



Global Issues

Steven R. Van Hook, PhD

Our Common Problems & Possibilities

Individual v. Collective Interests

Collectivism

“From each according to their ability; to each according to their need.”



Karl Marx
1813-1883

Individualism

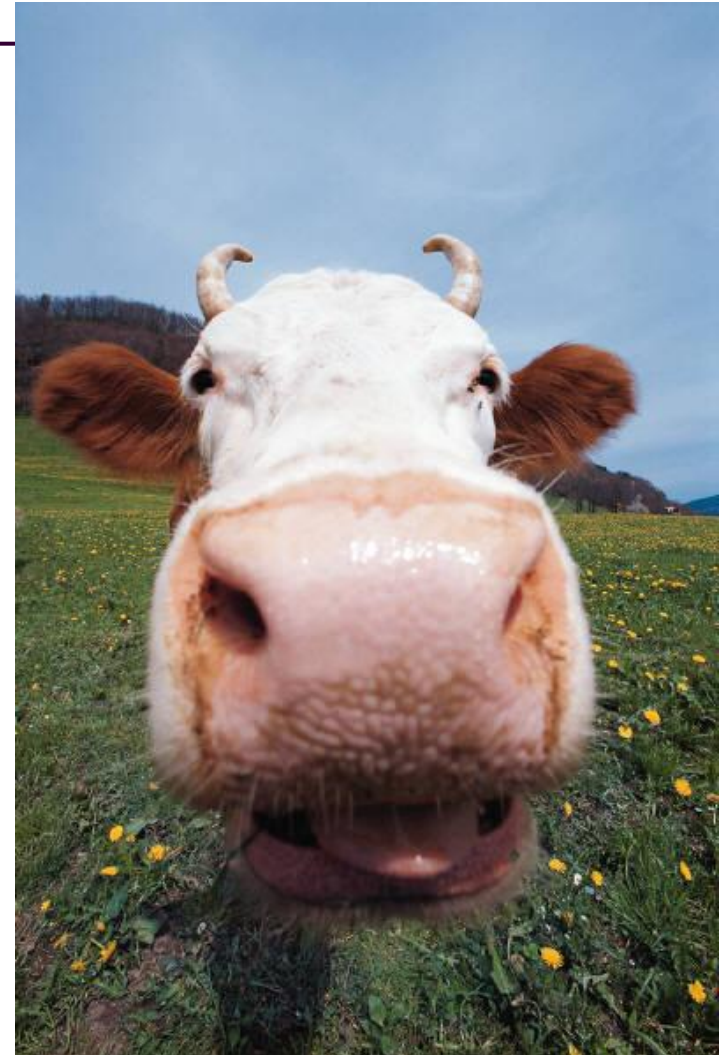
“Individual ambition serves the common good.”



Adam Smith
1723-1790

Cattle on the Commons

- William Forster Lloyd (1832), political economist at Oxford University:
- “Why are the cattle on a common so puny and stunted? Why is the common itself so bare-worn, and cropped so differently from the adjoining enclosures?”
- People exercise self-interest over the common good.



The Milgram Experiment: Following Evil Orders

1961 experiment
by psychologist
Stanley Milgram
(Yale
University):

*50% of test
subjects gave
lethal levels of
electric shock
when ordered to
do so by
authority.*

[Article](#)



*Photographs
of prisoners
who were
abused, and
some who
are dead, at
Abu Ghraib
prison in Iraq.*

- NYT 5/9/04

Presentation





Sabrina Harman

“Thumbs-
Up” Soldier
Military
Police
Abu Ghraib,
2003 – 2004



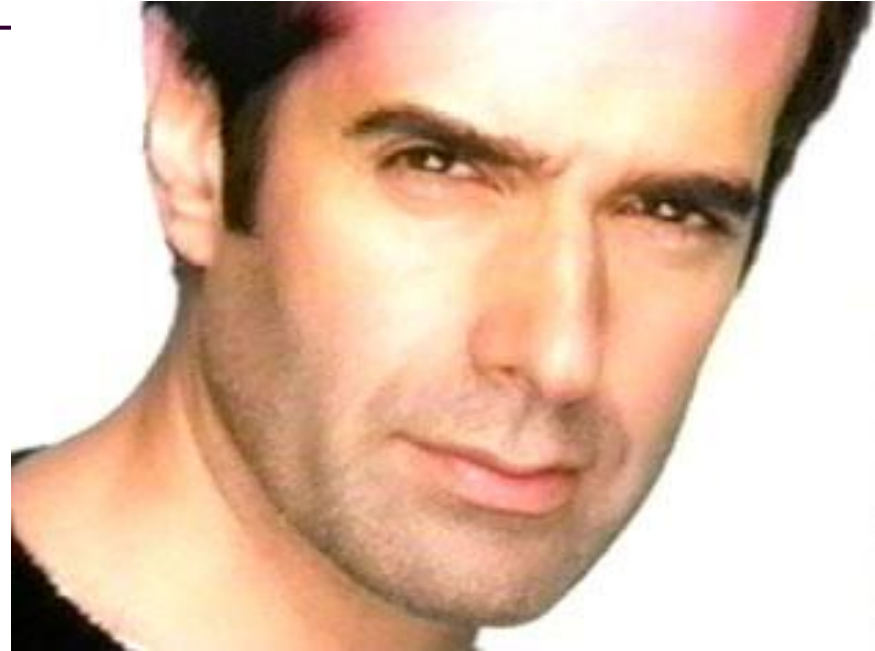
Ghosts of Abu Ghraib
2007 / HBO / :55

Copperfield's Russian Nightmare

New York Post (2000)

Illusionist David Copperfield had to negotiate his way out of a Russian mafia extortion scheme.

After a performance in Moscow, the permits allowing Copperfield's trucks to cross the Russian border mysteriously disappeared.



Copperfield's team realized they were dealing with the terrifying Russian mob, and were warned the magician himself might come to physical harm if the mobsters were not paid off.

[David Copperfield's Vanishing Gear](#)

Nigerian Email Fraud

- FROM THE DESK OF
DR. JOHN OKEY
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF PETROLUEM
RESOURCES (F.M.P.R)
LAGOS NIGERIA.

ATTN: SIR,

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE-
STRICTLYCONFIDENTIAL

I am DR. JOHN OKEY, an accountant in the Ministry of petroleum Resources (MPR) and a member of a three-man Tender Board in charge of contract review and payment approvals. I came to know of you in my search for a reliable person to handle a very confidential transaction that involves the transfer of a huge sum of money to a foreign account.

...



[Full Text](#)

Arrests in Nigerian Email Fraud ...

- Six people were arrested in South Africa on suspicion of being involved in the infamous "Nigerian" email and letter fraud.
- Police in South Africa believe that the six are part of an international fraud and drug-dealing cartel, sending out thousands of email and letters in an attempt to defraud.
- Emails multiplied in months after arrests as "control" was unleashed.



- [Article](#)
- [Sample Fraud Email](#)
- [Scammers in Nigeria](#)

Enron: “The Crooked E”



The Crooked E: The Unshredded Truth About Enron
CBS Movie Special 1/5/03
2:45

WorldCom Convicts



Former Worldcom CEO Bernard Ebbers wept at his sentencing in New York . He was sentenced to 25 years for orchestrating and accounting scandal which bankrupted the once giant telecommunications company.



Scott Sullivan, the former chief financial officer of WorldCom, became the fifth WorldCom executive to be sentenced to prison (5 years) in the \$11 billion scandal. Sullivan, 43, was the star witness at Ebbers' trial earlier this year, testifying the CEO repeatedly instructed him to 'hit the numbers' -- or adjust WorldCom's books to meet Wall Street expectations.

Tyco Convicts



L. Dennis Kozlowski, the former chief executive of Tyco, was convicted of stealing \$150 million from Tyco and reaping \$430 million more by covertly selling shares.



Mark H. Swartz, Kozlowski's top It. was also convicted on fraud, conspiracy and grand larceny charges, bringing an end to a three-year-long case that came to symbolize an era of corporate greed and scandal. When the verdict was read he looked at his wife, who mouthed "I love you" to him.

Enron Charges



Former Enron CEO Ken Lay is led into the Federal Courthouse in Houston by FBI agents after surrendering to authorities after being indicted for wire fraud and conspiracy July 8, 2004. Lay pleaded not guilty to 11 criminal charges filed against him in a federal indictment related to the company's 2001 collapse into bankruptcy. Convicted in 2006; died in 2006.



Asia's Brown Cloud

- Asian Brown Cloud two miles thick responsible for 100-thousands of deaths each year.
- Reducing Asian rainfall by 40%, cutting India's rice harvest by 10%.



Global Warming

Melting ice
in Antarctica
and
Greenland
may sink
large swaths
of land
around the
world.



Al Gore: An Inconvenient Truth
2006 / 3:00

World Population Growth

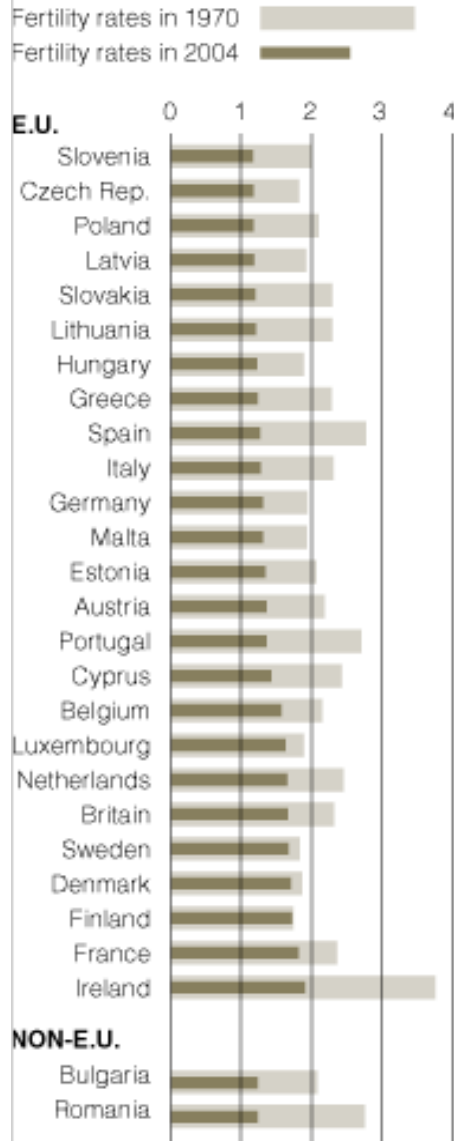
- From 1-billion in 1776
- To 9-billion by 2050



Al Gore: An Inconvenient Truth
2006 / 1:35

Baby Drought

Across the European Union, fertility rates have dropped well below the level that maintains population: 2.1 children per woman.



Declining Birthrates in Europe

- Across the EU, birthrates have dropped well below the 2.1 mark that maintains a population.
- Immigration from non-European countries would not fill the gap even if Europe's relatively homogenous countries were willing to embrace millions of foreign newcomers.



A one-child family in Prague

New York Times
9/4/06

3D Scatter Plot of Population Trends



Hans Rosling, Professor of Global Health
TED 2006 / 2:50

Poll: How immigrants are viewed

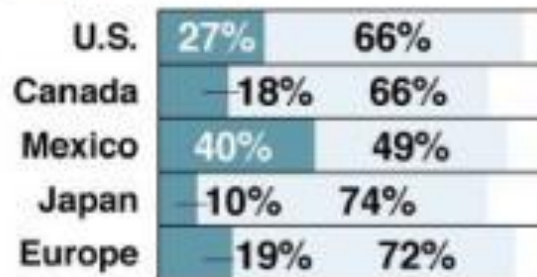
People living in the United States and other countries see immigrants as valued workers, but views on their overall influence differ, AP polls found.

People in some of the world's leading industrial nations say immigrants mostly take jobs that citizens of their own countries do not want, yet they still say immigrants are a bad overall influence, Associated Press polls found.

(AP Graphic)

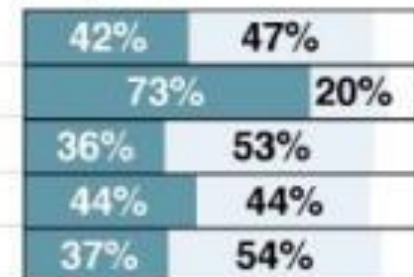
1. Do you think immigrants tend to take jobs away from your country's citizens, or do they take jobs that people in your country do not want?

Take away jobs
Take jobs people don't want



2. What influence do you think immigrants are having on the way things are going in your country?

Very good/somewhat good
Very bad/somewhat bad



About this poll: About 1,000 residents of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain and the United States interviewed from May 7-17; plus or minus 3 percentage points of margin of error for each country. "Not sure" response is not included in figures.

Farmworker

“The grower would turn us in unless we gave back the blanket ... sterilized.”



Working
2:25

Immigrants in America



America! / 2:20
West Side Story / 1961

Slave Trade in Sudan? Or a scam?

CBS 60-Minutes Report (5/2002)

- “In Sudan, American John Eibner has become an international celebrity by buying back slaves, using millions of dollars donated by thousands of people. But his good deeds may be making matters worse.”



- Eibner estimates he has freed some 60,000 slaves with the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army.

- “SPLA handlers round up children in the village and escort them over by the tree. Instant slaves ... village kids that were just playing around.”

[60 Minutes Report](#)

Stopping Slavery

- “Forced to work under physical or mental threat, and where the owner or employer controls the person completely -- where a person is bought or sold.”
- 27 million people or more are enslaved today (15 million US slaves over 150 year history).
- Whether providing labor for the sex trade or the carpet industry, “You want people you can capture easily and conceal easily ... Child slaves are very, very cheap, and they are disposable.”

- Kevin Bales



This Indian girl earns about 86 cents for every 1,000 bricks she carries.

[NY Times Article](#)

Brick Hauler in Bangladesh



Children Laborers

- ~150,000 children 16 years or younger work on US farms, picking fruit and vegetables.
- Often work 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week, for \$2.50 / hour.
- Fair Labor Standards Act sets more lenient standards for children doing farm work seen as “wholesome and family-oriented.”
- Only 46 out of 1.9 million farms cited for violations.



Factory Worker

“In 40
seconds
you have to
take the
wet felt out
of the filter
... put the
wet piece
on the dry
dye, push
this button.”



Working
2:00

Executive

“I don’t know
of any
situation in
the
corporate
world
where an
executive
is secure
in his job.”



Working
2:00

Health Care

- 29-million HIV infected people in Africa
- Increasing threat to Asia and Eastern Europe
- Economic impact on labor market, social services and health care costs

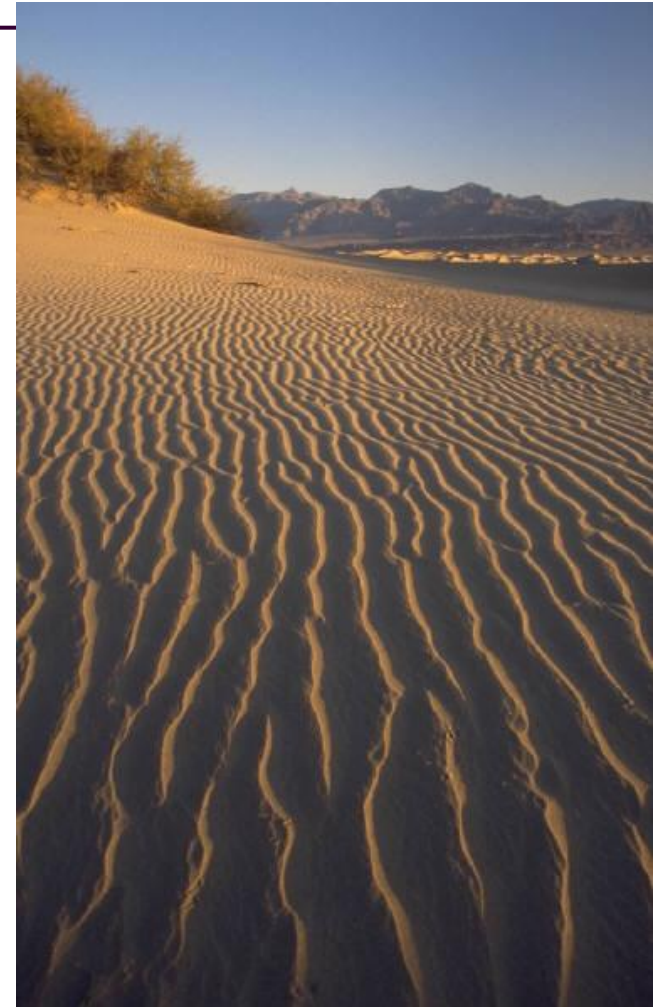


AIDS Economic & Human Toll

New York Times

- AIDS will claim an additional 65 million lives by 2020.
- Of the 40 million H.I.V.-infected people, only 700,000, or 1.75 percent, were receiving drugs at the end of 2001.
- 33+% of adults HIV affected in Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe.
- \$9 billion needed annually to combat the epidemic.
- “If clean water could cure AIDS, one-third of the world’s people could still not afford it.”

– WHO doctor, Epping p. 177



[Article](#)

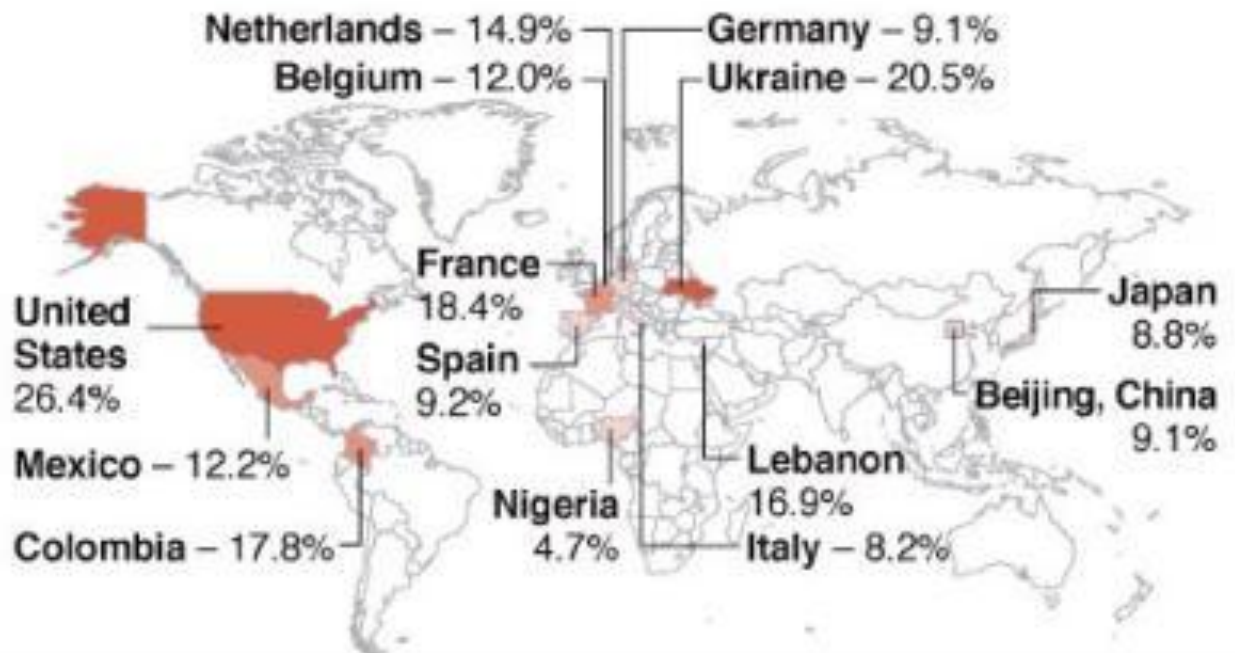
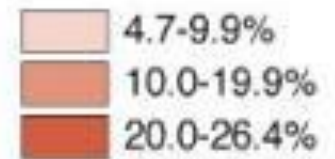
Mental illnesses including anxiety disorders and depression are common and under-treated in many developed and developing countries, with the highest rate found in the United States, according to a study of 14 countries.
(AP Graphic)

Mental disorders span the globe

According to surveys of 14 countries, the United States has the highest rate of mental illness.

Prevalence of mental disorders

(Anxiety, mood disorders, impulse-control, and substance abuse/dependence)



SOURCE: World Health Organization

AP

Democratic Reforms



Mali



- Mali (90% Muslim) has avoided cross-generational conflicts and factions after upheavals and revolutions by turning the winners and losers into 'cousins.'
- Mali has an ancient cultural taboo against violence between related tribes & castes.



Economic Drivers of Social Justice



(TO/FILE)



No Justice, No Peace!

- Race riots
- Anti-globalization protests
- Strikes
- Anti-war demonstrations
- Vandalism
- Social discord



Education v. Incarceration

- Head Start programs proven cost-effective in early childhood development and poverty reduction.
- Incarceration costs \$20,000 per inmate per year.



War

- Redistribution of wealth
- Politically acceptable
- Socially unifying
- Technologically rich
- Opportunity costs



The Economics of Destruction



The Fifth Element / 1997

2:30

“When I Despair ...” – Gandhi



Columbia Pictures – 1982

1:00

