

# 2024-01-18 Th: Spring 2024: Econ 115 :: II. Pre-Modern Societies: Agrarian-Age Society: -4000 to 1500

## Last Lecture Lessons:

1. 1870 as the beginning of the long 20<sup>th</sup> century—as the hinge of history.
2. Globalization, and full industrialization—Robert Gordon calls it the “2<sup>nd</sup> Industrial Revolution”
3. Creation of industrial research lab, full globalization, and modern corporation all happen around 1870.
4. Population growth—very slow before 1600, more rapid and then a post-1870 population coming to an end
5. Realm of necessity and the realm of freedom—escape from the first
6. Produce more—but in the modern world control over scarce resources becomes more of a key to relative wealth and power than it had been before...

## This Lecture:

1. Looking at the globe from the discovery of agriculture to 1500 (and, in much of the world, much later)
2. Hinge of history in 1870
3. Transition from 1500 to 1870
4. Slow growth of technology before 1500: Figure 6% per century
5. Malthusian demographic pressures induce dire poverty for the masses
6. Only way to get *enough* for yourself and your family is to join the élite domination-and-exploitation by force-and-fraud gang
7. Yet civilizational accomplishments were mighty—and intra-élite politics, sociology, and economics very interesting
8. Not static: efflorescences and dark ages
9. But they do not lead to any form of escape

# READING: Crone: Pre-Industrial Societies

- **Crone, Patricia.** 2014 [1989]. *Pre-Industrial Societies: Anatomy of the Pre-Modern World*. Oneworld Publications. <[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL34028800M/Pre-Industrial\\_Societies](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL34028800M/Pre-Industrial_Societies)>, pp. 1-57:
  1. How did the central role of and reliance on agriculture in the agrarian age shape social, economic, and political structures?
  2. What were the prospects for development in the context of agrarian-age limitations on market economies in pre-industrial societies?
  3. How were pre-industrial societies stratified? What roles did peasants, the ruling elite, and the bourgeoisie play within this social structure?
  4. How did the division of labor and specialization evolve in pre-industrial societies? What were the implications for social organization and economic activity?
  5. How did the emergence of state structures affect power dynamics and social organization?
  6. How did the level of material culture and the nature of intellectual pursuits reflect the broader societal structure?

# 2024-01-18 Th: Spring 2024: Econ 115 :: II. Pre-Modern Societies: Agrarian-Age Society: -4000 to 1500

## Last Lecture Lessons: My Take:

1. Hinge of history in 1870
2. Before technological progress abysmally slow—0.06%/year or less before 1500, rising to 0.4% per year worldwide in the years before 1870
3. After 1870—the possibility, and soon certainty of baking a sufficiently large economic pie for everyone to have *enough*, at least by the standards of all previous centuries
4. But slicing and tasting the pie—equitably distributing it, and utilizing it to live wisely and well, so that people feel safe and secure, and are healthy and happy—continue to pretty much completely flummox us
5. Before 1870, Malthusian demographic pressures induce dire poverty for the masses: hence to get *enough* for yourself and your family, you had to find a way to join the élite domination-and-exploitation by force-and-fraud gang
6. After 1870, humanity's technological competence doubles every generation
7. After 1870, Schumpeterian creative destruction
8. After 1870, von Hayek vs. Polanyi as we frantically try to rewrite society's socio-politico-economic software on the fly to run on the rapidly changing technological mode-of-production base
9. Pre-literate, ancient, classical, asiatic, feudal, commercial-gunpower, steampower, applied-science, mass-production, global value-chain, and now attention-algorithmic info-biotech ages

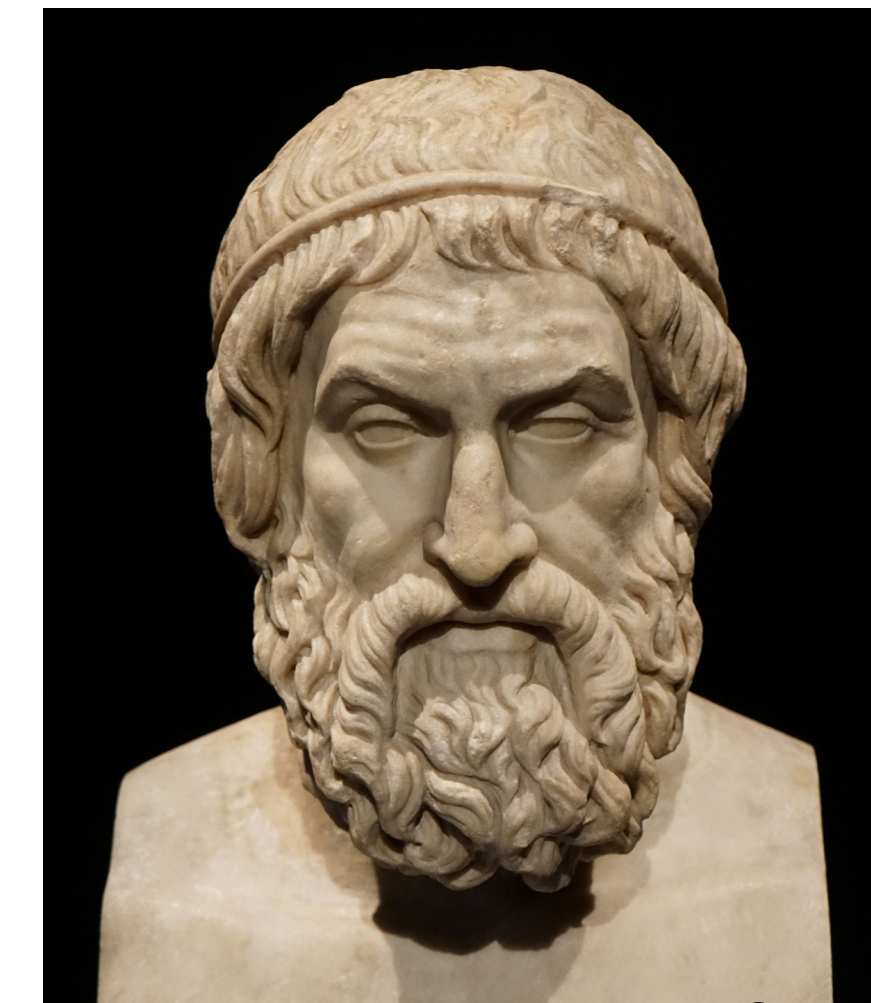
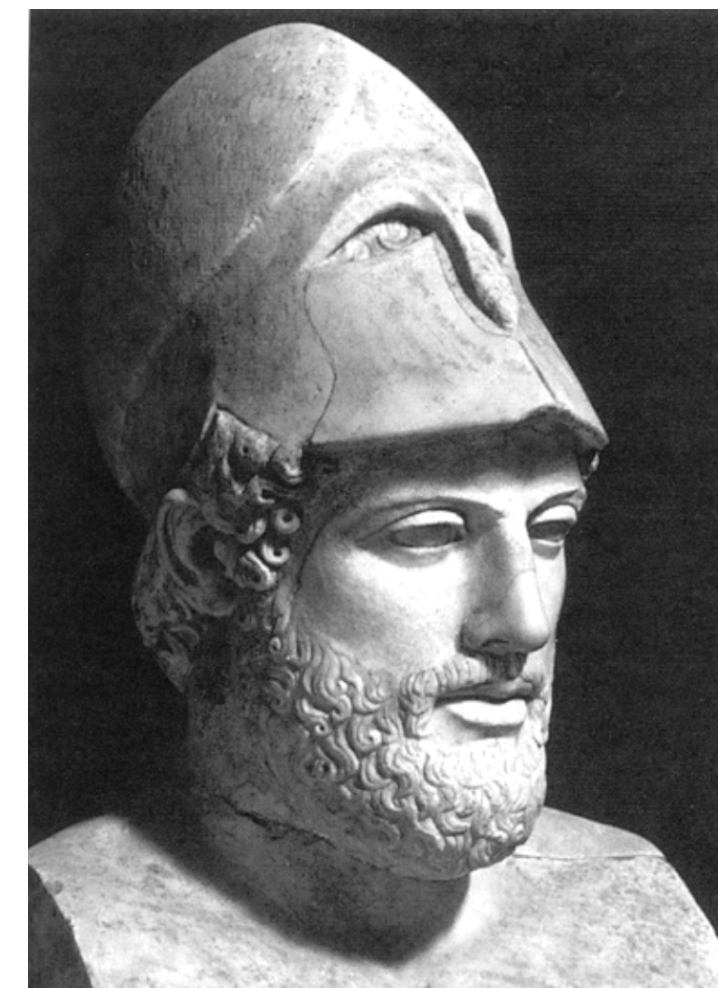
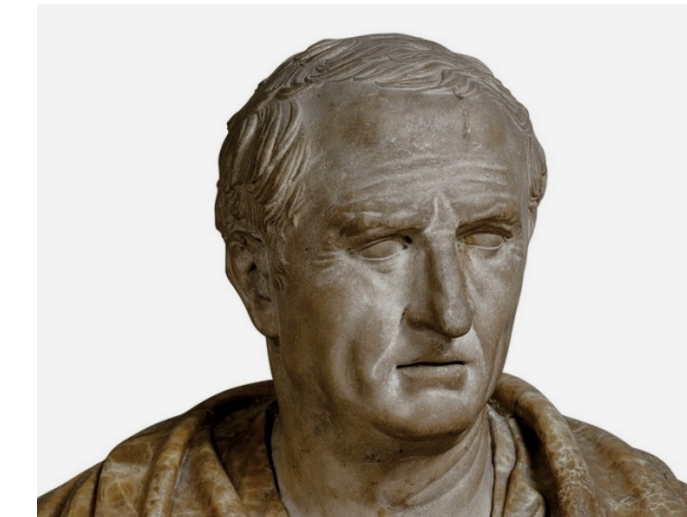
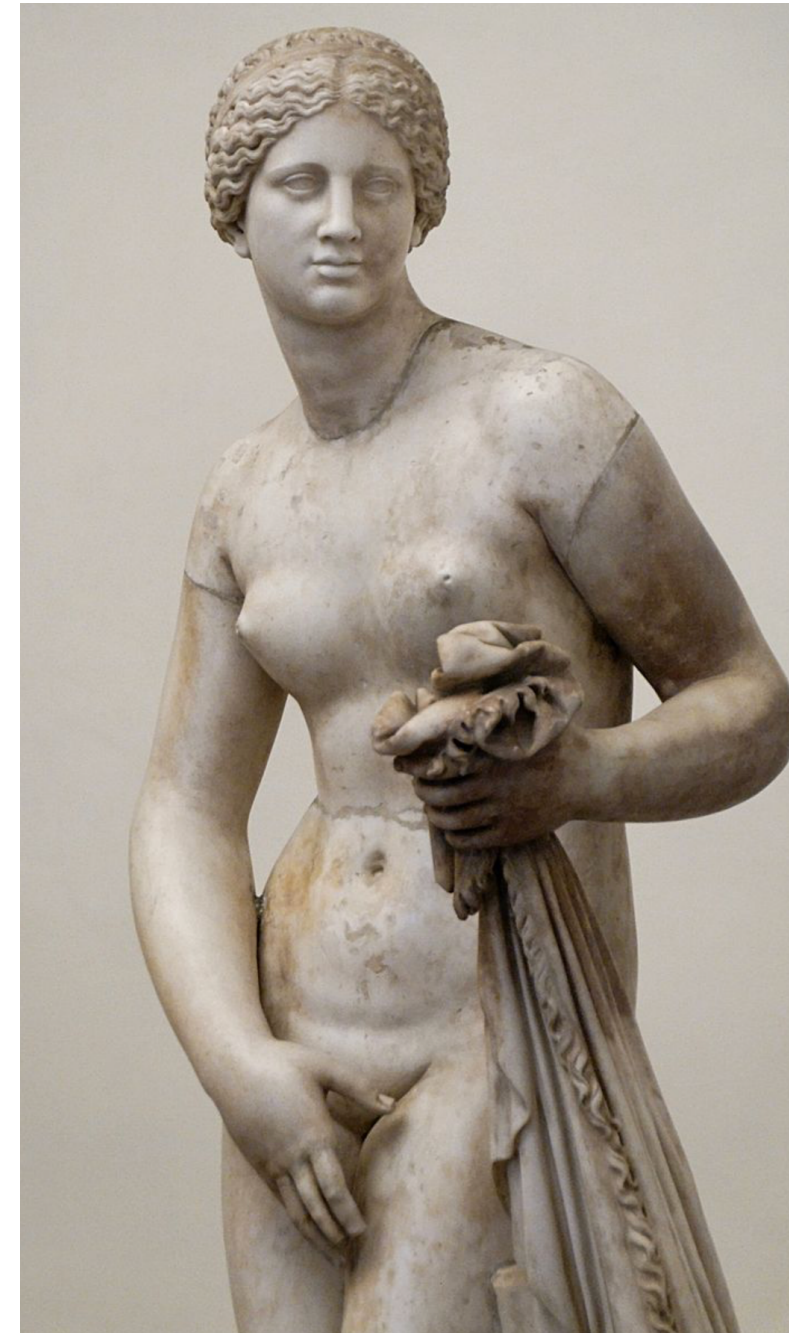
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# Agrarian-Age Paradox: In Everything Except Economic Growth, They Were Like Us

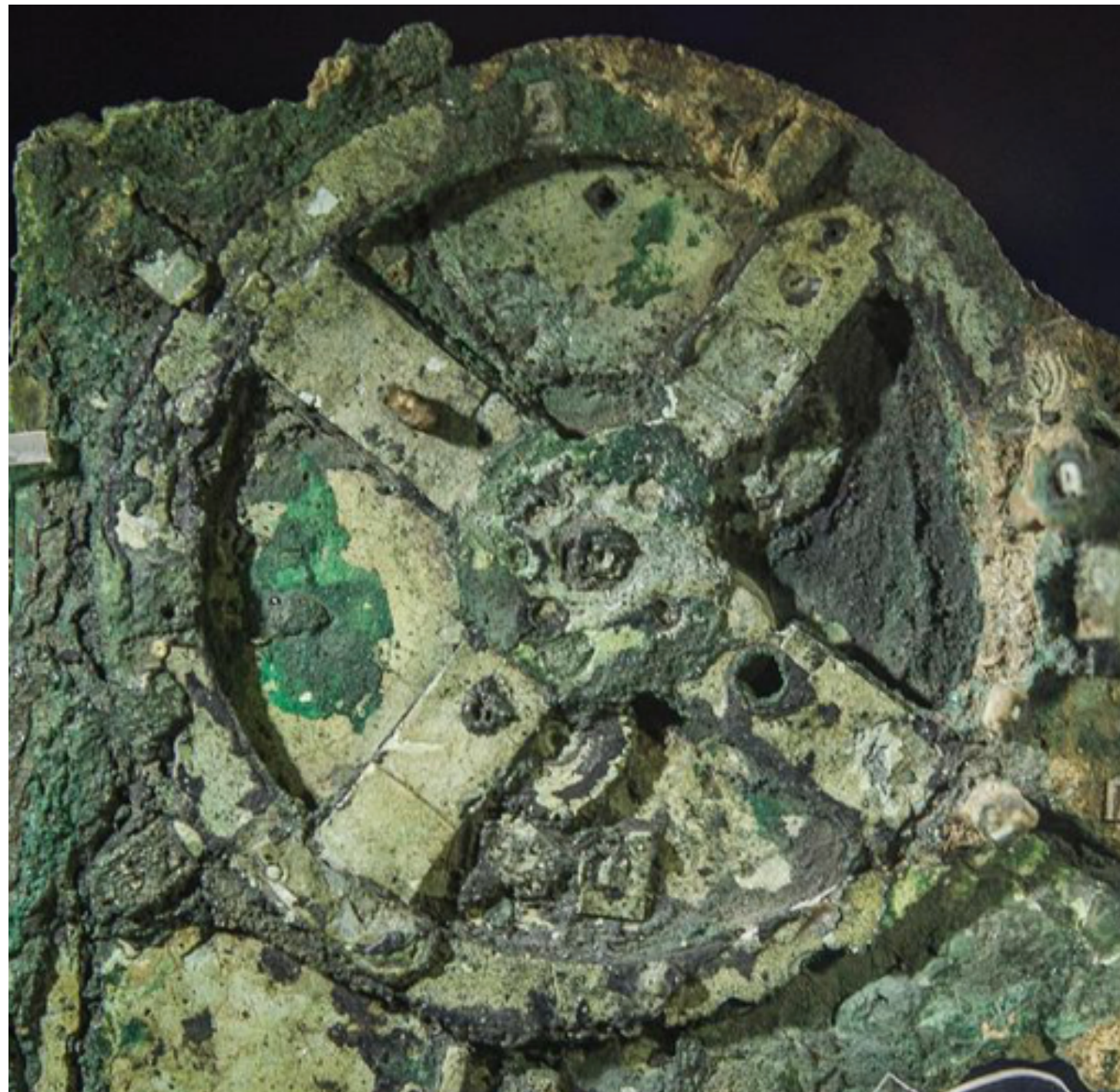
Date	Ideas Growth Rate $h$	Ideas Stock Level $H$	Real Income/ Capita $y$	Popula- tion $P$ (millions)	Total Income $Y$ (billions)
-73000				0.01	
-68000		0.0082	\$1,200	0.1	\$0.12
-48000	0.002%	0.011	\$1,200	0.2	\$0.24
-30000	0.003%	0.018	\$1,200	0.5	\$1
-8000	0.005%	0.057	\$1,200	5	\$6
-6000	0.003%	0.061	\$900	10	\$9
-4000	0.007%	0.070	\$900	13.23	\$12
-3000	0.007%	0.074	\$900	15	\$14
-1500	0.030%	0.117	\$900	37	\$33
-1000	0.030%	0.136	\$900	50	\$45
-400	0.060%	0.195	\$900	103	\$93
150	0.060%	0.272	\$900	200	\$180
800	0.007%	0.285	\$900	220	\$198
1000	0.078%	0.333	\$900	300	\$270
1500	0.062%	0.467	\$1,000	480	\$480
1770	0.146%	0.694	\$1,100	875	\$963
1870	0.365%	1.000	\$1,300	1300	\$1,690
1930	1.793%	3.000	\$3,000	2100	\$6,300
1975	2.256%	9.000	\$6,000	4000	\$24,000
2020	2.282%	27.000	\$12,000	7800	\$93,600
2077	1.939%	81.000	\$33,173	9311	\$308,857
2100	1.939%	127.381	\$50,000	10000	\$500,000
2200	2.000%	941.227	\$369.453	10000	\$3.694.528



# They Even Appear “Like Us” in Technological Accomplishments: The Anti-Kythera Mechanism

## What is this?

- Built between -150 and -70. Rhodes 13” x 7” x 4” wooden box. Gears—largest 5” in diameter
- Wikipedia: “37 gear wheels enabling it to follow the movements of the Moon and the Sun through the zodiac, to predict eclipses and even to model the irregular orbit of the Moon, where the Moon's velocity is higher in its perigee than in its apogee. This motion was studied in the 2nd century BC by astronomer Hipparchus of Rhodes, and it is speculated that he may have been consulted in the machine's construction. The knowledge of this technology was lost at some point in antiquity. Similar technological works later appeared in the medieval Byzantine and Islamic worlds, but works with similar complexity did not appear again until the development of mechanical astronomical clocks in Europe in the fourteenth century...”

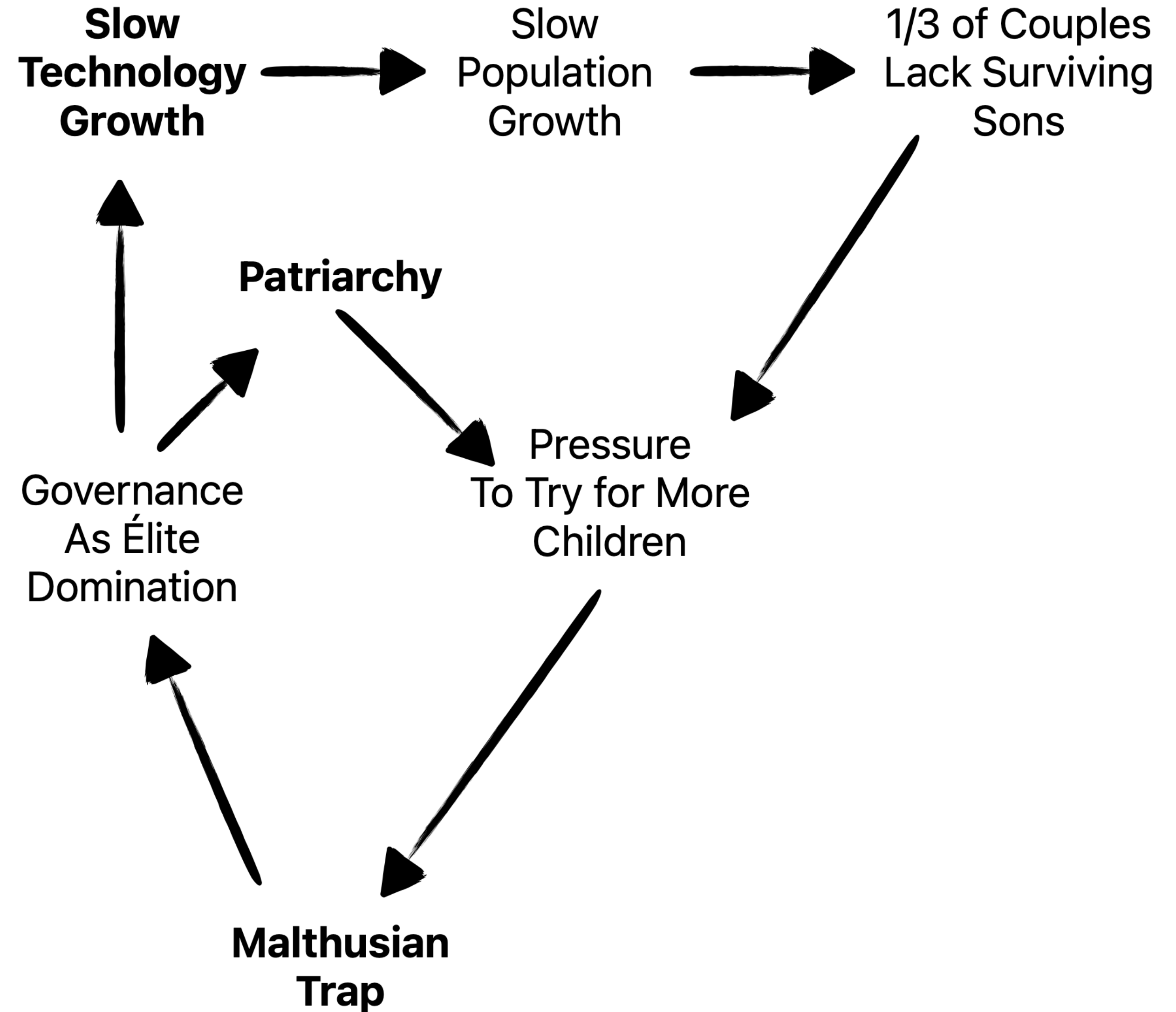


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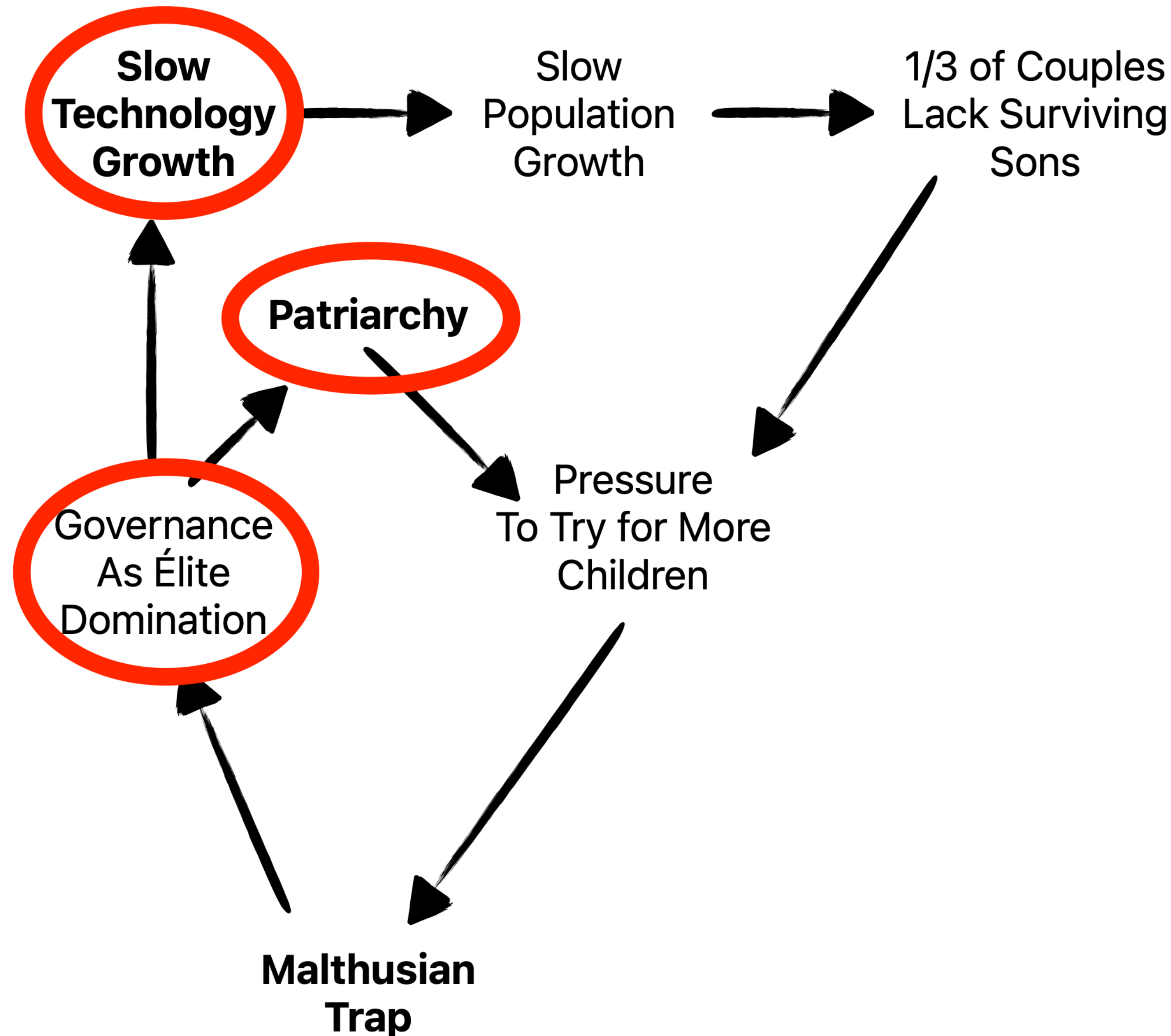
- Brian Resnick:
  - “A main gear would move to represent the calendar year, and would, in turn, move many separate smaller gears to represent the motions of the planets, sun, and moon. So you could set the main gear to the calendar date and get approximations for where those celestial objects would be in the sky on that date....
  - You, as a user, could input a few simple variables and it would yield a flurry of complicated mathematical calculations.... All the user had to do was enter the main date on one gear, and through a series of subsequent gear turns, the mechanism could calculate things like the angle of the sun crossing the sky. (For some reference, mechanical calculators—which used gear ratios to add and subtract—didn’t arrive in Europe until the 1600s)...”
- The Antikythera Mechanism (7:50) <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpLcnAIpVRA>>
- The Antikythera Mechanism (1:48:50) <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWVA6TeUKYU>>

# The Malthusian Trap: The Circle of Causation

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# Points of Vulnerability?



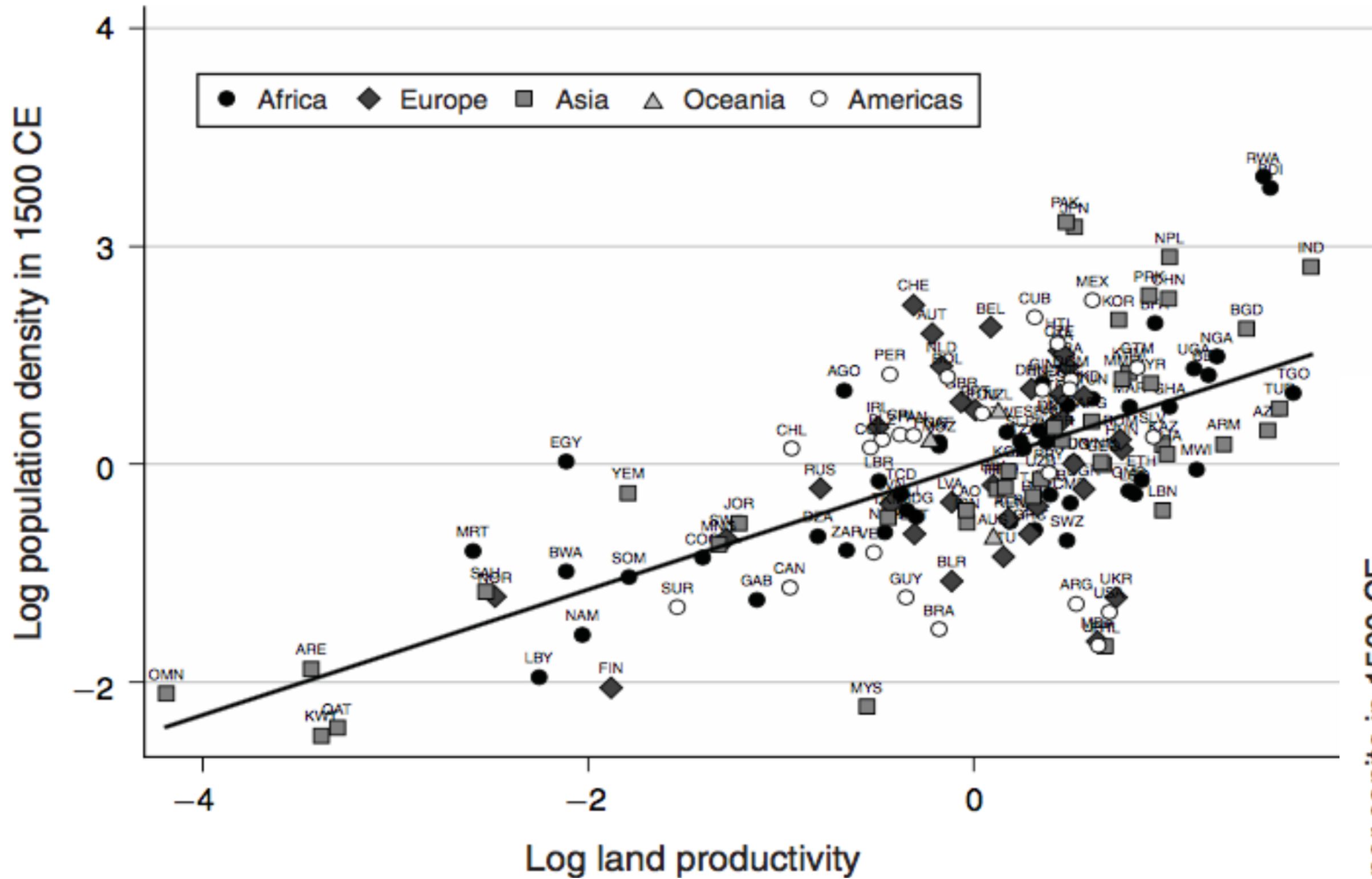
## How to Break the Malthusian Trap?

- Could governance be something other than élite domination?
  - Then those who directed society's energies could focus on something else than taking and holding *enough* for themselves
- Could patriarchy lose its hold?
  - A clan-based daughter-friendly society would be one in which the pressure to try to secure a surviving sone would be greatly diminished
- Could technological growth be rapid?
  - Then the historical path to wealth and then the demographic transition could be opened up

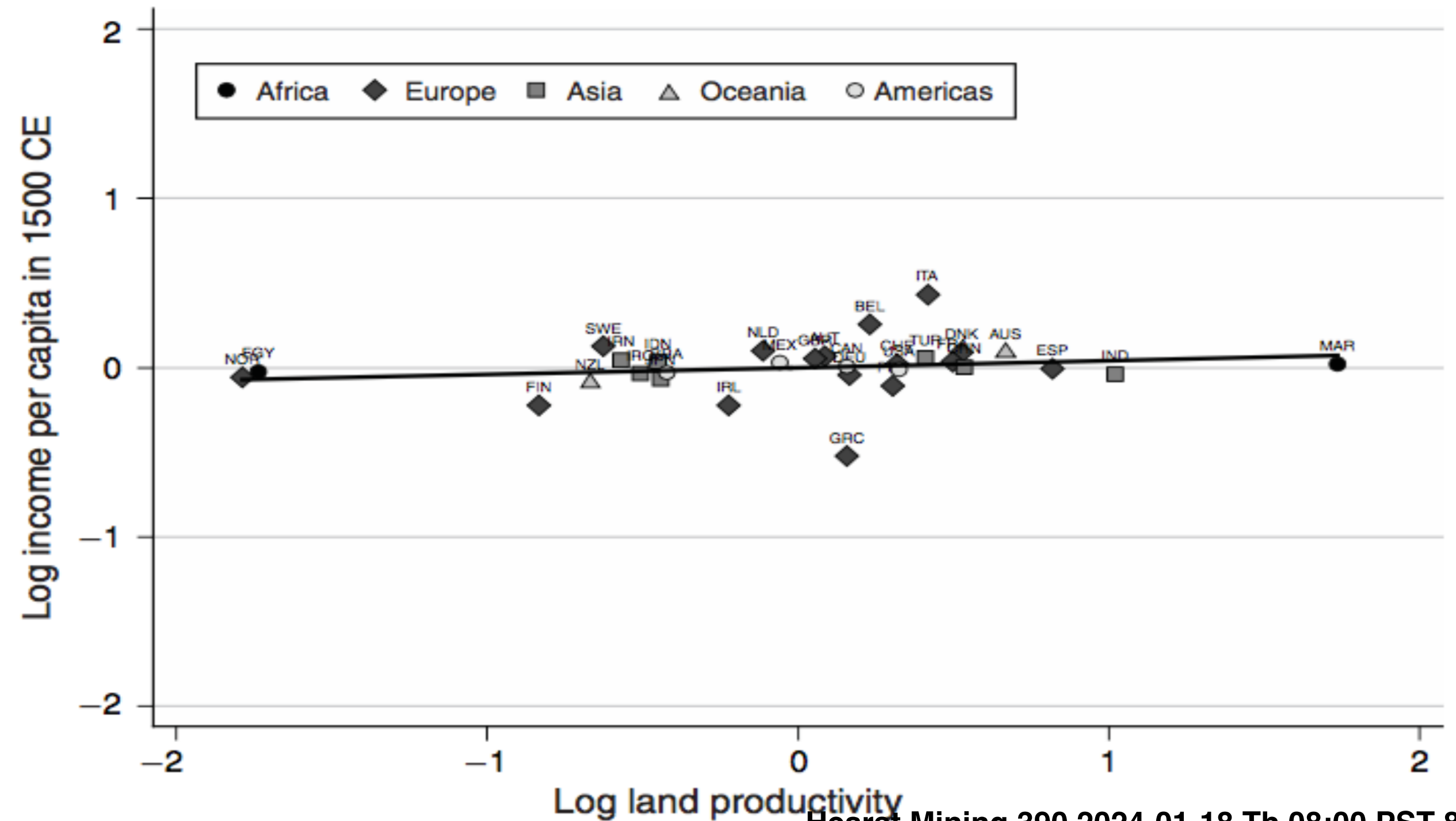


# Character of Malthusian Equilibrium

Panel B. The Partial Effect of Land Productivity on Population Density in 1500 CE



Panel B. The Partial Effect of Land Productivity on Income per Capita in 1500 CE



# After 1870 We Do Get Miracles

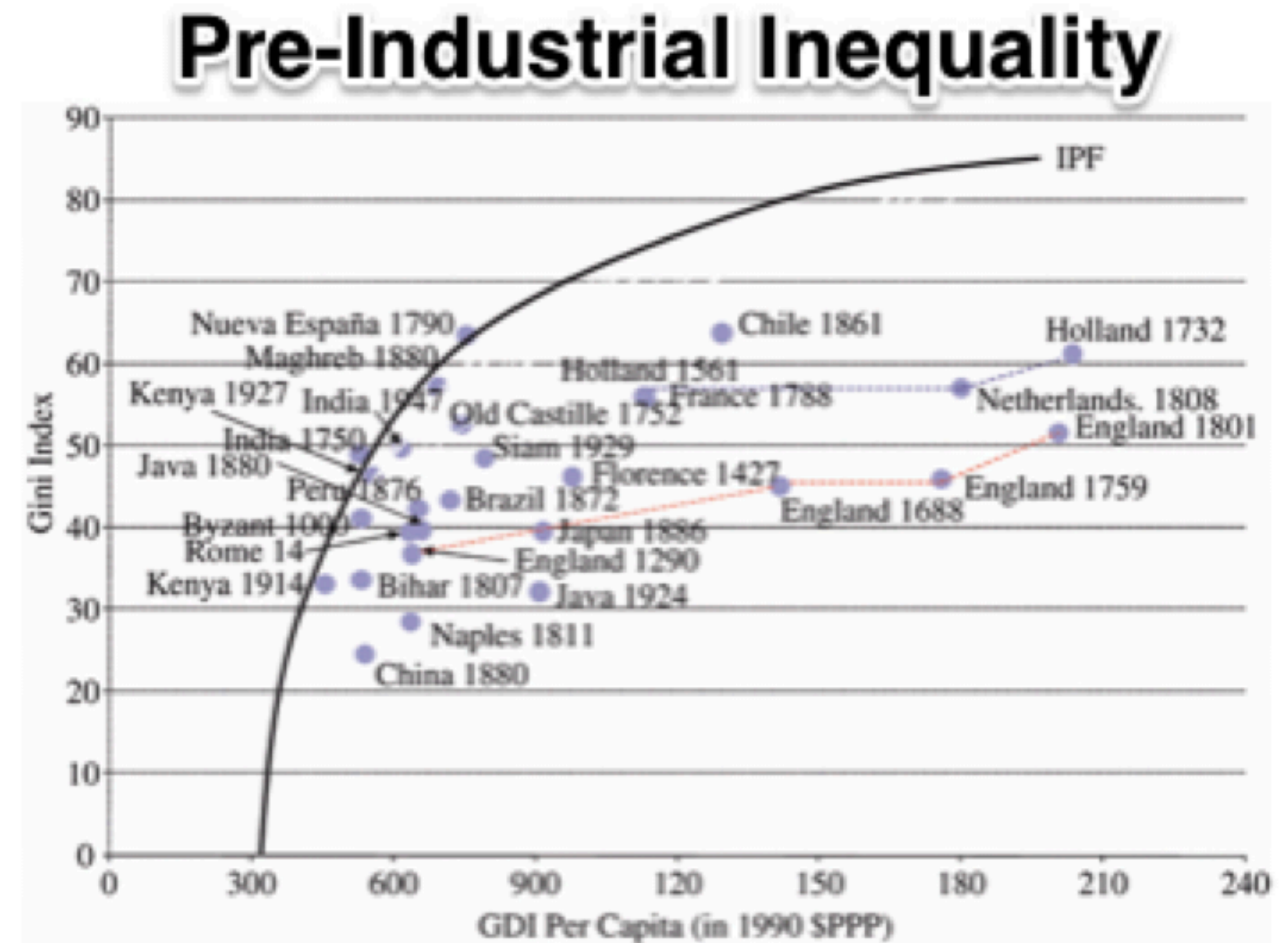
## Weaving shuttles and harps without hands:

- We get the autonomous robotic blacksmithing statues of master-craftsman Daedalus—and more, a thousand-fold
- We get food-production food-processing, and food-distribution technology vastly outstripping the self-propelled catering carts of Hephaestus the smith-god—and more, a thousand-fold
- Yet inequality and its maintenance remained important
- Not just capitalist inequality produced by the unequal distribution of property—status-group inequality
- Sociological democracy also important
- The heritage of the religions of the Book, perhaps?



# Domination & Plutocracy

- Ever since the invention of agriculture
- Becoming a trained-thug-with-a-spear
- The exploitative are hard targets
- The productive are soft targets
- Agrarian-Age as unequal as it could be
- No Commercial-Age reduction in inequality
- On the other hand, no big increase
- And domination mattered less—perhaps



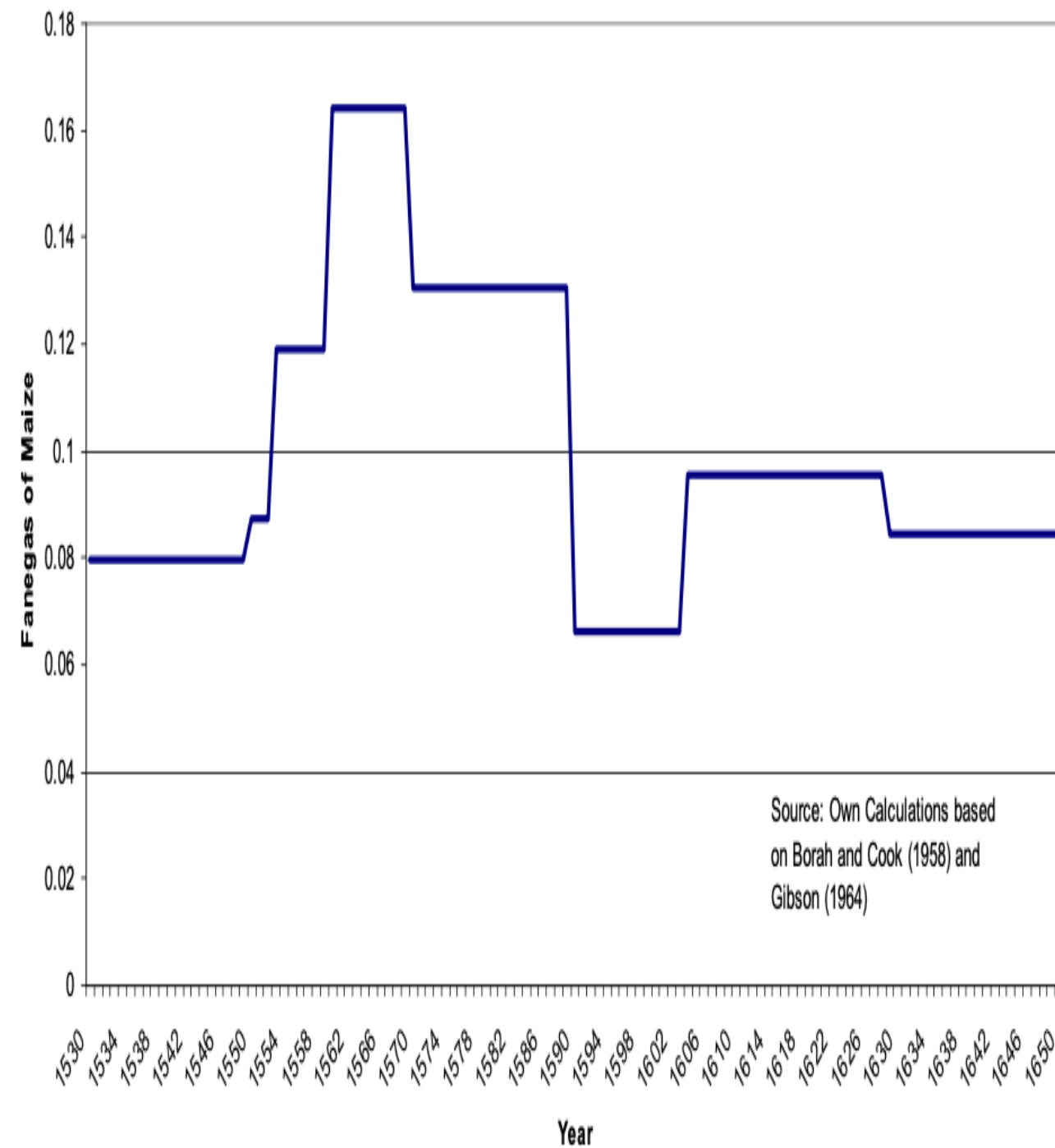
Branko Milanovic, Peter Lindert, and Jeffrey Williamson (2010): Pre-Industrial Inequality <<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-0297.2010.02403.x/full>>

# After the Conquest of Mexico: Unskilled & Textile Workers

the Repartimiento—a system of central labor allocation:

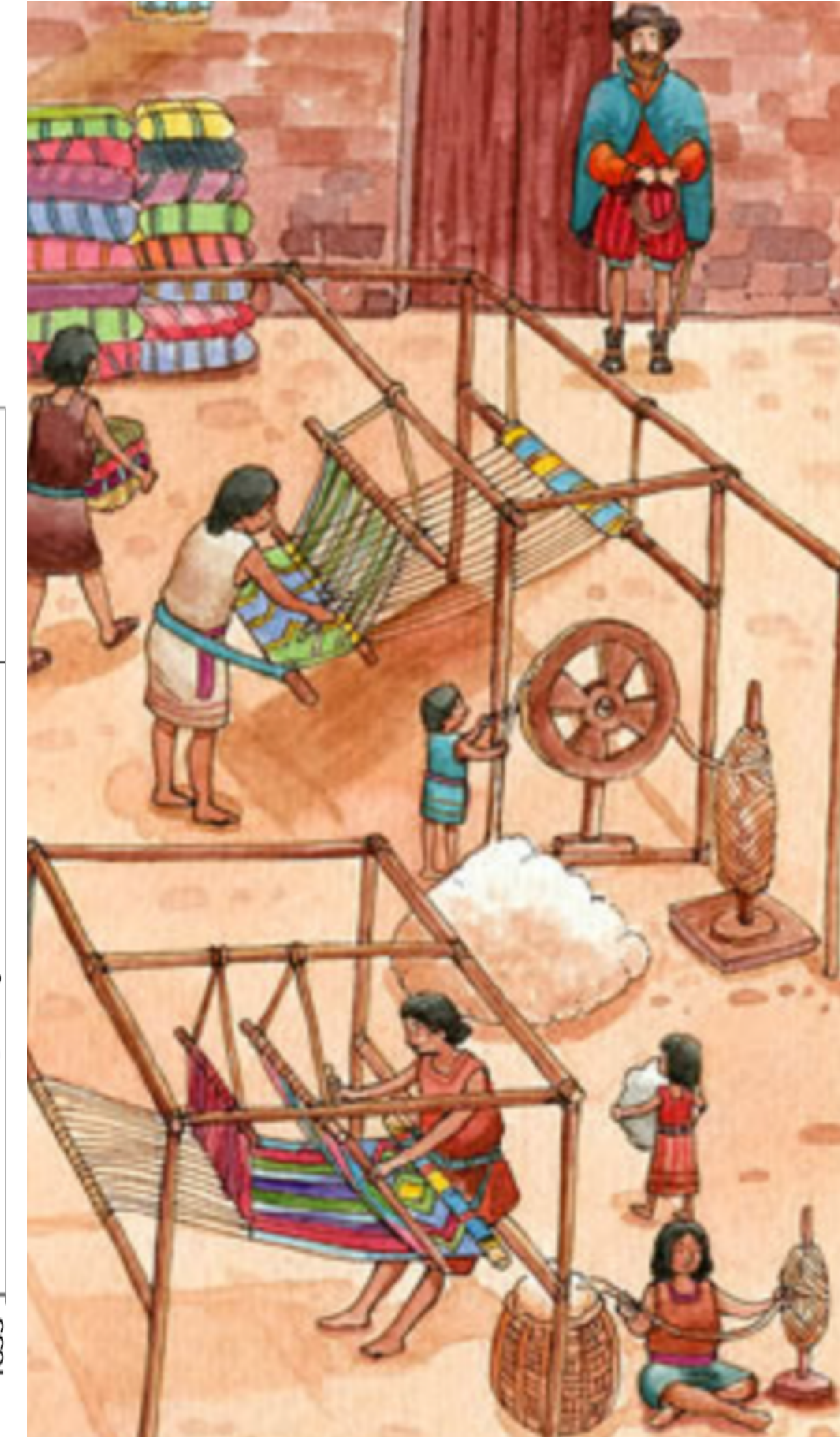
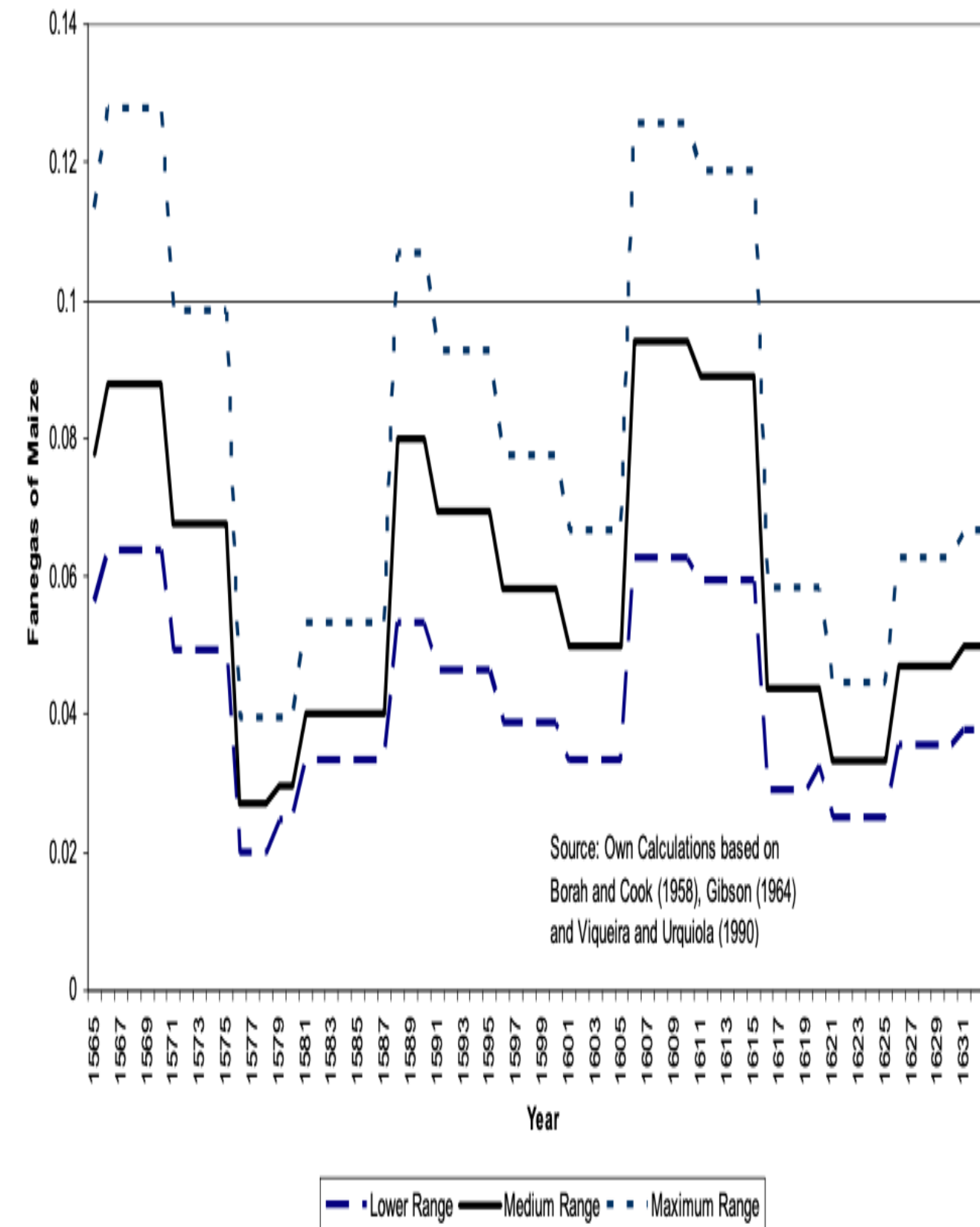
- Spaniards who wanted labor would petition the Viceroy
- He would allocate Amerindian workers
- He would determine the nominal wage they would be paid.
- Coercion to repress wages
- Centralization kept the landlords' cartel intact.
- (Meanwhile in South America, a massive forced labor system called the *mita*)

Average Real Daily Wages for Unskilled Workers



Source: Acemoglu, Daron, Pablo Querubín and James A. Robinson (2008) "Supply and Demand: Population Decline and Real Wages in Mexico, 1530-1650," Work in Progress.

Average Real Daily Wages in Obrajes



# Agrarian-Age Domination: Stepping Back: Farmers Cannot Run from Thugs

- Pre-industrial societies were about as unequal as they could have been
- Modern societies are not notably more (or less) unequal than pre-industrial ones

## Questions:

- How much social pressure is required to push people down close to the limits of subsistence—as they were in pre-industrial civilizations?
- How durable were social roles and social classes? How much mobility was there?
- How to explain the absence of a clear trend over time in at least these measures of inequality?
- And how much are these numbers simply built on sand? Or mere cloud castles?

# The Black Death, 1346-8

## Killed off 1/3 of Europe:

- After the population collapse, real wages eventually increased.
- “Eventually”.
- The government of Edward III tried to stop wages from rising by passing the Statute of Labourers:
  - “Because a great part of the people and especially of the, workmen and servants has now died in that pestilence, some, seeing the straits of the masters and the scarcity of servants, are not willing to serve unless they receive excessive wages ... We, considering the grave inconveniences which might come from the lack especially of ploughmen and such labourers, have ... seen fit to ordain: that every man and woman of our kingdom of England ... shall be bound to serve him who has seen fit so to

seek after him; and he shall take only the wages liveries, meed or salary which, in the places where he sought to serve, were accustomed to be paid in the twentieth year of our reign of England, or the five or six common years next preceding ...”

- “And if a reaper or mower, or other workman or servant, of whatever standing or condition he be, who is retained in the service of any one, do depart from the said service before the end of the term agreed, without permission or reasonable cause, he shall undergo the penalty of imprisonment, and let no one ... moreover, pay or permit to be paid to any one more wages, livery, meed or salary than was customary as has been said...”
- They were only partially able to enforce this, however, and after the Peasants Revolt of 1381, they mostly gave up.

# William the Conqueror

## It's complicated!

- Emma, great-aunt of Guillaume (William: "Steadfast Guardian") "the Conqueror", Duke of Normandy, was the mother of Edward "the Confessor", King of England 1042-1066.
- Edward had grown up in Normandy, where the Normans had protected him from the Danes.
- In 1042 King Harthacnut of Denmark and England died suddenly at the wedding of Thain Tovi the proud and Gytha daughter of Osgood.
- By treaty, Magnus "the Good" was his successor in Denmark.
- Earls Godwin of Wessex, Leofric of the Mark, and Siward of Northumbria decided to support Edward instead of Magnus.
- Edward's older brother Alfred the Ætheling had been captured and blinded by Godwin.
- Then "[Alfred] was looked after by the monks [of Ely], who were fond of him, but soon after he died."
- Godwin's son Harold got himself elected King after Edward's death.
- William was not pleased...



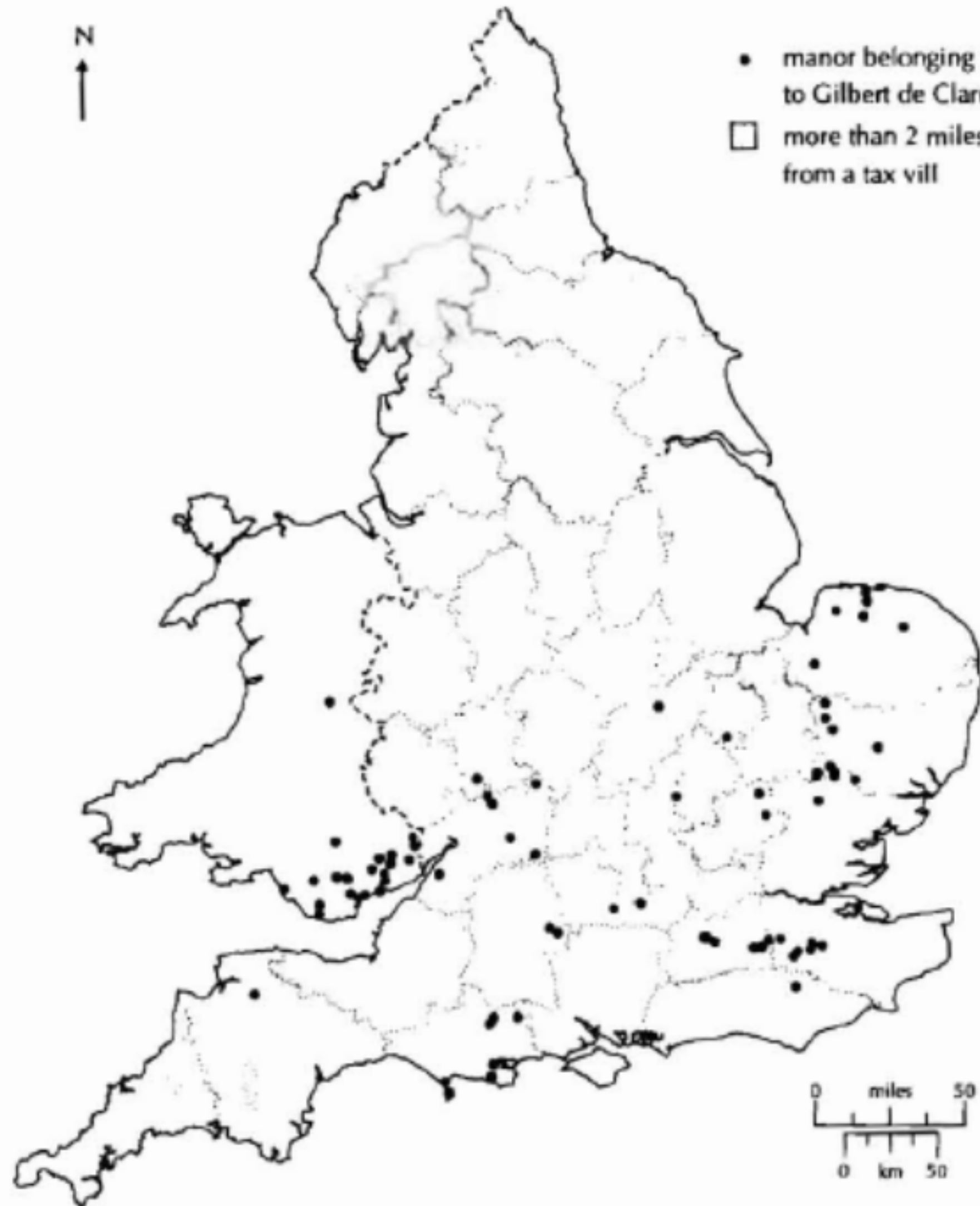
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# The de Clare Family



What kept English lords from being able to keep a lid on wages post-1348?

- What was it that allowed the Spanish settlers in Mexico to keep wages so low, when in England after the Black Death the state had been incapable of enforcing the Statute of Laborers and stopping wages from rising?
- The economic historian Bruce Campbell has proposed that this may have been because of the differential organization of landholdings in Britain, which increased competition between landowners for workers after the Black Death.
- After invading England, William the Conqueror rewarded his army by providing them with feudal landholdings.
- In an effort to prevent these nobles from becoming powerful regional warlords who could challenge the king's power, each noble received landholdings scattered across the country
- (The exception was along the Scottish and Welsh borders), where nobles were given large plots for defensive purposes
- This division of landholdings meant that in a given region, there were many landholders in close proximity.
- This created intense competitive pressures for labor, particularly in the wake of the Black Death
- This contrasts to Mexico, where conquistadors were granted vast contiguous tracks of land called encomiendas



(a) Estate of Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, 1314.

# Inclusion: Gender & Ethnicity

## Inequality & domination as standard procedure for humanity:

- A great deal of inequality in human societies is purely economic inequality: work, income, spending, and prices.
- But a great deal isn't. A great deal is simply things that:
  - you are not allowed to do, or
  - are expected and required to do,
  - by virtue of what we might as well call your status-group, your estate, your caste.
  - Minorities. Serfs. Slaves. Women.
  - A great deal of this fueled-by-status inequality is immutable (or nearly immutable), based on your individual characteristics:
- You had social power only if you were male:
  - Even if you were male, only if you were the right tribe, caste, lineage, & c.
  - That was how it was
  - That was how people expected it would always be
  - Unless and until humans obtained the fantasy technologies of the Golden Age.
- Aristotle:
  - “Chief workmen would not want servants, nor masters slaves [only in the fantasyland in which] every instrument could accomplish its own work, obeying or anticipating the will of others, like the [blacksmithing] statues of Daedalus, or the three-wheeled catering serving-carts of Hephaestus, which, says the poet: "of their own accord entered the assembly of the Gods"... the shuttle would weave and the plectrum touch the lyre without a hand to guide them...
- True in 340 BC. True in 1870
- That ought to have begun to change bigtime after 1870...



# The Song of Everlasting Sorrow

姊妹弟兄皆列土，  
可憐光彩生門戶。

All her sisters and brothers had royal demesnes granted.  
Imperial but pitiful glory on the Yang family was bestowed.

遂令天下父母心，  
不重生男重生女。

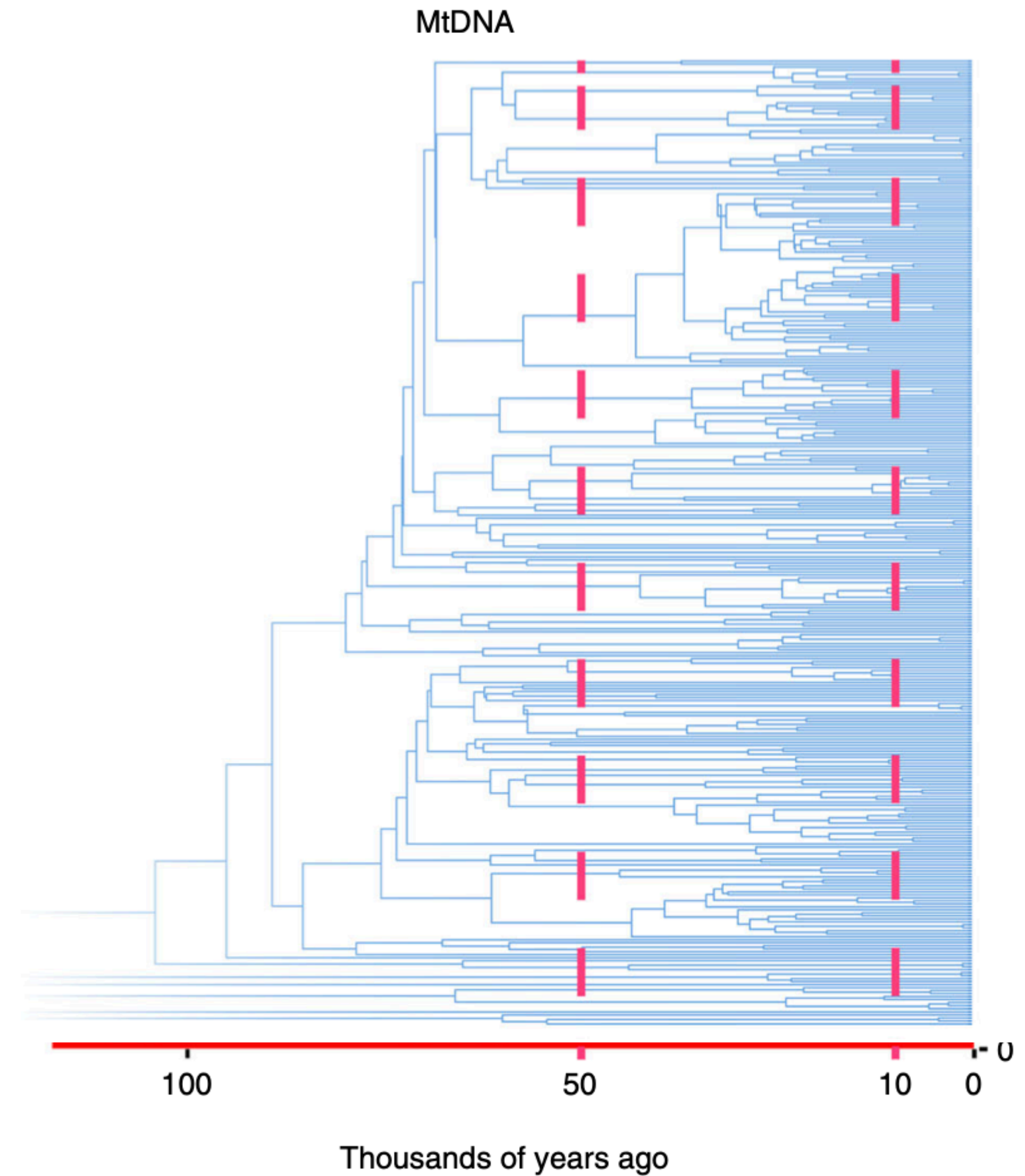
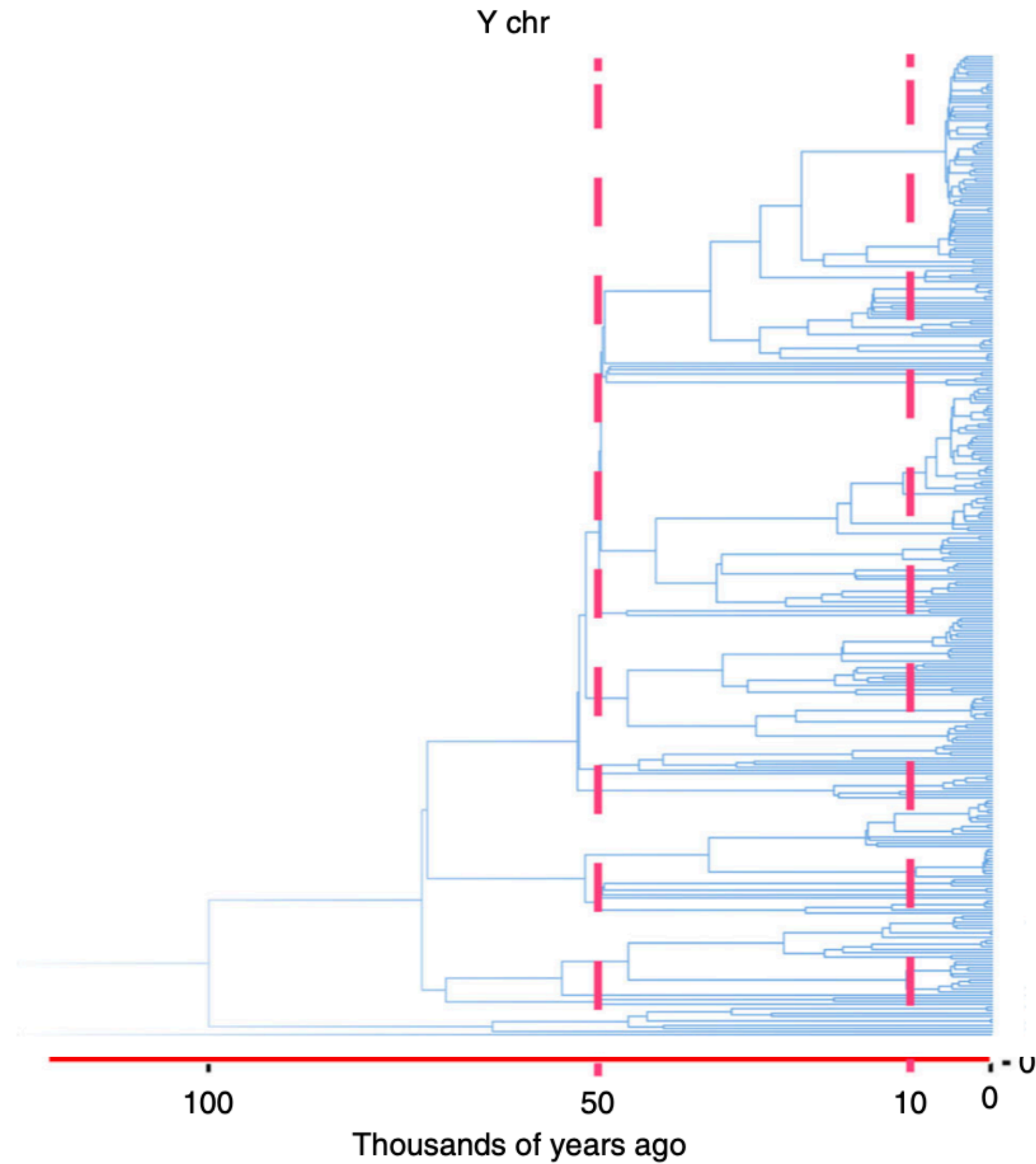
On the mindset of all parents her success was a strong influence.  
Baby girls instead of baby boys became the popular preference.

- Tang Dynasty: An-Shi Rebellion
- Bai Juyi
  - Yang Guifei, Emperor Xuanzong, An Lushan, and Yang Guozhong
- The love of the Emperor was so strong as to upset the natural order, and so:
  - Baby girls instead of boys became the popular preference...
  - “In heaven we vow to fly wing to wing.  
On earth we vow to tangle branch to branch  
Heaven will fade, earth will fade  
Our parting is everlasting sorrow.”



Lady Yang Guifei

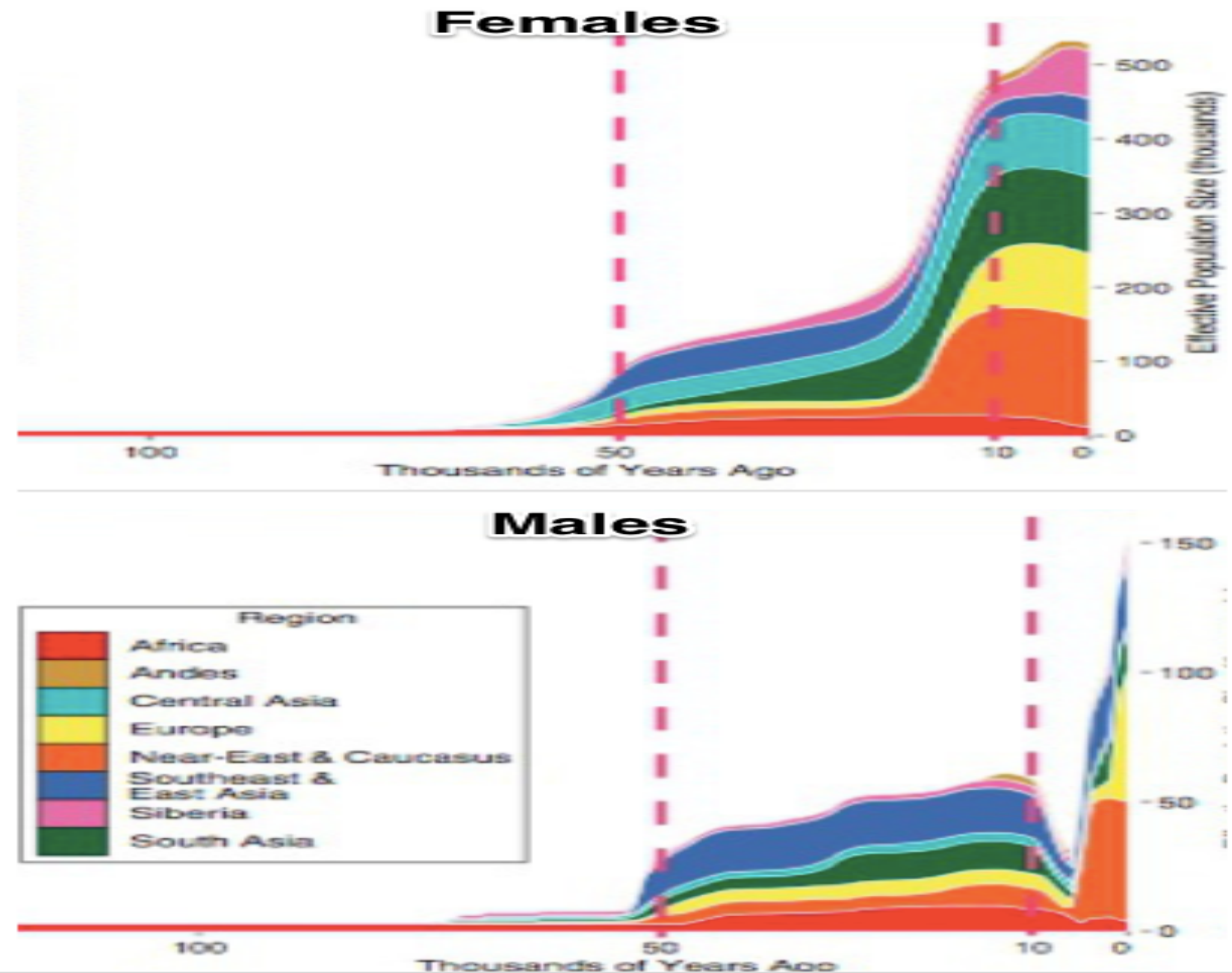
# Gender: Patriarchy: Genetic Divergence



# The Shadow of the Past

## High patriarchy—and men take advantage:

- Extinction of y-chromosome lineages
- But even afterwards: patriarchy
- Emancipation of women comes late: following the political strategies of franchise and rights extension, but happening a century or so later...
- Women rarely have legal personality...
- Childbed mortality: 1 in 7
- Eating for two: 20 years
- Employment: textiles, gardening, in-home production, other occupations with savable state



# Women's Place

## Deaths in childbed among the most cosseted and highest status women in the British isles:

- 16 generations from Henry IV to Victoria
- 5 queens or heiresses apparent dead in childbed: Charlotte (Victoria's generation), Catherine Parr, Jane Seymour, Elizabeth of York, Mary de Bohun
- At an average of two queens plus heiresses apparent per generation, this is a 16% childbed mortality rate
- 2% maternal mortality **per birth...**
- 1%? extra mortality **per child** from caring for sick children...



# Document: Abigail Smith Adams: Letter to John Adams

<https://tinyurl.com/dl20180226a>: Letter to John Adams 31 Mar-5 Apr 1776...

- Braintree March 31, 1776: I wish you would ever write me a Letter half as long as I write you; and tell me if you may:
  - Where your Fleet are gone?
  - What sort of Defence Virginia can make against our common Enemy?
  - Whether it is so situated as to make an able Defence?
  - Are not the Gentry Lords and the common people vassals?
  - Are they not like the uncivilized Natives Brittain represents us to be?
- I hope their Riffel Men who have shewen themselves very savage and even Blood thirsty; are not a specimen of the Generality of the people.

**Abigail Smith (20) married John Adams (30) in 1764:**

- No formal schooling...
- She ran his Braintree-Boston operation...
- Not just the inside-the-household part—pretty much the whole thing while he was being a High Politician...
- Not present at husband's presidential inauguration: caring for her dying mother instead...
- At 74 in 1818: “Do not grieve, my friend, my dearest friend. I am ready to go. And John, it will not be long...”



# Abigail Smith Adams: Eating for Two

## Married 1764: Children:

- Abigail ("Nabby") 1765–1813
- John Quincy Adams 1767–1848
- Grace Susanna ("Suky") 1768–70
- Charles 1770–1800
- Thomas Boylston Adams 1772–1832
- 1774 ?
- 1776 ?
- Elizabeth (stillborn) 1777
  
- Then they stopped, when she was 33...
- Eight pregnancies to have four survive beyond the age of ten...
  - This is low child mortality...
- Have a baby, lose a tooth...





# Abigail Smith

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## Virginians: Are these slavemasters true friends of liberty?

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  - Are they not like the uncivilized Natives Brittain represents us to be?
- I hope their Riffel Men who have shewen themselves very savage and even Blood thirsty; are not a specimen of the Generality of the people.
- I [illegible] am willing to allow the Colony great merrit for having produced a Washington but they have been shamefully duped by a Dunmore.
- I have sometimes been ready to think that the passion for Liberty cannot be Eaquelly Strong in the Breasts of those who have been accustomed to deprive their fellow Creatures of theirs. Of this I am certain that it is not founded upon that generous and christian principal of doing to others as we would that others should do unto us.



# Document: Abigail Smith Adams

Things to note about the letter as you read it:

1. Spelling...
2. Public concerns:
  - Suspicion of Virginia...
  - State of Boston after the occupation...
  - Power of the colonies to resist...
  - Soapmaking... saltpeter... gunpowder...
3. Private concerns:
  - Family security...
  - “Gorge the Eldest... Billy the youngest... Becky Peck... your brother’s youngest child lies bad with convulsion fits...”
  - Why don’t you write more, and at longer length?
4. Feminist concerns...



# Managing the Boston Operation

<https://tinyurl.com/dl20180226a>: Letter to John Adams 31 Mar-5 Apr 1776...

- Do not you want to see Boston? I am fearfull of the small pox, or I should have been in before this time.
- I got Mr. Crane to go to our [Town] House [in Boston] and see what state it was in.
- I find it has been occupied by one of the Doctors of a Regiment, very dirty, but no other damage has been done to it.
- The few things which were left in it are all gone. Cranch has the key which he never deliverd up. I have wrote to him for it and am determined to get it cleand as soon as possible and shut it up.
- I look upon it a new acquisition of property, a property which one month ago I did not value at a single Shilling, and could with pleasure have seen it in flames.
- The Town in General is left in a better state than we expected, more oweing to a percipitate flight than any Regard to the inhabitants, tho some individuals discovered a sense of honour and justice and have left the rent of the Houses in which they were, for the owners and the furniture unhurt, or if damaged sufficent to make it good.
- Others have committed abominable Ravages. The Mansion House of your President is safe and the furniture unhurt whilst both the House and Furniture of the Solisiter General have fallen a prey to their own merciless party. Surely the very Fiends feel a Reverential awe for Virtue and patriotism, whilst they Detest the paricide and traitor.



# Keeping Her Spirits Up

<https://tinyurl.com/dl20180226a>: Letter to John Adams 31 Mar-5 Apr 1776...

- I feel very differently at the approach of spring to what I did a month ago. We knew not then whether we could plant or sow with safety, whether when we had toiled we could reap the fruits of our own industry, whether we could rest in our own Cottages, or whether we should not be driven from the sea coasts to seek shelter in the wilderness, but now we feel as if we might sit under our own vine and eat the good of the land.
- I feel a *gaieti de Coar* to which before I was a stranger. I think the Sun looks brighter, the Birds sing more melodiously, and Nature puts on a more chearfull countenance. We feel a temporary peace, and the poor fugitives are returning to their deserted habitations.
- Tho we felicitate ourselves, we sympathize with those who are trembling least the Lot of Boston should be theirs. But they cannot be in similar circumstances unless pusillanimity and cowardise should take possession of them. They have time and warning given them to see the Evil and shun it.



# “Remember the Ladies”

<https://tinyurl.com/dl20180226a>: Letter to John Adams 31 Mar-5 Apr 1776...

- I long to hear that you have declared an independency
- -- and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors.
- Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands.
- Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could.
- If perticular care and attention is not paid to the Laidies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.



# “Your Sex Are Naturally Tyrannical”

<https://tinyurl.com/dl20180226a>: Letter to John Adams 31 Mar-5 Apr 1776...

- That your Sex are Naturally Tyrannical is a Truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute,
- But such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up the harsh title of Master for the more tender and endearing one of Friend.
- Why then, not put it out of the power of the vicious and the Lawless to use us with cruelty and indignity with impunity?
- Men of Sense in all Ages abhor those customs which treat us only as the vassals of your Sex.
- Regard us then as Beings placed by providence under your protection and in imitation of the Supreme Being make use of that power only for our happiness.



# A Week Later: Biomedical Concerns

<https://tinyurl.com/dl20180226a>: Letter to John Adams 31 Mar-5 Apr 1776...

- Not having an opportunity of sending this I shall add a few lines more; tho not with a heart so gay.
- I have been attending the sick chamber of our Neighbour Trot whose affliction I most sensibly feel but cannot discribe, striped of two lovely children in one week.
  - Gorge the El
  - dest died on wedensday and Billy the youngest on fryday, with the Canker fever, a terrible disorder so much like the throat distemper, that it differs but little from it.
- Betsy Cranch has been very bad, but upon the recovery. Becky Peck they do not expect will live out the day.
- Many grown persons are now sick with it, in this street. It rages much in other Towns.
- The Mumps too are very frequent. Isaac is now confined with it.
- Our own little flock are yet well. My Heart trembles with anxiety for them. God preserve them.
- I want to hear much oftener from you than I do. March 8 [John to Abigail, 08 March 1776] was the last date of any that I have yet had.





# Experiments in Making Gunpowder

<https://tinyurl.com/dl20180226a>: Letter to John Adams 31 Mar-5 Apr 1776...

- -- You inquire of whether I am making Salt peter. I have not yet attempted it, but after Soap making believe I shall make the experiment. I find as much as I can do to manufacture cloathing for my family which would else be Naked.
- I know of but one person in this part of the Town who has made any, that is Mr. Tertias Bass as he is calld who has got very near an hundred weight which has been found to be very good. I have heard of some others in the other parishes. Mr. Reed of Weymouth has been applied to, to go to Andover to the mills which are now at work, and has gone.
- I have lately seen a small Manuscrip describing the proportions for the various sorts of powder, such as fit for cannon, small arms and pistols [illegible]. If it would be of any Service your way I will get it transcribed and send it to you..



# Closing

<https://tinyurl.com/dl20180226a>: Letter to John Adams 31 Mar-5 Apr 1776...

- -- Every one of your Friends send their Regards, and all the little ones.
- Your Brothers youngest child lies bad with convulsion fitts. Adieu.
- I need not say how much I am Your ever faithfull Friend...



# John Adams's Reply to Abigail

As to your extraordinary code of laws, I cannot but laugh:

- We have been told that our struggle has loosened the bonds of government everywhere; that children and apprentices were disobedient; that schools and colleges were grown turbulent; that Indians slighted their guardians, and negroes grew insolent to their masters.
- But your letter was the first intimation that another tribe, more numerous and powerful than all the rest, were grown discontented.
- This is rather too coarse a compliment, but you are so saucy, I won't blot it out.
- Depend upon it, we know better than to repeal our masculine systems. Although they are in full force, you know they are little more than theory. We dare not exert our power in its full latitude. We are obliged to go fair and softly, and, in practice, you know we are the subjects.
- We have only the name of masters, and rather than give up this, which would completely subject us to the despotism of the petticoat, I hope General Washington and all our brave heroes would fight.



# Abigail Smith Adams Had a Very Favored Place for an Agrarian-Age Woman...

- Other women had less favored places...
- **Abigail Adams to Thomas Jefferson**, 27 June 1787 <<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-11-02-0420>>:
  - "LONDON... I had the Honour of addressing you yesterday and informing you of the safe arrival of your daughter. She was but just come when I sent of my letter by the post, and the poor little Girl was very unhappy being wholly left to strangers. This however lasted only a few Hours, and Miss is as contented to day as she was miserable yesterday. She is indeed a fine child. I have taken her out to day and purchased her a few articles which she could not well do without and I hope they will meet your approbation.
  - "The Girl who is with her is quite a child, and Captain Ramsey is of opinion will be of so little Service that he had better carry her back with him. But of this you will be a judge. She seems fond of the child and appears good naturd..."
- "The Girl who is with her" is Sally Hemings, then 14. Rather than have Sally Hemings continue on to Paris for a reunion with her brother, Abigail Adams wants her sent back to Virginia...

# Catch Our Breath

Let's reflect on what we have just heard & seen...

1. Comments
2. Questions
3. Readings

