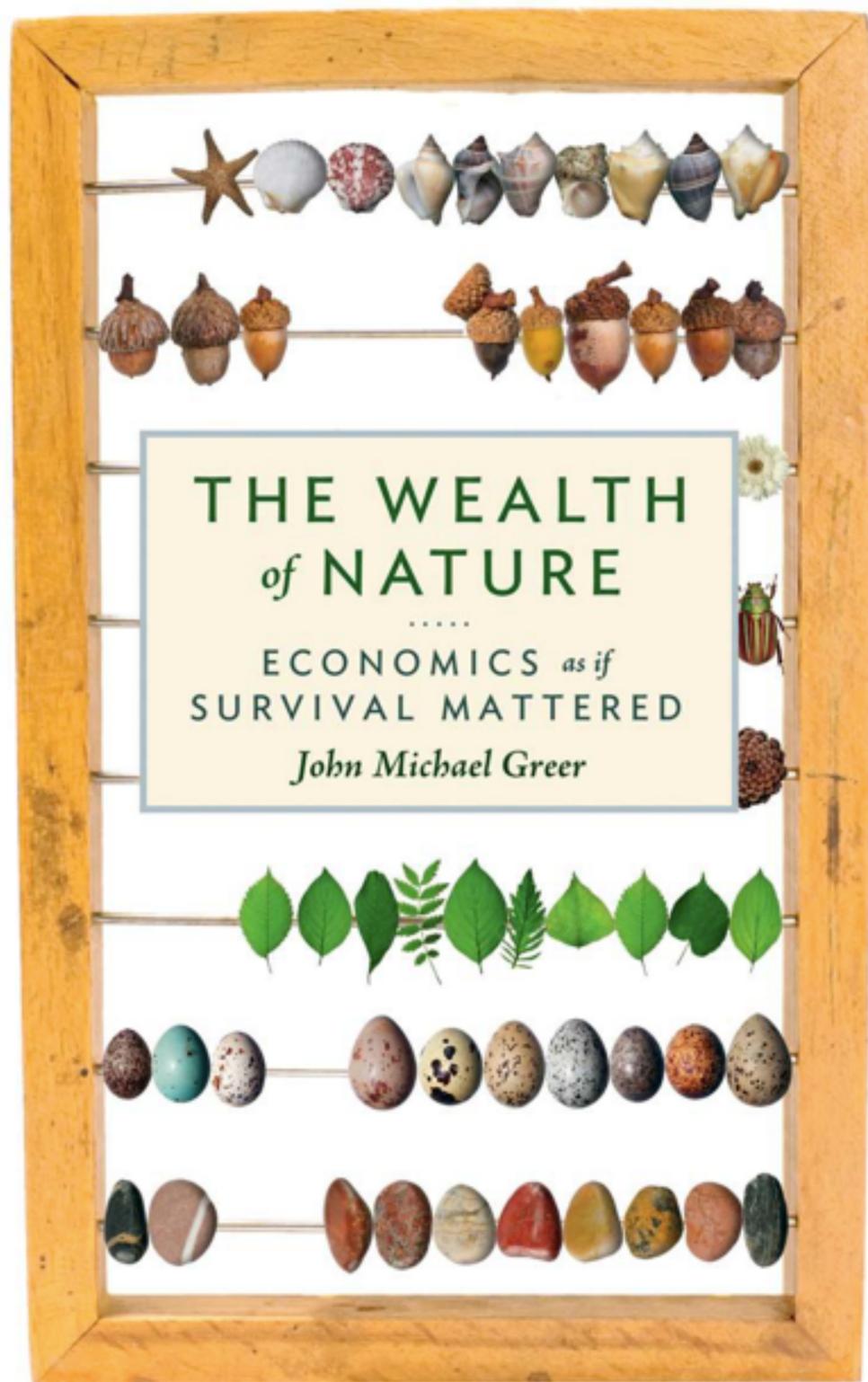
For the first time in history a conviction has developed among those who can actually think more than a decade ahead that we are playing a global endgame. Humanity's grasp on the planet is not strong. It is growing weaker. Our population is too large for safety and comfort.

...

Meanwhile, we thrash about, appallingly led, with no particular goal in mind other than economic growth, unfettered consumption, good health, and personal happiness. The impact on the rest of the biosphere is everywhere negative, the environment becoming unstable and less pleasant, our long-term future less certain.

Wilson, Edward O.. Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life . Liveright. Kindle Edition.

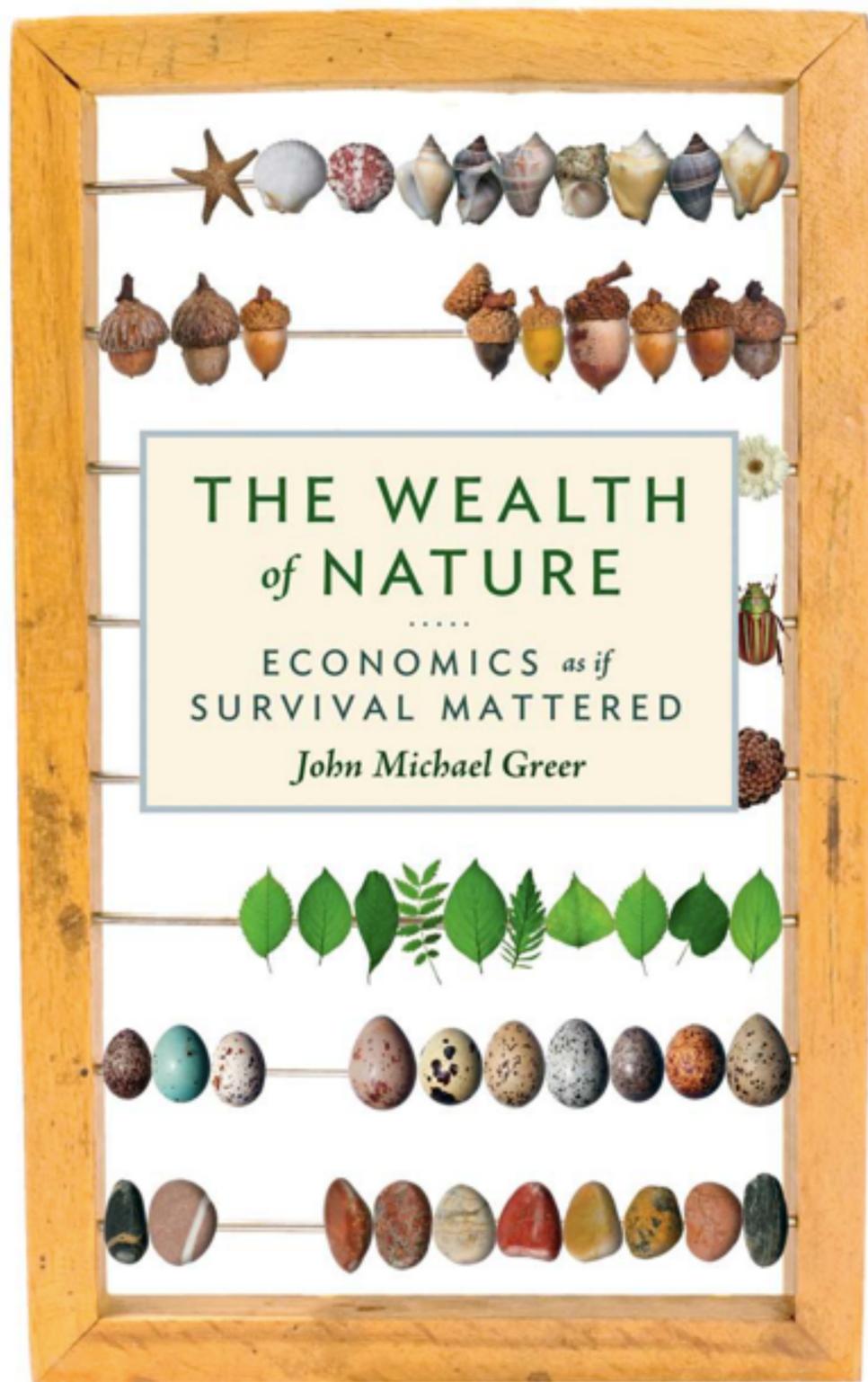
A Prosperous Society on a Healthy Planet



More than two centuries have passed since Adam Smith, a Scots philosopher with a clergyman's training and a previous reputation mostly as a moralist, launched the modern science of economics with a book entitled *The Wealth of Nations*. The first widely accepted analysis of how markets guide economic behavior, Smith's book quickly took on the status of a classic. Its approach to the subject of economics has dominated the field ever since; just as Bertrand Russell famously defined all of Western philosophy as "footnotes to Plato," it would be by no means inappropriate to define all of modern economic thought as footnotes to Smith.

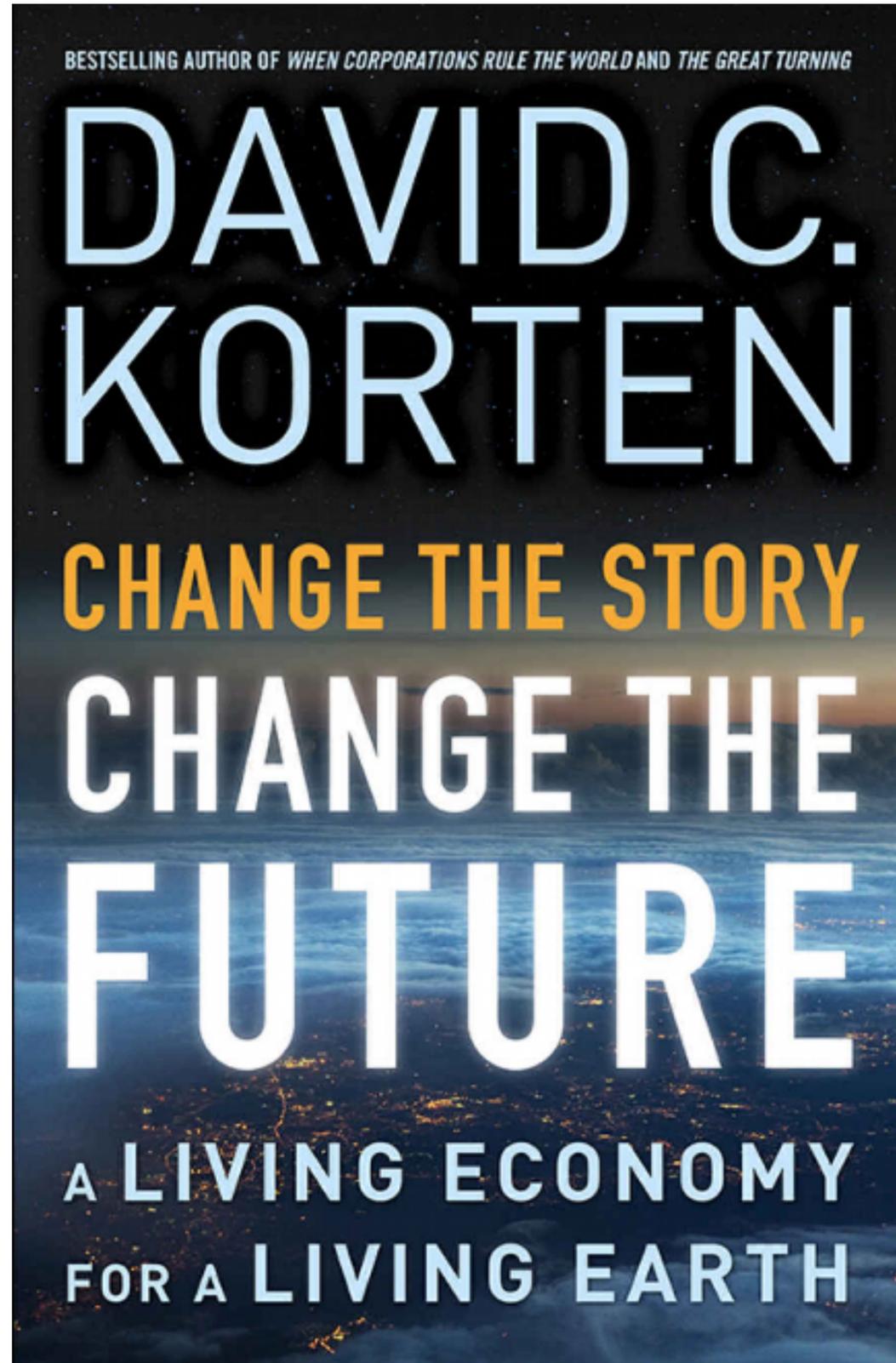
Greer, John Michael. *The Wealth of Nature: Economics as if Survival Mattered* (p. 1). New Society Publishers. Kindle Edition.

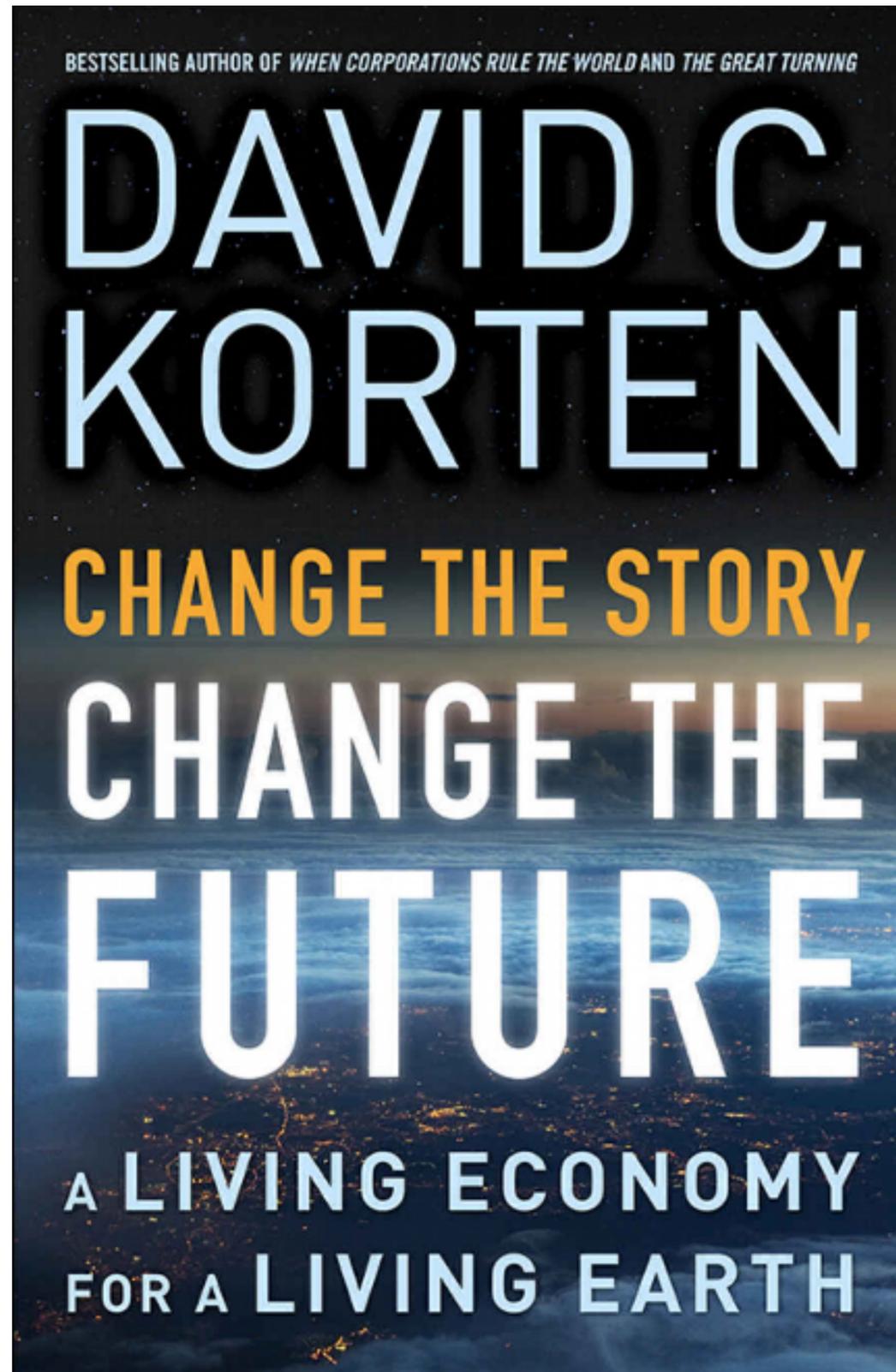
A Prosperous Society on a Healthy Planet



MANY PEOPLE nowadays assume that the collapse of the current economic order in the industrial world must lead to mass death and a descent into savagery. This hardly follows. Most of the world's nations have undergone political and social collapse at least once in the course of the last century; the process can certainly be traumatic, but it isn't the end of the world. Whatever crises drive today's industrial order to its end, and whatever national or international traumas supervene until some degree of stability returns, there will be a place for new policies when the future governments of today's industrial nations, or the governments of the new political units that emerge from the wreckage, get to work picking up the pieces.

Greer, John Michael. *The Wealth of Nature: Economics as if Survival Mattered* (p. 191). New Society Publishers. Kindle Edition.

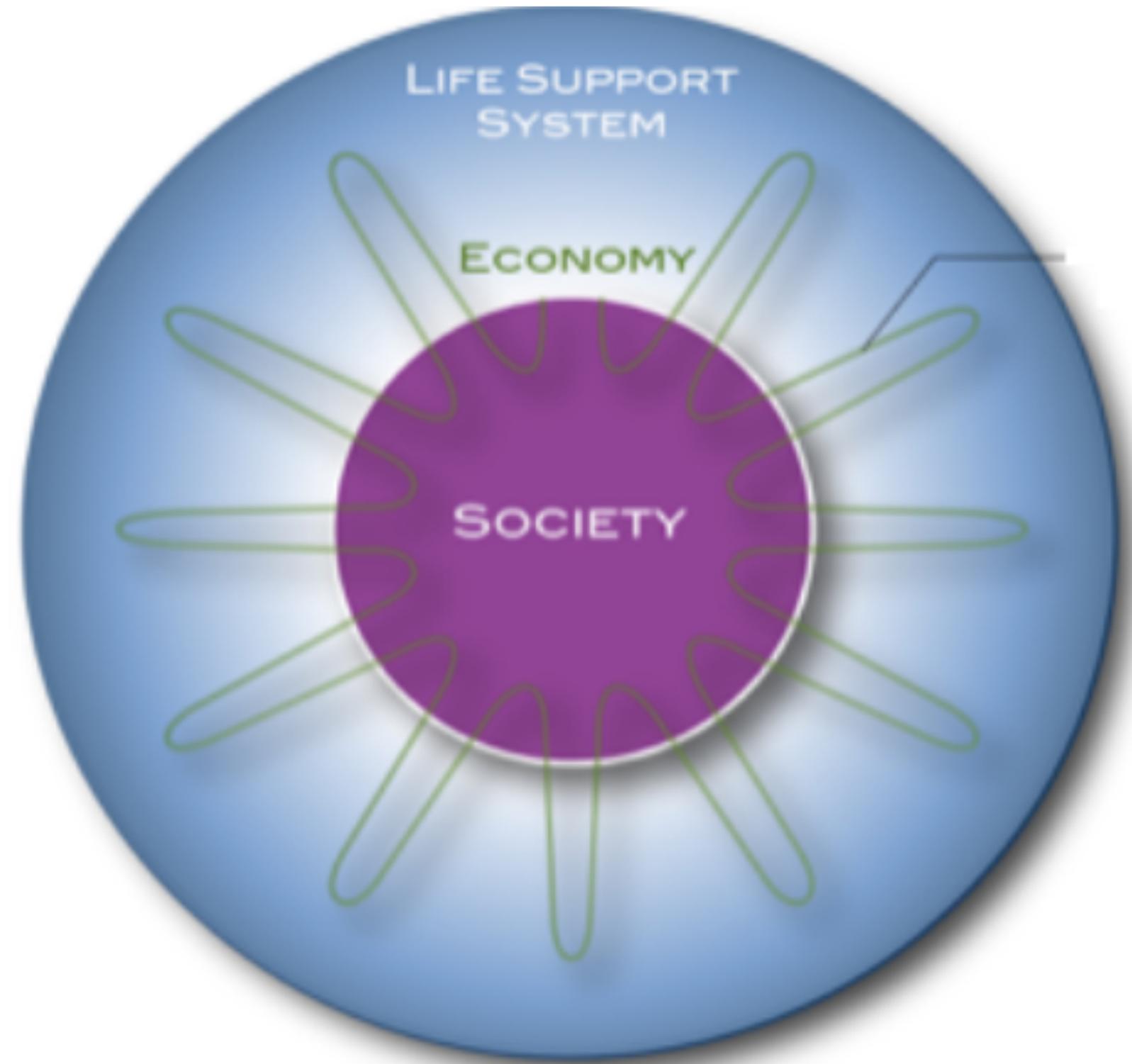




The only valid purpose of an economy is to serve life. To align the human economy with this purpose, we must learn to live as nature lives, organize as nature organizes, and learn as nature learns guided by a reality-based, life-centered, intellectually sound economics that embraces the values and insights of the Sacred Life and Living Earth story.

The quest for a new economics begins with a simple question for which the answer should be obvious: Is the purpose of the economy to maximize the profits of money-seeking corporate robots or the health and well-being of living households?

Korten, David C.. *Change the Story, Change the Future: A Living Economy for a Living Earth* (p. 99). Berrett-Koehler Publishers. Kindle Edition.



Redefining the purpose of economy:
To meet the needs of the present while
safeguarding Earth's life support systems, on
which the welfare of current and future
generations depends (*based on definition of
sustainable development by Griggs et al.,
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A Prosperous Society on a Healthy Planet

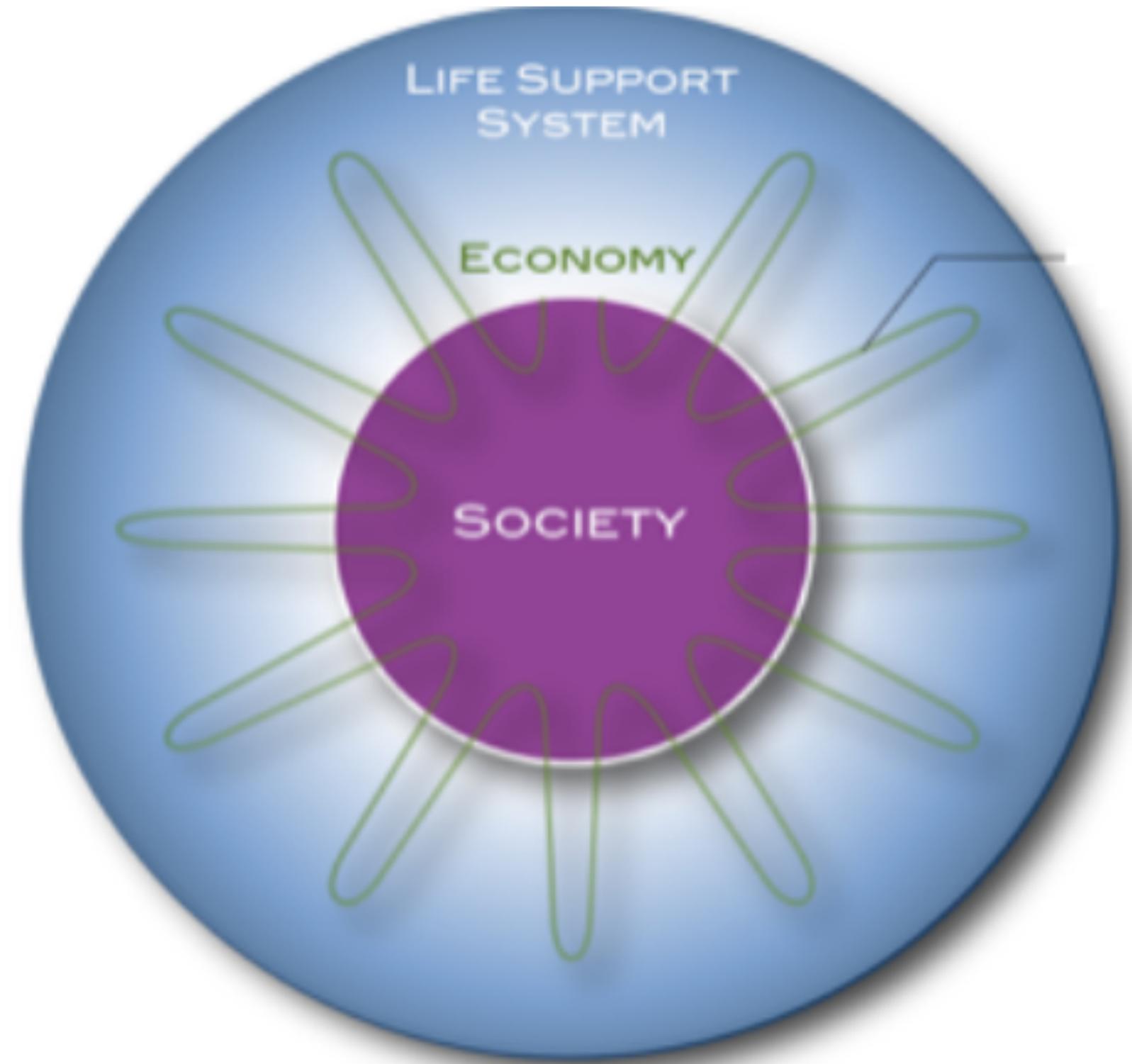
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Rationale:

Economy is the link between humanity and
Earth's life-support system.

Ethical, social and economic rules regulate
the flows.

Measure wealth creation and distribution by
accounting for natural, social, and economic
wealth.



A Prosperous Society on a Healthy Planet

Core question:
How can we safeguard the Earth's life-support system?
What does this mean: safeguarding the Earth's life-support system?

