

EDITION XI

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



THE ECONOBETHAN

December 2022

ECONOMICS

Developmental Economics and Its Foundation in the Lewis Model

POLITICS

How President Nixon's War on Drugs was used as a segregation tool

LANGUAGES

How do we deal with the climate crisis?

Hello!

Welcome to the this academic year's second instalment of The Econobethan, where we aim to shed light on economic points of interest, as well as providing a platform for some of the school's most talented writers to delve into current economic affairs.

The period following the previous Econobethan issue brought with it a multitude of landmarks, with a significant one being the 35th Black History Month. As a result, we decided to dedicate a sub-section of this edition towards fostering an understanding of Black history in general, including the institutionalised injustice of the past – traces of which continue to exist today – as well as major achievements made by black people throughout history. Therefore, two writers: Avinash and Keith have written about the various economic dilemmas that people of colour have had to deal with, as well as Aston and Aditya, who have iterated the significance of Black economists throughout history in advancing various aspects of economics.

Adhering to theme of the link between history and economics, Kush has inquired into the prosperity of Roman economics and how it can be applied today – perhaps Kush's findings can help the UK's current economy!

Bringing the focus back on to modern day economics, Nishanth has explored the pressing issue of black market economics and how it continues to detriment global economic systems and burdens the free market.

Moving away from the macroeconomic approach, both Roshan and Sena have fixated on the significance of economic theories in the overall economic landscape. Roshan has investigated into Africa's persistent financial woes and has related them to the concept of Malthusian economics, while Sena has focussed on apology culture and its relevance to businesses in the Land of The Rising Sun.

Finally, both Arjun and Aayush have undertaken a different approach to delivering economic news, opting to write in German and French respectively. Aayush has interpreted the benefit of trading iron to Luxembourg's economy, while Arjun has emphasised the imminence of the climate crisis in his article.

We hope you thoroughly enjoy reading the articles in this instalment of The Econobethan and learn something new from them. This is the first edition that we have ran as editors, so if any readers have recommendations for future themes or approaches, feel free to send them in. We also highly appreciate the huge amount of effort that has been put into producing such high quality submissions and request that writers keep up the level of enthusiasm and depth of research displayed for the next iteration of The Econobethan.

Regards,

Aditya, Avinash and Nishanth

INDEX

Black History

4-5 Why is Black History Month Important? – Aditya Kute

6-8 How Was the War on Drugs in the US Used as a Segregation Tool? – Keith Correia

9-10 The Founding, Theory and Significance of the Lewis Model In Development Economics? – Aston Daniel

11-12 How Does Systemic Racism Continue to Impact Economic Outcomes for African Americans? – Avinash Srivastava

Economics, Politics and Sociology

14-15 A Brief Economic History of the Roman Empire – Kush Tailor

16-17 The Real Reason Behind Africa's Poverty – Roshan Patel

18-19 Underworld Economics – Nishanth Bhasuru

20-21 The Art of Apology Culture – Sena Lai Fujiwara

Languages

23-24 Wie Bewältigen wir die Klimanrise?/ How do we Deal With the Climate Crisis – Arjun Patel

25-26 Le fer et les finances: partie 1: l'économie du Luxembourg duème siècle/ Iron and Finance Part 1: The Economy of 19th Century Luxemborg – Aayush Backory

BLACK HISTORY

In this section:

4 Why is black history month important? – Aditya Kute

6 How was the war on drugs in the US used as a segregation tool? – Keith Correia

9 The founding, theory and significance of the Lewis Model in Development Economics – Aston Daniel

11 How does systemic racism continue to impact economic outcomes for African Americans? – Avinash Srivastava

Why is Black History Month Important?

Aditya Kute

Introduction

Throughout history, black populations have been disproportionately marginalised and discriminated against, most prominently by Western countries such as England and the United States. This started centuries ago with the transatlantic slave trade, which was established and spurred on by European colonialism as a means of accessing cheap labour to manufacture key commodities, and perpetuated by the subsequent demotion of kidnapped slaves from the status of indentured servants to the property of their owners. For the next hundred years, slavery hardened as a racial caste, with people merely being considered units of labour and therefore being bought and sold as such.

Despite considerable work to uproot the vast inequality that had become institutionalized, slow progress against segregatory policies such as apartheid (which was only terminated in 1994) signified the extent to which this inequality had become deep seated within society. And even today, remnants of centuries of marginalisation and injustice continue to lurk beneath the surface, with events such as the murder of George Floyd and the following black lives matter movement signifying that there is still progress to be made.

As such, Black History Month provides an opportunity to honour important contributions and achievements made by those with African or Caribbean heritage, and to look beyond the Eurocentric curriculum, which does little to highlight Black history beyond the injustice detailed above. At the same time, it provides a fresh reminder to take stock of where systemic racism persists and to give visibility to those individuals and organisations that are making change. This article aims to provide a brief overview of major achievements made by 2 black individuals: Claudette Colvin and Arthur Lewis, who had significant contributions towards the goal of equality and the field of economics respectively.

Claudette Colvin

Claudette Colvin is an American pioneer of the 1950s civil rights movement in Montgomery, Alabama, who was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white woman on a crowded bus, nine months prior to the similar Rosa Parkes incident. At the time of the incident, she was aged 15 and was a student at the segregated Booker T. Washington High School in the city, relying on the city's buses for transport to and from school. Despite the majority of the bus's users being African American, they were discriminated against by the custom of segregated seating which detailed that if the bus became so crowded that all the "white seats" in the front of the bus were filled

until white people were standing, any African Americans were supposed to get up to make room for the whites, move further to the back and then to stand in the aisle if the lack of "white seating" persisted.



Claudette Colvin

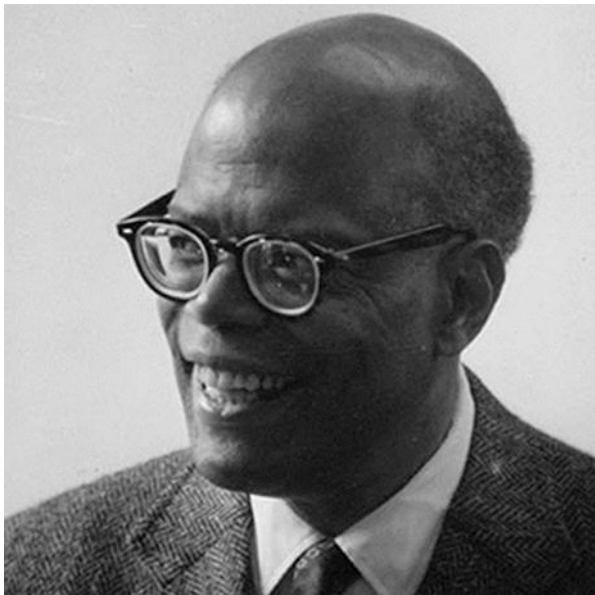
On March 2nd 1955, Claudette was returning home from school when a white woman entered the bus and was left standing, at which point the bus driver commanded Claudette and the three other black women in her row to move to the back, who obliged, whilst Colvin did not. Another black woman, Ruth Hamilton, who was pregnant at the time, got on and sat next to Colvin. In Colvin's own words – "he asked us both to get up. [Mrs. Hamilton] said she was not going to get up and that she had paid her fare and that she didn't feel like standing," recalled Colvin. "So I told him I was not going to get up either." This led to her eventually being forcibly removed from the bus and arrested, with charges of disturbing the peace, violating the segregation laws and battering and assaulting a police officer, despite there being no assault from her part

Along with Susie McDonald, Marie Louise Smith, Jeanette Reese and Aurelia S. Browder, Colvin was one of the five plaintiffs in the court case of Browder vs Gayle, which challenged bus segregation in the city as being unconstitutional, something that was repeatedly yelled by Colvin as she was arrested. State and local officials appealed the case to the United States Supreme Court, which affirmed the District Court decision on November 13th, 1956. On December 20th the same year, bus segregation in Montgomery and the State of Alabama was permanently terminated. Yet the most prominent and widely taught figure in relation to activist movement against bus segregation in Montgomery remains to be Rosa Parkes, which is in part due to the fact that Colvin's mother told her to be quiet about what she did and let Rosa "be the one," stating that people "aren't going to bother Rosa, they like her." The prominence of Parkes and the relative dismissal of Colvin has been attributed to the fact that Colvin wasn't "fair skinned," she didn't have "good hair," she was a teenager and was pregnant.

The leaders in the Civil Rights movement aimed to make the “most appealing” protesters the most seen.

Arthur Lewis

Arthur Lewis was – and remains to be to this day – the only black recipient of the Nobel prize in economics. Born and brought up in St. Lucia, where his parents had migrated from Antigua, a small Caribbean island, Arthur was a gifted student and was promoted in school to two year groups above his age, leading to him completing school aged 14.



Arthur Lewis

Lewis' initial career choice was to become an engineer, but he eventually decided against it, stating that it seemed pointless as “neither the government nor the white firms would employ an engineer.” Soon after, he made the decision to study business administration, with plans to return to St. Lucia for a job in the municipal service or in private trade. After earning the government scholarship to attend the London School of Economics (LSE) to study for a Bachelor of Commerce degree, Lewis' became the first black individual to gain acceptance there, where he had the opportunity to study under the likes of Friedrich Hayek and Sir John Hicks. After graduating with first class honours in 1937, he was given an LSE scholarship to read industrial economics after which, in 1938, he became the first black faculty member at LSE – choosing to remain there until 1948, when he moved to the University of Manchester to become Britain's first black lecturer. He was granted a full professorship the year after.

During his period teaching at the University of Manchester, Lewis developed some of his most important theories about patterns of capital and wages in developing countries, which were topics of great interest at the time as former colonies began to gain independence from their European colonisers. The requirement for these countries to deal with the huge setbacks in economic growth as a result of decades of colonialism and subsequent

exploitation meant that Lewis served as an economic advisor to numerous African and Caribbean governments including Nigeria, Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados. When Ghana gained independence in 1957, Lewis was appointed its first economic advisor – leaving his position at Manchester University to do so – and helped to draw up the country's first 5-year development plan.

Lewis received the Nobel Prize in economics in 1979, sharing it with Theodore Schultz for their pioneering work in economic growth and development with a “particular focus on the problems of developing countries.”

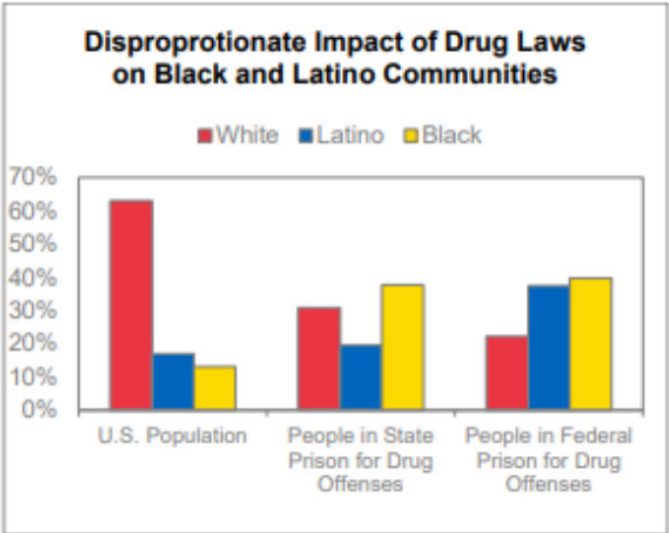
Black History Month, which takes place in October each year, plays a huge part in raising awareness of the achievements of black individuals and to serve as a reminder of the continuous progress that is required to eradicate systemic racism once and for all. By integrating teaching about the underrepresented and overlooked achievements and experiences of these individuals into daily life for a month each year, a wider view of society can be displayed beyond the narrow, Eurocentric perspectives that have dominated media and education for years.

How was the war on drugs used as a segregation tool in the US?

Keith Correia

The War on Drugs (WOD) was an effort by the US since the 1970's to control the use and abuse of drugs within the country. It was first implemented in 1971 when, then, President Nixon of the US declared that drug use was "Public enemy number one". Nixon increased the federal funding for the drug agencies, eventually merging three separate drug agencies into the Drug Enforcement Administration, increasing the reach and efforts to control drug use.

Initially, the WOD was a small component of the Federal Law, until Reagan came into presidency in 1980. Since then, the WOD efforts were strengthened until it became an all out war on drug use within the US, where the republican party passed out stricter legislations against drug use and more severe jail sentences for drug use and distribution. This led to an increase in the number of non-violent drug offense incarcerations from 50,000 in 1980 to a staggering 400,000 in 1997. This increase was mainly due to the US congress passing out the Anti-Drug Act, increasing funding for the WORD efforts by almost \$1.7 billion. The silver lining to this act was the passing of the legislation which gave an equal sentence to the possession of 5g of crack cocaine and 500g of powdered cocaine. This disproportionately affected the African-American population of the US, which at the time, held and used 80% of the crack cocaine. This disproportionately incarcerated the African American population which is visually represented in the figure below:



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Justice Statistics.²¹

The initial effects were brutal on the US's black population, as nearly 23% resided in the inner-cities of America, whereby there was the lowest overall employment rates, and highest crime rates. The new formulation of powdered cocaine, called crack

cocaine, was majorly spread out across the inner cities of the large US states, especially in central cities of states such as New York, New Jersey and other major west coast states. Crack is widely believed to be cheaper than powdered cocaine and was easier to distribute than powdered cocaine, thus giving perfect grounds for the drug to be heavily abused when it had first come out. As already mentioned, the large majority of crack cocaine was used and distributed by the black population, and this therefore increased the number of arrests made on black people. Figure 2 illustrates the percentages of blacks and whites among drug arrestees reported in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports for the years 1976 to 1990. The black percentage climbed steadily throughout the period, and by two-fifths-from 30 to 42 percent of the total-between 1985 and 1989. Because the absolute number of arrests was also increasing, the number of arrests of blacks grew even faster. As table 1 shows, between 1985 and 1989 the number of black arrests more than doubled, from 210,298 to 452,574. The number of white arrests grew by only 27 percent.

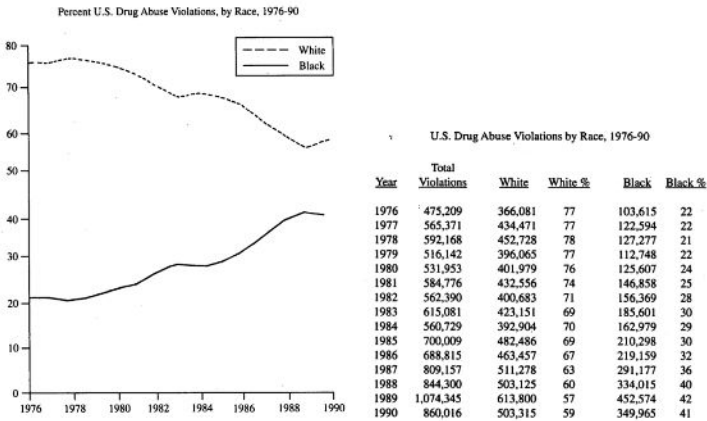


Table 1

A more convincing reason for the notion that the WOD was used as a segregational policy rather than control of drug use would be the fact that the arrest percentages bear no relation to the drug use rates by race. For example, in 1990, the percentage of black people who had reported using cocaine was only 10%, as compared to 11.7% of white people, however, that could not explain why only 0.43% of the white population were arrested for drug violations in 1990 (most of which were comprised of the use and distribution of cocaine) as compared to 1.17% of the black population, nearly triple the arrest rates for white people, even though more had claimed to have reported using cocaine, as shown in table 2 below:

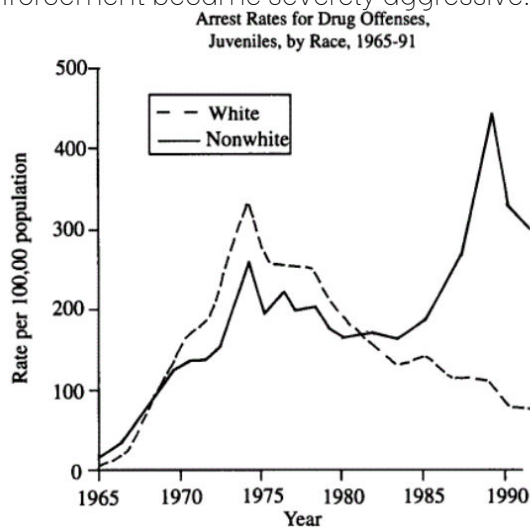
U.S. Percent Drug Use, by Race, 1990

	Alcohol			Marijuana			Cocaine			Hallucinogens	Heroin
	Ever used	Most Recent Use Within last year	Within last 30 days	Ever used	Most Recent Use Within last year	Within last 30 days	Ever used	Most Recent Use Within last year	Within last 30 days	Ever used	Ever used
White	85.2	68.3	53.1	34.2	10.1	5.0	11.7	2.8	0.6	8.7	0.7
Black	76.6	55.6	43.7	31.7	11.2	6.7	10.0	4.0	1.7	3.0	1.7
Hispanic	78.6	64.5	47.1	29.6	10.9	4.7	11.5	5.2	1.9	5.2	1.2

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics—1992* tables 3.103, 3.104, 3.105, at 344-46 (1979).

Table 2

The last striking evidence for the said notion is the pattern of racial disparity in juvenile drug offense arrests in the 1980s and early '90s. Alfred Blumstein, then, long time dean of the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie-Mellon University, and America's leading authority on racial trends in criminal justice statistics, had presented figure 3 below as part of the 1992 presidential address to the American Society of Criminology. The figure details initially how white arrest rates for juveniles were higher than that of black juveniles from the late '60s to the early '80s. However, after the strong push for the anti-drug war, black arrest rates shot up four to five times the white arrest rates until the late 80s. Blumstein explained in his book "our kids,their kids", that a reason for those trends was that drug use in the 1970s was mainly a middle-income, principally white phenomenon, however, after the anti-drug war, the drug use was mainly a low-income, principally minority phenomenon, which is a reason enforcement became severely aggressive.



Source: Alfred Blumstein, *Making Rationality Relevant—The American Society of Criminology 1992 Presidential Address*, 31 *Criminology* 1, 16 (1993).

Figure 3

There were a number of reasons why minorities were specifically targeted by police officers and why they were disproportionately incarcerated, as it is easier to make arrests in the socially disorganized neighborhoods of the inner city as compared to the well-knit suburban white-collar neighborhoods. The first reason is that the more routine retail drug dealing is more likely to happen in the streets or alleyways of the inner city, as compared with indoor drug dealing in suburban areas. This therefore would make it easier for undercover police officers to make arrests in the inner cities as they can gain easier access to dealers and consumers.

The second reason would be credited to the social disorganization in poor urban minority neighborhoods, where it was easier for undercover narcotics officers to penetrate networks of friends and acquaintances as compared to the stable and closely-knit working and middle-class neighborhoods. Both of these reasons increased the aggressiveness of law enforcement in the inner cities, there is another more powerful reason why the police pinned their attention on the inner city, greed, and ego, not only of individual police officers but also of state departments. For a long time, the number of arrests made has been linked with the productive efficiency of the state police force. Therefore, the effects of the WOD on minorities coupled with the reasons stated above made it much easier for police officers to make arrests in inner city streets rather than in suburban communities. Thus the core reason for the relatively higher rate of drug arrests in disorganized minority communities than elsewhere is the fact that they were easier to make.

The effects of the WOD are still present in the US, with many black families living below the poverty line due the spiral of decline which had been caused by the mass incarceration of African Americans during the drug war. As mentioned already, the heavily disproportionate arresting and sentencing of black people in the US had caused incarceration rates for black Americans to be much higher than that of their white counterparts. This therefore left many black families without their current or future primary source of income for at least five years, as mainly those aged between 18 and 40 were arrested. This had further negative consequences on both the families of the inmates and the inmates themselves, because after the inmates had been released, it became increasingly difficult for them to reintegrate into society. For example, the chance of receiving a call back for young black offenders applying for entry level jobs in New York, 2004, was reduced by 60% as compared to black non-offenders. This coupled with the racial discrimination suffered by black people when applying for entry level jobs (the same study as the one quoted above showed that the chance of white offenders receiving a call back was only reduced by 30%, half of the reduced chance of blacks receiving a call back). This therefore increased the number of unemployed black people in the country, even for decades after their sentencing. The difficulties for black people in receiving a job also translated into them owning less wealth. This happened because many black people had to work low-income jobs with little to no benefits for savings assets, and since the U.S. tax code prioritizes savings in certain assets over other savings, retirement savings accounts such as 401ks and IRAs, as well as mortgage borrowing to finance a primary residence, received preferential treatment

under the tax code.

This meant that black households held less wealth and were also unable to create more wealth due to discrimination in receiving mortgages, thus less blacks became homeowners. These obstacles had translated into fewer tax advantages and fewer chances to benefit from stock and housing market gains, resulting in significantly less wealth for black than for white Americans. This resulted in less wealth inheritance for the latter generations of black Americans, which has led to the median wealth of black households within the US being almost 1/10th of that of white households (\$17,600 for black households as compared to \$171,000 for white). This was caused by the vicious cycle of unemployment and wealth disparity within the black and non black communities of the US, catalyzed by the WOD, thus laying down weaker foundations for the black generations following, to create a stable, successful life.

In conclusion, the racial injustices of the drug war or the “War on Drugs” was a ploy to segregate the African American population from the rest while being framed as a drug-control act. This then affected the progress of black people within the US, economically and socially, as they were disproportionately imprisoned and were given the same sentence for a substantially weaker drug offense. Unjust and harsher sentences paired with racial discrimination when ex-felons applied for a job led to the economic decline of black households. This created social inequalities for black people as their quality of life heavily dropped after 1986 and never picked up at the pace of the white population’s. Therefore, we can conclude that the War on Drugs had a large net negative effect on the economic and social progress of African Americans in the US and created a large socio-economic divide which still needs repairing.

The Lewis Model: Its Founding, Theory and Significance in Developmental Economics

Aston Daniel

In May 1954, Sir Arthur Lewis, a celebrated black economist published “Economic Development with Unlimited Supplies of Labour”, when development economics was in its infancy. Lewis drew on the historical experiences of Western industrialised economies and on the ideas of classical economics to derive a model of the development process: the Lewis Model. Even in retrospect, the Lewis Model after 60 years of its founding has had an extensive effect on the growth of less developed countries. Sir Arthur Lewis has also had a momentous effect on the progression of black economists to becoming appreciated for their academic work in the Economics discipline.

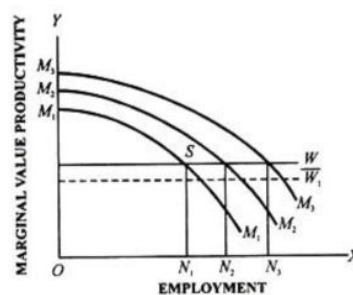
Sir Arthur Lewis put forward a development model of a dualistic economy, consisting of a rural agricultural, and urban manufacturing sector, a key differentiation that led to the founding of the idea of diminishing marginal returns and underemployment. Lewis encouraged developing countries to foster the growth of a new “capitalist sector”, which allowed producers to employ a growing share of the excess labour available from the subsistence sector, eventually resulting in the growth of the economy. His ideas were used as a framework for explaining the extraordinary economic development that China has achieved in recent decades, as his idea of a dual economy relating to a country that was not only underdeveloped but overpopulated, allowed the economy to capitalise on their “unlimited supplies of labour”, which gave rise to the economic superpower of today – China. The power of the Lewis Model lies in the simplicity of this central insight, that developing nations contain enclaves of economic activity just as western industrialised economies contain enclaves of poverty.

To take a closer look at the Lewis Model, we must first understand the implicit assumptions associated with his theories. A key assumption in his model is that the capital sector expands by absorbing the unlimited supply of labour made available by the subsistence sector, as highlighted in the research of Youko Hirota in “Reconsidering the Lewis Model: Growth in a Dual Economy”. The model alludes to the idea that labour moves from the traditional (rural agricultural) to the modern/ capitalist (urban manufacturing) sector with an infinite price elasticity of supply. The main focus in Lewis’s model was on the reallocation of labour until dualism atrophies as population growth has been outstripped and is now fully commercialised. A further assumption in the Lewis Model is in the context of the terms of trade.

IA underlying supposition for the terms of trade between two economies are arbitrated only by their relative productivities in agriculture, as Sir Lewis assumes linearity. All of the above assumptions sit on top of the prerequisites of any economic model including those of classical economics i.e., self-regulating economies and others such as *ceteris paribus*.

The Lewis Model is built on the aforementioned idea of a dualistic economy. It uses the context of overpopulated countries, as he believed the intrinsic nature of development in emergent nations of said quality consists of moving a large mass of underemployed workers with low productivity or (referring to Lewis’s own terms), workers whose “marginal product is negligible low or even negative”, out of the subsistence sector, where they face lower living standards. Lewis contended that these workers can be shifted to a modern “capitalist” sector where their marginal productivity can increase as they are “fructified by capital”. In this model, Lewis suggests that the flow of investment into the capitalist sector can be used to create jobs, where wages are higher and savings increase. As a larger proportion of the profit of firms are being saved and invested, the savings ratio will rise and with it the capital accumulation of producers, allowing long-term economic development. Lewis accepts that this phase of labour transfer is not ceaseless but rather that when the labour surplus has been largely absorbed by the capitalist sector and wages begin to rise, the rise in wages will begin to consume the capitalist surplus due to trade union action or otherwise, leading to the plateau of this industrialisation.

Diagram 1 explains the process of expansion of the Capitalists sector.



In the above diagram, W is the fixed wage rate in the capitalist sector. It is higher than W_1 , which represents the wage of the subsistence sector. The disparity between these wages is what allows the labour transfer into the modern sector. Initially, N_1 is the quantity of labour employed, and at S , M_1 levels of wage and marginal product is induced,

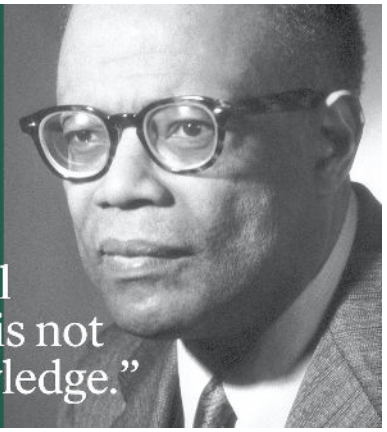
,leading to a capitalist surplus. Lewis argues that this surplus will be reinvested into depreciated capital or to allow improved dynamic efficiency. this results in the shift of the marginal productivity curve of labour from M1 to M2, and so there is more labour flowing from the subsistence sector, represented by N2. This leads to a recurring surplus which will be reinvested allowing a shift to M3 and so on, till we reach a plateau of a capitalist surplus.

However, due to the preceding assumptions, there are theoretical underpinnings of his model that has brought about criticism. At a glance, the capitalist sector in his model appears to be largely neoclassical, with a fixed supply of capital, variable labour hired at a given wage, acting as a idealistic firm in the standard microeconomic framework. But this neoclassical equilibrium rests on many assumptions, perhaps tainting its validity. The Lewis Model challenged theoretical and empirical evidence gathered from South East Asia and Latin America including from Schulz in 1964. Other critics included Harris and Todaro in 1970, who suggested the flow of migrants at a “warranted rate”, leading to a lower rate of domestic labour transformation.

Overall, the Lewis Model has been seminal for the discipline of development economics. Lewis’ contribution has become deeply embedded in contemporary thinking about development and growth. Lewis advocated that the advent of structural transformations of an economy through the reallocation of labour can act as a catalyst for the development of emergent nations. On a individual level, Lewis’ career featured many important milestones, not only for development economics but also for Black economists. As the first black person to win a Nobel Prize in a scientific discipline, the first black student and teacher at LSE, and the first black professor at Princeton University, Sir Arthur Lewis’ work has indisputably been an inspiration to generations of following economists from all backgrounds alike.

SIR ARTHUR LEWIS
Prize In Economic Sciences 1979

“The fundamental
cure for poverty is not
money but knowledge.”



How Does Systemic Racism Continue to Impact Economic Outcomes for African Americans?

Avinash Srivastava

Although the nefarious days of slavery and apartheid are far behind us, it is apparent that the deep-rooted impacts of these atrocities still linger among many of the ethnicities previously affected. There are a multitude of complexities concerning the disadvantages that African Americans have had to deal with. A prime exhibit of this is the situation of African Americans in communities with low prospects of progression and upward mobility.

In recent years, the awareness surrounding policies to deliberately place African Americans in an impeded position has increased. For example, there is a vast history of mortgage market discrimination, which has resulted in African Americans being substantially less likely to become homeowners than those of Caucasian origin. This limitation proves to have a snowball effect as it entails that people of colour also have reduced access to tax benefits as well as savings that are synonymous with owning a home.

In addition to this, research into employment rates among different ethnicities has also raised alarming issues. Black men have the lowest employment rates of any race at 60% in January 2021. They also have the lowest labour force participation rates. An arguably more startling fact is that the official BLS statistics do not consider a considerable proportion of black men. This means that if we were to adjust for this that employment and earnings of black males would further decrease. The aforementioned adjusted rates report that median annual earnings of Black men are approximately \$20,000 – this is half of the earnings of white men.

	Caucasian (%)	African-Americans (%)
Not Working Now	17	35
Not Working Past Year	12	27
Institutionalised	2	8
Out of the Labor Force	11	17

Figure 1: Men without work from ages 25-54 (2014)

In this day and age, it is indisputable that the world is progressing in terms of racism and is becoming progressively more accepting. However, it is still sadly the case that African Americans face systematic obstacles in shrinking the wealth gap. Assets are a case in point; the US tax code prioritises savings of specific assets over other savings. IRAs, mortgage borrowing and retirement savings accounts take precedence according to the tax code. However, as stated henceforth, black people are less likely to work in these jobs, which hold these benefits. As a result, African Americans are burdened with fewer chances to gain from stock and housing market benefits, hence culminating in less opportunity to increase their wealth.

These disconcerting statistics inevitably raise the question: why is there abnormally low employment among black people? The answer to this can be encapsulated into four distinct classifications; proximate causes, ultimate causes, mediating factors and reinforcing long run factors. The first classification is proximate causes, which relate to education. It is fairly obvious that skills and education are integral determinants of employment. As a result, the fact that Black Americans generally tend to straggle behind White Americans. For example, data shows that 24% of black males have achieved a bachelor's degree in comparison to 36% among white males. Although many individuals would argue that higher educational attainment among African Americans would automatically improve their prospects, research suggests the contrary. Black people with a university degree still have approximately 30% less wealth than people of Caucasian origin without a university degree. The second classification is ultimate causes, which concern social isolation and discriminatory behaviour. For example, the Holzer survey provides evidence that black men receive fewer jobs offers than any other ethnicities. In correspondence to this, black men without criminal records receive the same number of interview callbacks as white men with criminal records.

The last two categories have some extent of question over them as to whether they have a causal relationship with employment rates. The last category is reinforcing long run factors. These deal with incarceration-related instances. It is gauged that approximately one-third of all black men are probable to be incarcerated at some point of their

This sobering reality is driven by various factors, the main ones being harsher criminal sentences placed on crimes committed by black people as well as blatantly discriminatory policing. The enhanced detainment of African Americans inescapably has everlasting detriments on these individuals. They are now even less likely to be successful in obtaining a job, as employers will undoubtedly avoid hiring them, leaving such individuals vulnerable to be excluded from the labour market as a whole.

Research also suggests that African Americans are more substantially affected by alterations in the business cycle. For instance, following the financial crash of 2008, black people were considerably more devastated and had to wait for longer for their wages to return to pre-recession figures. Furthermore, the decline in union density has been more impactful on African Americans – in 1983, 31.3% of black workers were members of a union. However, by 2015 this had plummeted to 14.2%.

Another intricacy of systemic racism, which influences the economic outcomes of African Americans, is the accretion of wealth. In the study of economics, wealth is referred to as a stock concept of an individual's net worth. In the real world, wealth is essential as it can undertake the role of a bridging factor from older generations to enable future generations to advance over time. It goes without saying that the overwhelming majority of the African American population have been deprived of this due to slavery. In fact, Caucasian slave owners profited directly off slaves – hence resulting in generations of wealth for them, while plundering minorities.

Many of the disparities between races that riddle the world can be traced back to previous policies, which originated as a result of systemic racism. However, it must be admitted that economic policies are gradually being abolished or augmented in order to give people of all ethnicities and background equivalent opportunities without any form of prejudice involved.

ECONOMICS • POLITICS • SOCIOLOGY

In this section:

14 A Brief Economic History of The Roman Empire – Kush
Tailor

16 The Real Reason Behind Africa's Poverty – Roshan Patel

18 A Snapshot Into Modern Day Black Market Economics –
Nishanth Bhasuru

20 The Art of Apology Culture – Sena Lai Fujiwara

A Brief Economic History of the Roman Empire

Kush Tailor

The Roman Empire or previously republic (before Augustus' accession in 27BCE) was a symbol of militaristic, social and economic prosperity during periods of ancient civilisation. Indeed, at the height of Roman economic dominance, it has been suggested that Roman GDP per capita income is on par with per capita incomes of Netherlands or Spain in 1700, up to 1300 years after the fall of Rome in 476 AD. Why was this the case? Why even in the modern era are there lessons to be relinquished from the economic dominance of the Roman era? Research into Roman economic success concludes that even centuries following the decline of the Roman Empire, modern society can benefit from specific elements of a Roman-centric economy.

The standard of living in Rome

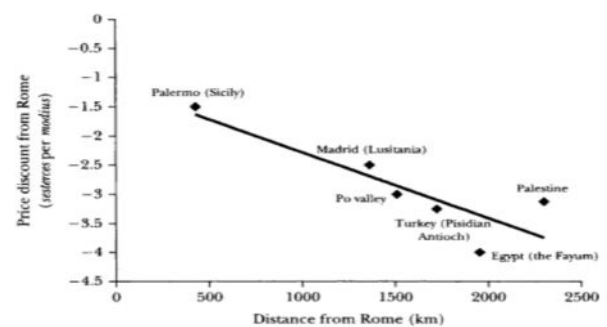
Roman economic prominence has been comparable to early 17th and 18th century western for numerous reasons across history. Roman urbanisation rates averaged at around 10% of the entire empire, similar to levels of urbanisation in the 17th and 18th centuries. Incomes and assets were again skewed heavily in favour of the Roman senators and leaders of the empires. The GINI coefficient – which measures the level of income disparity in a society with 0 being perfectly equal and 1 being perfectly unequal – measured Rome at an astounding 0.43 (before the fall of Rome). Likewise, early western society experienced large levels of inequality with the IFS Deaton Review reporting a monopoly of wealth, as approximately 82.7% of wealth was in the hands of the top 10% of the population in 1670. It is relatively apparent that from this information Roman economic growth was largely similar to western economic growth and the subsequent industrial revolution's effects.

However, it is undeniable that Roman economic development did hold substantial differences to early western economies' development. Notably, information provision was limited in Roman society. It was much more valuable presenting costs to private merchants, and the lack of standardised communication – the printing press hadn't even been invented meant the role of – all may have resulted in market failure if not for the role of the government and institutions of open information provision such as information exchanges for grain found in Ostia (a prominent Roman port). All of this highlighted the significance of Roman economic development as being attributed to role of the private sector but with governmental and institutional support to maintain confidence within markets and prevent market failure.

Trade and comparative advantage

The Roman Empire enjoyed an agrarian way of life to a large majority of the population. The economy was built upon the foundations of Rome's dominance in their comparative advantage of food such as in both the grain and wheat markets, given the fertile soils of the Mediterranean and other Roman territories, with little manufacturing or specialisation in other foreign delicacies such as silks or spices attributed to the east (which presented little opportunity costs for Roman specialisation in trade of food).

Relationship between Distance and Wheat Price Discount



Rome's importance in the wheat market has been demonstrated in their heightened prices in comparison to other subsistence economies in the time period:

The diagram demonstrates the relationship between the price difference of wheat at other subsistence economies and in Rome. Notably, the lesser the proximity from Rome, the larger the price difference and these lowered prices reflect the reduced demand for foreign wheat compared to Roman wheat, which was in much higher demand. Demonstratively, Roman wheat was in much higher demand, again attributed to the role of government and political influence to cement this continued demand for Roman wheat. The role of Roman legislation and a stable rule of law provided confidence in Roman grain and wheat shipments with any faulty shipments being tested by and signed for by a granary official as well as merchant and an additional witness, providing confidence in the market.

To some extent, it could be argued that certain Roman policy deterred farmer surplus yields in these markets (which had helped to drive up the prices of these commodities). Taxes were imposed on excess farmer yields of these crops to allow for free

distribution of these crops to help feed the Roman legionaries and to attain popularity among the middle and lower classes. However, the inception of these taxes – in the short term – enhanced farmer costs as they would have to pay of these taxes – translating these increased costs onto the prices of their products which they were selling. Furthermore, it may incentivise farmer productivity (as they can no longer economically benefit from surpluses) and so this may present increased costs as well leading to rising prices as a consequence of production becoming less efficient.

However Roman foreign policy and expansionism soon reduced the reliance of grain from domestic farmers. Roman conquests to the provinces of Egypt, Sicily and Tunisia in North Africa, with Roman control in North Africa cemented by 146 BCE following the destruction of Carthage (after the Punic wars) allowed for grain to increasingly be imported into the Mediterranean, allowing for the Roman economy to enjoy the benefits of specialisation and exchange of resources.

Final lessons of Roman economic success

Considering the fact that this system took place in a different time with a fairly primary sector orientated economy – with little to no centralised economic policy – why should we care about the Roman economic system?

Firstly, The Roman economy is a clear and successful example of the benefits of specialisation and exchange in bolstering economic growth. As mentioned, the early Roman export-led paradigm of their grain and wheat shipments allowed for the Romans to specialise in their comparative advantage of agriculture, whilst enjoying the benefits of trade to gain other foreign luxuries such as silk and spices from the silk roads to the east. As the empire grew in size, the increasing incorporation of Corporatist elements into the Roman economy, with merchants and the private sector being the ones in power provided an oligarchy dominated state, which despite a large level of inequality, hastened the growth of the private sector and incomes for all. In the increasingly globalised economy of today, this demonstrates the benefits of continuing to trade internationally as consumers and firms benefit from the increased goods and services, resources and demand available. It also prevents economies becoming inefficient as international competition forces domestic firms (like in Rome) to innovate to be able to compete internationally.

In correspondence to the previous point, the most vital point, which enabled the Romans to enjoy economic success was innovation. Rome was a melting pot of social and political ideology, and the

application of this to maintain economic stability provided an environment for Merchants to trade and innovate successfully. For example, the stability provided by the robust Roman legal framework allowed for Merchants to increase their exports and yields, increasing profits across the empire. The role of collectivised information provision, such as at grain ports in Ostia to prevent problems of asymmetric information and prevent labour market failure. It was the role of increasing legal and political improvements in the economy ultimately, which provided confidence in the Roman economic system to maintain the success which it gained. This is something which modern economies can always strive to improve, improving market conditions by the government or intervening to prevent market failure to ensure that free market economies are regulated to achieve the most successful economies available.

The Real Reason Behind Africa's Poverty

Roshan Patel

Since the 19th century, which marked the commencement of both the Industrial Revolution and the end of the Malthusian Epoch, global living standards and GDP per capita have risen at mammoth rates. Although, European and other western economies such as the United States experienced this economic reformation much earlier through the Great Divergence, in the past 50 years other continents have experienced this economic boom through the Great Convergence. However, it has become apparent that one continent has lagged behind in this development. The underdevelopment of Africa has been a real phenomenon and a result of an amalgamation of factors leading to widespread poverty in the continent. How can a continent which accounts for 30% of the world's mineral resources and be extremely rich in terms of natural resources be so poor? The answer lies with the Malthusian Trap

What is Malthusian Economics:

The Malthusian Theory of Population argues that eventually resource scarcity will lead to inevitable disaster. This theory according to Thomas Malthus believes whilst human population grows at exponential rates, agricultural output would not be able to keep up with this exponential growth of population. As a result, chaos and famine would occur as living standards drastically fall and wars fought over scarce resources would ensue. Eventually these wars and famines would cause the population to fall again to a level at which agricultural output can sustain the population and so famines reduce and people start to have more children. This theory creates a cycle known as the Malthusian Trap which had characterised humanity before the industrial revolution when every economy operated as agrarian. However, as the industrial revolution created mechanisation in food supply, the threat of this cycle disappeared and resulted in a period of economic boom known as the Great Divergence.

In the graph, it is apparent that through this 'European Miracle' Western Europe and parts of North America became extremely wealthy whilst other economies became relatively poorer. This meant countries in Asia, Africa and South America underwent development much later and were comparable in their economies. However, as a result of the Great Convergence in the 20th century countries in Asia namely: South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and China vigorously developed unlike those in Africa. Consequently, Sub-Saharan Africa is brimming with poverty as this region accounts for two thirds of the world's extreme poor population.

What evidence is there to suggest Africa is in the Malthusian Trap?

There are masses of evidence to suggest many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are trapped in the Malthusian cycle. The most important factor is the large population growth Africa has experienced and will experience. It is estimated the population of Africa will double by 2050 to 2 billion people. Despite numerous prevention and education campaigns, population growth remains rampant. This rapid and intensifying growth will mean economic growth translates into smaller per capita increases. Along with this population growth, the evidence suggests that Africa is suffering from widespread chaos in the form of conflicts which are indicators of this phenomenon. For example, of the world's 20 war-related conflicts in 2013, 11 alone were on the Sub-Saharan African continent and in countries such as Somalia, Nigeria, Central African Republic and South Sudan. Famine and malnourishment have also ensued as a result of food production not being to keep up with exponential population growth as one fifth of people in Africa are considered malnourished causing the continent to have the highest malnourishment rate in the entire world. Subsequently, living standards remain very low in many Sub Saharan countries.

The Malthusian Trap has also been showcased on regional variations in Africa through the direct comparison between Northern African economies and Eastern African economies.

The following graphs highlight the large variance in population growth rates between North Africa and East Africa and the effect this has had on food consumption:

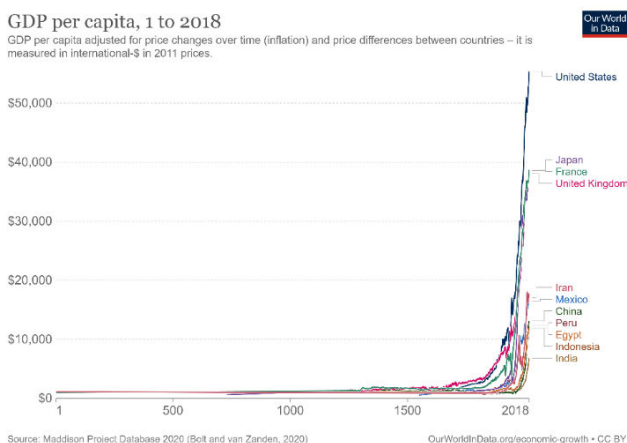


Fig. 1. Average per capita food consumption dynamics (kcal per capita per day) in North and East Africa, 1961-2009

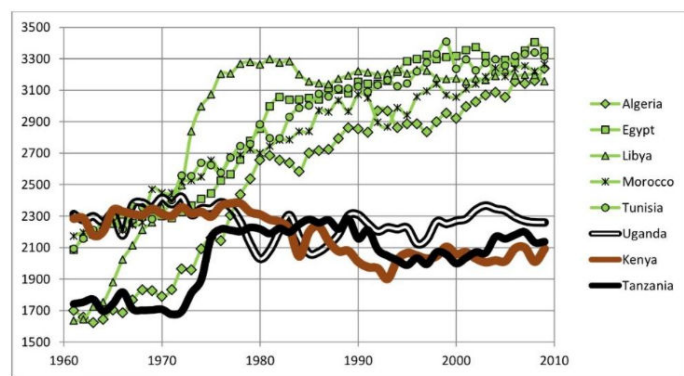


Fig. 4. Population Growth Rates (annual %) in North and East Africa (1960–2011)

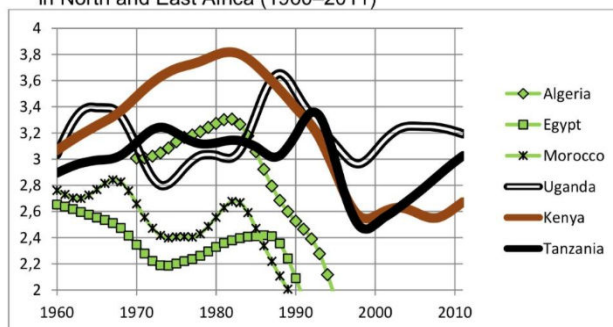
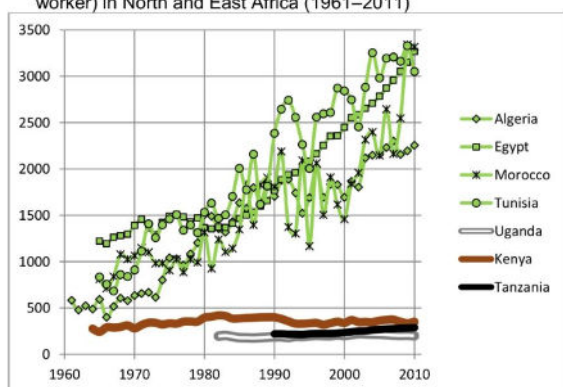


Fig. 5. Dynamics of Labor Productivity in Agriculture (constant 2000 dollars per worker) in North and East Africa (1961–2011)



The graphs also show the importance of agricultural productivity in North Africa in comparison to East Africa which has much lower productivity in agriculture and requires more people to be employed in subsistence farming. These graphs highlight the importance of limiting population growth whilst also ensuring labour productivity in agriculture is high which has allowed North African economies to escape the Malthusian trap. By escaping the Malthusian Trap, this has allowed economies in North Africa such as Algeria to become very prosperous as shown as they have the largest GDP per capita of all of Africa. The comparison to East African economies is highlighted as Kenya has one fifth of the GDP per capita of Algeria highlighting the importance of a strong and mechanised agricultural sector.

What can be done for Sub Saharan Countries to escape the Cycle:

Based on Current Path Assumptions, Africa will fail to reach the SDG target for extreme poverty by 2043, conveying the importance of escaping from this Malthusian Trap. There are numerous strategies which can be employed to aid this escape including: Serious Family Planning Programmes of the Rwandan Type, Compulsory Universal Secondary Education as well as measures that would bring about substantial increases in the agricultural productivity.

Overall, it is of vital importance that the Sub-Saharan Countries that are currently in this vicious cycle, exit it by means of either decreasing fertility rates to reduce population growth or to increase agricultural productivity in order to satiate and feed larger populations. In order to fully escape poverty, countries must also invest to tackle government corruption as well as investment to improve Africa's existing infrastructure.

Underworld Economics

Nishanth Bhasuru

A snapshot into modern day Black Market Economics

Black market economics is the bane of free market trading's existence. It grows. It bites. It conquers. Black market economics devours global economic systems, and leaves them torn, or rather ragged from the inside.

Welcome to the world of Black-Market Economics.

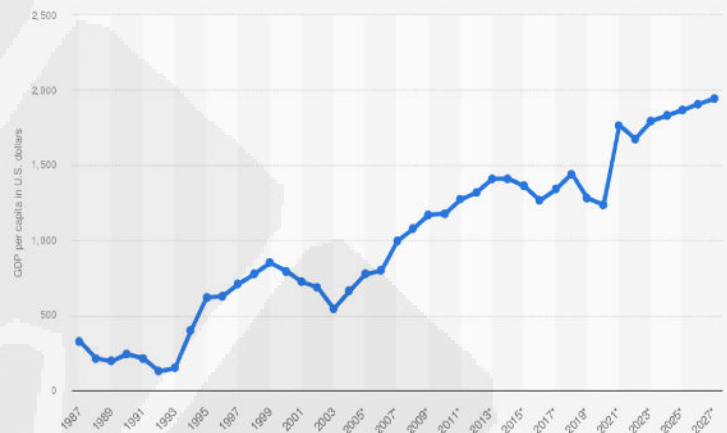
The black market is a place where people trade things that are illegal in some way, or which would be illegal without the black market. The most common things traded in black markets are illicit drugs, metals, guns and other weapons, counterfeit goods such as fake designer labels and handbags and shoes. Black market economics can also refer to any agreement made outside of civilised society where people agree to sell or buy something that is deemed as unethical or immoral. Such economies thrive in countries with low levels of policing or low levels of restriction.

Black markets provide a means of economic relief to those who find themselves at the bottom of the economic ladder; they allow them an opportunity to earn a living because they have no other valid opportunity. In some countries such as Haiti one third of its population live on less than \$1.00 a day. These people have no other means of earning an income other than through a black market. The lack of opportunity and desperation to earn enough money to feed themselves and their families, drives them to the bottom where they are forced to sell fruit on the street illegally or beg for money on the street corners.

People who set up black markets in different countries not only provide those who need it with an opportunity for economic relief but also (perhaps more importantly) create a feeling of community within their own social group. In crime ridden neighbourhoods such as Harlem in New York city, black markets allow those who live there to feel like part of a community where they can help raise one another's living standards through trading illegal products and services. It gives those in the black market economy a sense of belonging and a sense of purpose, which certainly cannot be ignored.

Black market economies do not just apply to illegal or immoral products and services. Black markets also operate in markets where certain goods are too expensive for certain people because they cannot afford to buy them at the regular price. In most developed countries there are laws against people selling or buying any drugs, weapons, counterfeit goods or services that are deemed as illegal by law.

Haiti: Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in current prices from 1987 to 2027 (in U.S. dollars)



Source:
IMF;
© Statista 2022

Additional information:
Haiti; IMF; 1987 to 2003

The smuggling of these goods in black market economies is done by organised crime organisations such as gangs, drug cartels and the Mafia. They use their resources to smuggle their products and services in an efficient way and avoid detection by the law. This can be done through using their own vehicles or using armed security guards to ensure safety of the goods as they are usually transported.

When people are arrested for buying illegal drugs, guns or other black market goods, they will often claim that they had believed it was legal because of the simple fact that it was not illegal where they bought it from. This is because a lot of people who have set up black markets overseas have taken it upon themselves to educate the consumer about the product or service they are selling and whether or not it is legal in their country. This must be and is done to avoid unnecessary confrontation with the law and to protect consumers from being arrested for buying illegal goods.

Black markets are also responsible for causing many environmental problems across the world, although black market economies aren't only irresponsible when it comes to environmental issues. Black markets also create emissions which are harmful for the environment as well as human health. It is estimated that one third of motor vehicles on America's roadways do not meet U.S. emissions and fuel economy standards, due to the fact that they have been imported or modified in black market economies.

This can cause economic problems within our country because these vehicles pollute the air causing it to become more difficult to breathe. The air we breathe is directly linked to our health; Polluted air can lead to breathing problems, respiratory diseases and cancer.

Black markets across all industries also contribute significantly to global poverty, as some people are left with no choice but to trade on black markets in order just to get by. In some countries around the world it is common place for people who live on less than a dollar a day, or who earn less than \$2.00 a day to trade on black markets, because they have no other way of earning an income. This can cause problems within different societies because black markets drive up the prices of certain goods and services, meaning that people who need those goods to survive have to pay more than they could afford.

There are many reasons as to why different countries cause black markets to exist (through over-regulation) in their own country or within another country. Most of the time these reasons relate directly to economics and politics, but it can also be for other purposes. Black markets are driven by greed and desperation; both of which can cause people within a society to do things that would otherwise be considered morally wrong if there was an opportunity for them not to do so.

A notable example of this can be found in the recent history of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Before 1996, only a few residents in the DRC were allowed to use cell phones because of the DRC's heavily censored and restricted internet. In 1996, all cellular phone restrictions were lifted and within months people began using their cell phones. This caused a huge boom in internet usage, because all of these individuals wanted to be able to freely communicate with others through computers or cell phones without fear they would be punished by government officials. The government soon took notice and began to crack down on internet usage. They are now trying to control internet usage by monitoring web sites, allowing internet users to only use specific web sites and browser applications.

This strictly limits the amount of information available to be viewed on the web and it is enforced by law.

In many countries, people that live in rural areas generally have very little access to many of the goods and services that are available in cities or towns. For example, in Canada farms operate on a black market under government regulation; however farmers would rather continue operating from under government regulation since it allows them a sense of freedom from having to deal with arbitrary rules from the town's police force or municipal authority. Under the current system, farmers are given a quota of product they have to produce and at certain times of the year they cannot sell their excess product.

This causes them to operate under a system that is not based on market supply and demand as it is with businesses in urban areas. Black markets can be used by farmers in rural areas to supercede these rules; therefore increasing competition among farmers which would force the price of a tomato (for example) down even if people were not willing to pay more for a good or service when more could be had at a lower cost.

Even though Canada runs on a black market economy, it does so in an efficient manner because there are many laws, and many ways in which Canada gets those involved to follow them, regulating how businesses operate within.

Canadians have a better understanding of what is and is not legal about a certain good or service because the black market is regulated by the government. An example of this can be found in Canada's alcohol industry. In Canada, people must be 19 years old to legally purchase alcohol; however, Canadians can legally drink at 18 years old in private parlours with friends and family. This means that there is a whole segment of Canada's black market that consists of 18 year olds consuming alcoholic beverages at private parlours and drinking establishments across the country. The Canadian government strictly regulates the black market for alcoholic beverages; therefore it must be doing it in an effective manner or they would not be able to do so.

Black markets arise for a large number of causes and contrary to the common belief they aren't completely negative nor uncommon. They provide a pathway for low earning families a way to get by and survive, helping raise their Quality Of Life (index). However, on the other, less clouded side of the argument, they do cause numerous issues.

Regardless, it is important to view them in multiple different angles as opposed to one, as they resemble a key yet complex problem in global societies.



The Art of Apology Culture

Sena Lai Fujiwara

Apologies. A common mannerism in arguably all human societies. These are defined as regular expressions of regret as an acknowledgment of an offense or failure. So, you may be thinking, what is so interesting about it? How can one compose an entire article about such a simple word? Here is the thing; it is so much more than that.

Unique?

We are transported to the country of Japan, a place notable for its various and unique cultural attributes, one being its “apology culture.”

Apologizing in the Land of The Rising Sun is a lot more than just saying you are sorry. It’s about politeness, letting others know that you are reflecting on what went wrong, and not just uttering the required phrases.

Firstly, it would be good to establish some consensus claims of the purpose of apologies: being polite and respectful is an unequivocal goal in almost every culture. However, the Japanese are known to be extra courteous, with the majority of the people preferring a harmonious society rather than their desires. As a result, this prevents and avoids fuss or bothering of others since the people are aware of the repercussions of their actions, unnecessary or not.

Blue Lock is a Japanese football manga series that was just adapted into an anime as of late and its popularity has echoed some flaws of this apology culture system. The main philosophy that stems from it is that the best strikers are the most egotistical; since Japan is described to play football in a very conservative and overly respectable manner, this was a topic of discussion and interest. Perhaps it was one of the reasons why they lost their promising lead against Belgium back in 2018, something so iconic in footballing history.

Japanese society sees significance in inconvenience and discomfort over the admittance of guilt or culpability, something we see more in Western Cultures. The punctuality of train services is a major example of this. Let’s take a couple more general examples: apologizing for late replies, apologizing for long conversations or for wasting time. In these scenarios, it is not forgiveness being sought. Instead, these apologies are symbols of humbleness and politeness, something very highly valued by the Japanese.

The layers

The most common way to apologise in Japan is by saying “Sumimasen”, roughly translating as an apologetic “excuse me”. You will often hear it in doorways, taxis, shops and restaurants, often accompanied by an “Arigatou” (thank you) on departure. A specialist in the Japanese language (Laurie Inokuma) gave the statistic:



“Only 10% of ‘sumimasen’ is an apology. 90% is used to show respect, politeness, and honesty,” with the word encompassing thanks and apology into one concept. The bowing culture in East-Asian culture complements well the many layers of what apology is in Japan.

Value and more importantly, why?

A good evaluation of Japanese culture so far would be to say that they greatly value respect, shown either through apology or thankfulness. Another infamous example of this high level of courtesy would be in the aftermath of the Japanese team’s run at the 2018 Russian World Cup despite their loss. Fans were surprisingly seen picking up litter and the team left a spotlessly clean locker room as well as a “thank you” note in the native language. This was replicated recently in this year’s World Cup (2022) upon Japan’s shocking yet praised victories over Germany.

People often wonder about the relationship between modern Japan’s culture and its traditions – there is said to be a need for politeness to get along with living on top of your neighbours (in this case, many, many neighbours). Japan notably has some of the most densely packed cities in the world, with an immense 93.93% urban population. Tokyo is also the acclaimed most populated city in the world with 38,140,000 people. (Tokyo houses 10% of the nation’s population).

However, this politeness can be seen universally, whether it is in cramped living quarters or not, arguably even more in rural areas.

Criticisms:

True emotions and feelings are often hidden and mistakenly disguised by this concept of respect and wishes for subtlety. This may be one of the reasons why Japan has one of the highest suicide rates in the world – “Isolation is the number one precursor for depression and suicide“.

There is also a point that people who abide by this will naturally follow prejudices and stereotypes of foreigners i.e. the Gaijin seat phenomenon. It is such that any time a visibly foreign person sits down on any type of public seat, the seats next to them will likely remain vacant, to avoid engagement in conversations – this is not necessarily a well-perceived ideology.

It is good to point out the uniqueness and extraordinary side of this apology culture in Japan in comparison to other cultures. It has various strengths as seen in the media portrayal of Japan in the World Cup and other public events. However, there are clear internal flaws which are less visible to the naked eye; the natural seclusion and repression that Japanese society may face due to this cultural norm that has always been in place.

Japan is often linked as being the birthplace of “karoshi”, a word meaning ‘death from overwork’. There is a strong idea of repression here, where workers opt to stay working only because they do not want to have managers saying anything bad about them. Consequently, the Japanese prefer this ‘workaholic’ attitude as they deem it to be the most efficient and least bothersome for others, which as mentioned before, is a priority in this nation. Although they are entitled to 20 days annual leave, many employees don’t take full advantage of it; blame can be put on the intense atmosphere of the workplace, how it is the atmosphere itself that does not allow any sense of relaxation or escape. Professors have assigned this societal trait to how Japanese society is collectivist and hierarchical whilst Western society is individualistic and non-hierarchical.

As a business perspective, apology is considerably even more important here than in daily life in Japan. It is something that is obligatory for companies to do to rebuild ties and trust with their customers or associates. This has also occurred for governments, where the public apologies require deep sincerity and formality to be seen as genuine and reasonable.



LANGUAGES

In diesem Abschnitt/ Dans Cette Section

23 Wie Bewältigen wir die Klimanrise? – Arjun Patel

25 Le fer et les finances: partie 1: l'économie du Luxembourg duème siècle – Aayush Backory

Wie Bewältigen wir die Klimanrise?

Arjun Patel

Wie bewältigen wir die Klimakrise?

Die Klimakrise ist ein Problem, das in allen Medien gesprochen wird. Das wurde als die größte Herausforderung der heutigen Zeit beschrieben und wird Folgen für jeder haben. Es wurde argumentiert, dass es zu spät sei, jetzt zu versuchen, zu helfen. Ich stimme überhaupt nicht dazu. Es wird äußerst schwierig, aber wir können diese Krise nur durch echte Zusammenarbeit und Abstimmung zwischen Politik, Wirtschaft und Umwelt bewältigen. Jeder muss eine Rolle spielen, wenn wir dieses Problem überwinden wollen.

Aber zuerst müssen wir fragen: Was bedeutet genau die Klimakrise? Was sind die Gründe, was sind die Folgen?

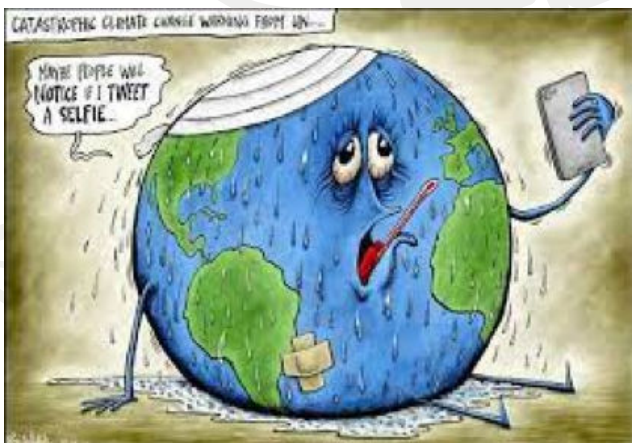
Die Klimakrise besteht aus vielen Teilen. Die globale Erwärmung ist weltweit als eines der größten Umweltprobleme bekannt. Es wird durch die Ansammlung von Treibhausgasen in der Atmosphäre verursacht, was zu einem verstärkten Treibhauseffekt führt. Dies hat in der Vergangenheit dazu geführt, dass sich die Welt langsam erwärmt hat, jetzt aber das immer schneller wird. Außer Treibhausgasen gibt es auch andere Verschmutzungen. Chemikalien und Produktionsabfälle werden oft in die Umgebung geworfen, die nicht nur Tieren und Pflanzen schadet, sondern auch die Luft. Der Mensch hatte auch Auswirkungen auf andere Tierarten. Seit 1500 hat der Mensch ungefähr 900 Tierarten zum Aussterben gebracht. Wenn die Klimakrise nicht gelöst wird, wird diese Zahl nur noch größer. Diese Probleme kann in einer Idee zusammengefasst werden: ökologische Unhaltbarkeit.

Wir müssen entscheiden, wie wir sicherstellen können, dass der heutigen Bevölkerung ihre Bedürfnisse bekommen, ohne die Umwelt in Zukunft zu schädigen.

Einzelpersonen können versuchen, kleine Änderungen in ihrem Leben vorzunehmen, die ihren Kohlenstoffbilanz reduziert. Sie können beispielsweise zu Fuß gehen, anstatt ein Auto zu nehmen, oder mehr Abfall recyceln. Aber im Großen und Ganzen können diese Veränderungen die Klimakrise nicht allein bekämpfen. Zwischen 1988 und 2015 wurden 71 % der gesamten Treibhausgasemissionen von 100 Produzenten fossiler Brennstoffe verursacht.

Deshalb spielen Unternehmen und Regierungen eine große Rolle bei der Bewältigung der Klimakrise. Es muss Gesetze und Vorschriften geben, die das Wirtschaftswachstum fördern und gleichzeitig sicherstellen, dass umweltfreundliche Energiequellen verwendet werden. Die Regierungen müssen auch Unternehmen fördern, die nachhaltig und umweltfreundlich sind. Auch Investitionen in neue Technologien, die erneuerbare Energiequellen oder Dienstleistungen zur CO₂-Abscheidung bereitstellen, sind mögliche Lösungen. Anlagen zur Abscheidung von Kohlendioxid entfernen jedes Jahr 40 Millionen Tonnen CO₂ aus der Atmosphäre – dies wird nur zunehmen, wenn Investitionen getätigt werden.

Die letzte Frage: Ist es für die Menschen zu spät, die Klimakrise zu bewältigen? Das aktuelle Ziel auf der ganzen Welt ist, bis 2050 Netto-Null-Emissionen zu haben. Das wäre natürlich schwierig, aber mit all den oben genannten Methoden könnte es möglich sein. Das Wichtigste für die Menschheit ist Hoffnung – mit einer gesunden Portion Action.



How do we deal with the climate crisis?

Arjun Patel

How do we deal with the climate crisis?

The climate crisis is a problem talked about in every form of media. It has been described as the greatest challenge of our time and will have consequences for everyone. It has been argued, that it is too late to try to help now. I disagree entirely. Although it will be extremely difficult, we can only overcome this crisis through real cooperation and coordination between politics, economics and the environment. Everyone has a role to play if we are to overcome this problem. But first we have to ask: What exactly does the climate crisis mean? What are the reasons, what are the consequences?

The climate crisis consists of many separate issues. Global warming is known to be one of the biggest environmental problems worldwide. It is caused by the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, leading to an enhanced greenhouse effect. This has caused the world to warm up slowly in the past, but is now accelerating. In addition to greenhouse gases, there are other types of pollution. Chemicals and production waste are often thrown into the environment, which not only harms animals and plants, but also the quality of our air. Humans also had an impact on other animal species. Since 1500, humans have brought about 900 animal species to extinction- if the climate crisis is not solved, this number will only increase. These problems can be summed up in one idea: ecological and environmental unsustainability.

We must decide how to ensure that today's population gets what it needs without harming the environment in the future.

Individuals can try to make small changes in their lives that will reduce their carbon footprint. For example, you can walk instead of taking a car or recycle more waste. But by and large, these changes cannot tackle the climate crisis alone. Between 1988 and 2015, 100 fossil fuel producers accounted for 71% of total greenhouse gas emissions.

That is why companies and governments have a major role to play in tackling the climate crisis. There must be laws and regulations that promote economic growth while ensuring that environmentally friendly energy sources are used. Governments must encourage companies that are sustainable and environmentally friendly. Investment in new technologies that provide renewable energy sources or carbon capture services are also possible solutions. Carbon capture plants remove 40 million tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere every year – this can only increase if investments are made.

The final question: is it too late for people to tackle the climate crisis? The current goal around the world is to have net-zero emissions by 2050. Of course, this will be extremely challenging, but with the methods above, it might be possible. The most important thing for humanity is hope – with a healthy portion of action.



Le fer et les finances: partie 1: l'économie du Luxembourg du 19ème siècle

Aayush Backory

Le fer et les finances: partie 1: l'économie du Luxembourg du 19ème siècle

Le Luxembourg est un des pays les plus riches du monde. Cependant, l'histoire de Luxembourg n'est pas la même que les autres pays riches dans le monde, tel que l'Angleterre. Dans cet article, je vais parler de l'économie du Luxembourg depuis le dix-huitième siècle.

Le Luxembourg a été fondé en 1815. Avant, c'était le "grand-duché" et il avait beaucoup de propriétaires: à l'époque de Napoléon, il appartenait à France. Maintenant, il conserve sa culture française, et le français est une des langues officielles dans ce pays.

Avant le traité de Londres en 1839, le Luxembourg appartenait à la Belgique, mais après ça, il est devenu un pays souverain. Malheureusement, le Luxembourg était exploité par d'autres pays qui lui appartenaient, à cause du fait qu'il avait beaucoup de mines de fer. Donc, le Luxembourg n'était pas riche. Il fallait qu'ils construisent une industrie, pour s'assurer qu'il ne soit pas envahi par autre pays, tel que l'Allemagne ou la France.

Alors, l'histoire de l'économie du Luxembourg peut commencer. Imaginez-vous que vous êtes au Luxembourg dans les années 1800s. Qu'est-ce qui se passe, en ce moment? La révolution industrielle. Mais qu'est-ce que ça veut dire pour le Luxembourg?

Pendant ce temps, la demande d'armes était en hausse. Les usines étaient vraiment efficaces, et l'offre était en hausse aussi. Il y avait un accroissement dans les industries d'armes, et donc, plein de pays européens, tel que l'Angleterre, ont décidé de produire l'acier, parce qu'il était nécessaire pour produire les pistolets. Il y avait beaucoup de fer au Luxembourg, et le pays a décidé de spécialiser en produisant de l'acier.

On a construit des usines, et le chômage a diminué dans ce pays, parce qu'il y avait beaucoup d'emplois. Cependant, ce pays n'avait pas résolu ses problèmes économiques. Le fer que le Luxembourg a produit n'était pas pur, parce qu'il y avait trop de phosphore. Donc, l'acier n'était pas durable, et la croissance économique n'était pas grande.

Pour résoudre ce problème. Le Luxembourg a développé sa technologie. Par exemple, l'invention de Bessemer Steel a permis au pays de produire de l'acier plus durable et plus fort. Pourquoi est-ce que c'est important? Le Luxembourg avait donc l'habileté d'exporter.

Il a donc développé une économie avec une base solide afin de croître. En 1842, le pays a produit environ 7300 tonnes d'acier. Après, le Luxembourg faisait partie de "Zollverein," un marché qui avait les pays allemand dans lequel, par exemple la Prusse, la Bavière et le Magdebourg. Maintenant, il y a le libre-échange entre la plupart des pays européens, mais auparavant, le libre-échange n'était pas commun. Le "Zollverein" a permis au Luxembourg de profiter de l'échange international. Pendant la guerre entre la France et la Prusse, le Luxembourg pouvait vendre son acier pour obtenir beaucoup d'argent. L'échange voulait dire que les capitalistes pouvaient construire plus d'usines.

Donc, l'économie du Luxembourg était à la base de leur industrie d'acier. L'acier était vraiment important pour beaucoup de pays. Cependant, le Luxembourg s'est spécialisé, et ça, avec leurs ressources naturelles, voulait dire qu'il y avait un grand accroissement économique à cette époque. Il a été transformé et dans l'année 1900, il était un des exportateurs les plus importants en Europe. Oui, l'acier était important pour les usines et les armes dans les années 1800s. Cependant l'acier était sur le point de jouer un rôle vraiment plus important plus tard...

Iron and Finance Part 1: The Economy of 19th Century Luxembourg

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Luxembourg is one of the richest countries in the world. However, the history of Luxembourg is not the same as other rich nations, such as England. In this article I will talk about the economy of Luxembourg since the eighteenth century.

Luxembourg was founded in 1815. Before, it was known as a “grand duchy” and it had many owners: at the time of Napoleon, it belonged to France. Now it keeps its French culture, and French is one of the official languages in this country.

Before the Treaty of London in 1839, Luxembourg belonged to Belgium, but after that it became a sovereign country. Unfortunately, Luxembourg was exploited by other countries that it had belonged to, because it had many iron mines. Therefore, Luxembourg was not rich. They had to build an industry, to make sure that it would not be invaded by other countries, such as Germany or France.

So the story of the economy of Luxembourg can begin. Imagine that you are in Luxembourg in the 1800s. What is happening now? The industrial revolution. But what does this mean for Luxembourg?

During this time, the demand for weapons was rising. The factories were relatively efficient, and the supply was increasing too. There was an increase in the arms industry, so many European countries, such as England, decided to produce steel, because it was needed to produce guns. There was a lot of iron in Luxembourg, and the country decided to specialize in producing steel.

Factories were built, and the unemployment decreased in this country, because there were many jobs. However, this country did not solve its economic problems. The iron that Luxembourg produced was not pure, because there was too much phosphorus. Therefore, the steel was not durable, and the economic growth was limited.

To solve this problem. Luxembourg developed its technology. For example, the invention of Bessemer Steel allowed the country to produce more durable and stronger steel. Why is this important? Luxembourg had the ability to export. So it developed an economy with a solid base to grow. In 1842, the country produced about 7300 tons of steel.

Afterwards, Luxembourg was part of the “Zollverein,” a market that had the German countries in which, for example, Prussia, Bavaria and Magdeburg. Now there is free trade between most European countries, but before, free trade was not common. The “Zollverein” allowed Luxembourg to benefit from international trade.

During the war between France and Prussia, Luxembourg could sell its steel to get a lot of money. The exchange meant that the capitalists could build more factories. So, Luxembourg’s economy was based on their steel industry. Steel was incredibly important for many countries.

However, Luxembourg specialized, and that, with their natural resources, meant that there was a great economic growth at that time. It was transformed and in the year 1900, it was one of the most important exporters in Europe. Yes, steel was important for factories and weapons in the 1800s. However, steel was about to play a much more important role later on...