

Global Income Inequality, 1820-2020
The Persistence and Mutation of Extreme inequality

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EEA Conference, Schumpeter Lecture, 26 August 2021

New estimates on global income inequality 1820-2020: main results

- **Persistence of a highly hierarchical world economic system**
 - Global top 10% share oscillated around 50-60% of total income over 1820-2020, bottom 50% share around 5-10% (same order of magnitude as top 0.1% share)
 - Global inequality close to South Africa inequality level: pretty extreme
- **Global inequality increase between 1820 and 1910**
 - During this period between and within inequality were rising
- **Global inequality stabilized at a high level between 1910 and 2020**
 - During this period between and within inequality followed diverging trajectories
 - Different policies could lead to other trajectories

- Continuation of new wave of historical research on long-run inequality trends
 - Kuznets (1953), Atkinson and Harrison (1978), Piketty (2001), Piketty and Saez (2003), Piketty and Atkinson (2007, 2010), World Inequality Report 2018
 - New inequality series for India (Chancel and Piketty, 2019), China (Piketty, Yang, Zucman, 2019), Russia (Piketty, Novokmet, Zucman, 2019), Latin America (Morgan, 2018; Flores, 2018), etc. constructed thereafter (see WID.world)
 - See also DINA Guidelines (Distributional National Accounts) 2020 on WID.world: systematic combination of survey data, tax data and national accounts
 - Novelty of the present research : we go back through time and attempt to expand longitudinal global coverage of World Inequality Database (WID.world)

- We build on earlier attempts at constructing global (distributional) accounts
 - Maddison (2001) and Maddison project (2020) provide long-run national accounts estimates (aggregate national income and population)
 - Bourguignon and Morrisson (2002) produce global distributional estimates 1820-1992
 - We find similar results for 19c (rising inequality trend) and 20c (mixture of stabilization & contradictory movements)
 - We use the new wave of historical research on inequality series, leading to more precise estimates. Our results generally lead to higher inequality levels and more amplitude in inequality shifts.
 - We extend the analysis over the 1820-2020 period to quantify mixture of within/between dynamics driving recent global inequality trends. Looking at 1990-2020 is key in order to put the recent period of between-country convergence into a broader historical perspective.

Table 1. A new database on global income inequality: regions, countries, years

Regions	Countries	Years
East Asia	China, Japan Other East Asia	
Europe	Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain Sweden, Other Western Europe Other Eastern Europe	
Latin America	Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia Mexico, Other Latin America	
Middle East/North Africa	Algeria, Egypt, Turkey Other Middle East/North Africa	1820, 1850, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980-2020
North America	USA Canada	
Oceania	Australia, New Zealand Other Oceania	
Russia/Central Asia	Russia Other Russia/Central Asia	
South/South-East Asia	India, Indonesia Other South/Sout-East Asia	
Sub Saharan Africa	South Africa Other Sub-Saharan Africa	

Interpretation. The global income inequality database covers 9 world regions and 33 individual countries and sub-regions over the 1820-2020 period. Sources and series: Chancel and Piketty (2021). Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

Table 2. Global population by region, 1820-2020 (% global population)

	1820	1900	1950	1980	2020
Global population (millions)	1 044	1 559	2 521	4 433	7 665
World	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
East Asia	42%	31%	27%	27%	21%
<i>inc. China</i>	37%	26%	22%	22%	18%
<i>inc. Japan</i>	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%
Europe	16%	20%	16%	11%	7%
<i>inc. Great Britain</i>	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%
<i>inc. France</i>	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%
<i>inc. Germany</i>	2%	3%	3%	2%	1%
Latin America	2%	4%	6%	8%	8%
<i>inc. Brazil</i>	0%	1%	2%	3%	3%
<i>inc. Mexico</i>	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Middle East & North Africa	3%	4%	4%	5%	7%
<i>incl. Egypt</i>	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
<i>incl. Turkey</i>	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
North America/Oceania	1%	5%	7%	6%	5%
<i>incl. USA</i>	1%	5%	6%	5%	4%
Russia/Central Asia	5%	8%	7%	6%	4%
<i>inc. Russia</i>	3%	5%	4%	3%	2%
South and South East Asia	24%	23%	26%	28%	33%
<i>inc. India</i>	20%	18%	15%	16%	18%
<i>inc. Indonesia</i>	1%	2%	3%	3%	4%
Sub Saharan Africa	6%	6%	7%	9%	14%
<i>incl. South Africa</i>	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%

Interpretation. The share of Europe in world population dropped from 16% in 1820 to 7% in 2020, while that of Sub-Saharan Africa rose from 6% to 14%. Sources and series: Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

Methodology and data sources: per capita income

Table 3. Global per capita income by region, 1820-2020 (% global per capita income)

	1820	1900	1950	1980	2020
Global per capita income (2020 PPP EUR)	703	1 589	2 569	5 571	11 131
World	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
East Asia	84%	43%	29%	45%	123%
<i>inc. China</i>	82%	40%	20%	20%	109%
<i>inc. Japan</i>	100%	71%	85%	237%	226%
Europe	192%	210%	201%	257%	239%
<i>inc. Great Britain</i>	233%	315%	294%	212%	240%
<i>inc. France</i>	225%	254%	254%	339%	264%
<i>inc. Germany</i>	175%	234%	188%	315%	295%
Latin America	113%	85%	113%	125%	90%
<i>inc. Brasil</i>	129%	58%	91%	136%	89%
<i>inc. Mexico</i>	129%	103%	123%	151%	106%
Middle East & North Africa	173%	144%	117%	173%	121%
<i>incl. Egypt</i>	151%	110%	63%	57%	80%
<i>incl. Turkey</i>	178%	113%	104%	106%	151%
North America/Oceania	255%	341%	404%	351%	346%
<i>incl. USA</i>	263%	350%	411%	354%	354%
Russia/Central Asia	71%	98%	144%	166%	110%
<i>inc. Russia</i>	74%	102%	150%	212%	149%
South and South East Asia	62%	29%	25%	22%	47%
<i>inc. India</i>	57%	25%	22%	16%	41%
<i>inc. Indonesia</i>	57%	26%	16%	20%	68%
Sub Saharan Africa	62%	57%	56%	39%	23%
<i>incl. South Africa</i>	92%	100%	159%	134%	75%

Interpretation: Average per capita income in East Asia dropped from 84% of world average in 1820 to 29% in 1950, before rising to 123% in 2020. Sources and series: Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

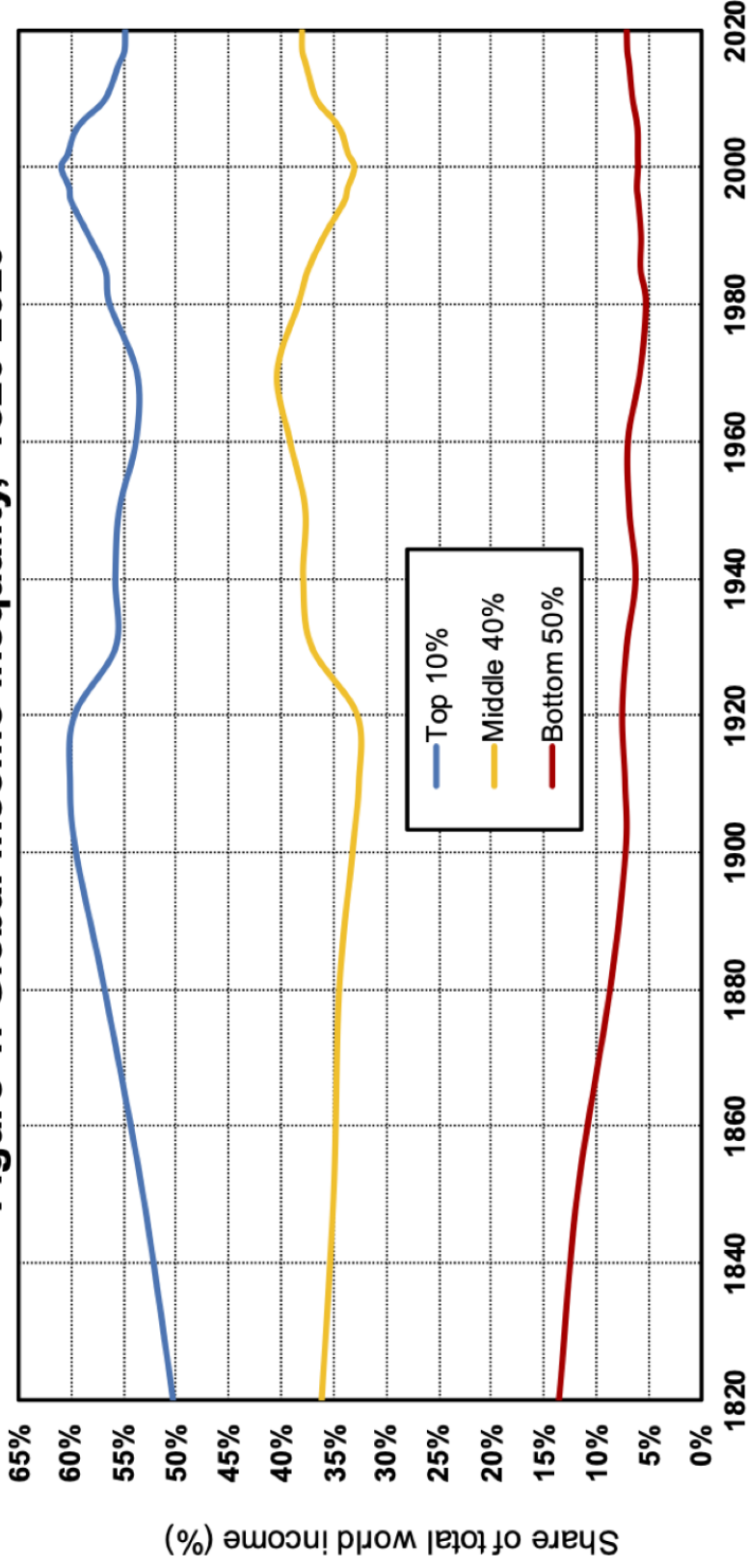
Table 4. Global income by region, 1820-2020 (% global income)

	1820	1900	1950	1980	2020
Global income (billions 2020 PPP EUR)	734	2 477	6 477	24 696	85 318
World	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
East Asia	36%	13%	8%	12%	26%
<i>inc. China</i>	30%	10%	4%	4%	20%
<i>inc. Japan</i>	3%	2%	3%	6%	4%
Europe	32%	41%	32%	29%	17%
<i>inc. Great Britain</i>	5%	8%	6%	3%	2%
<i>inc. France</i>	7%	6%	4%	4%	2%
<i>inc. Germany</i>	4%	8%	5%	6%	3%
Latin America	2%	3%	7%	10%	8%
<i>inc. Brazil</i>	1%	1%	2%	4%	2%
<i>inc. Mexico</i>	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Middle East & North Africa	6%	6%	5%	9%	8%
<i>incl. Egypt</i>	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
<i>incl. Turkey</i>	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
North America/Oceania	3%	18%	27%	20%	17%
<i>incl. USA</i>	3%	17%	25%	18%	15%
Russia/Central Asia	4%	7%	10%	9%	4%
<i>inc. Russia</i>	2%	5%	6%	7%	3%
South and South East Asia	15%	7%	7%	6%	15%
<i>inc. India</i>	11%	5%	3%	2%	7%
<i>inc. Indonesia</i>	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%
Sub Saharan Africa	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%
<i>incl. South Africa</i>	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%

Interpretation. The share of North America/Oceania in world income rose from 3% in 1820 to 27% in 1950, and then dropped to 17% in 2020. **Sources and series:** see wid.world/longrun

Main result: the persistence of extreme inequality 1820-2020

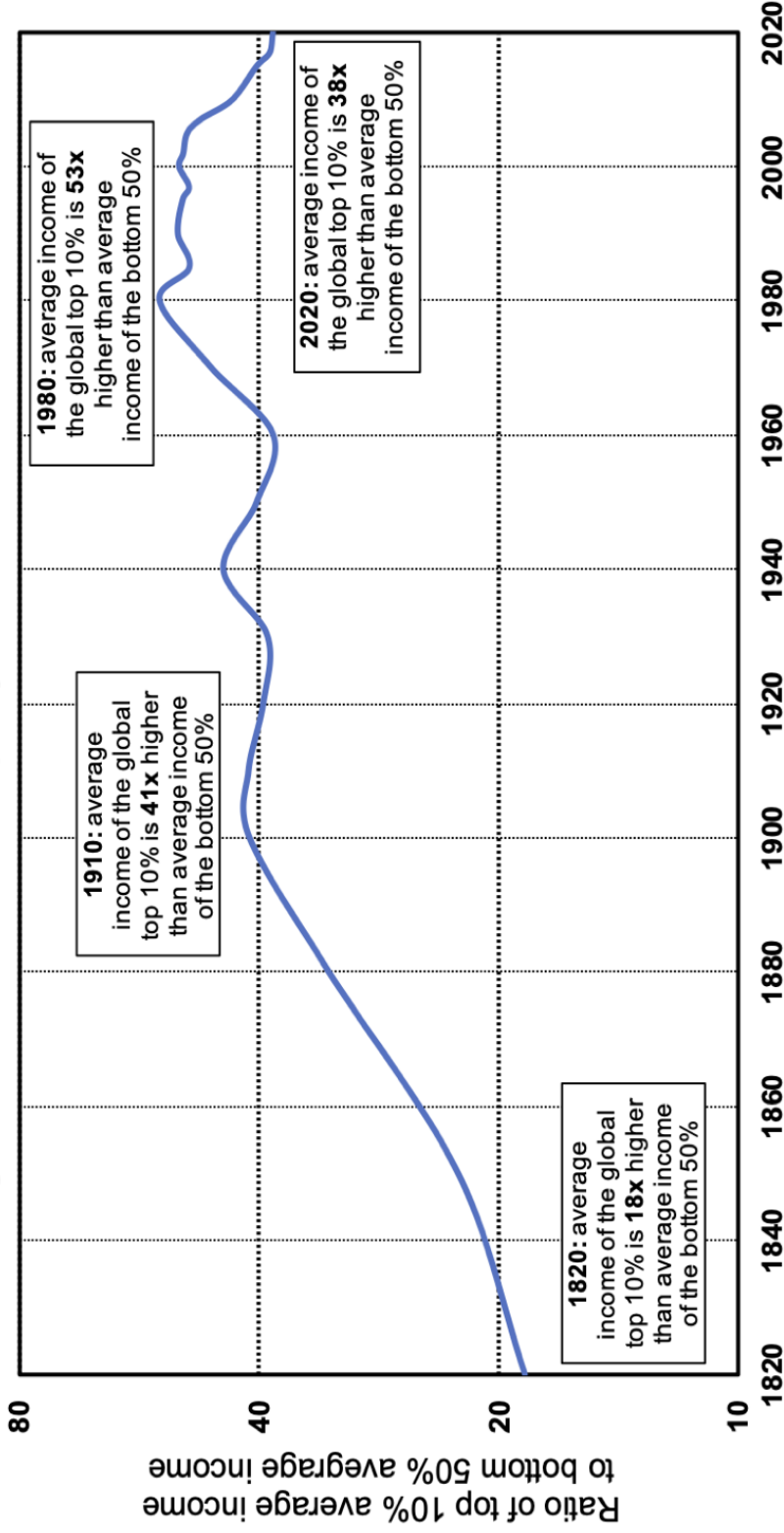
Figure 1. Global income inequality, 1820-2020



Interpretation. The share of global income going to top 10% highest incomes at the world level has fluctuated around 50-60% between 1820 and 2020 (50% in 1820, 60% in 1910, 56% in 1980, 61% in 2000, 55% in 2020), while the share going to the bottom 50% lowest incomes has generally been around or below 10% (14% in 1820, 7% in 1910, 5% in 1980, 6% in 2000, 7% in 2020). Global inequality has always been very large. It rose between 1820 and 1910 and shows little long-run trend between 1910 and 2020. **Sources and series:** Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

The persistence of extreme inequality

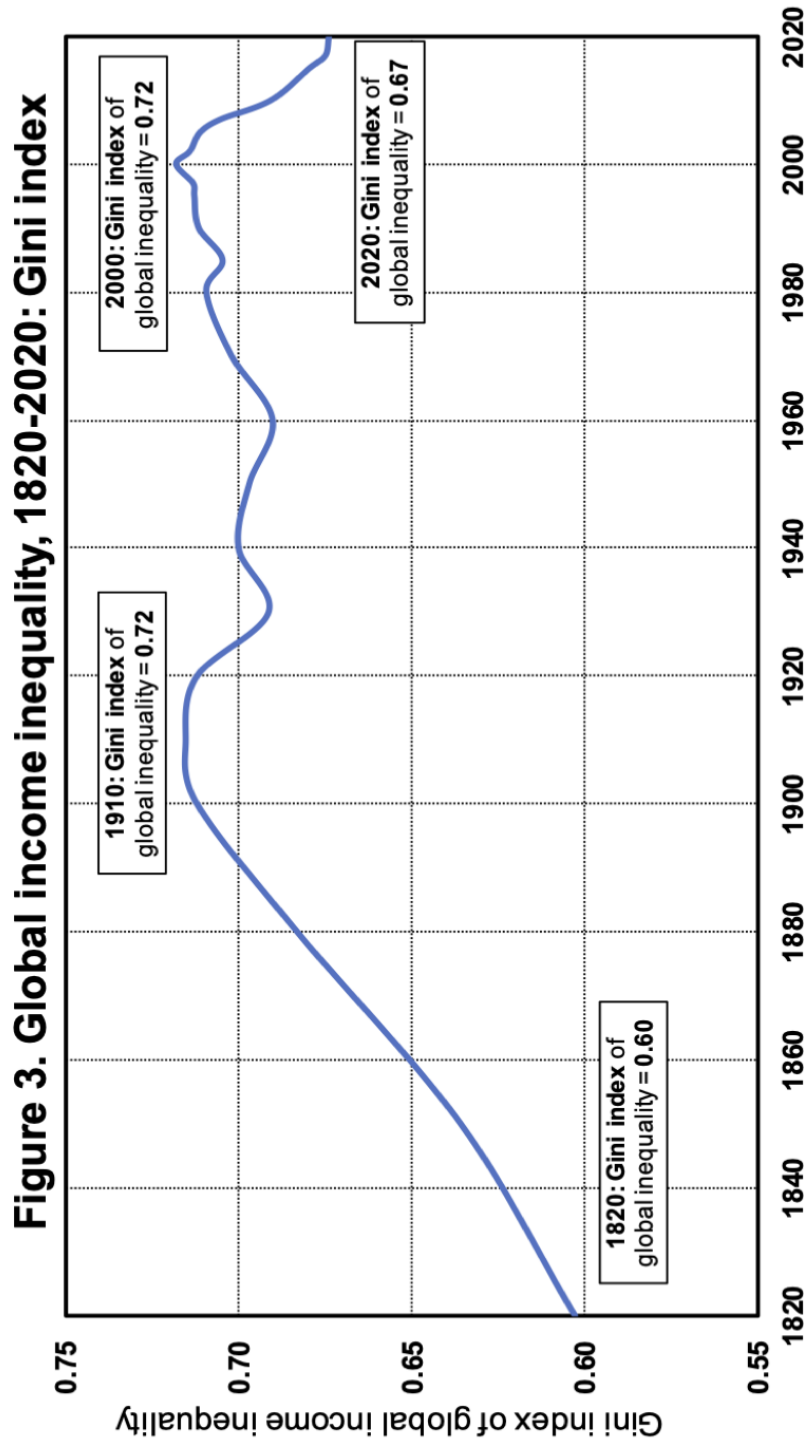
Figure 2. Global income inequality, 1820-2020: ratio T10/B50



Interpretation. Global inequality, as measured by the ratio T10/B50 between the average income of the top 10% and the average income of the bottom 50%, more than doubled between 1820 and 1910, from less than 20 to about 40, and stabilized around 40 between 1910 and 2020. It is too early to say whether the decline in global inequality observed since 2008 will continue. **Sources and series:** Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

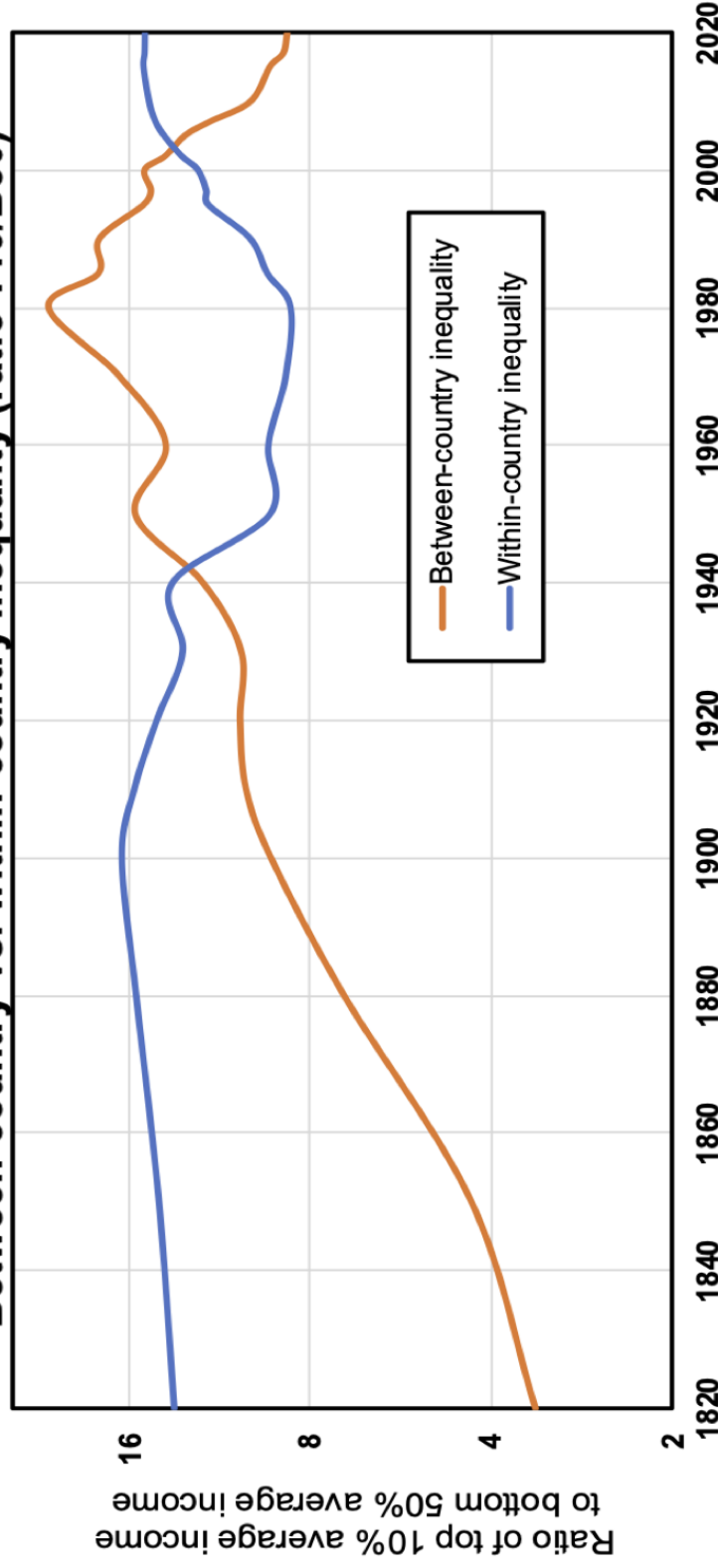


The persistence of extreme inequality: two peaks 1910 and 1980-2000 and fall afterwards



Interpretation. Global inequality, as measured by the global Gini coefficient, rose from about 0.6 in 1820 to about 0.7 in 1910, and then stabilized around 0.7 between 1910 and 2020. It is too early to say whether the decline in the global Gini coefficient observed since 2000 will continue. **Sources and series:** Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

**Figure 4. Global income inequality, 1820-2020:
Between-country vs. within-country inequality (ratio T10/B50)**

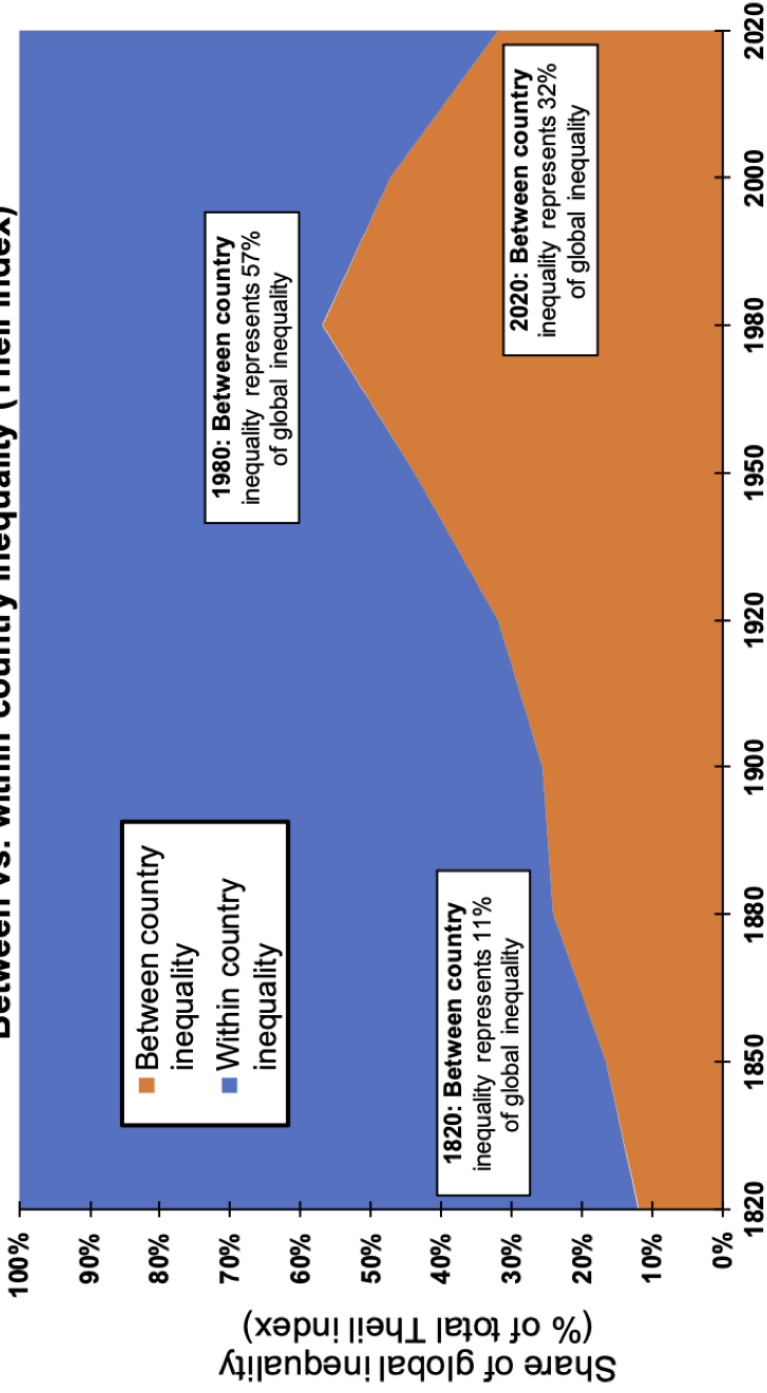


Interpretation. Between-country inequality, as measured by the ratio T10/B50 between the average incomes of the top 10% and the bottom 50% (assuming everybody within a country as the same income), rose between 1820 and 1980 and strongly declined since then. Within-country inequality, as measured also by the ratio T10/B50 between the average incomes of the top 10% and the bottom 50% (assuming all countries have the same average income), rose slightly between 1820 and 1910, declined between 1910 and 1980, and rose since 1980.

Sources and series. Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/langrui

Decomposing global inequality in within and between country dynamics

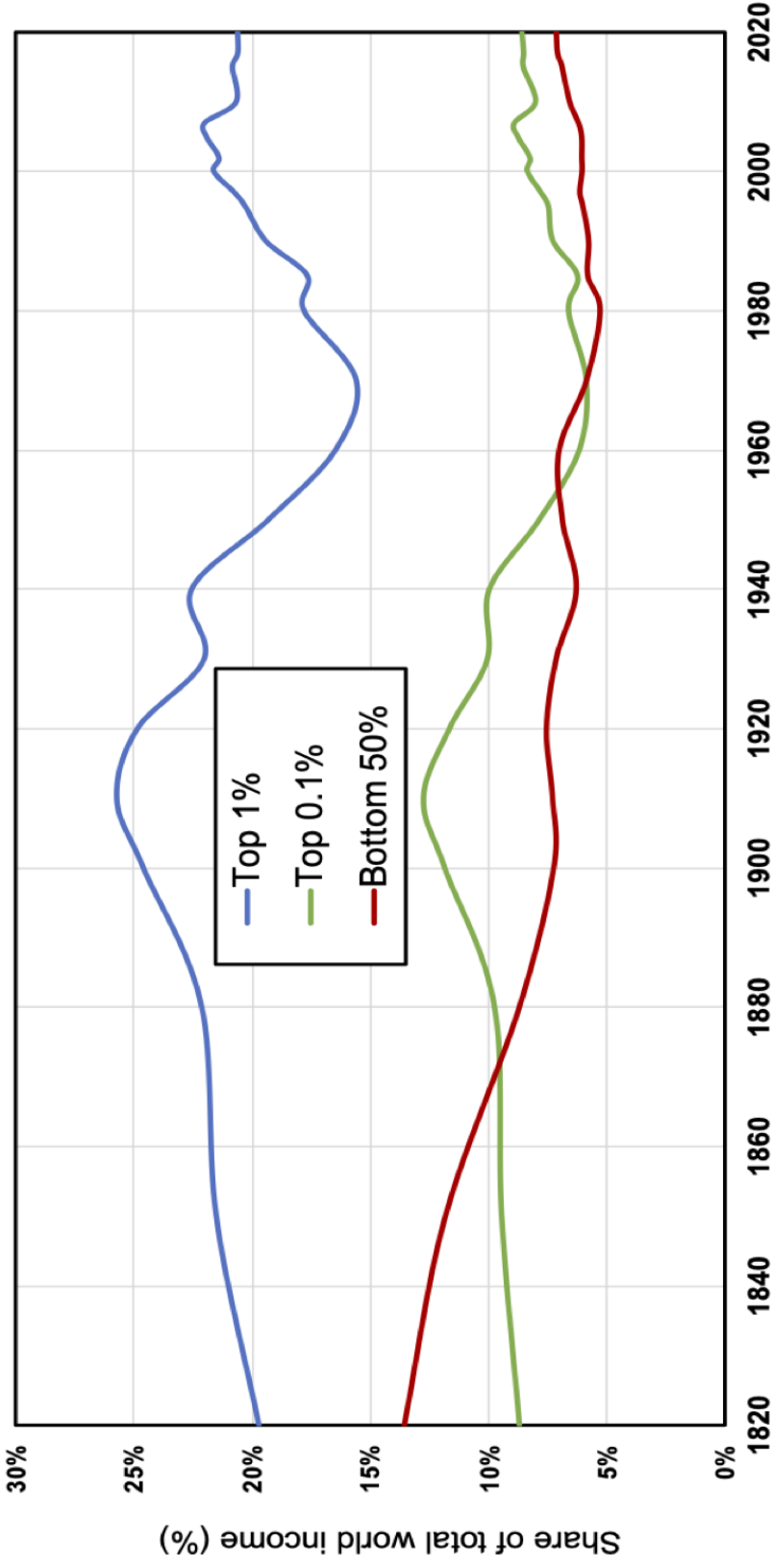
Figure 5. Global income inequality, 1820-2020: Between vs. within country inequality (Theil index)



Interpretation. The importance of between-country inequality in overall global inequality, as measured by the Theil index, rose between 1820 and 1980 and strongly declined since then. In 2020, between-country inequality makes-up about a third of global inequality between individuals. The rest is due to inequality within countries. **Sources and series:** Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

Extreme inequality exemplified by relatively close shares of top 0.1% and bottom 50%

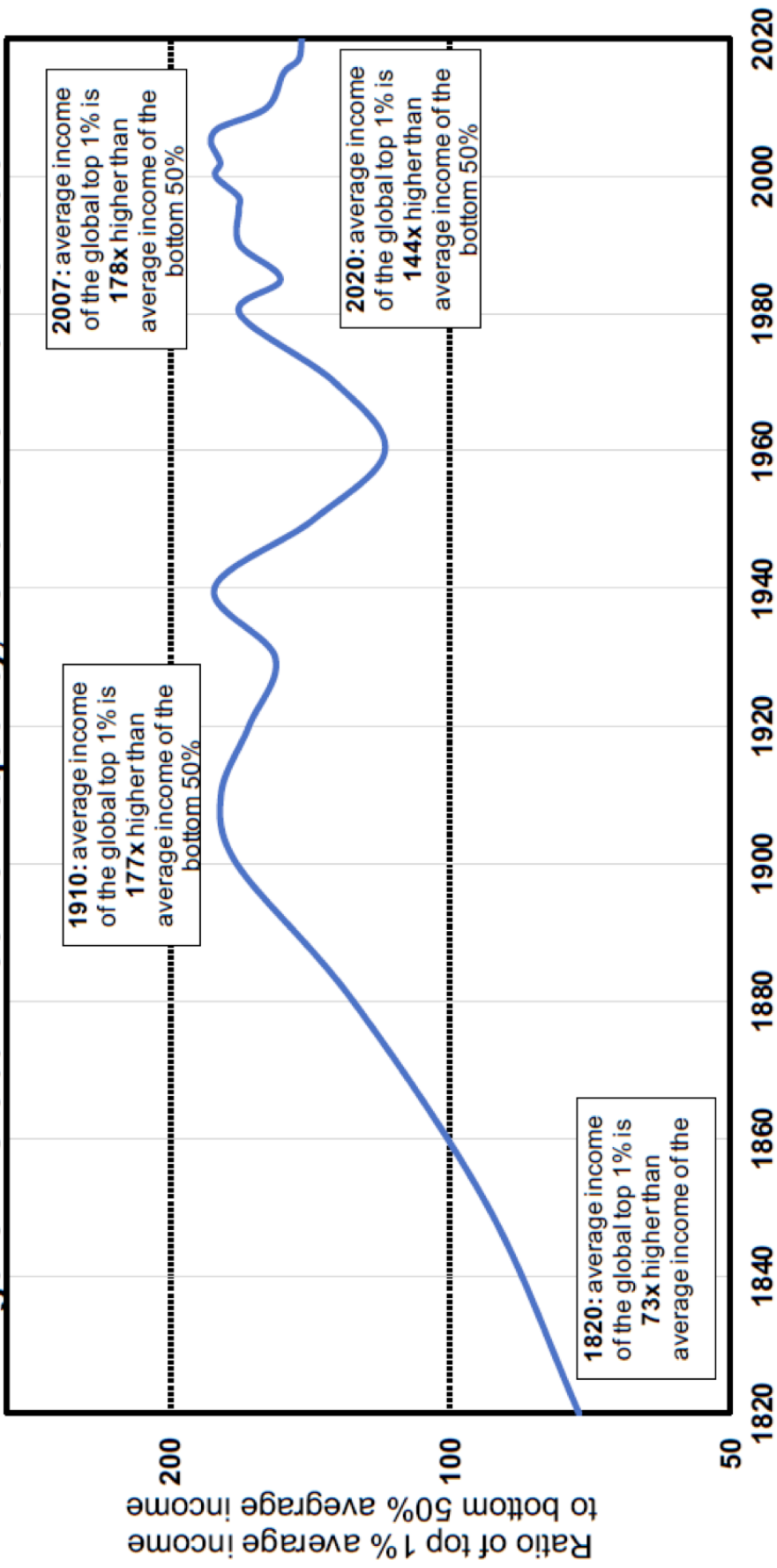
Figure 6. Global Inequality: Top 1% vs Bottom 50% Shares



Interpretation. The share of global income going to top 1% highest incomes at the world level has fluctuated around 15-25% between 1820 and 2020 (20% in 1820, 26% in 1910, 16% in 1970, 21% in 2020) and has always been substantially larger than the share going to the bottom 50%, which has generally been of the same order of magnitude as the share going to the top 0.1%. **Sources and series:** Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

Top end inequality: T1/B50 income ratio

Figure 7. Global income inequality, 1820-2020: T1/B50 ratio



Interpretation. Global inequality, as measured by the ratio T1/B50 between the average income of the top 1% and the average income of the bottom 50%, more than doubled between 1820 and 1910, from about 70 to about 180, and stabilized around 150 between 1910 and 2020. It is too early to say whether the decline in global inequality observed since 2008 will continue. **Sources and series:** Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

Figure 8. Global income inequality, 1820-2020: T0,1/B50 ratio

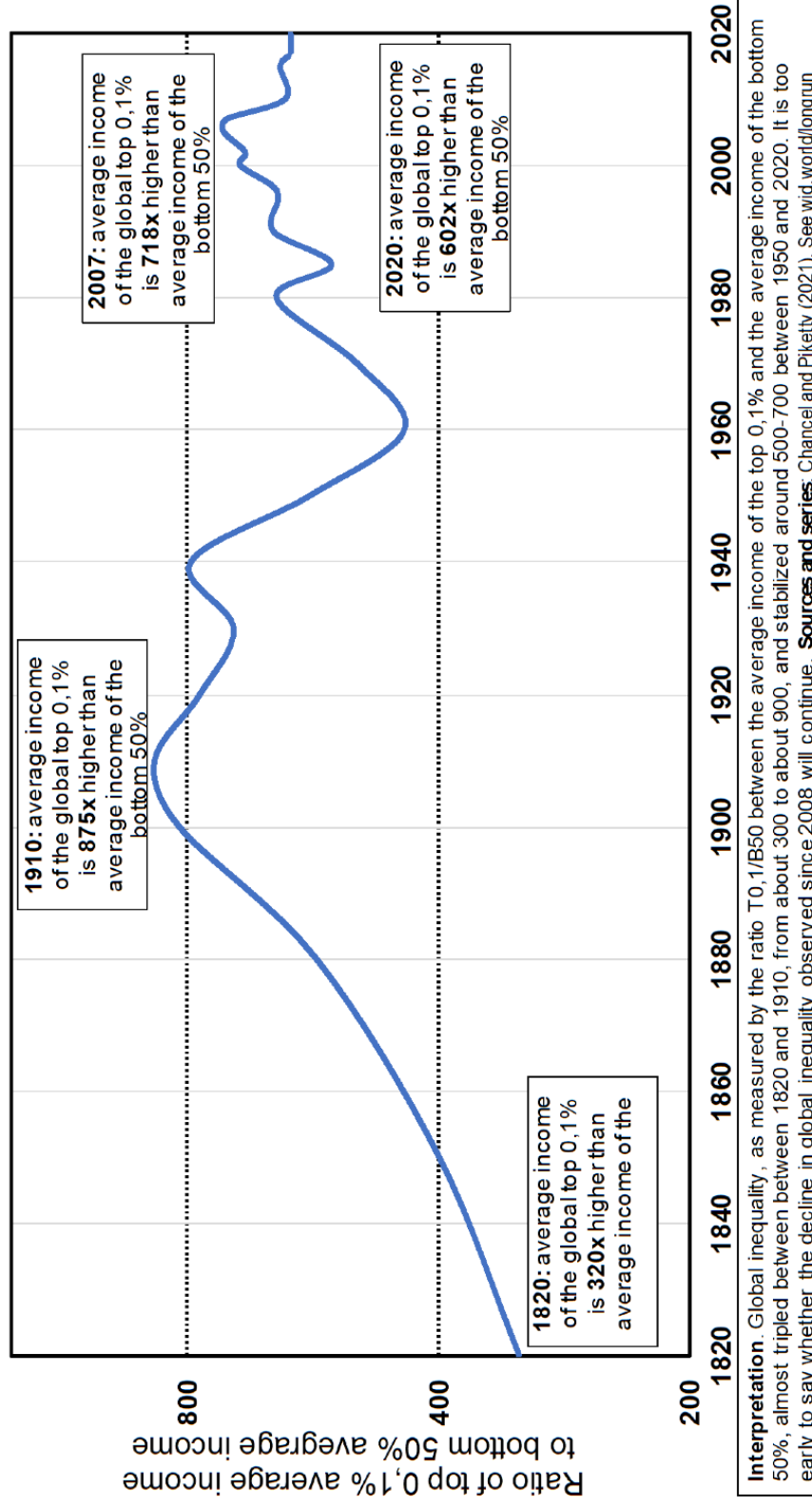
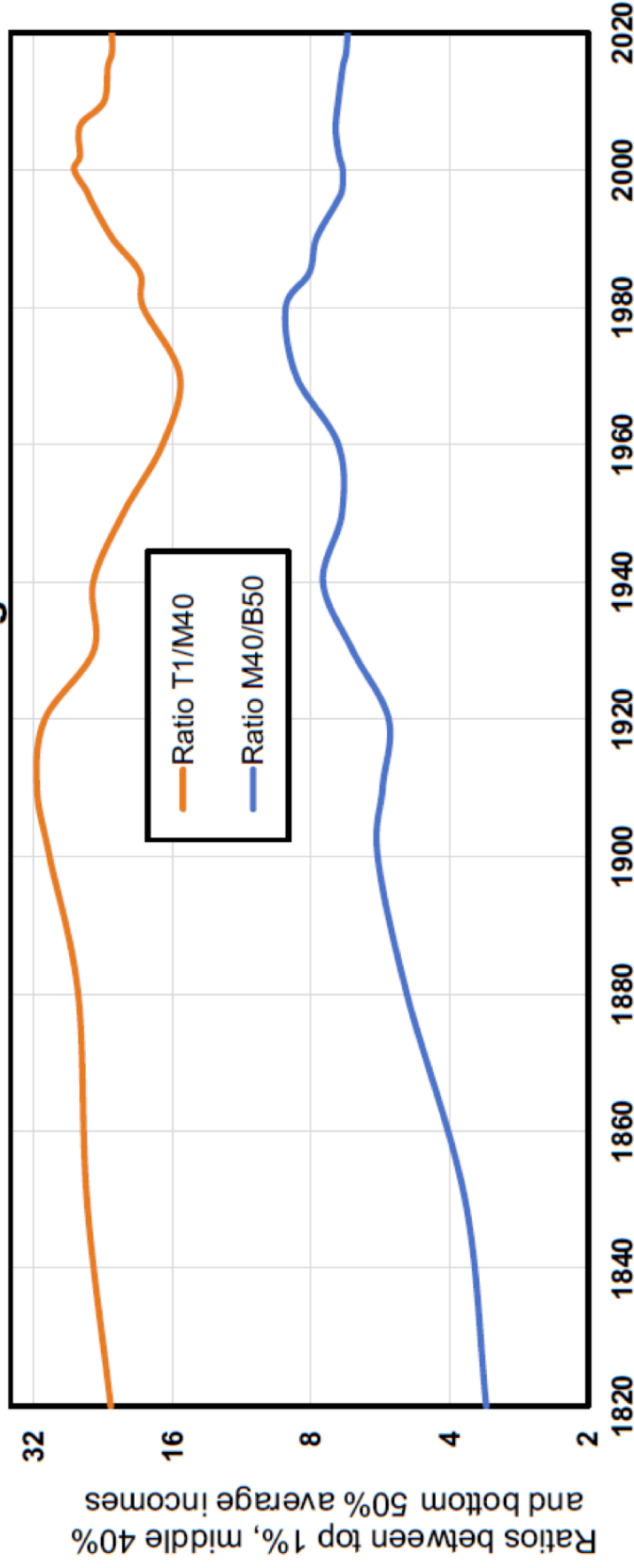
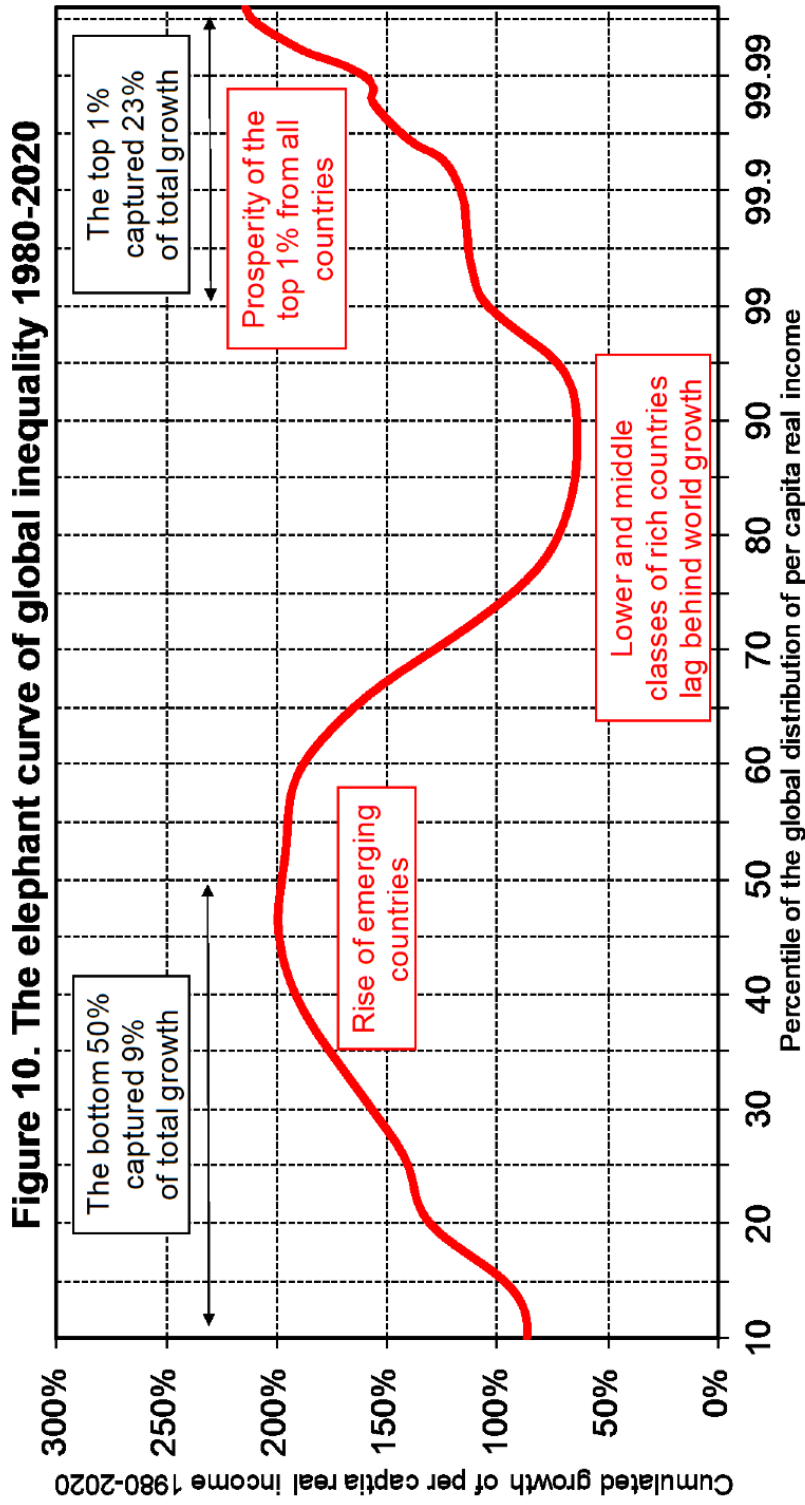


Figure 9. Global income inequality, 1820-2020: T1/M40 vs M40/B50 average income ratios



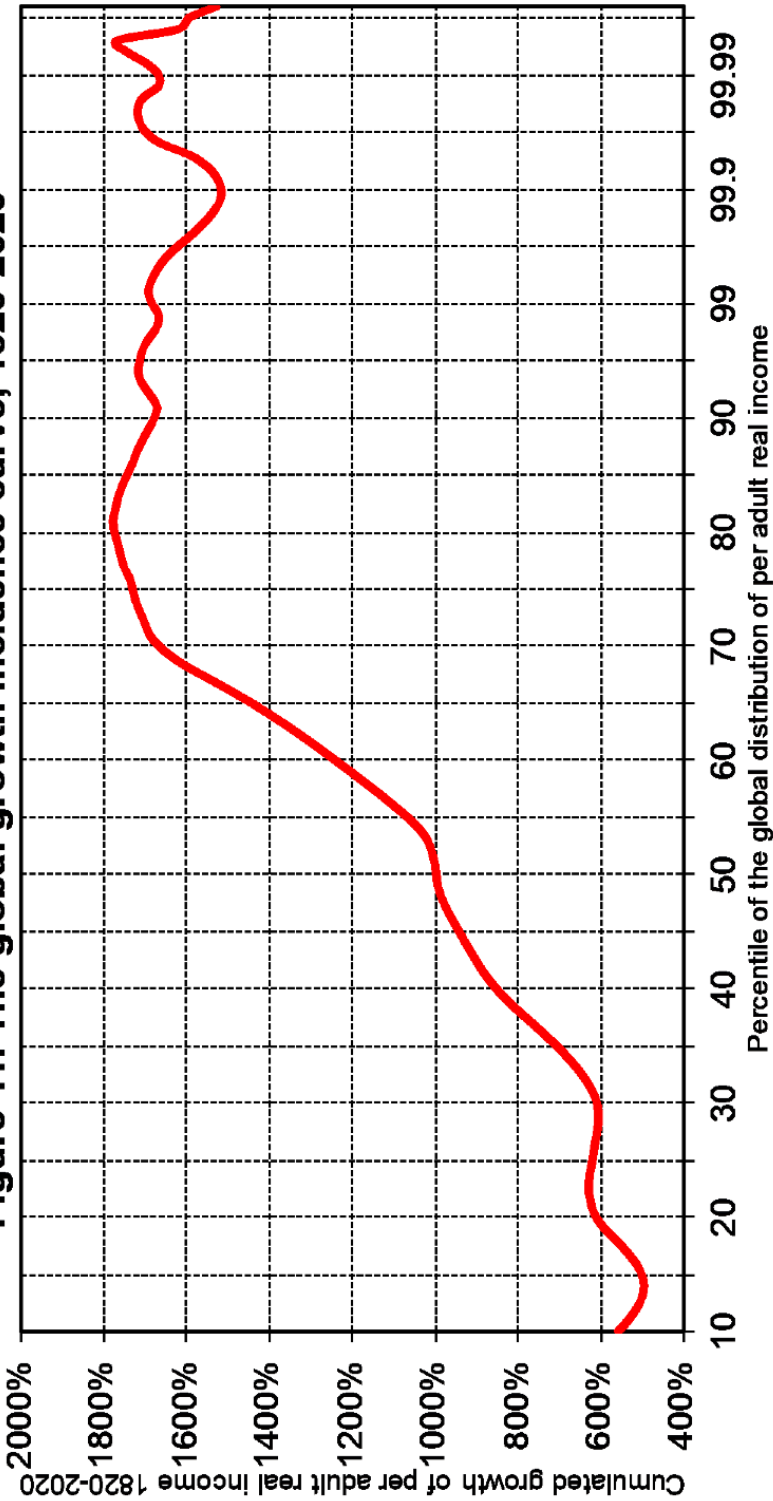
Interpretation. Bottom-end global inequality, as measured by the ratio M40/B50 between the average incomes of the middle 40% and the bottom 50%, rose from 3,3 in 1820 to 9,1 in 1980, down to 6,7 in 2020. Top-end global inequality, as measured by the ratio T1/M40 between the average incomes of the top 1% and the middle 40%, rose from 22 in 1820 to 32 in 1970, down to 15 in 1970, up to 22 in 2020. **Sources and series:** Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun



Interpretation. The bottom 50% incomes of the world saw substantial growth between 1980 and 2020 (between +50% and +200%). The top 1% incomes also benefited from high growth (between +100% and +200%). Intermediate categories grew less. In sum, inequality decreased between the bottom and the middle of the global income distribution, and increased between the middle and the top. In effect, the top 1% captured 22% of total world growth between 1980 and 2020, vs 11% for the bottom 50%. **Sources and series:** Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

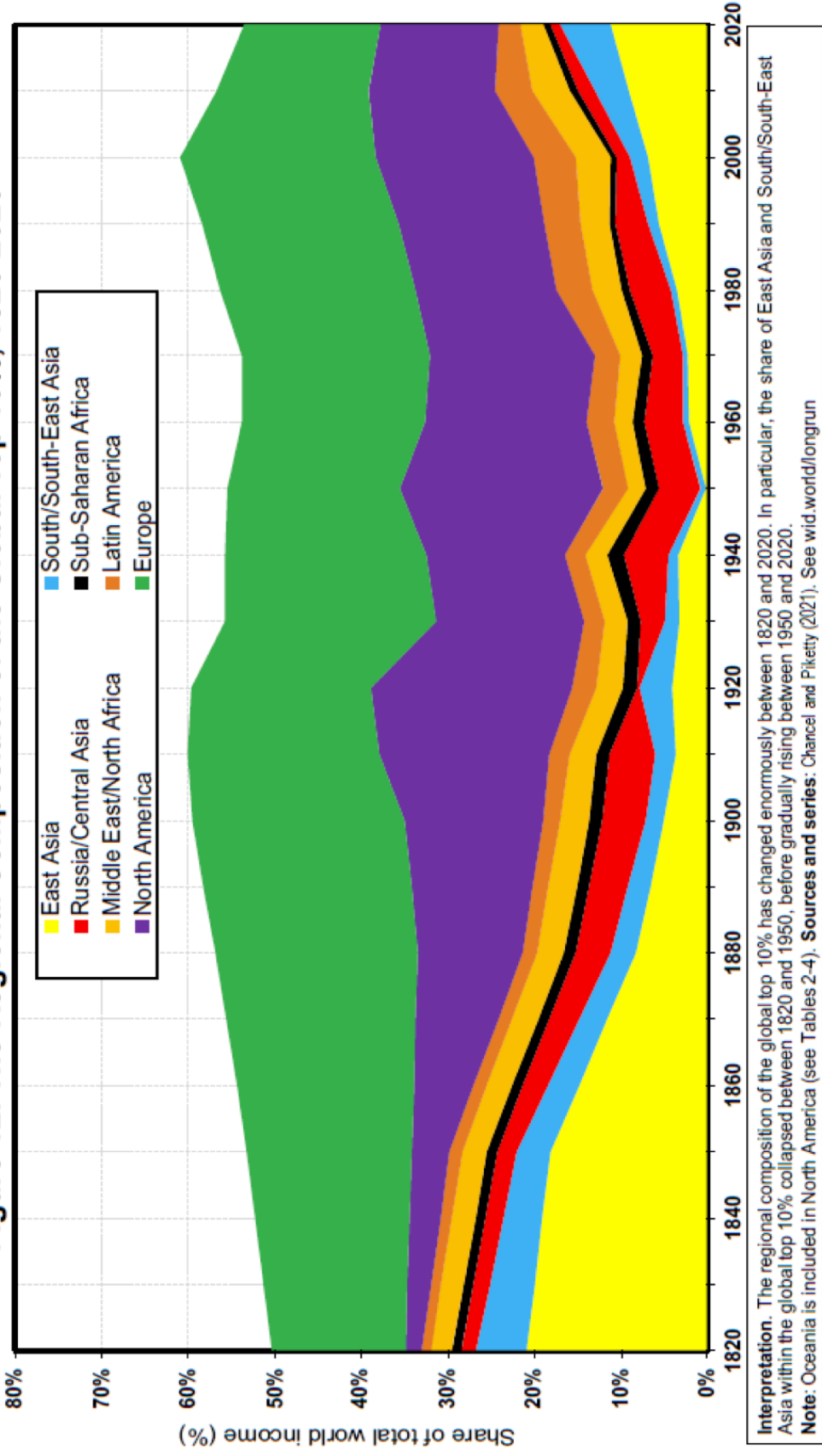
1820-2020: much bigger income growth for the top 30% than for bottom 50%

Figure 11. The global growth incidence curve, 1820-2020



Interpretation. The bottom 50% incomes of the world saw substantial growth between 1820 and 2020 (between +600% and +1000%). The top 30% incomes benefited from even higher growth (between +1600% and +1800%). **Sources and series:** Chancel and Piketty (2021) See wid.world/longrun

Figure 12. The Regional Composition of the Global Top 10%, 1820-2020



Interpretation. The regional composition of the global top 10% has changed enormously between 1820 and 2020. In particular, the share of East Asia and South/South-East Asia within the global top 10% collapsed between 1820 and 1950, before gradually rising between 1950 and 2020.
Note. Oceania is included in North America (see Tables 2-4). **Sources and series:** Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

Figure 13. The Regional Composition of the Global Top 1%, 1820-2020

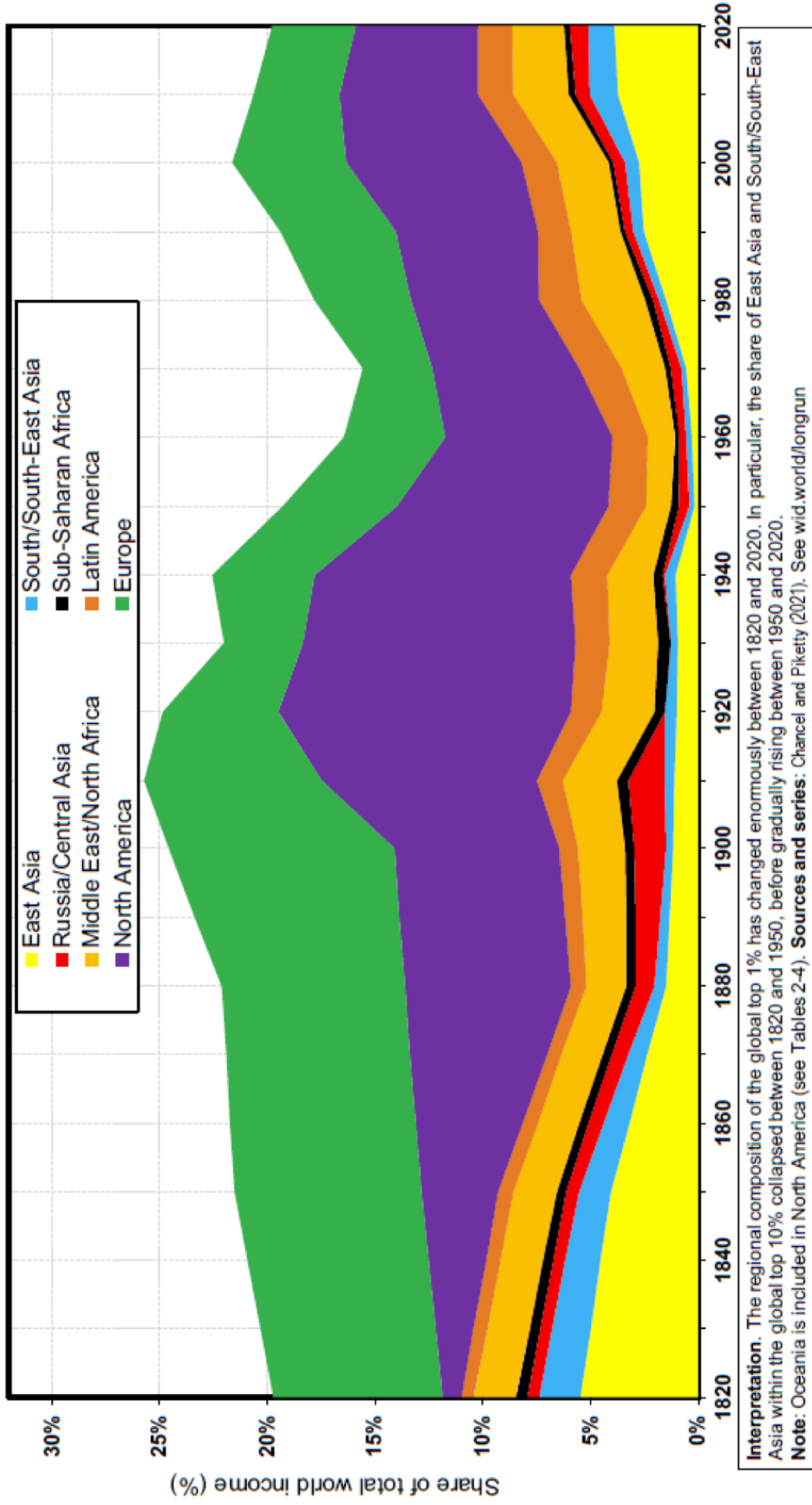
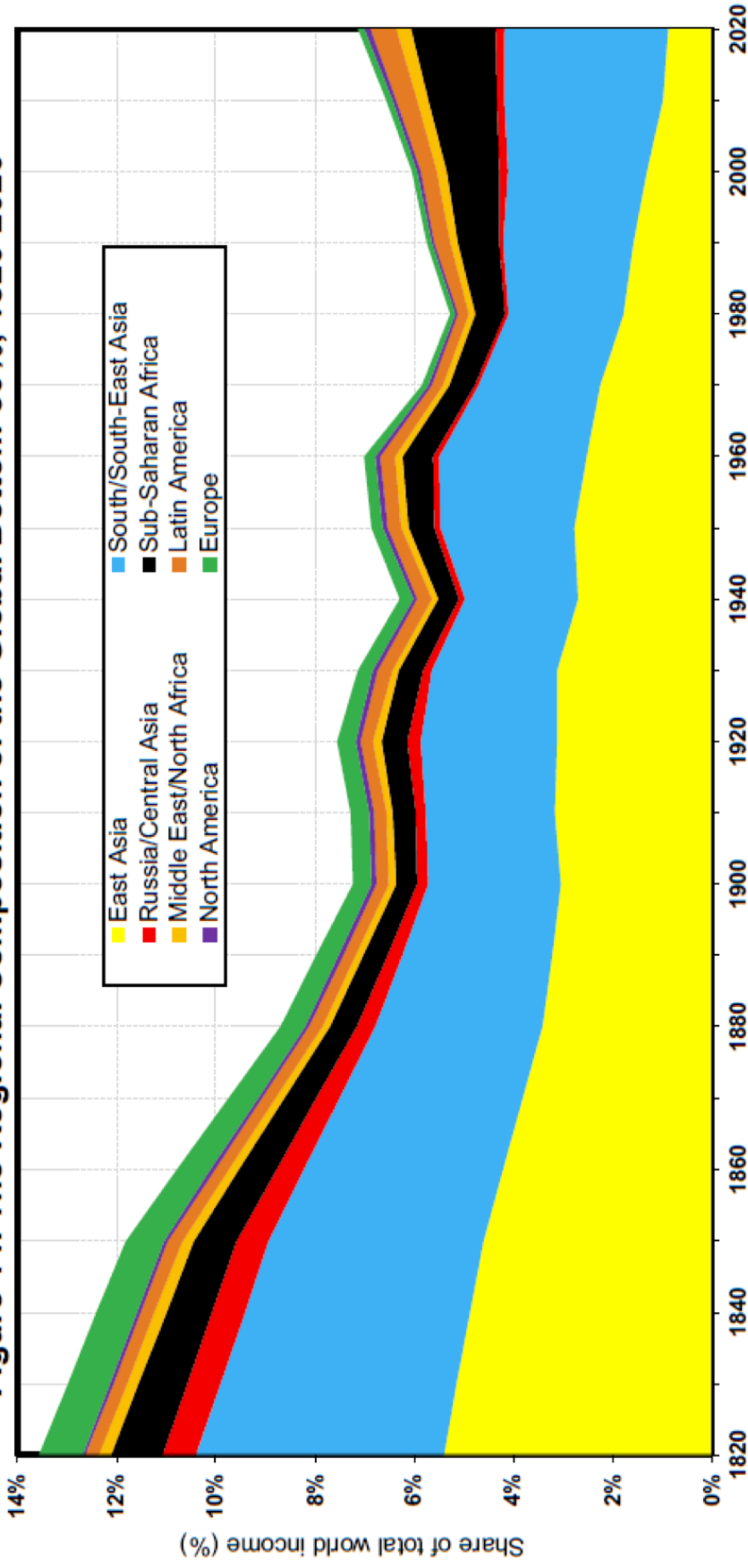


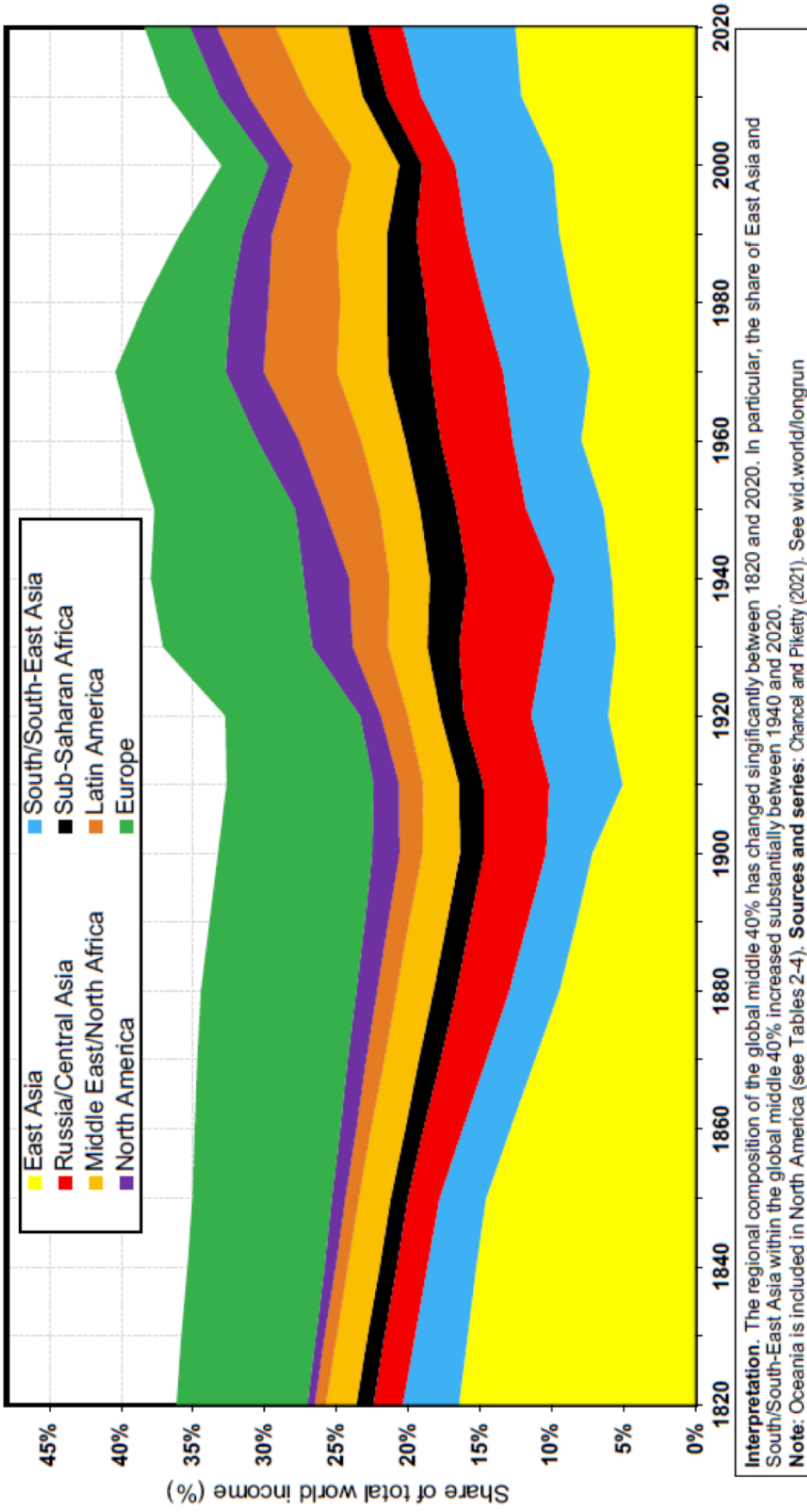
Figure 14. The Regional Composition of the Global Bottom 50%, 1820-2020



Interpretation. The regional composition of the global bottom 50% has changed significantly between 1820 and 2020. In particular, the share of South/South-East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa within the global bottom 50% increased substantially between 1980 and 2020.

Note: Oceania is included in North America (see Tables 2-4). **Sources and series:** Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

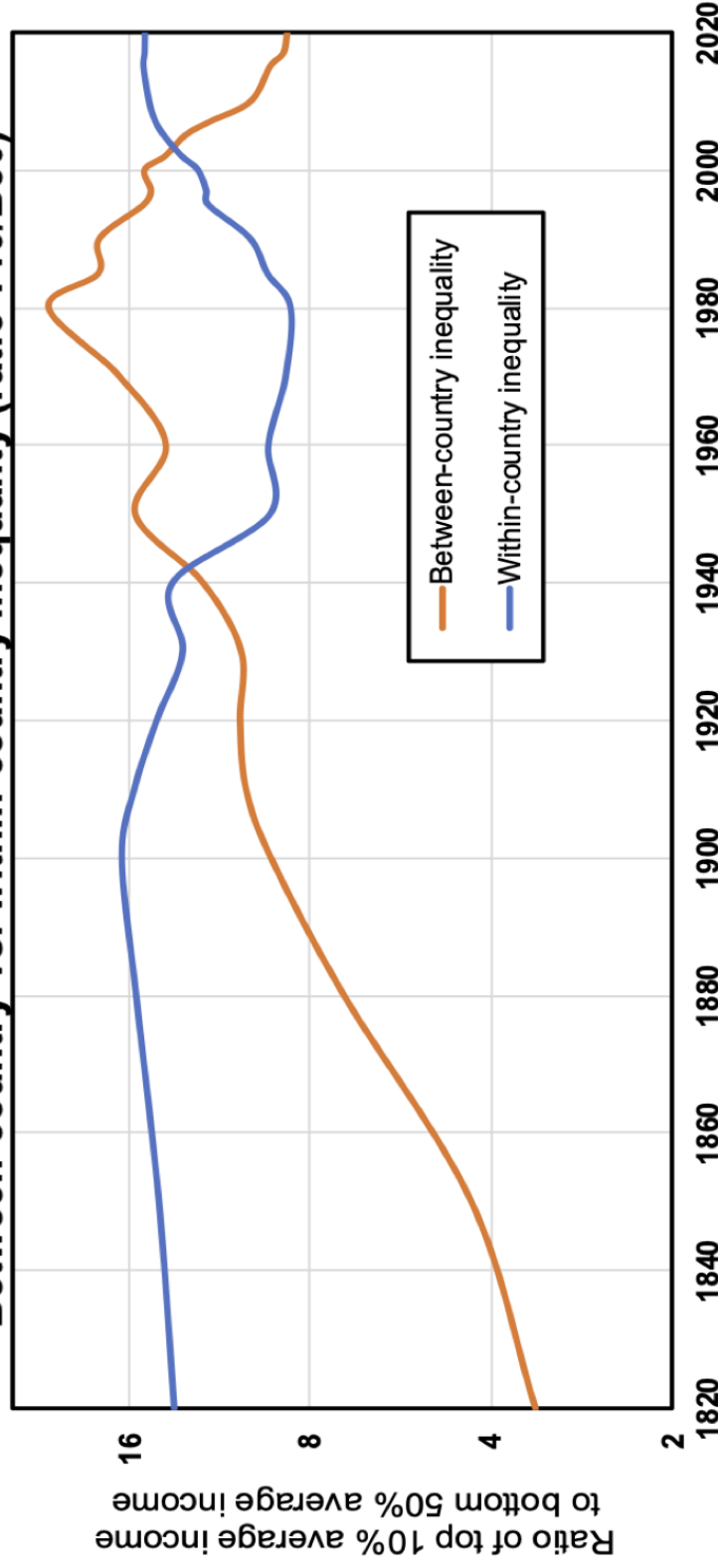
Figure 15. The Regional Composition of the Global Middle 40%, 1820-2020



Interpretation. The regional composition of the global middle 40% has changed significantly between 1820 and 2020. In particular, the share of East Asia and South/South-East Asia within the global middle 40% increased substantially between 1940 and 2020.
Note: Oceania is included in North America (see Tables 2-4). **Sources and series:** Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

- Different variants regarding the evolution of within-countries inequality between 1820 and 1910
- In practice, this has relatively little impact on the overall pattern
- As demonstrated by Figure 4, the really striking trend over the 1820-1910 period is the rise of between-countries inequality

**Figure 4. Global income inequality, 1820-2020:
Between-country vs. within-country inequality (ratio T10/B50)**



Interpretation. Between-country inequality, as measured by the ratio T10/B50 between the average incomes of the top 10% and the bottom 50% (assuming everybody within a country as the same income), rose between 1820 and 1980 and strongly declined since then. Within-country inequality, as measured also by the ratio T10/B50 between the average incomes of the top 10% and the bottom 50% (assuming all countries have the same average income), rose slightly between 1820 and 1910, declined between 1910 and 1980, and rose since 1980.

Sources and series. Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/langruin

Discussion: development and persistence of center-periphery relations

- Large and persistent inequality in income is due to large inequality in productivity (hourly income) and capital endowment (human & physical)
- Why doesn't capital flow to poor countries? In principle, this would raise global output and reduce global inequality tremendously
- In reality, unless forced to do so, wealthiest groups are unlikely to give up their wealth for free. They prefer to remain in control and to lend their resources at highest possible price to poorer groups.

Discussion: development and persistence of center-periphery relations

- Two consequences:
 - First, the fact that the poorest groups are borrowers implies that they have less economic autonomy and lower incentives to produce.
 - Next, because lenders fear expropriation they tend to regulate their relation with the poorest groups through colonial and military domination and to organize investment patterns so as to keep control of the most valuable production processes.
- See Pomeranz « Great Divergence » (2000), Parthasarathi (2011), Beckert (2014): central role of military and colonial domination in accounting for the rise of global inequality 1820-1950.

Discussion: development and persistence of center-periphery relations

- We see a beginning of convergence since 1980, but this is very slow (between-country inequality today is close to 1900 level, and much higher than in 1820), and there is a risk that new economic powers like China also created center-periphery relations with poorer countries
- In order to accelerate the process, one would need larger investment in human and physical investment in the global South together with greater reliance on self-governement
- E.g. a fraction of global tax revenues coming from multinationals or billionaires could be shared between all countries in proportion to population
- Even if it is a small fraction, it would make an enormous difference for public investment in education, health and infrastructure in the South

- A new dataset to study global income inequality in the long run, based on the new wave of historical research on inequality trends
- We obtain suggestive results (persistence of extreme inequality) but more work required to understand drivers of global inequality over 1820-2020
- Dynamics of (foreign) wealth ownership
- Evolution of material inequality (carbon/energy consumption)

Supplementary slides

Methodology and data sources: country-level inequality trends (top 10% share)

Table 5. Inequality by region, 1820-2020 (Top 10% income share)

	1820	1900	1950	1980	2020
World	50%	60%	55%	56%	55%
East Asia	46%	51%	37%	59%	44%
<i>inc. China</i>	46%	51%	27%	28%	42%
<i>inc. Japan</i>	45%	47%	28%	35%	43%
Europe	50%	54%	39%	30%	36%
<i>inc. Great Britain</i>	50%	56%	49%	30%	36%
<i>inc. France</i>	49%	50%	34%	28%	32%
<i>inc. Germany</i>	47%	53%	30%	29%	38%
Latin America	53%	57%	58%	55%	55%
<i>inc. Brazil</i>	53%	55%	58%	55%	57%
<i>inc. Mexico</i>	54%	55%	58%	53%	59%
Middle East & North Africa	53%	56%	53%	67%	57%
<i>incl. Egypt</i>	53%	58%	61%	51%	49%
<i>incl. Turkey</i>	53%	54%	55%	55%	51%
North America	42%	40%	39%	34%	45%
<i>incl. USA</i>	42%	40%	39%	34%	45%
Russia/Central Asia	45%	48%	27%	26%	46%
<i>inc. Russia</i>	45%	48%	27%	26%	46%
South and South East Asia	47%	52%	39%	46%	54%
<i>inc. India</i>	48%	54%	35%	32%	57%
<i>inc. Indonesia</i>	41%	42%	46%	40%	41%
Sub Saharan Africa	49%	54%	55%	58%	56%
<i>incl. South Africa</i>	49%	53%	53%	47%	65%

Interpretation. In East Asia in 1980, the top 10% income share was equal to 59% of total income. Sources and series: Chancel and Piketty (2021). See wid.world/longrun

Methodology and data sources: country-level inequality trends (bottom 50% share)

Table 6. Inequality by region, 1820-2020 (Bottom 50% income share)

	1820	1900	1950	1980	2020
World	14%	7%	7%	5%	7%
East Asia	18%	17%	20%	12%	13%
<i>inc. China</i>	19%	17%	25%	25%	14%
<i>inc. Japan</i>	18%	17%	25%	21%	18%
Europe	15%	14%	20%	20%	19%
<i>inc. Great Britain</i>	16%	14%	16%	22%	20%
<i>inc. France</i>	14%	13%	19%	24%	22%
<i>inc. Germany</i>	17%	15%	23%	23%	19%
Latin America	11%	10%	10%	9%	10%
<i>inc. Brazil</i>	12%	11%	10%	11%	10%
<i>inc. Mexico</i>	11%	10%	10%	8%	8%
Middle East & North Africa	14%	13%	12%	7%	10%
<i>incl. Egypt</i>	15%	14%	13%	16%	17%
<i>incl. Turkey</i>	14%	13%	13%	13%	15%
North America	14%	14%	17%	19%	13%
<i>incl. USA</i>	14%	15%	17%	19%	13%
Russia/Central Asia	16%	15%	23%	21%	14%
<i>inc. Russia</i>	16%	15%	23%	27%	17%
South and South East Asia	16%	14%	17%	15%	12%
<i>inc. India</i>	16%	14%	20%	21%	13%
<i>inc. Indonesia</i>	18%	17%	16%	18%	16%
Sub Saharan Africa	13%	12%	10%	7%	9%
<i>incl. South Africa</i>	13%	12%	12%	13%	6%
Interpretation. In East Asia in 1980, the bottom 50% income share was equal to 12% of total income. Sources and series: see wid.world/longrun					

Methodology and data sources: country-level inequality trends (T10/B50 income ratio)

Table 7. Inequality by region, 1820-2020 (Top 10% avg. income divided by bot. 50% avg. income)

	1820	1900	1950	1980	2020
World	18	40	40	52	37
East Asia	12	15	9	25	16
<i>inc. China</i>	13	15	5	6	15
<i>inc. Japan</i>	12	14	4	8	12
Europe	17	19	10	7	9
<i>inc. Great Britain</i>	16	20	16	7	9
<i>inc. France</i>	18	19	9	6	7
<i>inc. Germany</i>	14	17	7	6	10
Latin America	23	29	29	29	28
<i>inc. Brazil</i>	23	25	28	25	28
<i>inc. Mexico</i>	25	27	30	33	34
Middle East & North Africa	19	21	21	48	27
<i>incl. Egypt</i>	18	21	24	16	14
<i>incl. Turkey</i>	19	20	21	21	16
North America / Oceania	15	14	11	9	16
<i>incl. USA</i>	15	14	11	9	17
Russia/Central Asia	14	16	6	6	16
<i>inc. Russia</i>	14	16	6	5	14
South and South East Asia	15	19	11	15	22
<i>inc. India</i>	15	19	9	8	22
<i>inc. Indonesia</i>	12	12	14	11	13
Sub Saharan Africa	19	23	26	42	32
<i>incl. South Africa</i>	19	23	23	18	56

Interpretation. In East Asia in 1980, top 10% average income was 25 times higher than the bottom 50% average income. **Sources and series:** see wid.world/longrun

Methodology and data sources: country-level inequality trends (top 1% share)

Table 8. Inequality by region, 1820-2020 (Top 1% income share)

	1820	1900	1950	1980	2020
World	20%	25%	19%	18%	21%
East Asia	16%	18%	7%	20%	16%
<i>inc. China</i>	16%	18%	5%	7%	14%
<i>inc. Japan</i>	16%	18%	9%	10%	12%
Europe	22%	26%	12%	8%	12%
<i>inc. Great Britain</i>	25%	31%	14%	8%	13%
<i>inc. France</i>	20%	22%	10%	7%	10%
<i>inc. Germany</i>	18%	23%	9%	10%	13%
Latin America	24%	26%	28%	23%	26%
<i>inc. Brazil</i>	26%	26%	30%	25%	28%
<i>inc. Mexico</i>	24%	25%	27%	21%	29%
Middle East & North Africa	22%	24%	22%	32%	23%
<i>incl. Egypt</i>	26%	28%	30%	19%	19%
<i>incl. Turkey</i>	21%	22%	22%	22%	18%
North America	16%	15%	16%	10%	19%
<i>incl. USA</i>	16%	16%	17%	10%	19%
Russia/Central Asia	16%	18%	6%	5%	20%
<i>inc. Russia</i>	16%	18%	6%	5%	21%
South and South East Asia	16%	17%	15%	18%	20%
<i>inc. India</i>	16%	17%	12%	8%	22%
<i>inc. Indonesia</i>	14%	14%	21%	10%	11%
Sub Saharan Africa	19%	21%	19%	20%	22%
<i>incl. South Africa</i>	19%	21%	17%	10%	19%
Interpretation. In East Asia in 1980, the top 1% income share was equal to 20% of total income. Sources and series: see wid.world/longrun					

Table 9. Inequality by region, 1820-2020 (Top 1% avg. income divided by bot. 50% avg. income)

	1820	1900	1950	1980	2020
World	73	170	140	169	144
East Asia	44	54	19	85	60
<i>inc. China</i>	44	52	10	13	49
<i>inc. Japan</i>	45	53	17	23	33
Europe	75	93	32	20	31
<i>inc. Great Britain</i>	79	113	43	19	32
<i>inc. France</i>	75	83	27	15	23
<i>inc. Germany</i>	53	74	21	22	35
Latin America	110	134	145	124	136
<i>inc. Brazil</i>	111	119	144	112	134
<i>inc. Mexico</i>	113	121	141	132	169
Middle East & North Africa	78	92	93	233	114
<i>incl. Egypt</i>	88	105	120	61	55
<i>incl. Turkey</i>	76	81	85	85	60
North America / Oceania	59	54	47	28	69
<i>incl. USA</i>	57	53	48	27	70
Russia/Central Asia	52	61	13	12	72
<i>inc. Russia</i>	51	61	13	8	63
South and South East Asia	52	63	43	59	83
<i>inc. India</i>	50	59	29	18	83
<i>inc. Indonesia</i>	39	41	64	29	33
Sub Saharan Africa	75	89	92	150	127
<i>incl. South Africa</i>	75	88	72	38	166

Interpretation. In East Asia in 1980, top 1% average income was 85 times higher than the bottom 50% average income. **Sources and series:** see wid.world/longrun