

AMERICAN AMNESIA




HOW THE WAR ON GOVERNMENT LED US TO
FORGET WHAT MADE AMERICA PROSPER



fine art
america





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FORGET WHAT MADE AMERICA PROSPER**



Biggest Winners of Clean Air Act

By reducing particulate pollution, the Clean Air Act added years to the lives of Americans.

Calculated gain in life expectancy, metro areas

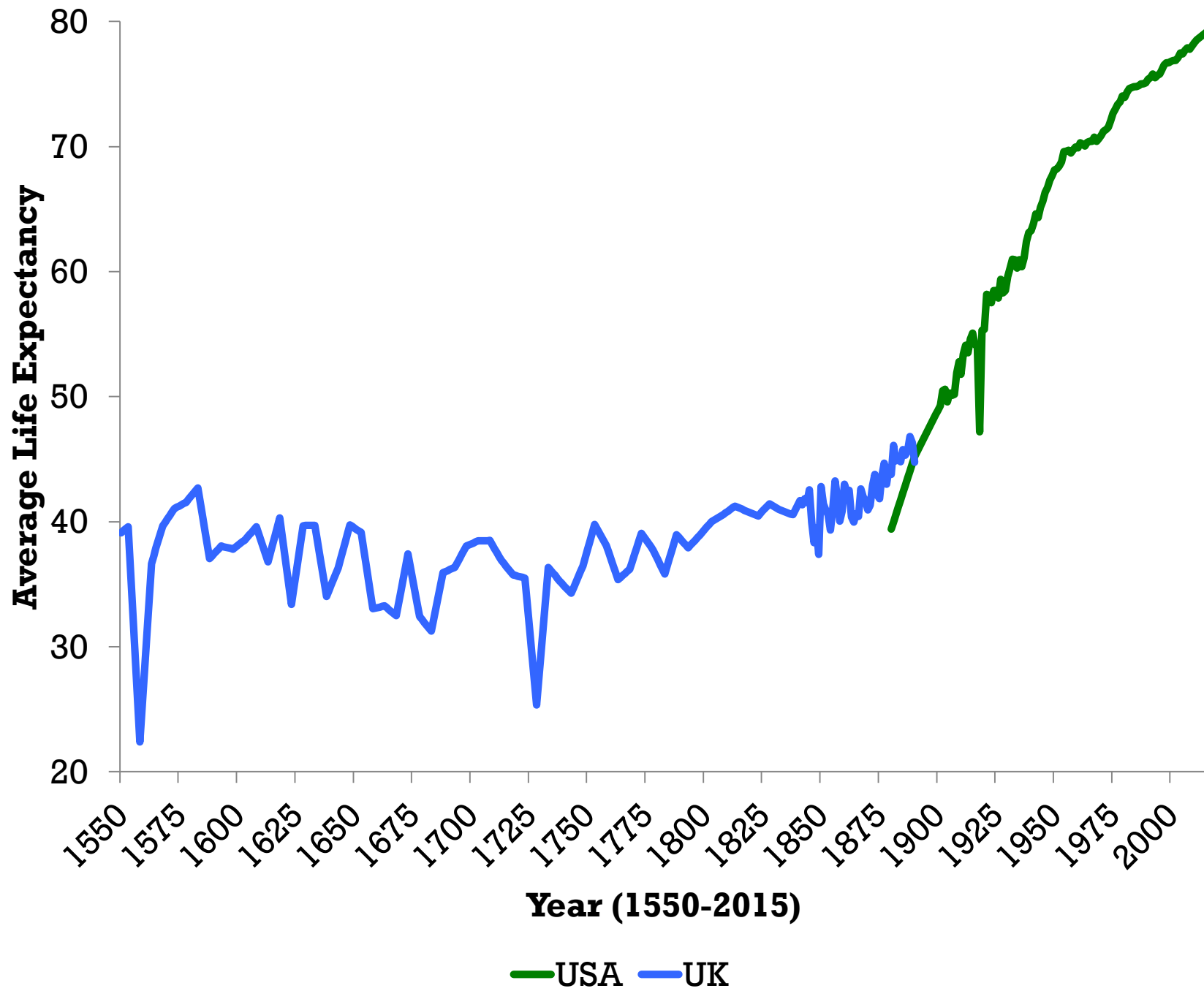
Wilmington, W. Va.	+5.2
Wichita, Kan.	+4.3
Phoenix	+3.9
New Castle, Pa.	+3.9
Mobile, Ala.	+3.9
Youngstown, Ohio	+3.4
Chattanooga, Tenn.	+3.0
Pueblo, Colo.	+2.9
Kingsport, Tenn.	+2.9
Birmingham, Ala.	+2.8

Estimates of three life-years saved per 100 microgram decrease of total suspended particles per cubic meter.

Michael Greenstone; E.P.A.







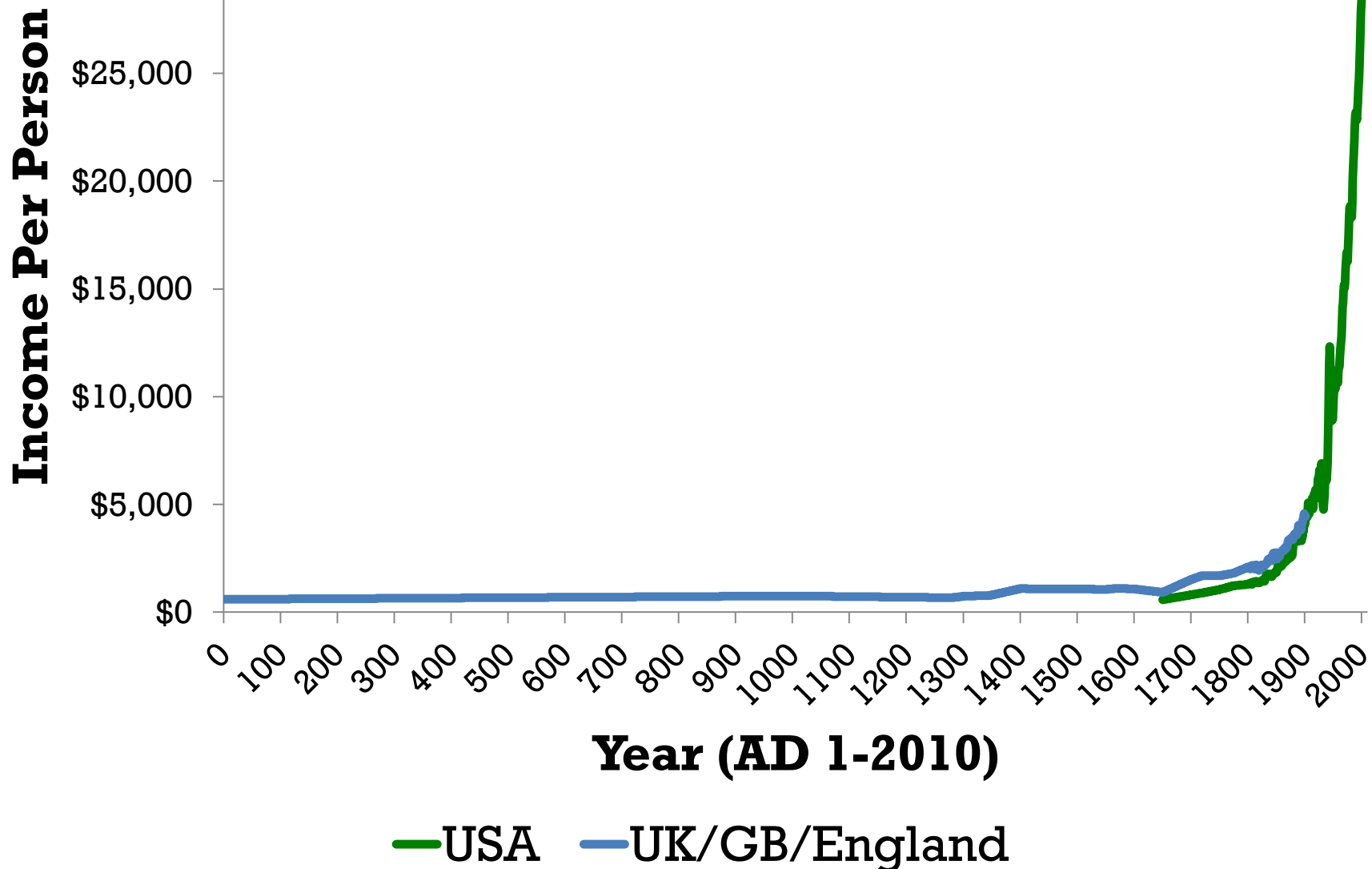
Income Per Person

\$35,000
\$30,000
\$25,000
\$20,000
\$15,000
\$10,000
\$5,000
\$0

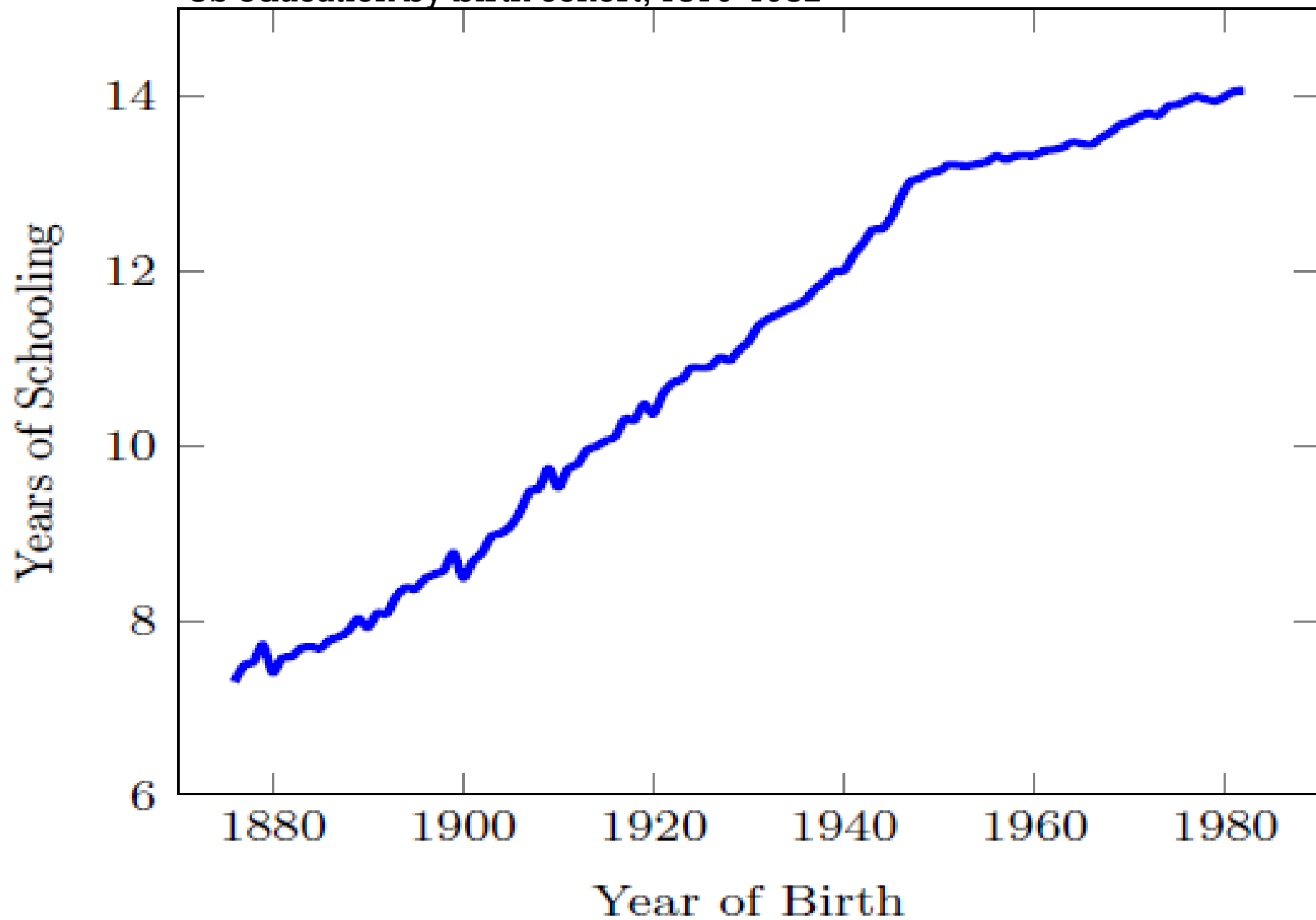
0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000

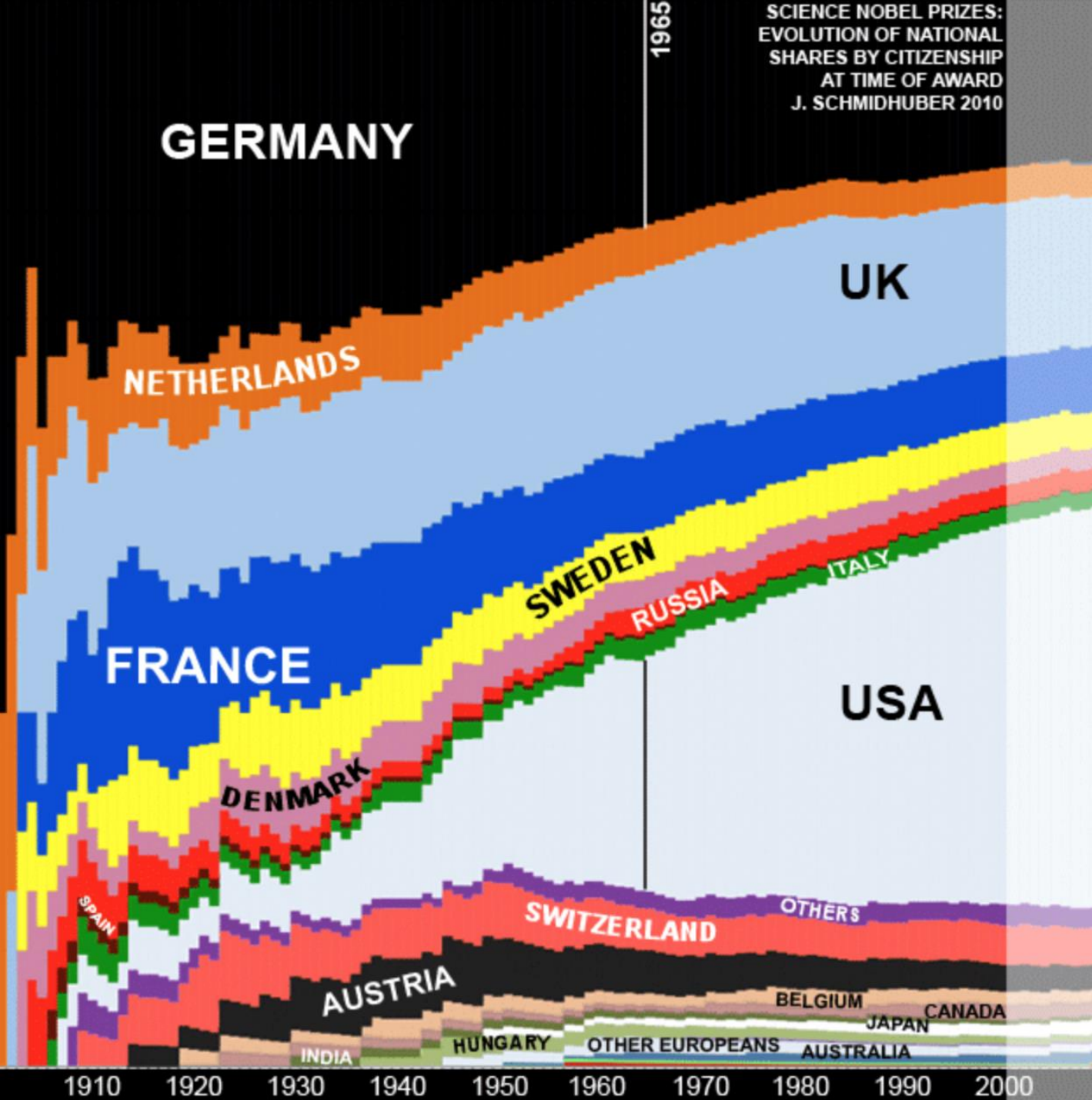
Year (AD 1-2010)

—USA —UK/GB/England



US education by birth cohort, 1876-1982



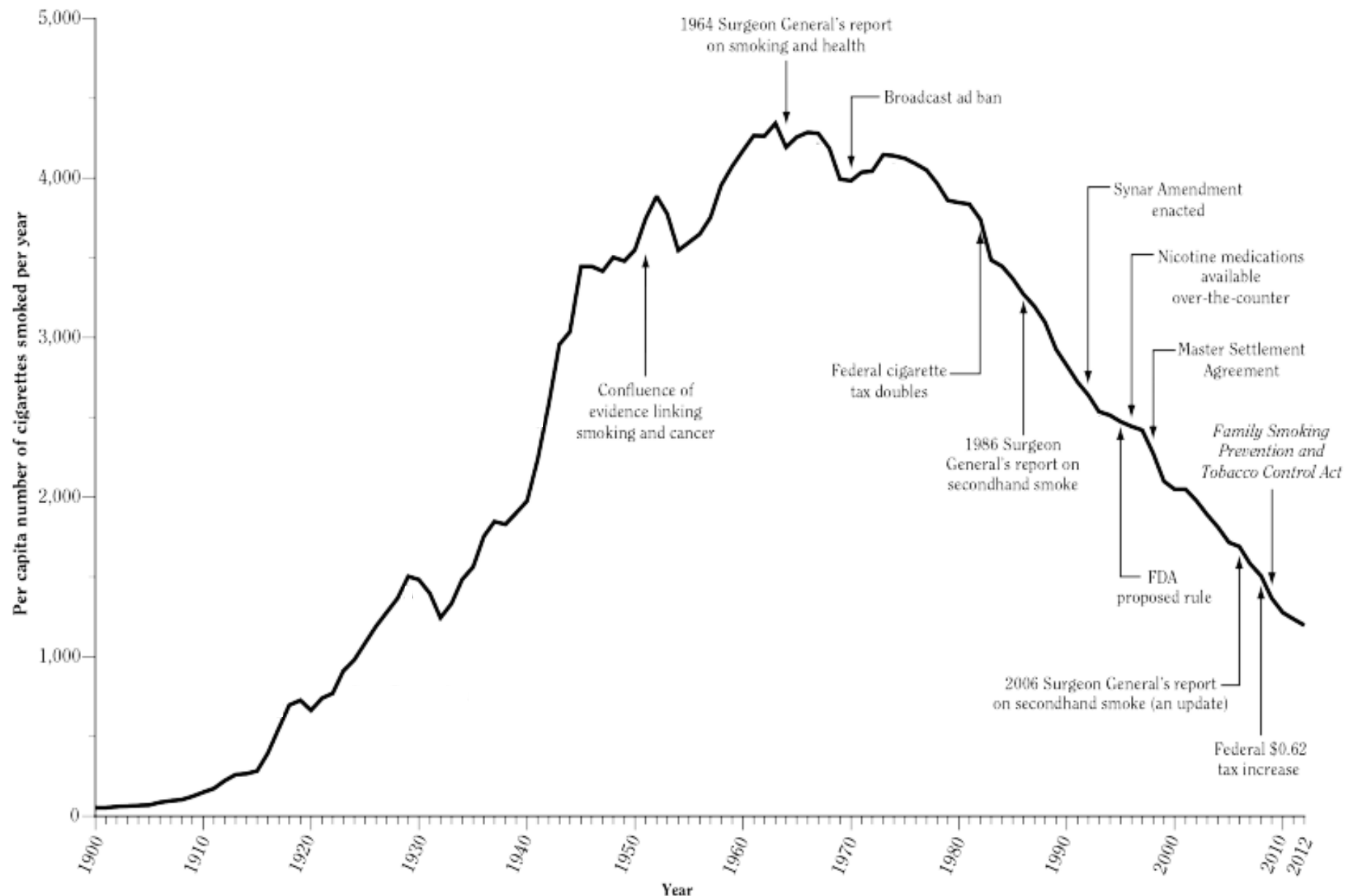


“He who receives an idea from me, receives instruction himself without lessening mine; as he who lights his taper at mine, receives light without darkening me.” –

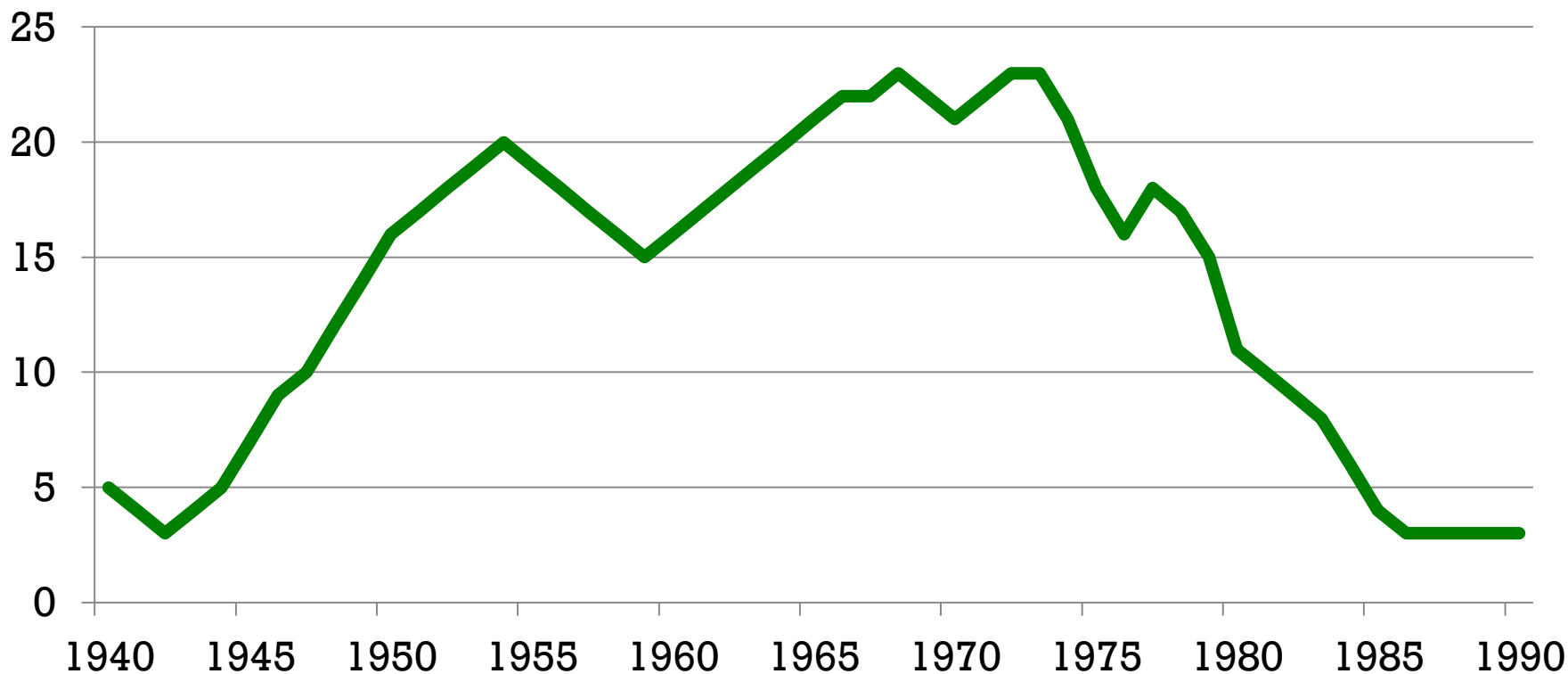
Thomas Jefferson



Adult* per capita cigarette consumption and major smoking and health events, United States, 1900–2012



Sources: Adapted from Warner 1985 with permission from Massachusetts Medical Society, ©1985; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 1989; Creek et al. 1994; U.S. Department of Agriculture 2000; U.S. Census Bureau 2013; U.S. Department of the Treasury 2013.



A timeline of lead reduction

1970

CDC sets acceptable blood-lead level of **$40 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$**

1973

EPA mandates a phaseout of leaded gasoline

1978

CPSC bans residential lead paint

1991

CDC sets acceptable blood-lead level of **$10 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$**

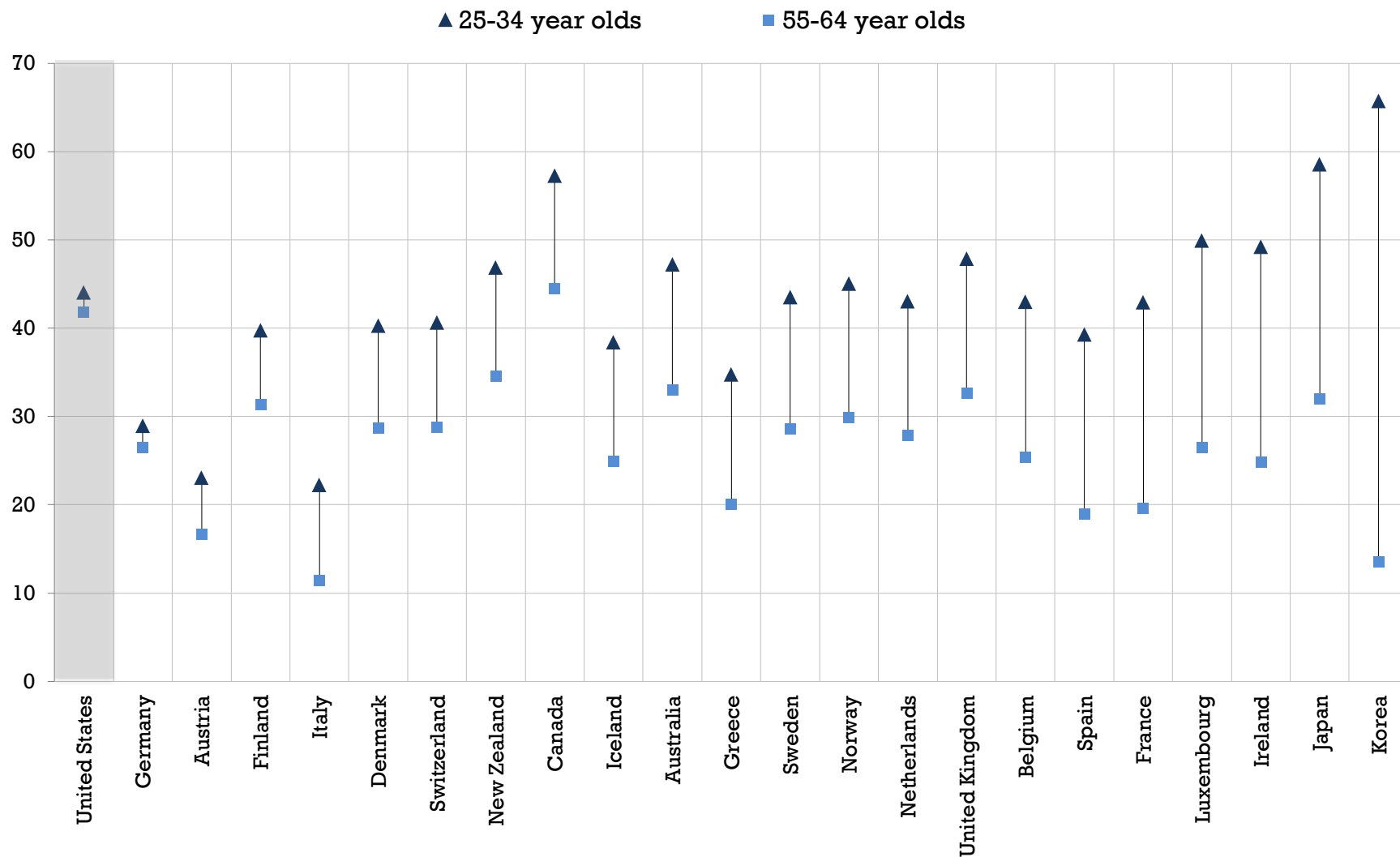
1996

EPA eliminates lead from all U.S. motor fuel

2012

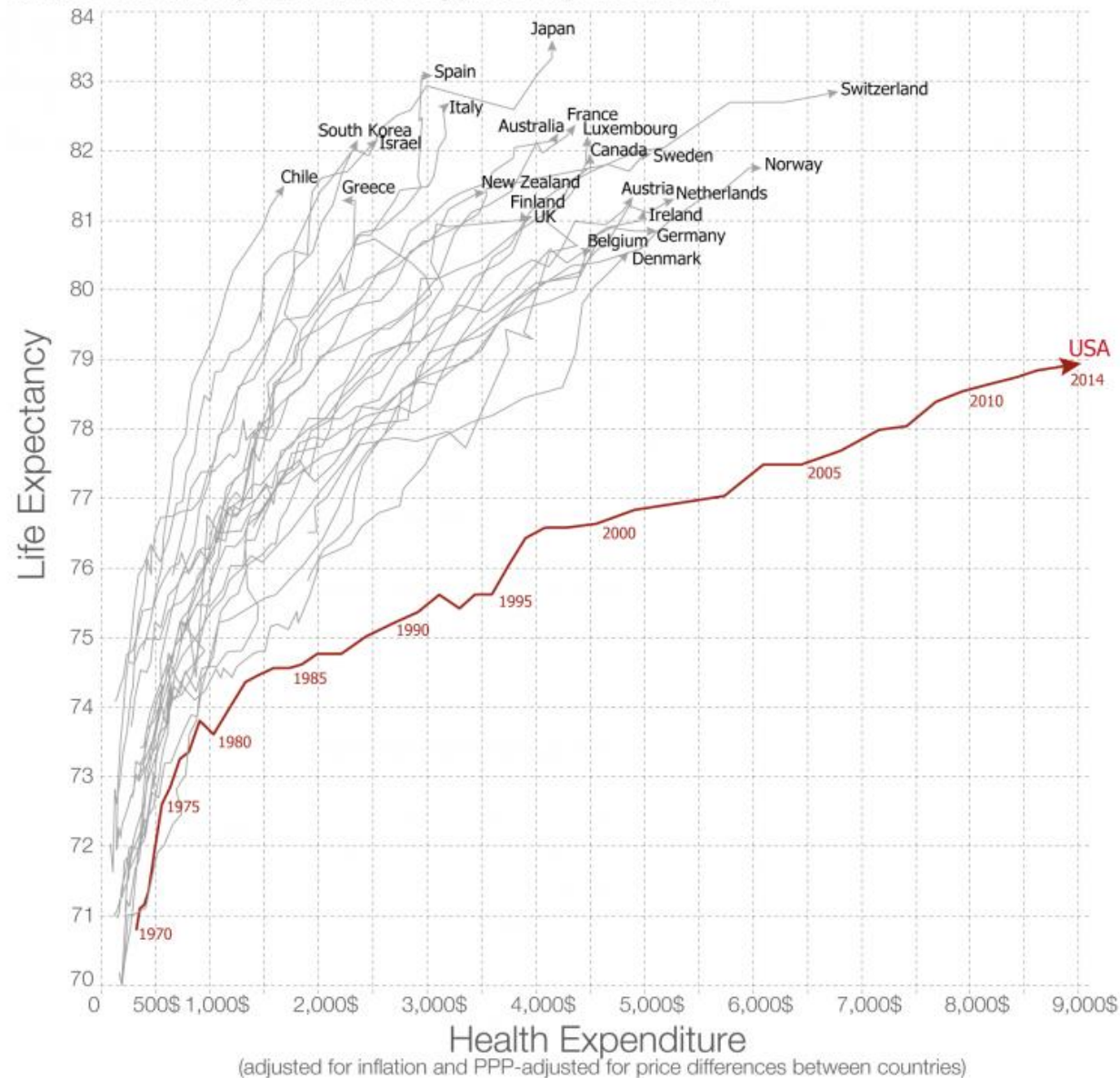
CDC describes blood-lead level of **$>5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$** as elevated

Percentage of Population that has Attained Tertiary Education by Age Group (2012)

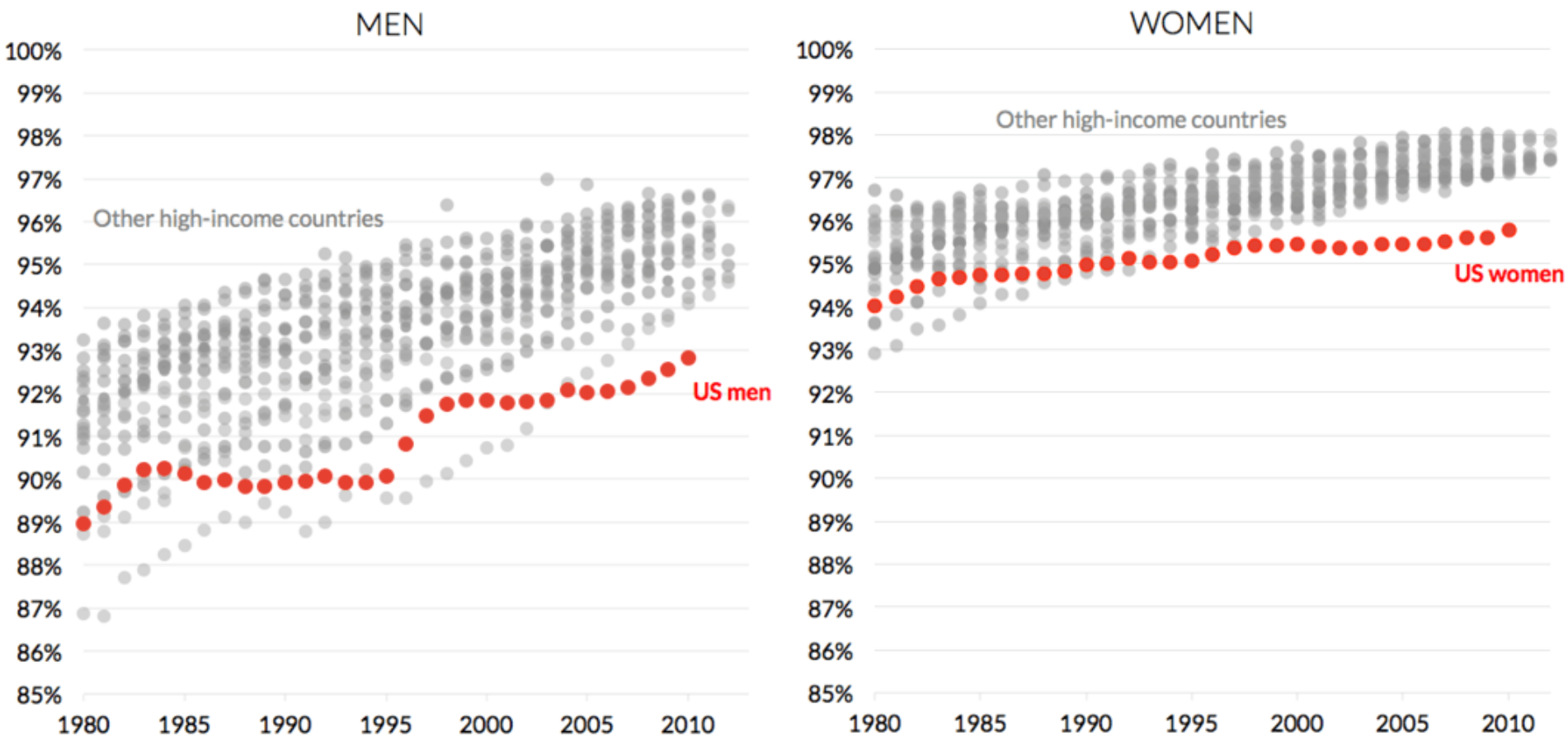


Life expectancy vs. health expenditure over time (1970-2014)

Health spending measures the consumption of health care goods and services, including personal health care (curative care, rehabilitative care, long-term care, ancillary services and medical goods) and collective services (prevention and public health services as well as health administration), but excluding spending on investments. Shown is total health expenditure (financed by public and private sources).



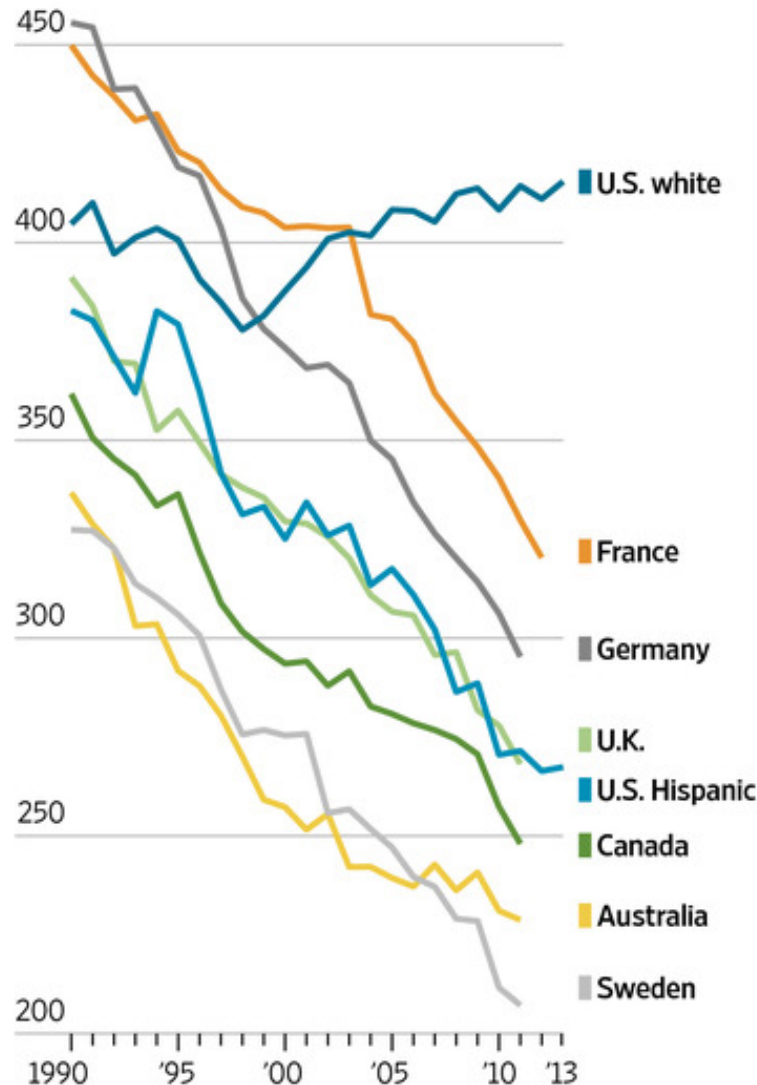
Probability of Surviving to Age 50: The US is Falling Behind



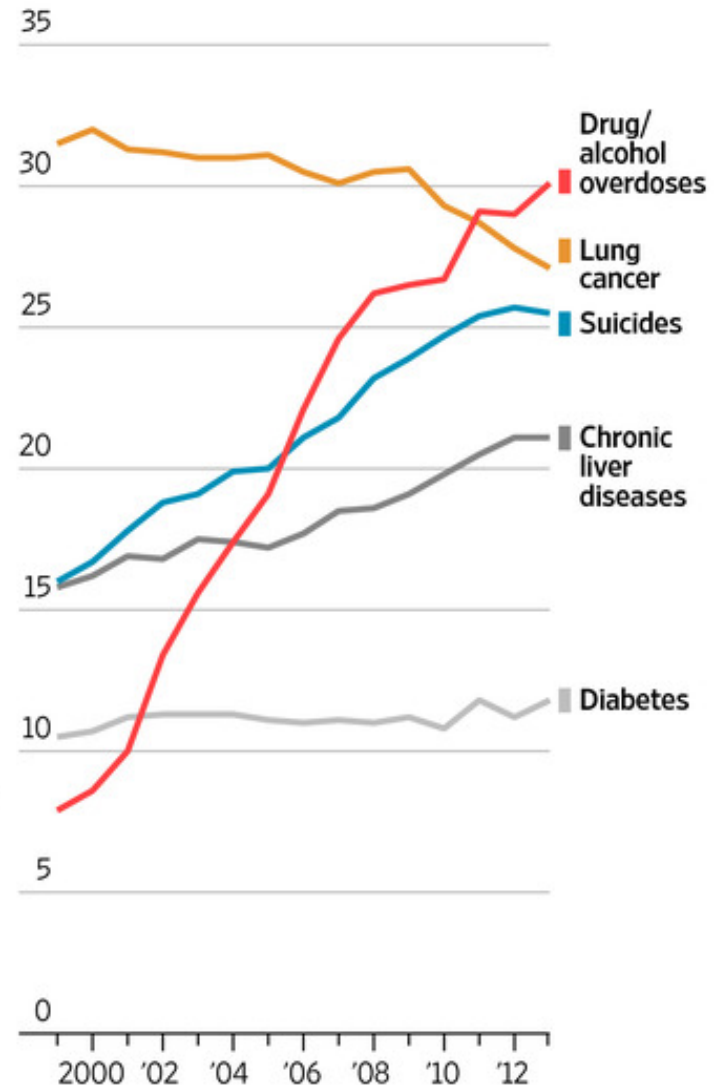
On the Rise

Death rates have been climbing for middle-age white Americans, which experts attribute to drug abuse, alcoholism and suicide.

Mortality rates, 45 to 54 age group, per 100,000 people

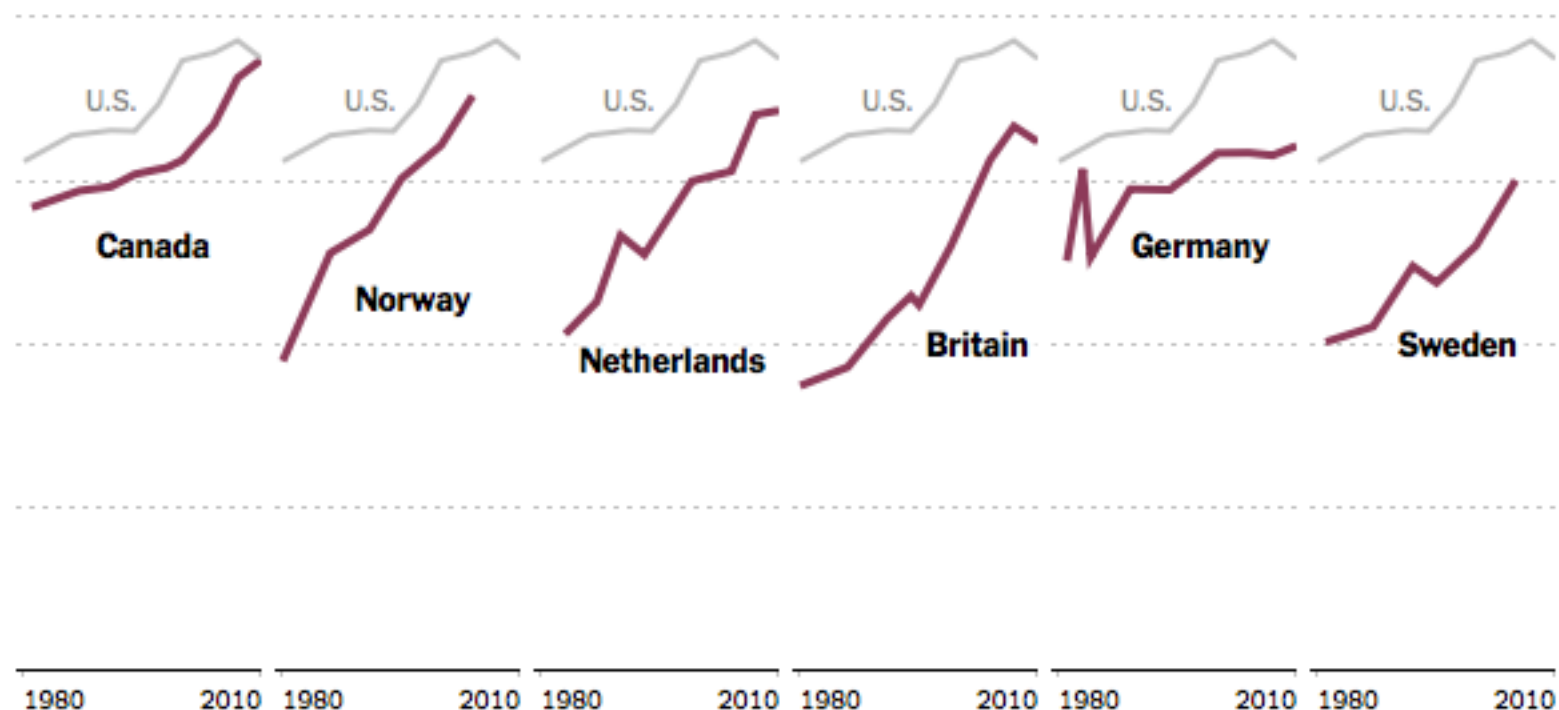


Mortality by cause for white non-Hispanics, 45 to 54 age group, per 100,000 people

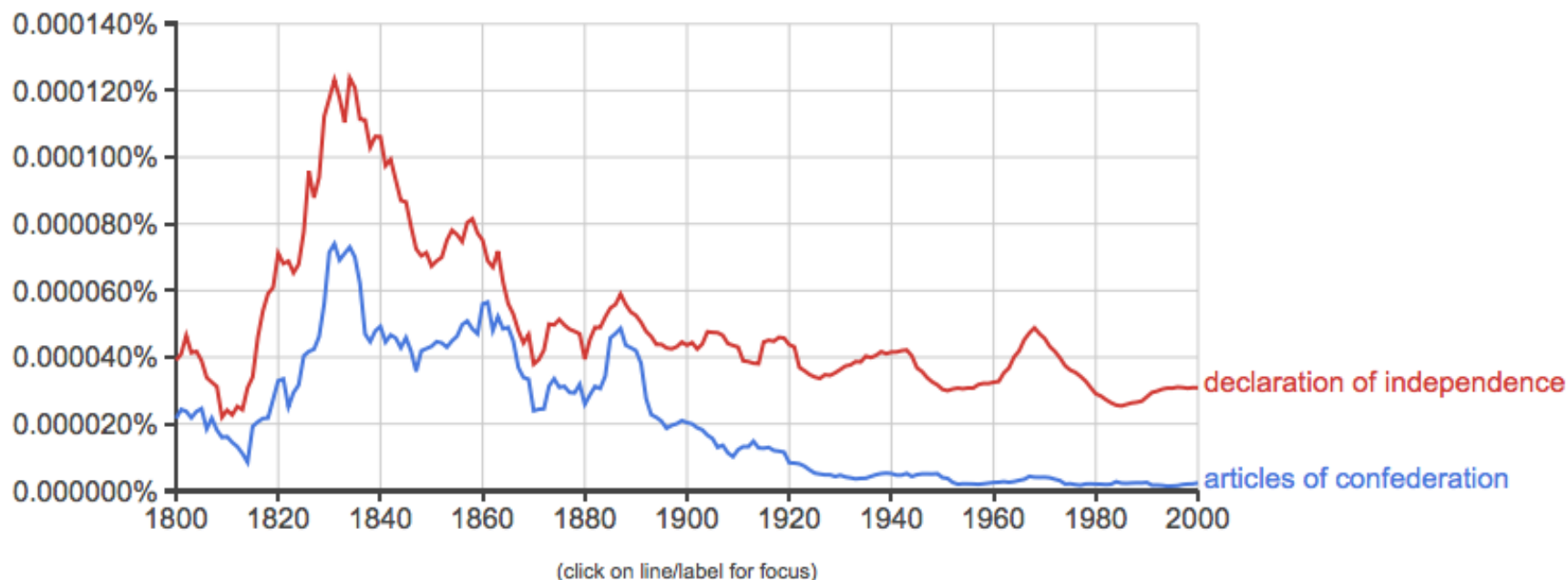


The United States' once-strong lead in middle class incomes is shrinking.

MEDIAN PER CAPITA INCOME AFTER TAXES



YADDA YADDA YADDA: “Declaration of Independence” and “Articles of Confederation” in English-language books (as Share of All Trigrams), 1800-2000

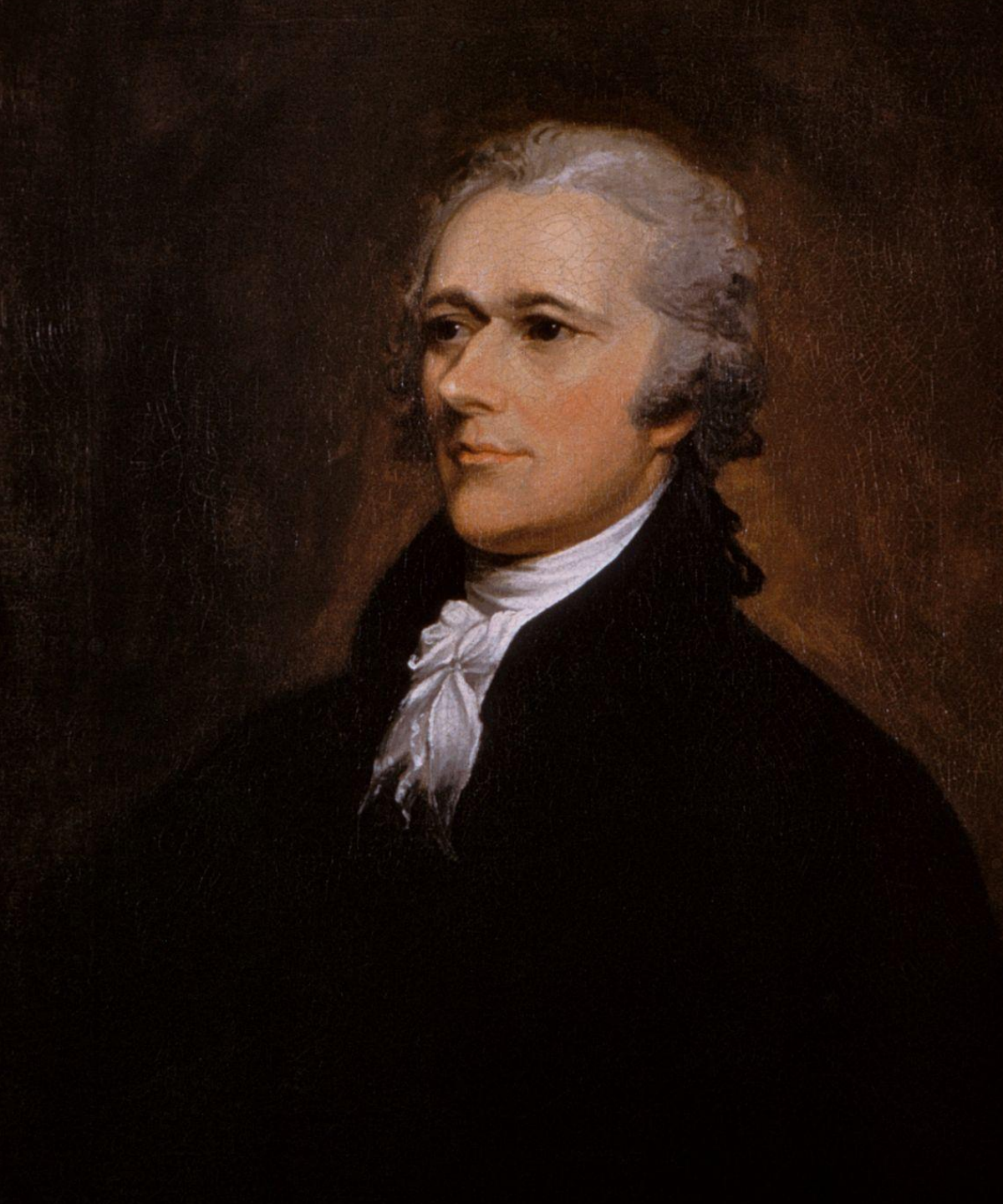


Source: Google Ngram Viewer (<http://books.google.com/ngrams>)



In the commencement of a revolution which received its birth from the usurpations of tyranny, nothing was more natural than that the public mind should be influenced by an extreme spirit of jealousy....The zeal for liberty became predominant and excessive...The object certainly was a valuable one, and deserved our utmost attention. But, sir, there is another object equally important and which our enthusiasm rendered us little capable of regarding; I mean a principle of strength and stability in the organization of our government, and vigor in its operations.

—**Alexander Hamilton**

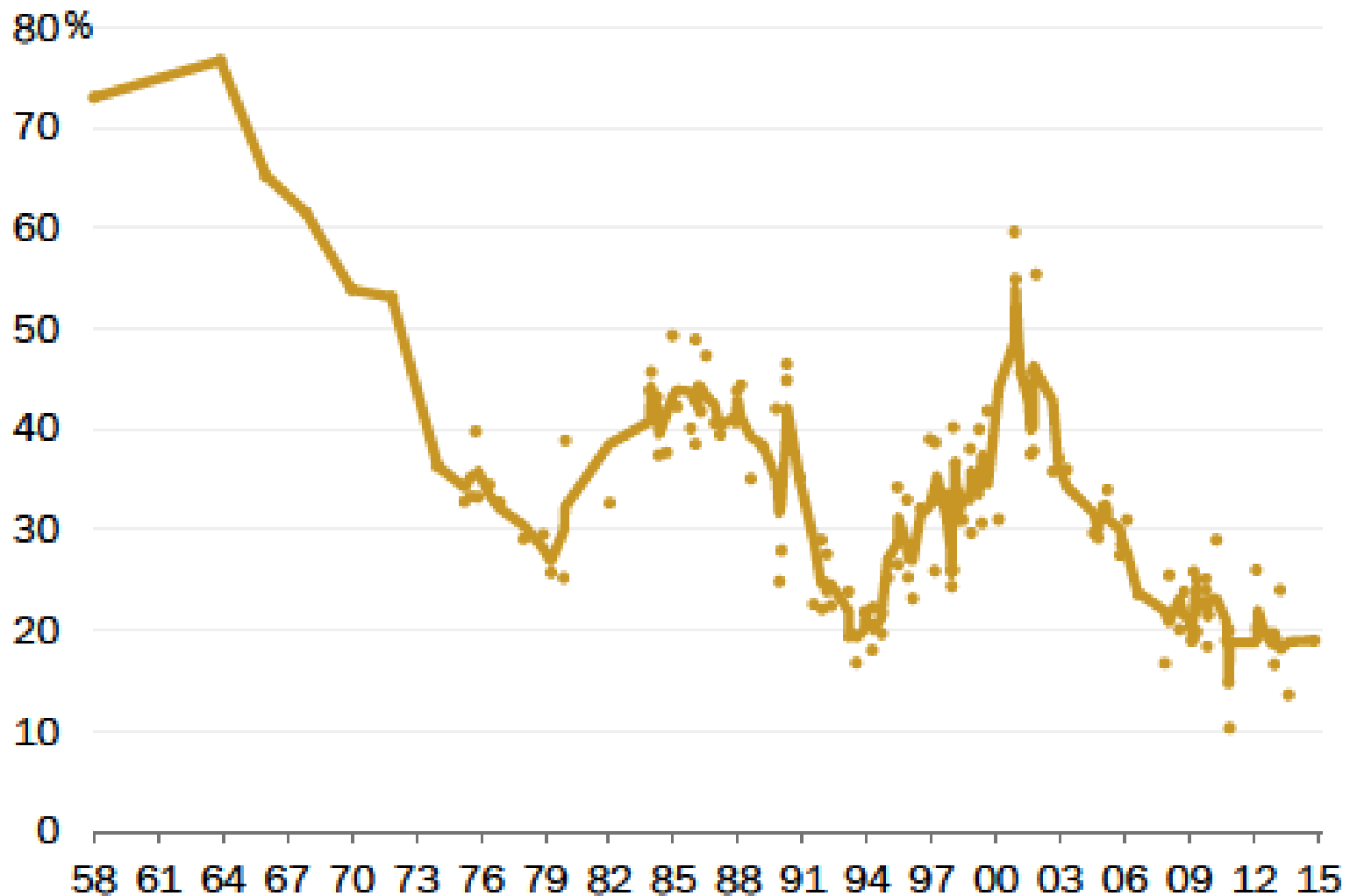


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—**Lin-Manuel Miranda**

Public trust in government: 1958-2015

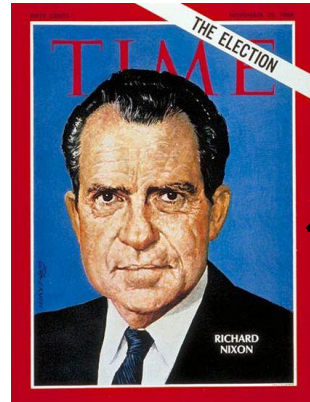
Trust the federal government to do what is right just about always/most of the time ...



A tectonic shift away from the center

Average conservative ideology score of House Republicans and milestones in John Boehner's political career.





Federal Election Campaign Act of 1974

Clean Air Act

Massive Expansion of Social Security

Interstate Highway System

Creation of Federal Aid to Education

Creation of NASA

Massive Increase in Aid for Higher Education

Hiked Minimum Wage

Americans with Disabilities Act

Ban on Cigarette Advertising

Water Quality Improvement Act

Creation of Amtrak

Consumer Product Safety Act





“Rugged individualism” is
“nothing but a political banner
to cover up greed.”

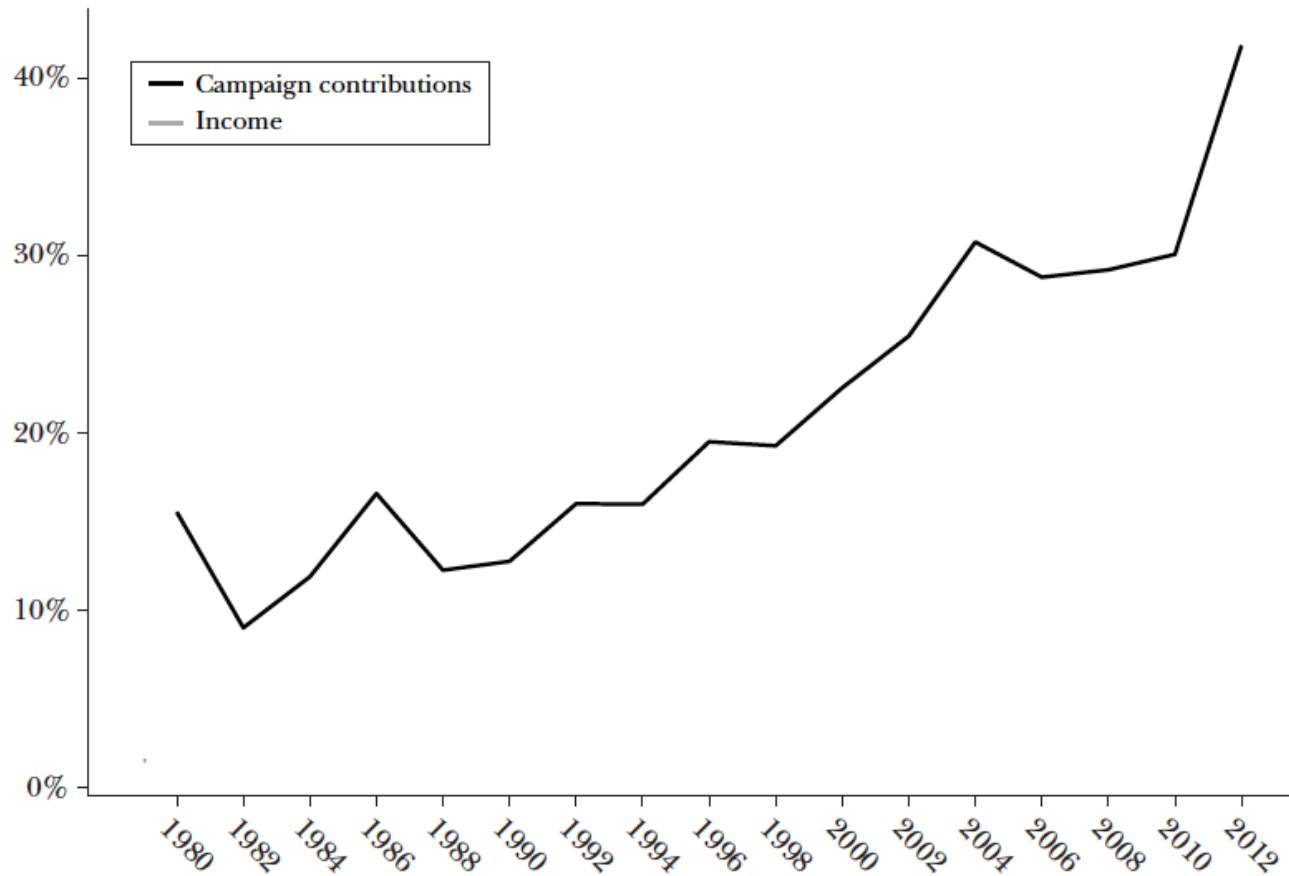
“Dogmatic ideological parties
tend to splinter the political
and social fabric of a nation,
lead to governmental crises
and deadlocks, and stymie the
compromises so often
necessary to preserve
freedom and achieve
progress.”

“We the people, acting through our government, protect and strengthen our natural resources, human and material; lift up the standards of health, education, and welfare for ourselves and our children at all levels of individual income; mitigate individual misfortune; and execute projects not appropriate to private action.”



-Paul Hoffman, CEO of Studebaker and head of Committee on Economic Development

Share of Campaign Contributions in Federal Elections from top 0.1 Percent, 1980-2012



Source: Bonica, et al., *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Summer 2013.



SHOW ME
THE MONEY

SHOW ME
THE MONEY



EPIPEN PRICE UNDER MYLAN

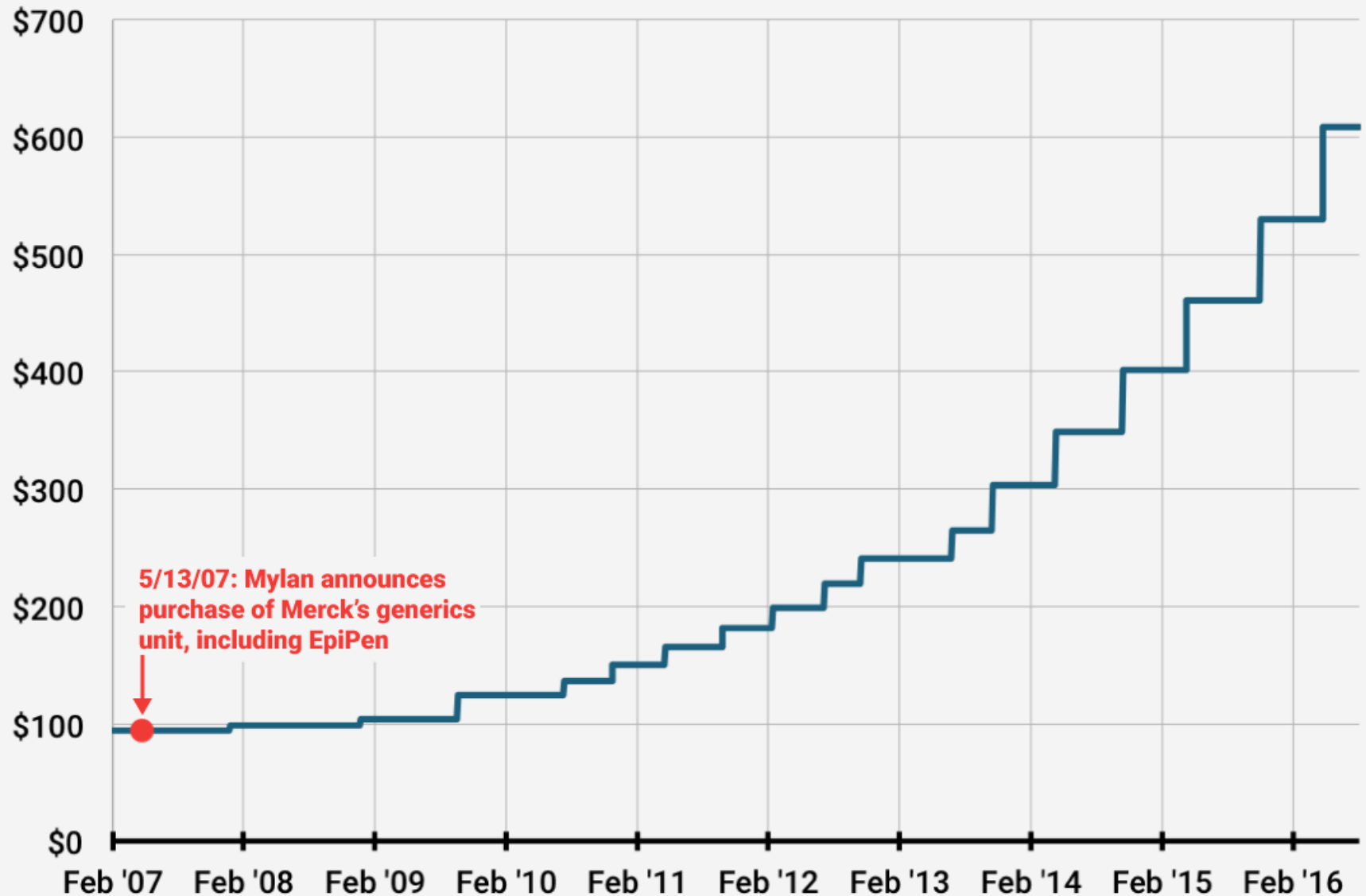
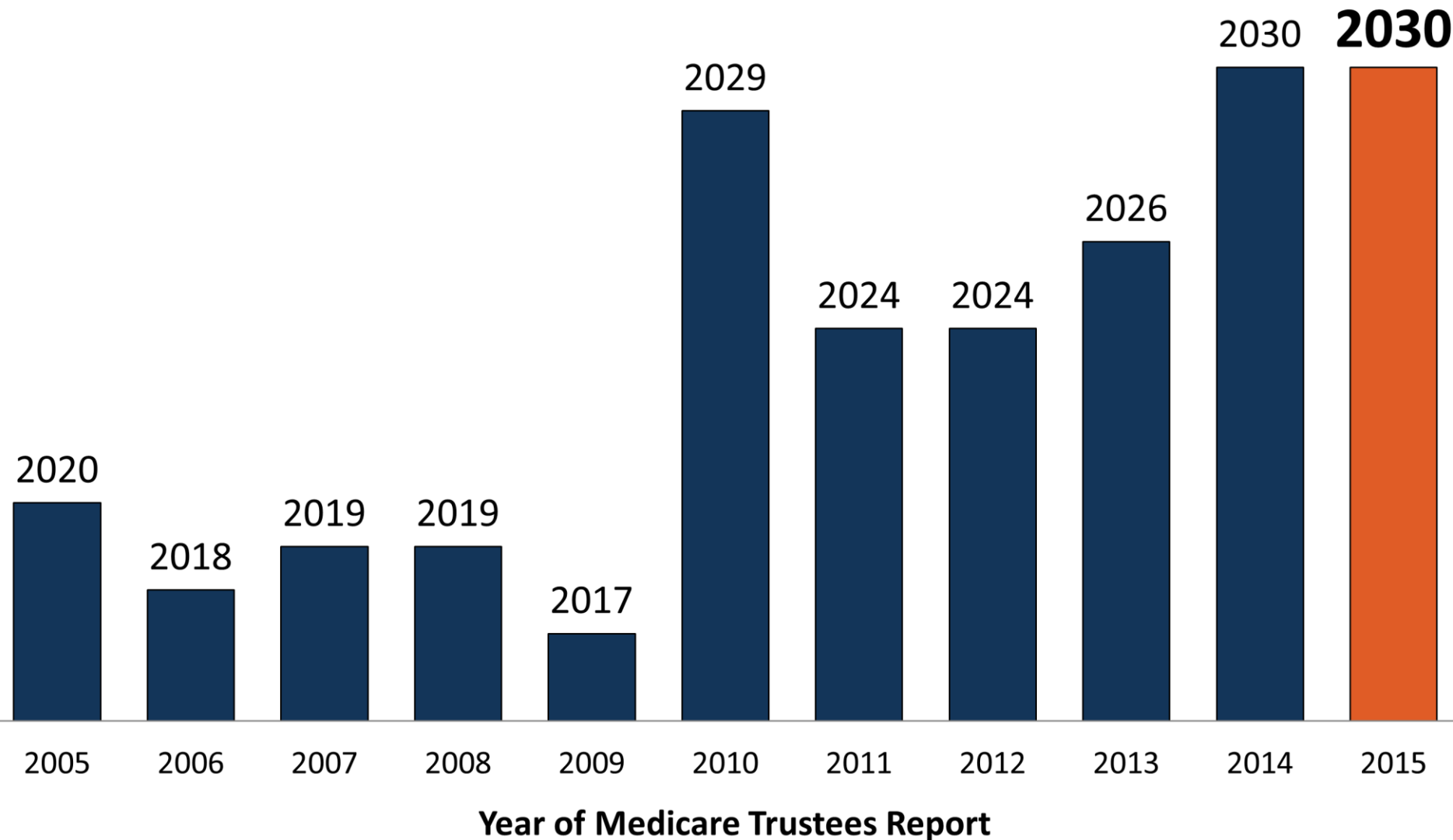


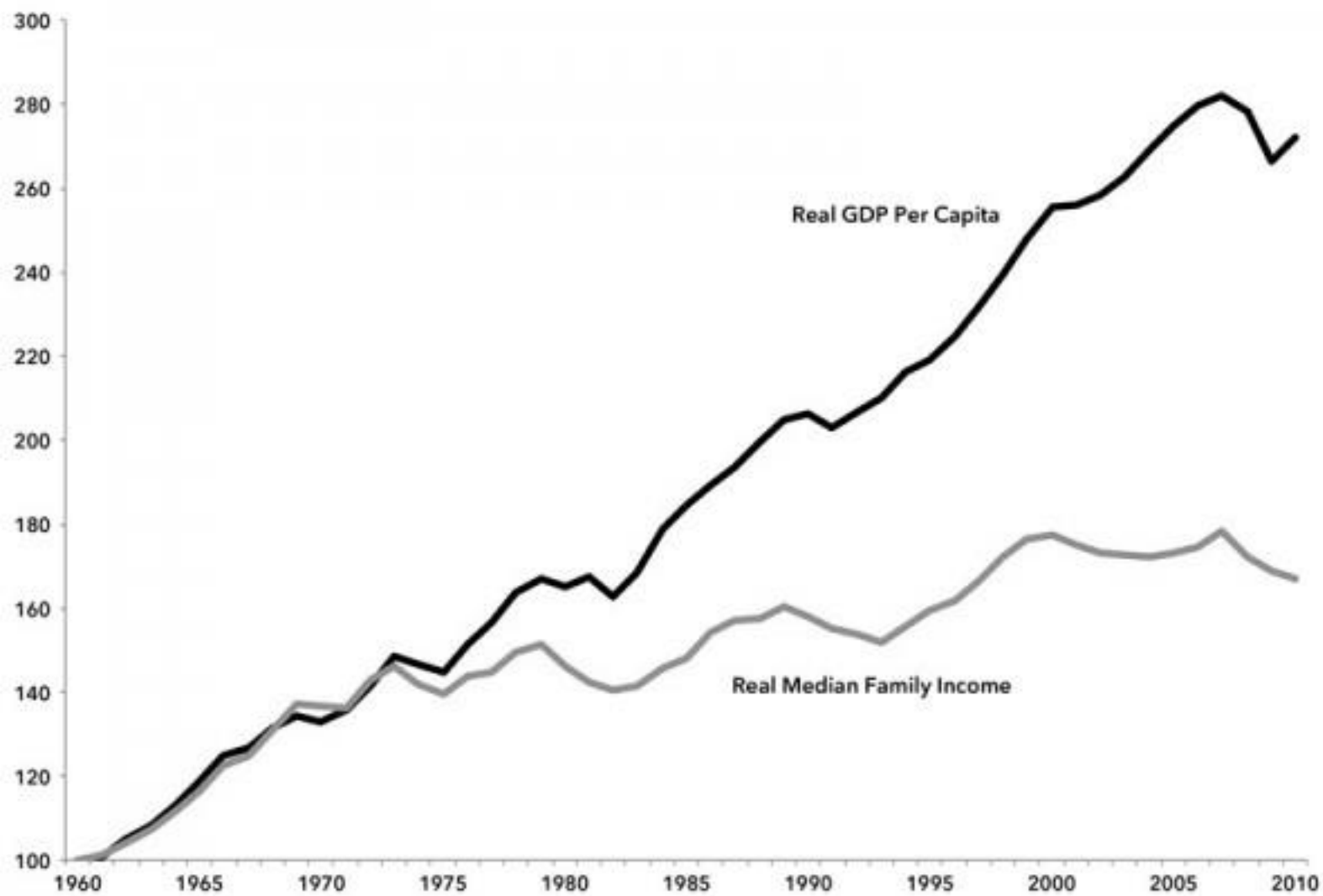
Figure 7

Solvency Projections of the Medicare Part A Trust Fund, 2005-2015



SOURCE: Intermediate projections from 2005-2015 Annual Reports of the Boards of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds.

Supplemental Slides

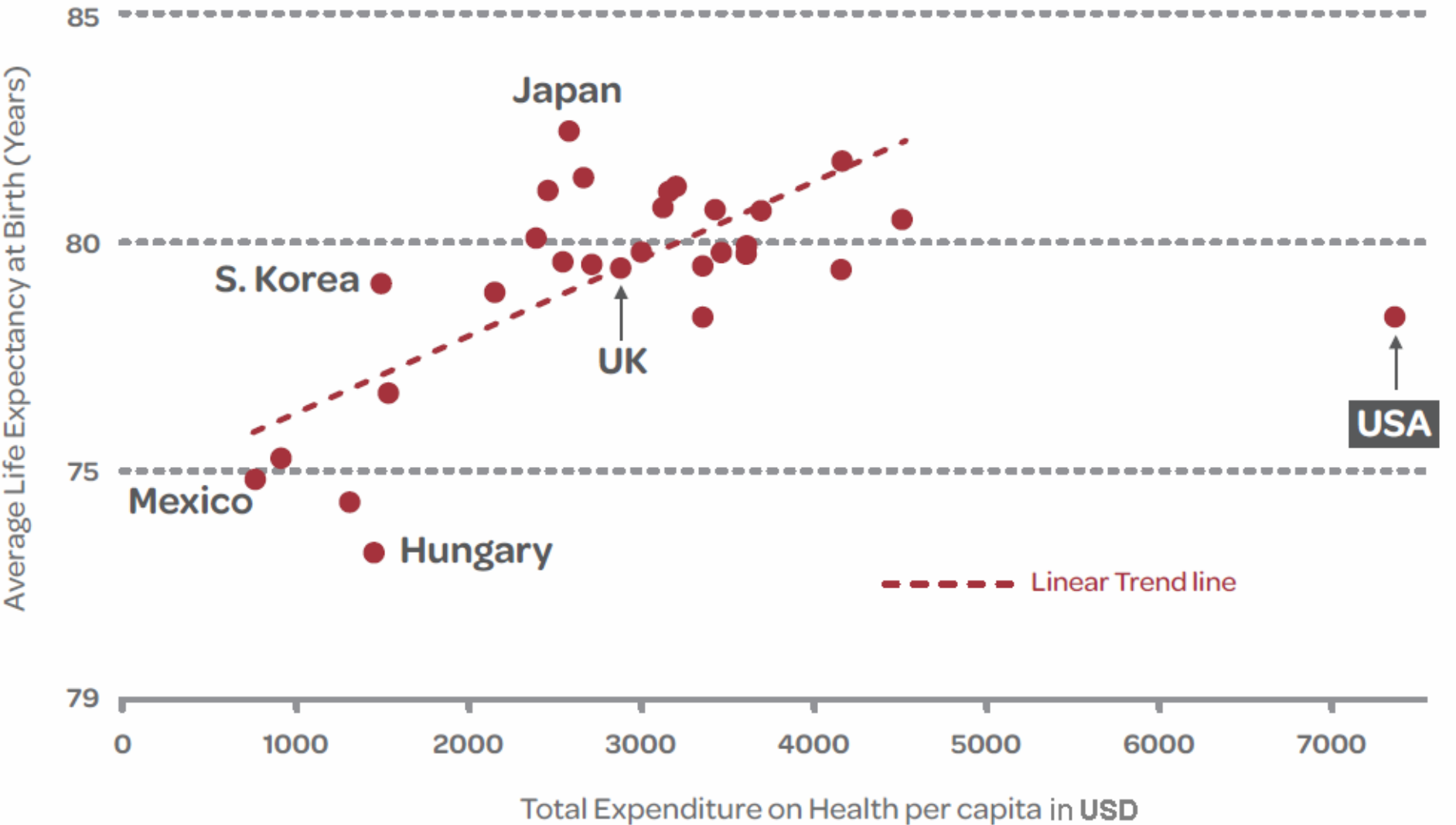


“There are 47 percent of the people... who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe that government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you-name-it...

“It would be popular for me to stand up and say I’m going to give you government money to pay for your college, but I’m not going to promise that [applause]...And don’t expect the government to forgive the debt that you take on.”

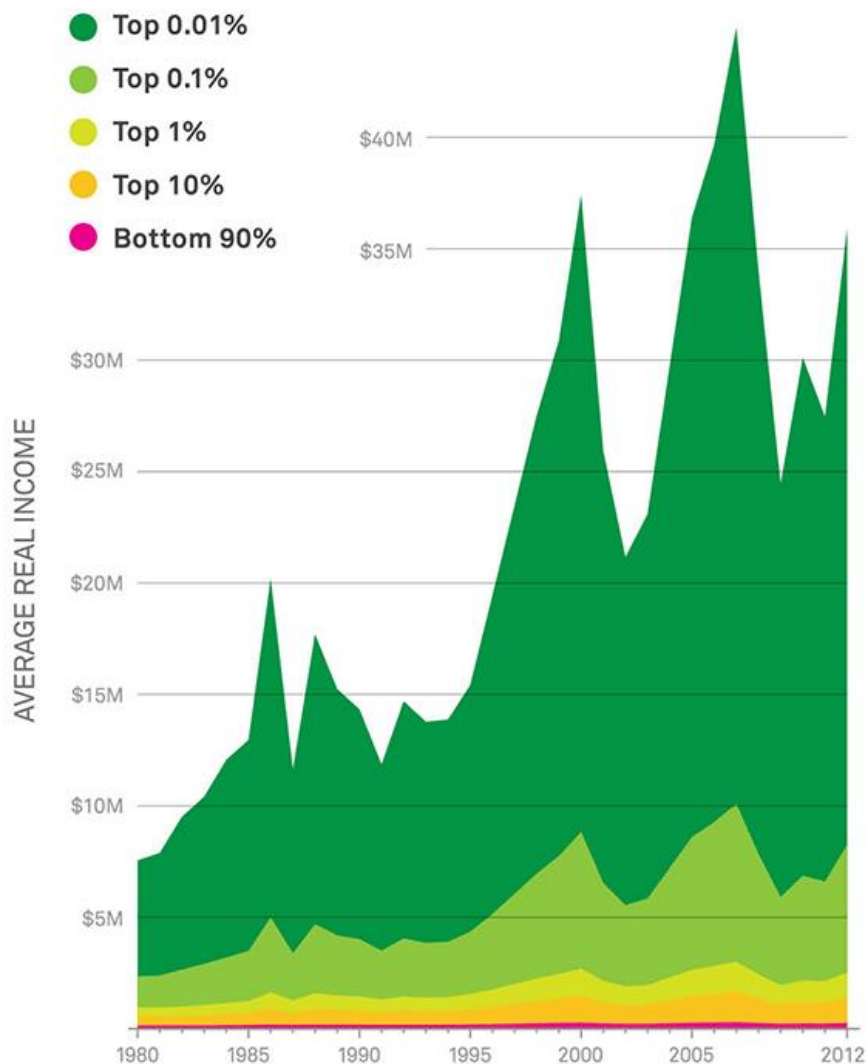


Healthcare Spending per capita vs. Average Life Expectancy Among OECD Countries



THE RICH AND THE MEGARICH

Since 1980, the average real income of the 1 percent has shot up more than 175 percent, while the bottom 90 percent's real income didn't budge. But as this chart shows, the vast majority of gains have gone to the tippy-top.

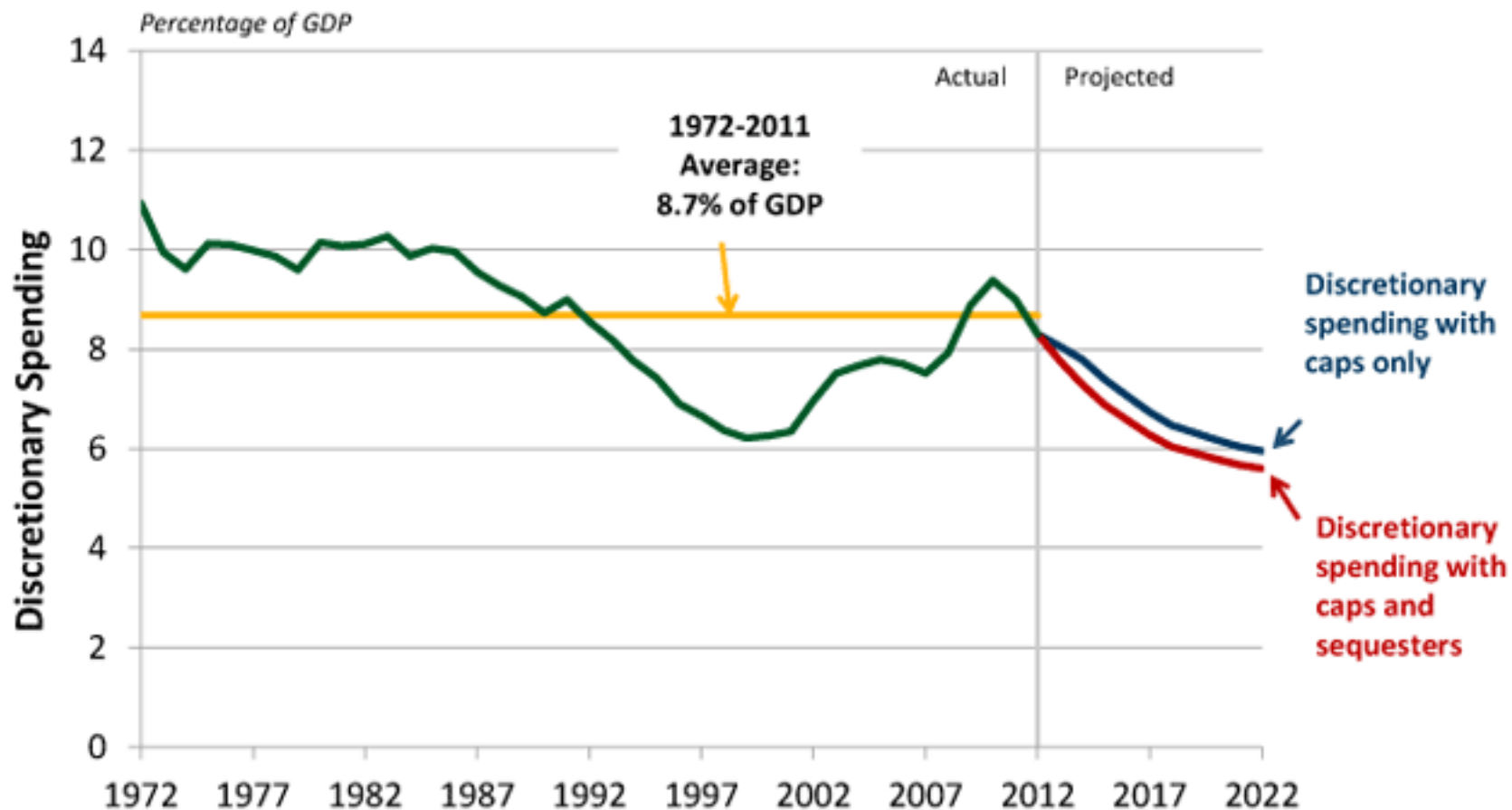


Share of Occupations in Top 0.1 Percent (incl. Capital Gains), 2004

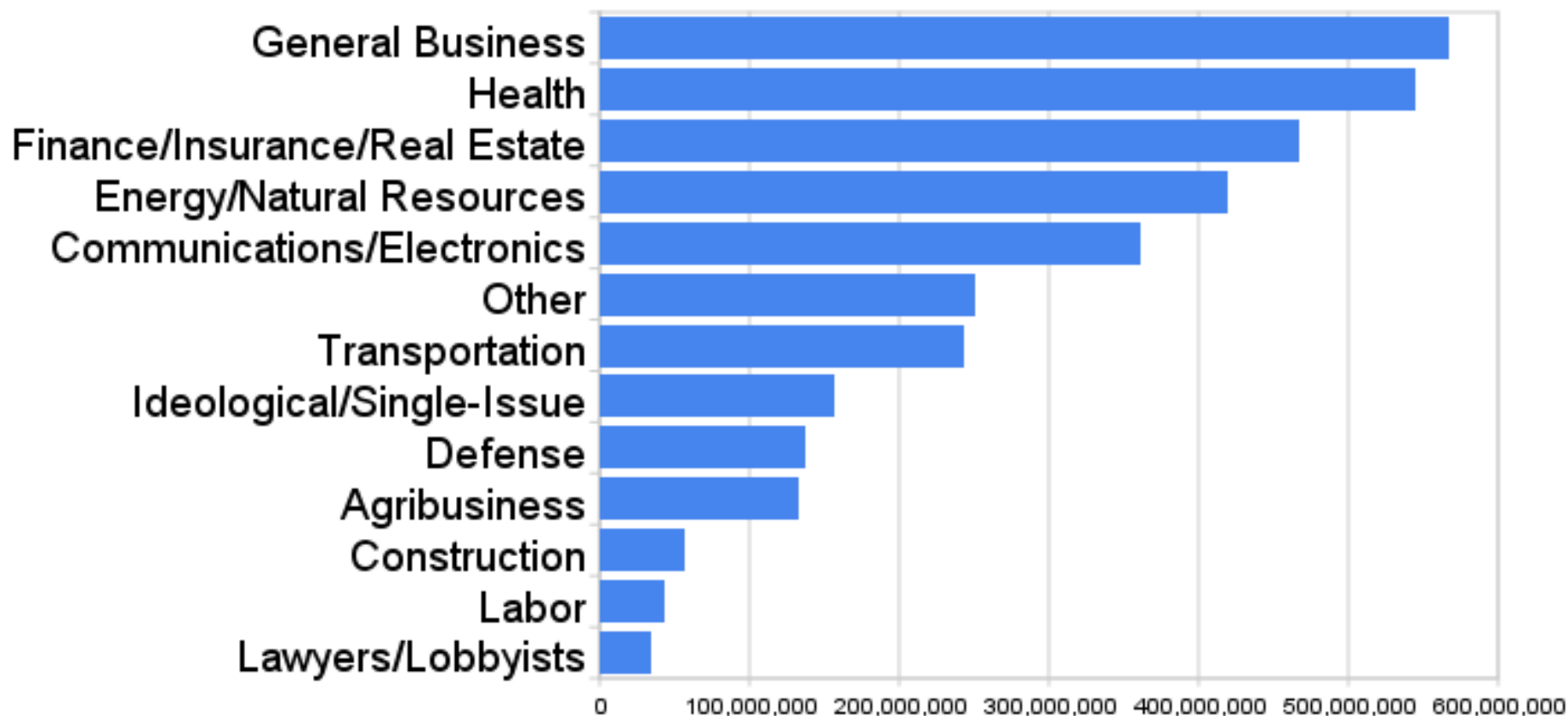
Non-Finance Executives	40.8%
Financial Executives	18.4%
Not Working or Deceased	6.3%
Lawyers	6.2%
Real Estate	4.7%
Medical	4.4%
Arts, Media, Sports	3.1%
Computers, Math, Engineering, Technical	3.0%
Professors and Scientists	1.1%

Policy	% Wealthy in Favor	% General Public in Favor
Government must see that no one is without food, clothing or shelter	43%	68%
Minimum wage high enough so that no family with a full-time worker falls below official poverty line	40%	78%
The government should provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed	23%	50%
The government in Washington ought to see to it that everyone who wants to work can find a job	19%	68%
The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) should be increased rather than decreased or kept the same	13%	49%
The federal government should provide jobs for everyone able and willing to work who cannot find a job in private employment	8%	53%

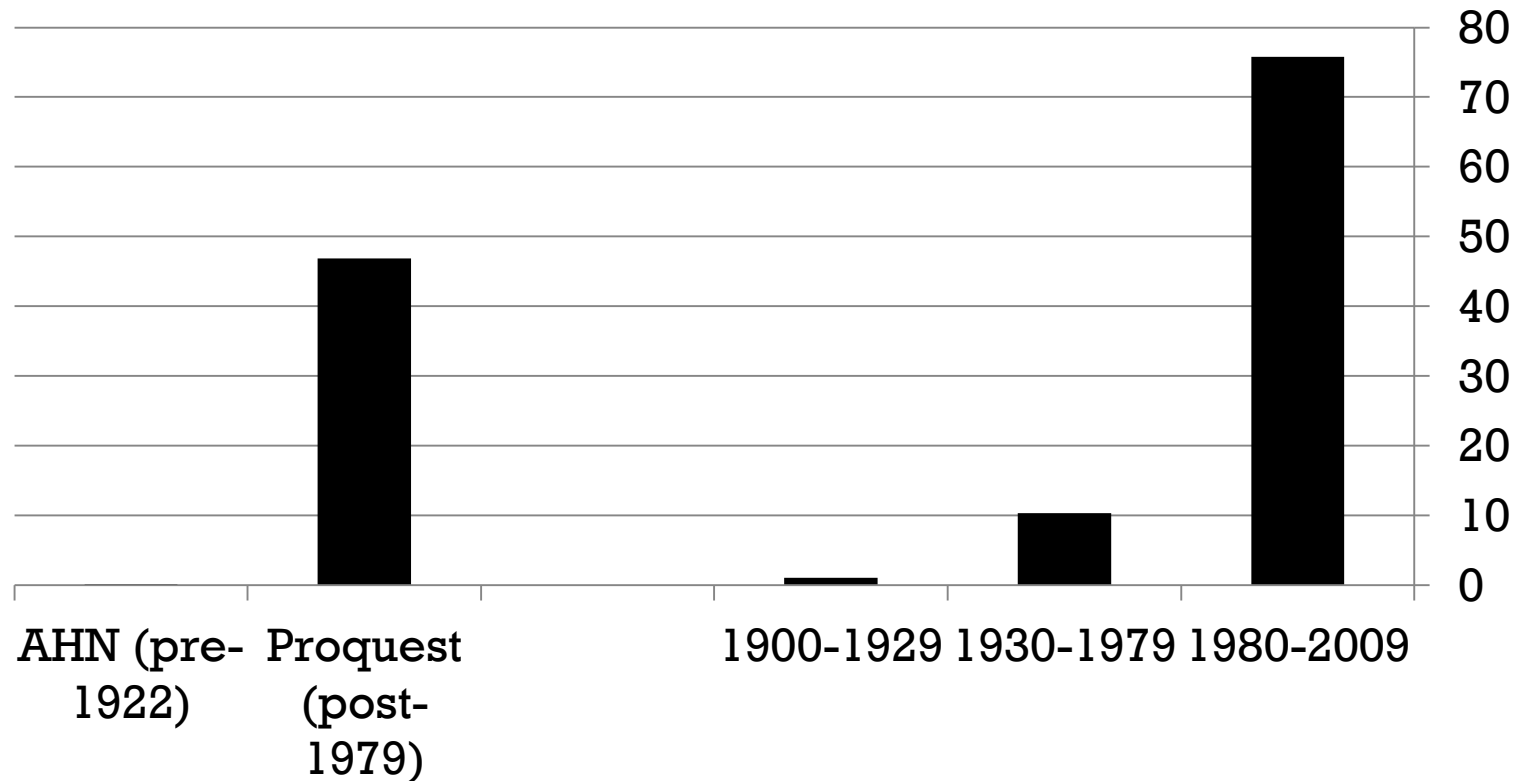
SOURCE: Benjamin I. Page, Larry M. Bartels, and Jason Seawright, “*Democracy and the Policy Preferences of Wealthy Americans*,” *Perspectives on Politics* [italicized] 11:1, pp. 51-73.



Lobbying Expenditures in 2009 by Industry

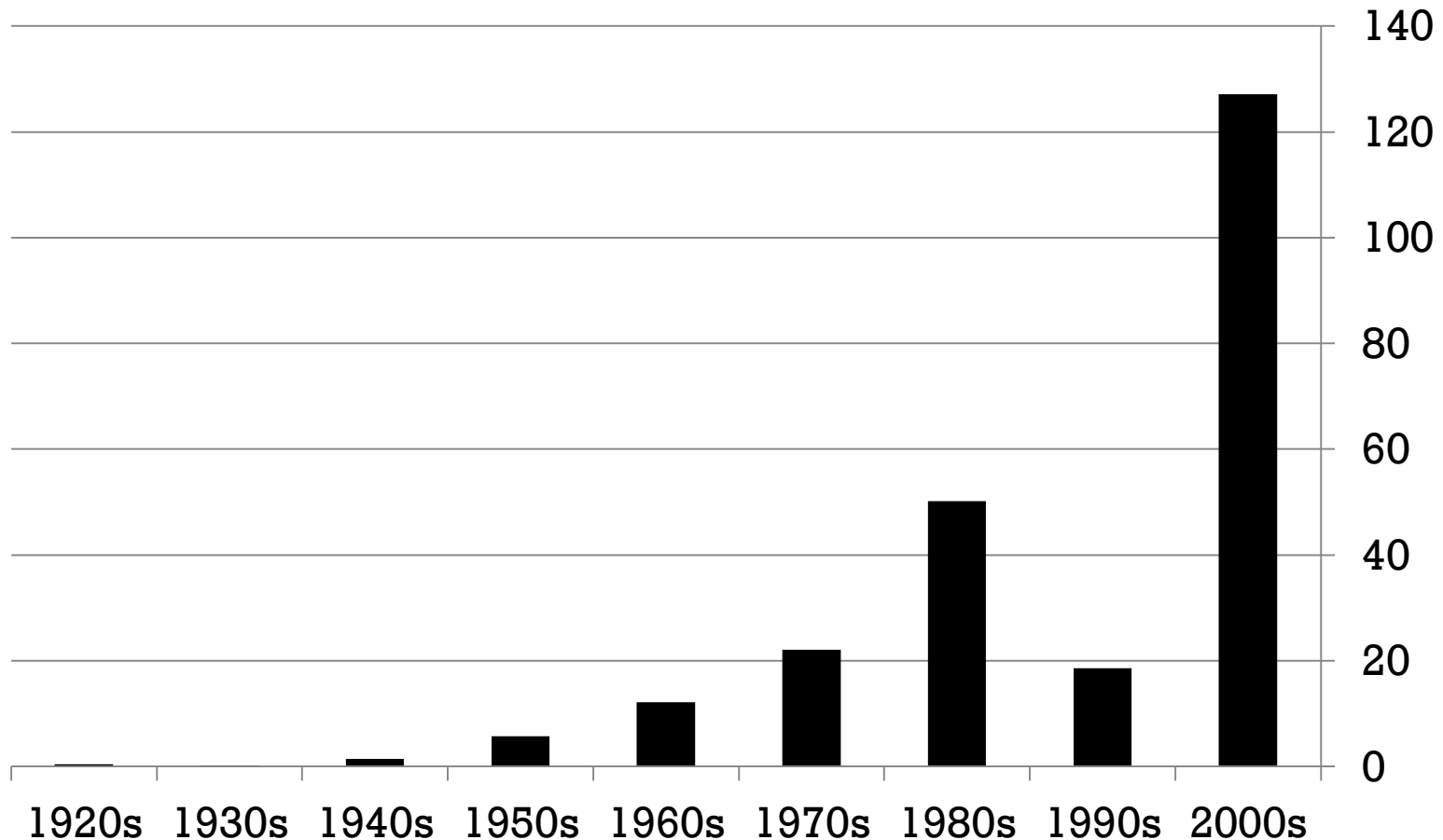


How often *market* is described as *free*
relative to how often *government* is
described as *free*



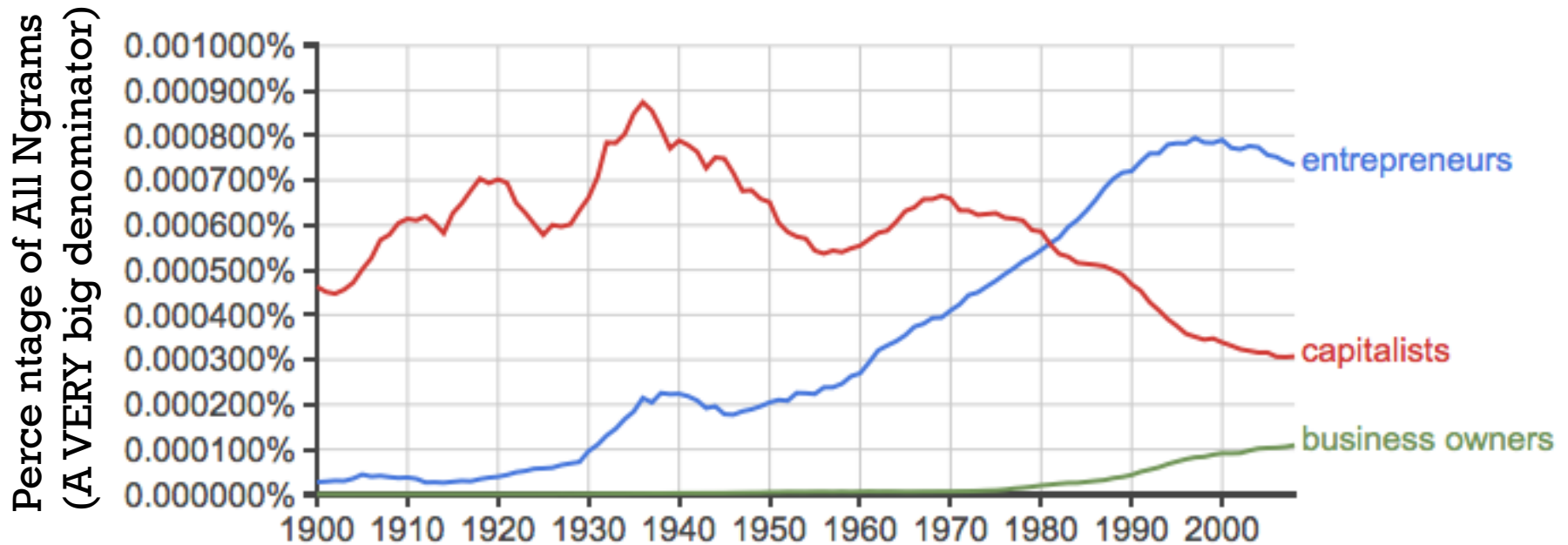
Source: Searches of American Historical Newspapers, Proquest, and *New York Times* online archives; George, *Rhetoric of the Right*.

How often *managers* described as *creative* relative to how often *workers* described so

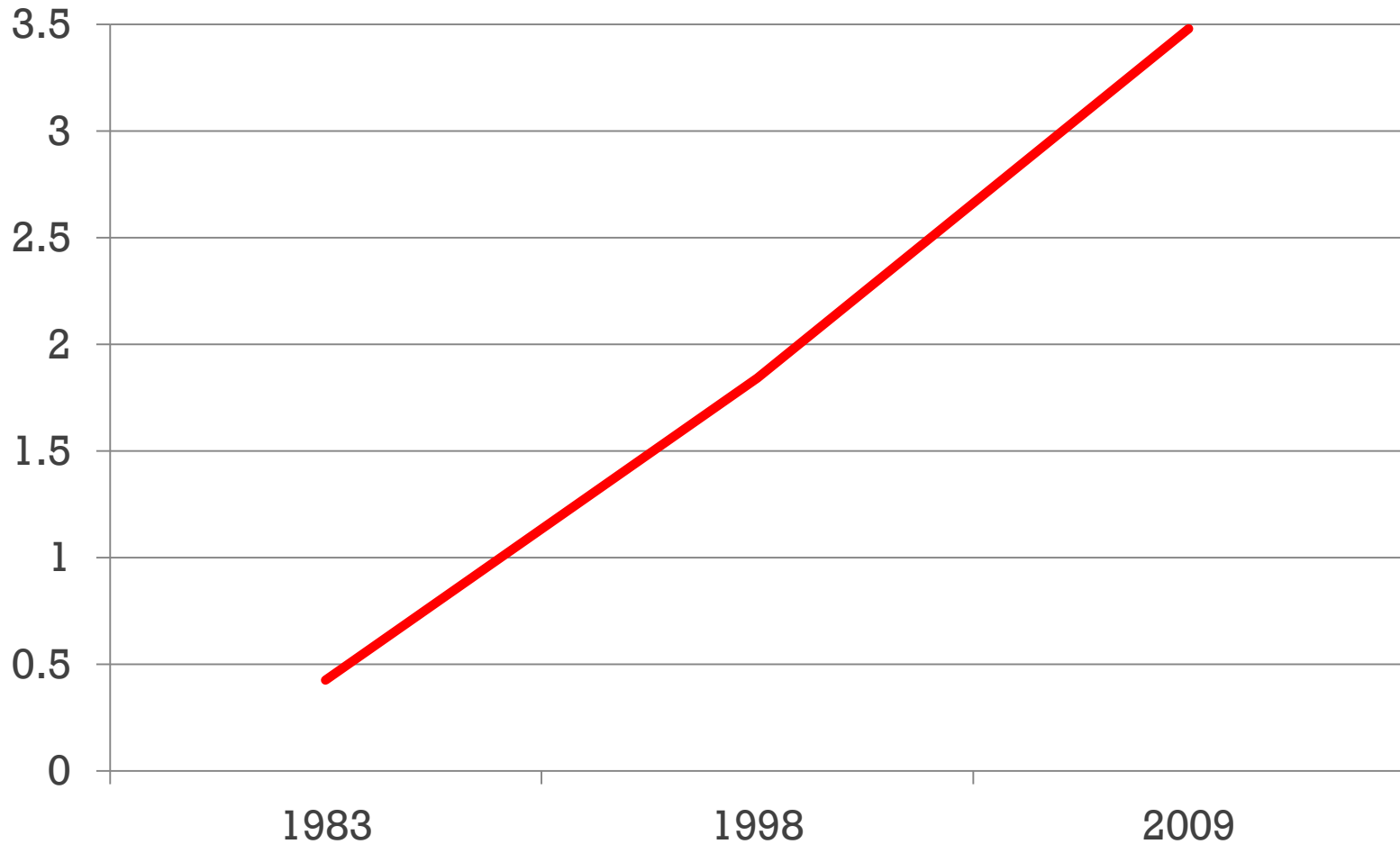


Source: Searches of *New York Times* online archives; George, *Rhetoric of the Right*.

Google “Ngrams”: “capitalists,” “entrepreneurs,” and “business owners”

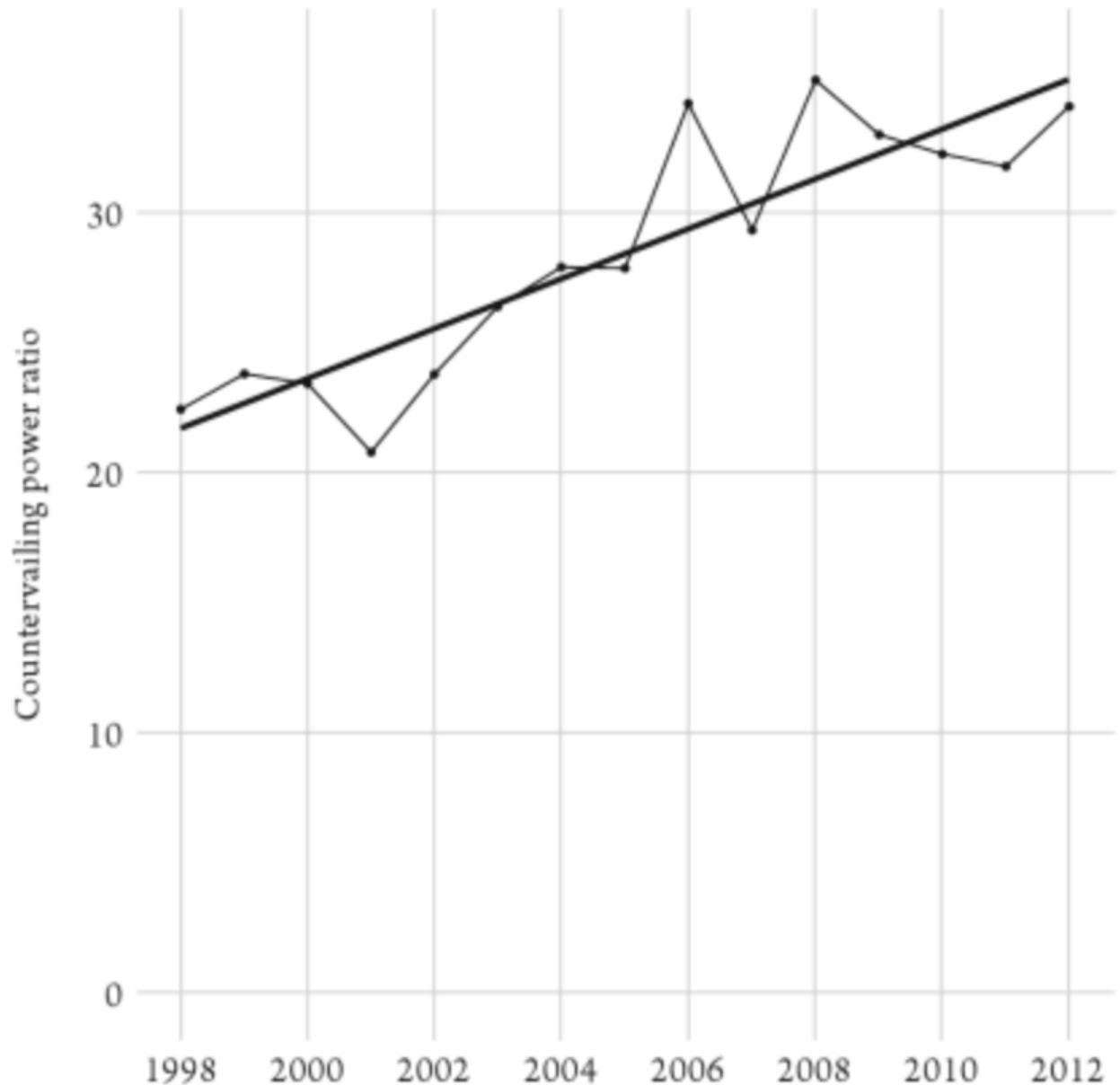


The Business of America is...Lobbying (Expenditures in Billions of Real Dollars)



“Countervailing Power Ratio”

(combined business lobbying divided by combined diffuse-interest and labor lobbying)



Source: Drutman,
*The Business of
America is
Lobbying*

1st Edition (1948)

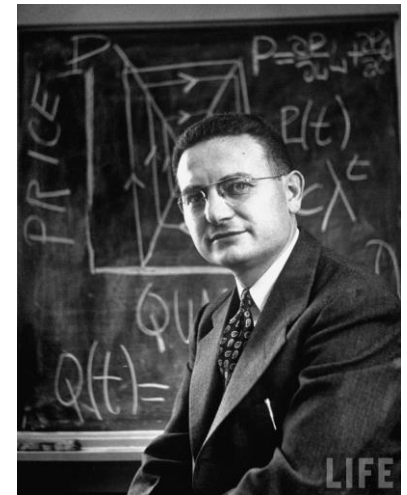
No longer is modern man able to believe “that government governs best which governs least.” ... [W]here the complex economic conditions of life necessitate social coordination and planning, there can sensible men of good will be expected to invoke the... government.”

4th Edition (1958)

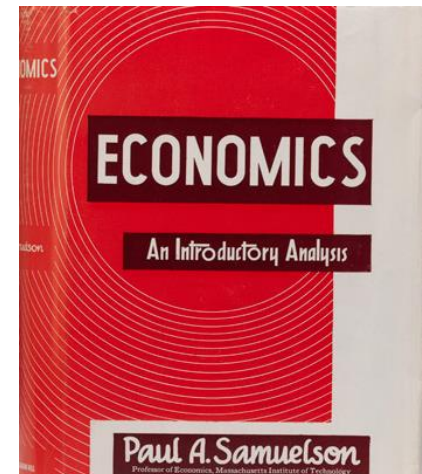
“No longer does modern man seem to act as if he believed: “That government governs best which governs least” ... [rest is the same]

9th Edition (1973)

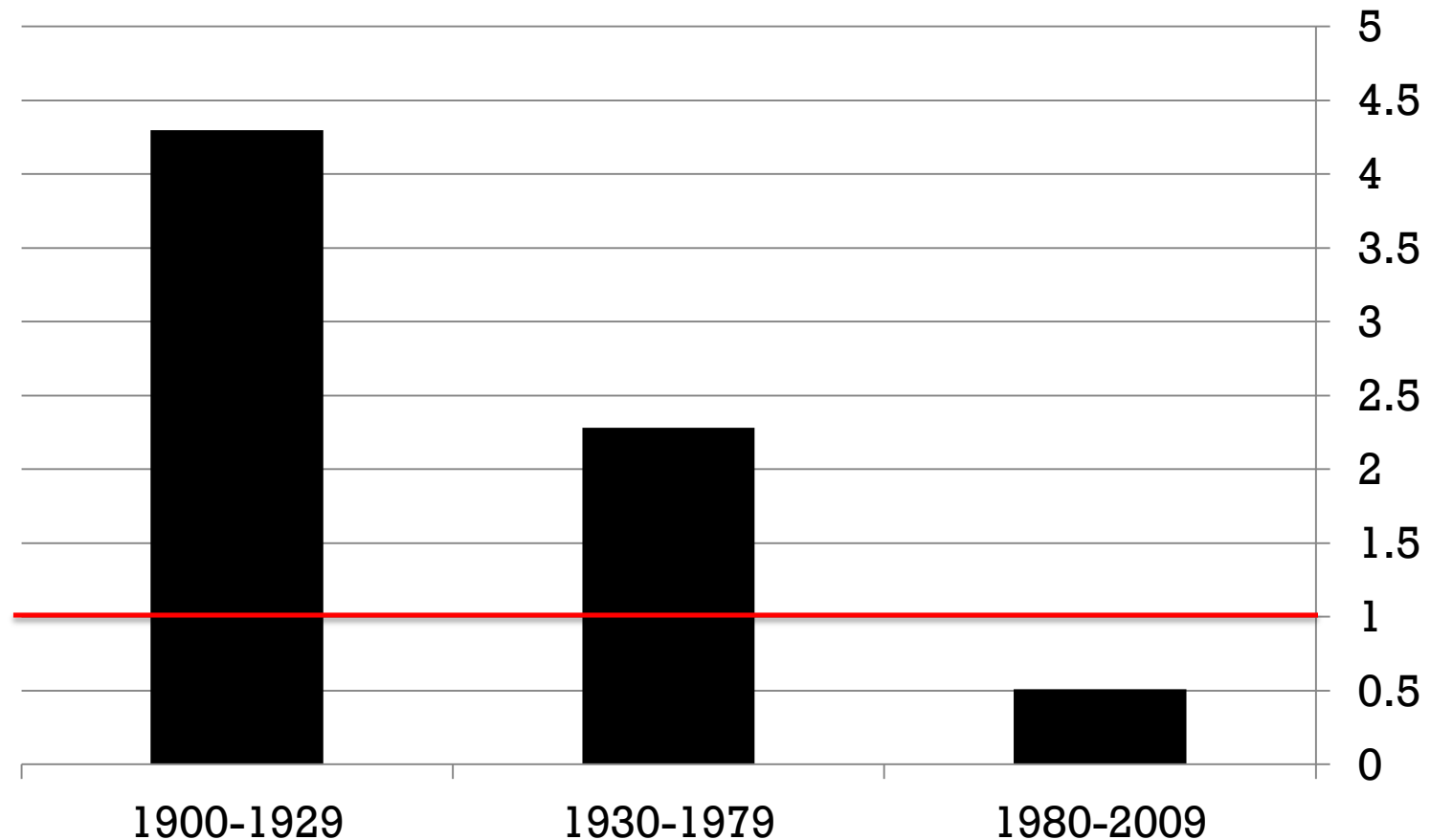
Cut entirely.



“I don’t care who writes a nation’s laws –if I can write its economics textbooks.”

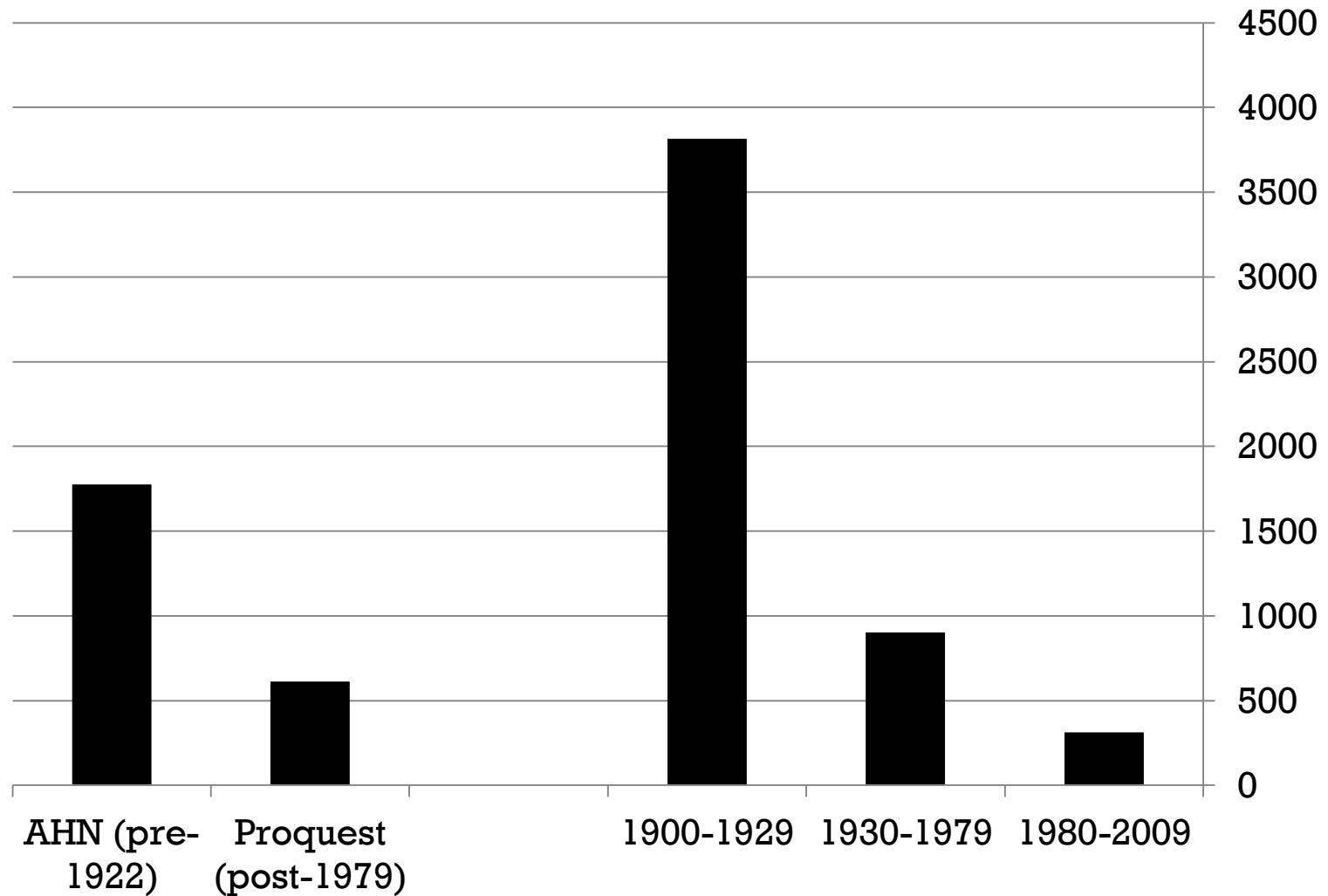


How often *regulation* is described favorably relative to how often it is described unfavorably

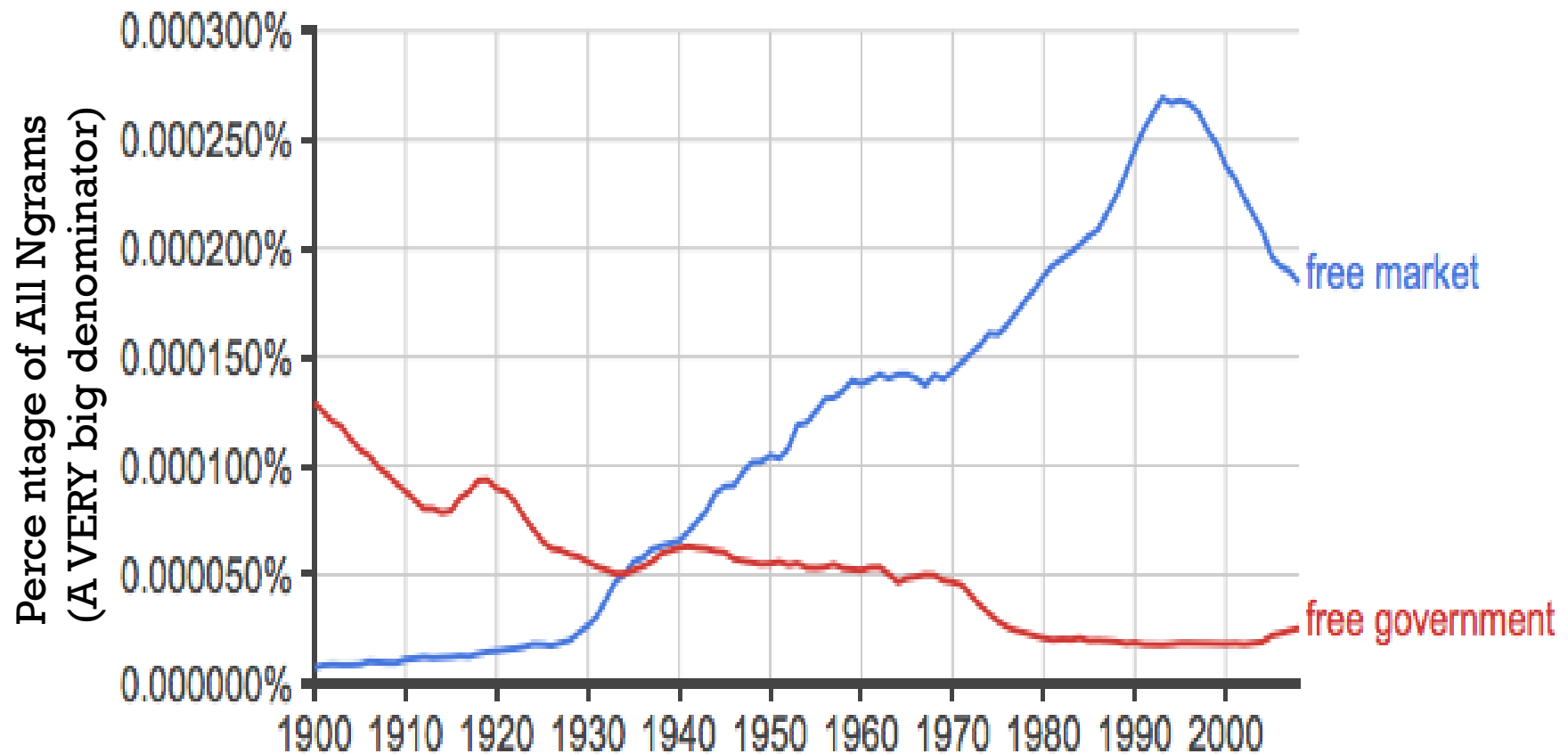


Source: Searches of *New York Times* online archives; George, *Rhetoric of the Right*,.

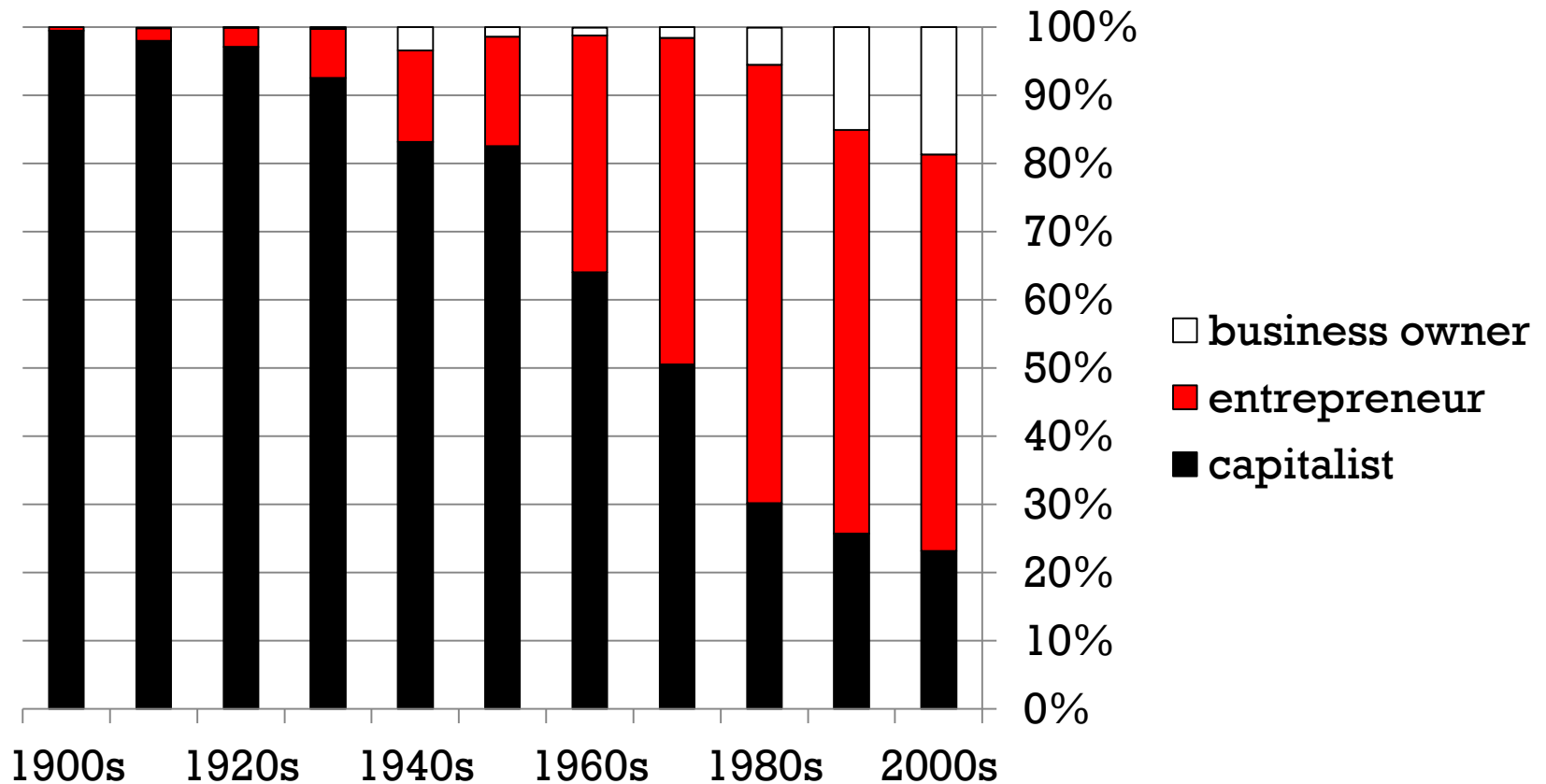
How often *business* is described as *big* relative to how often *government* is described as *big*



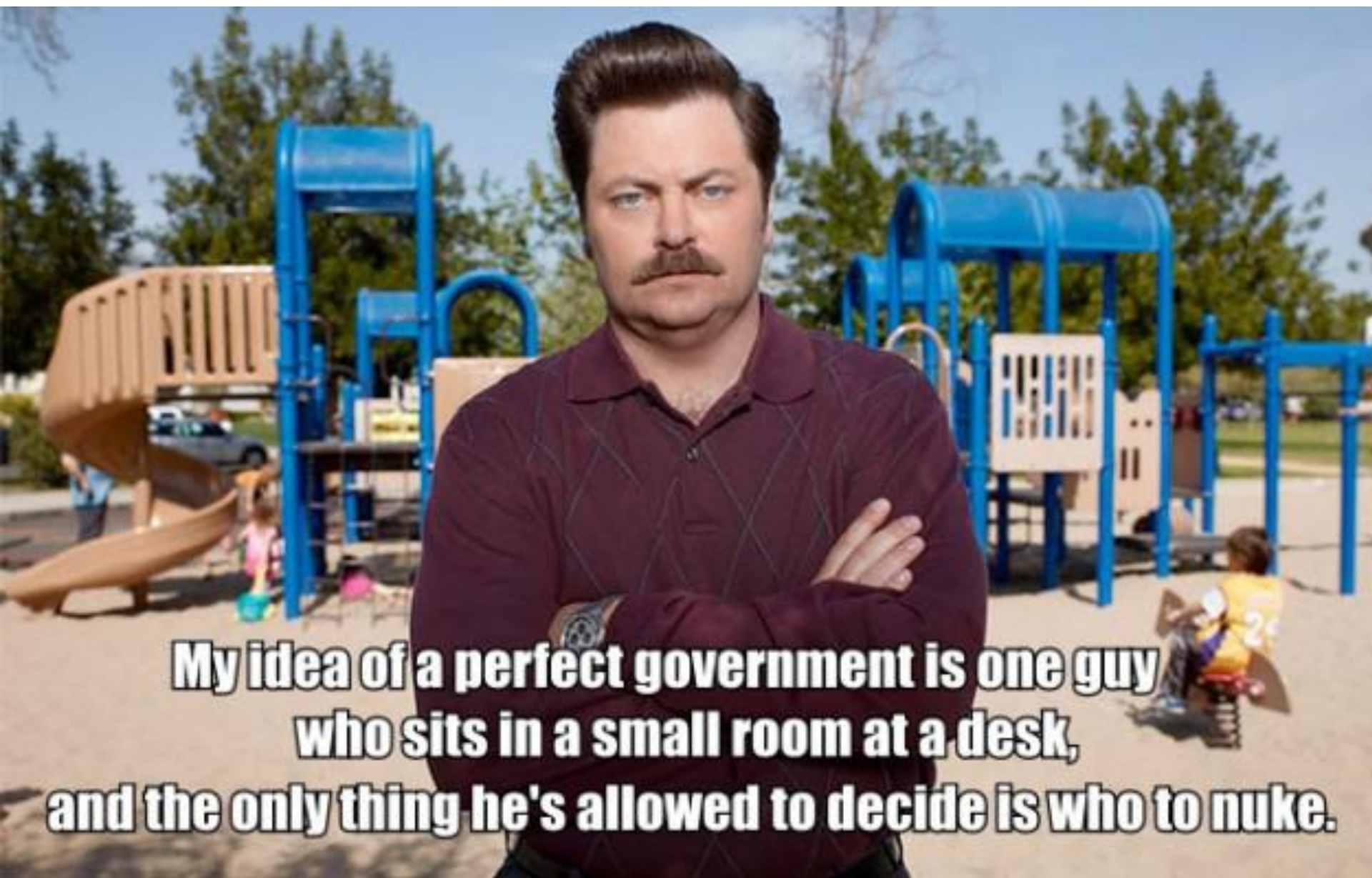
Google “Ngrams” in English-Language Books: “free market” versus “free government”



Relative frequency of *capitalist*, *entrepreneur*, and *business owner*



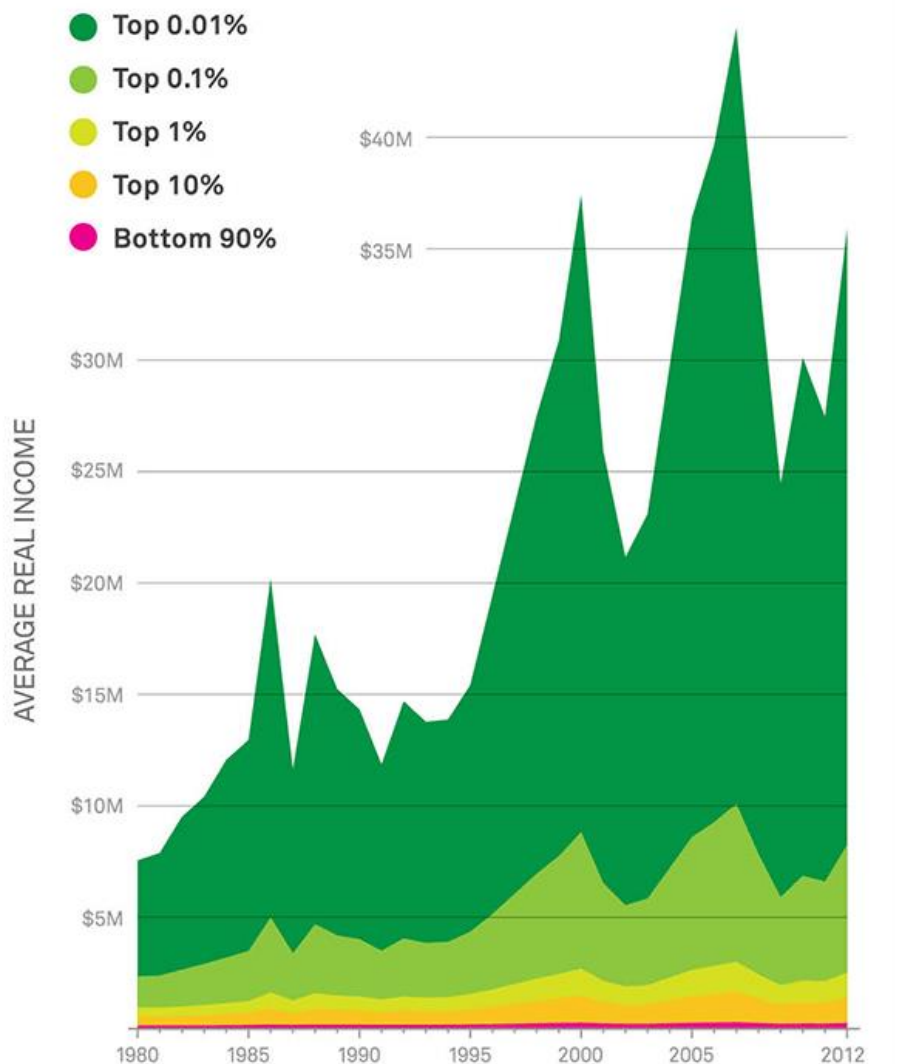
Source: Searches of *New York Times* online archives; George, *Rhetoric of the Right*.



**My idea of a perfect government is one guy
who sits in a small room at a desk,
and the only thing he's allowed to decide is who to nuke.**

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