

- Agenda** |
1. Administrative
 2. Inequality on a global scale
 3. Globalization
 4. Theories of global inequality

Inequality on a global scale



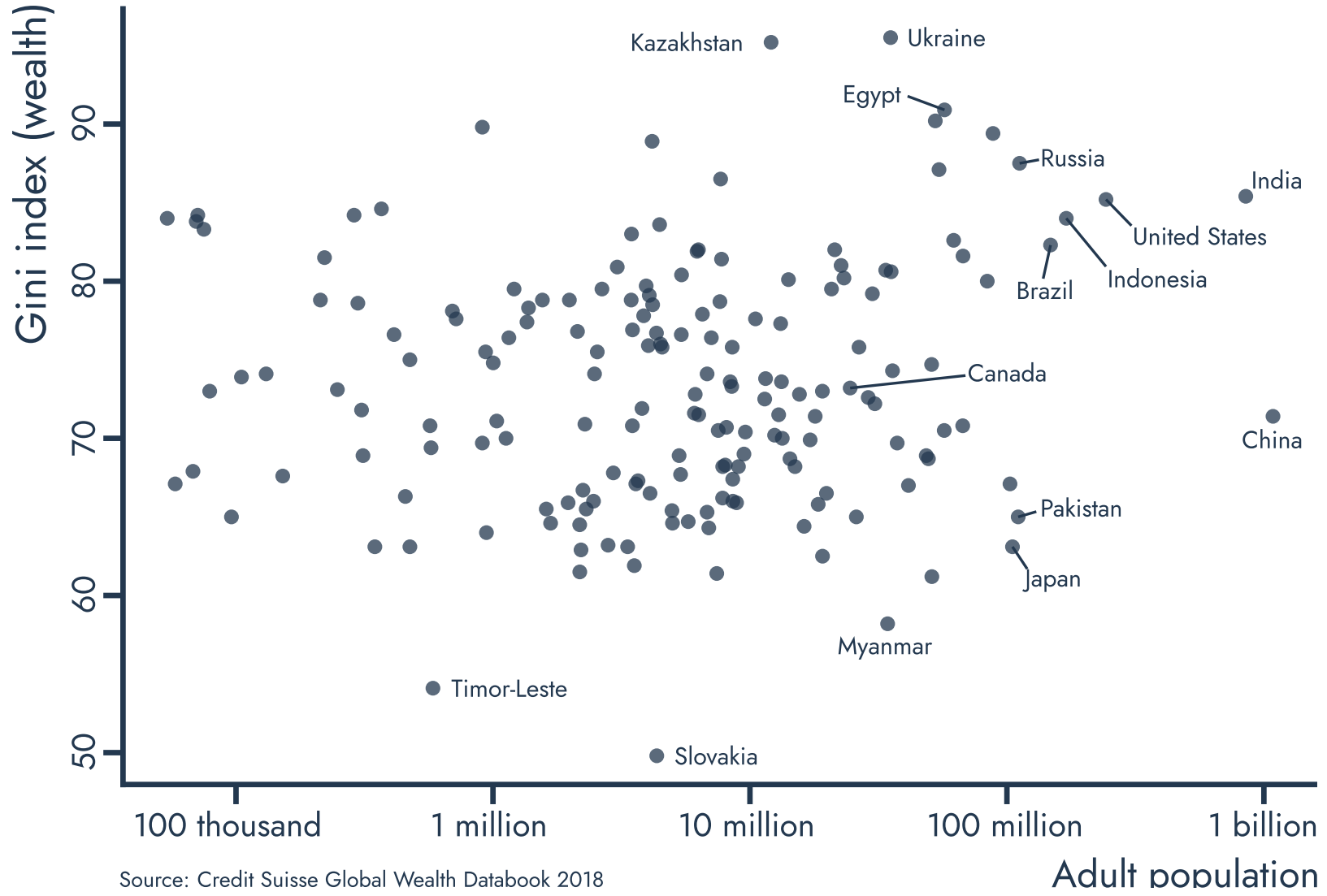


Implicit boundaries

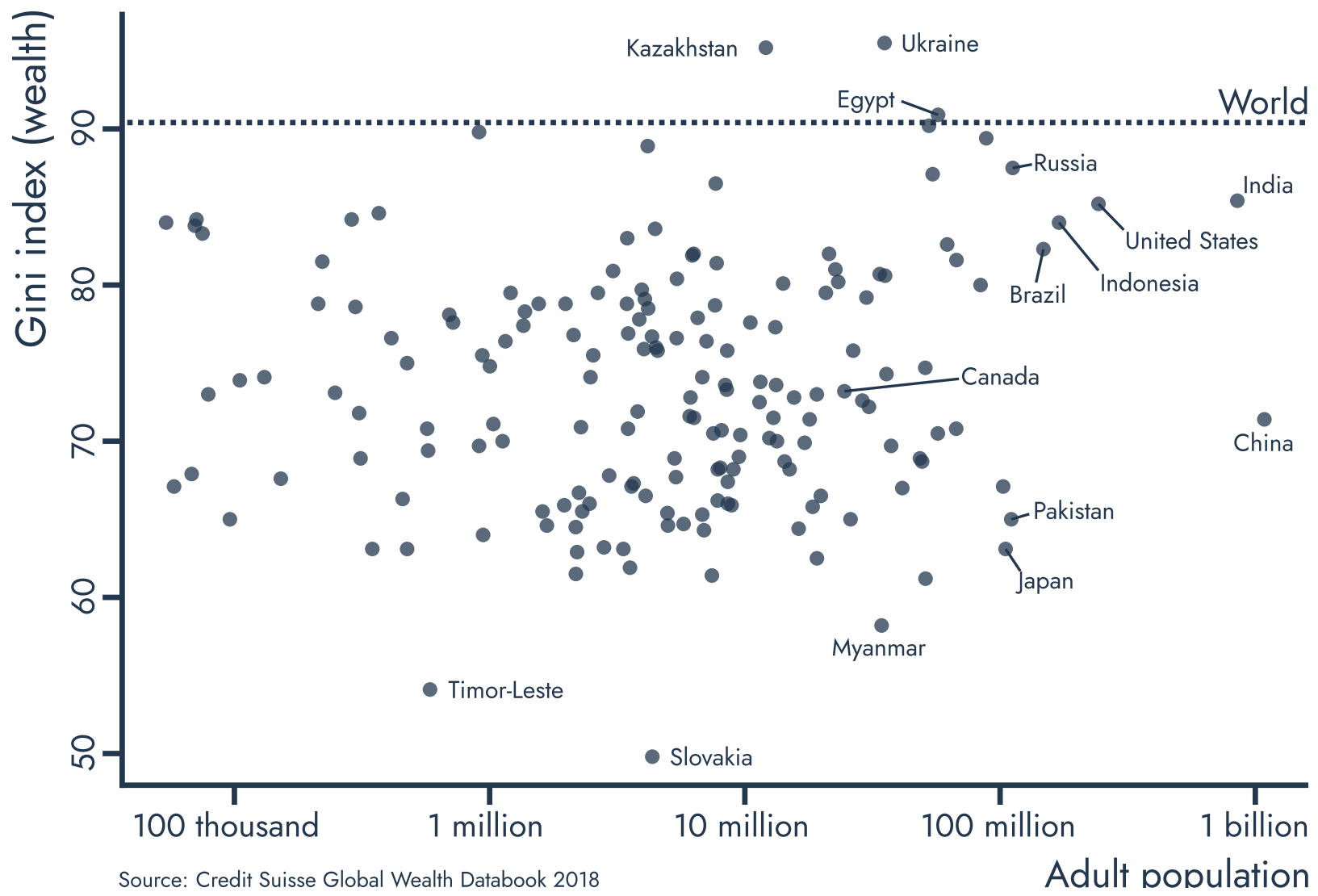
- ∴ Discussions of inequality imply the selection of a *population*
- ∴ Most often, this is a political unit such as province or nation-state
- ∴ Useful to understand, e.g., the effects of policies on inequality or to compare inequality under different governments

Global inequality

- ∴ What if we look beyond these boundaries?



Source: Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook 2018

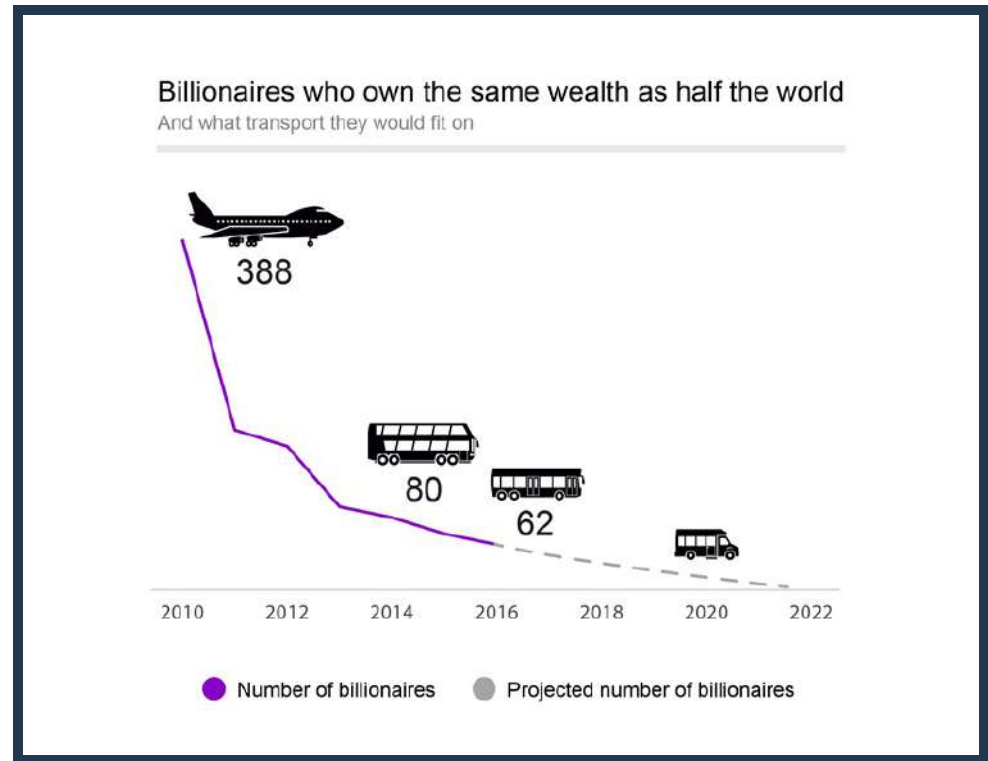


Source: Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook 2018

First takeaway

- ∴ Global inequality is severe and getting worse
- ∴ The wealthy are getting (much) wealthier
- ∴ The poor are getting (much) poorer
- ∴ Exacerbated by COVID-19, during which the richest 10 people have doubled their wealth

(Oxfam.2022; c.f. Klein.2015)



Second takeaway

- ∴ The difference between the national frame and the global frame is not just one of scale
- ∴ Inequality has a distinct character in a global context



Globalization



Globalization is the process of national boundaries becoming less relevant as they become more “porous”

Money and goods

- ∴ “Globalization” often refers just to the globalization of *trade*
- ∴ Trend since the industrial revolution toward cross-national trade that is independent of state influence (taxes, restrictions, ...)
- ∴ Explosive growth in the second half of the 20th century
 - Formal international agreements (NAFTA, EU, ...)
 - Rise of multinational and transnational corporations
- ∴ Corporations become “locationless”

Information

- ∴ Global communication (especially the Internet) has made it easier to interact across national boundaries
- ∴ Harder for government to prevent international communication

People

- ∴ Globalization traditionally meant fewer barriers for migration from country to country
- ∴ In recent years, there has been a strong backlash and restrictions on many borders

Environment

- ∴ Scale of global economy affects shared environment in meaningful, lasting ways
- ∴ “Externalities” ignore national boundaries



Globalization is not neutral toward global inequality

Trade

∴ The history of colonialism is one of globalized trade reinforcing wealth disparity

Information

∴ Those with the means to exploit globalized media have greater influence (marketing campaigns, political influence, etc.)

People

∴ Migration is highly imbalanced, and state policies are designed to maintain power differences

Environment

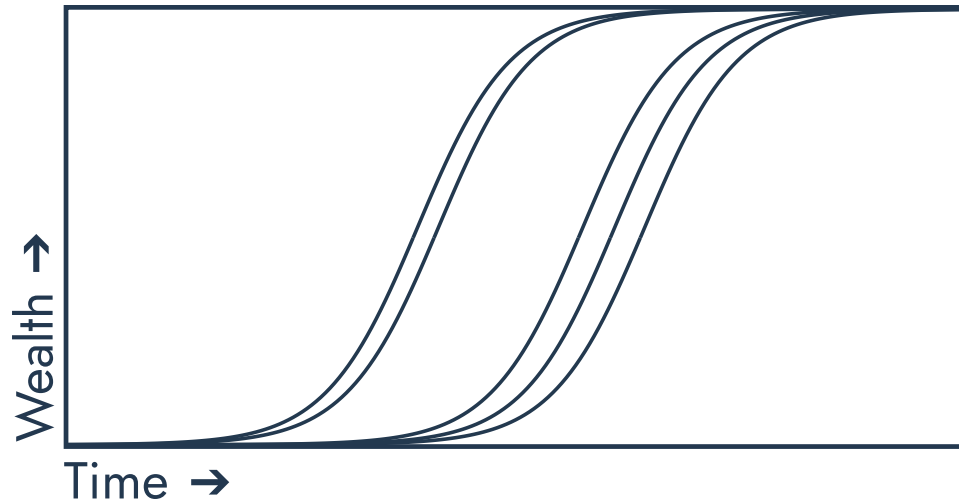
∴ The immediate and long-term negative effects of environmental transformation hit the poor hardest
(Beck 2010)

Theories of global inequality



Modernization theory

- ∴ Nation-states are all on a path toward full modernization / industrialization
- ∴ Inequality exists because some countries are “ahead” of others
- ∴ Over time, the world will equalize as contrasts diminish
- ∴ ***Ignores inter-dependence of nations***



Dependency theory

∴ Wealthy nations keep poor nations dependent

Manufacturing: raw materials extracted, finished goods sold

Finance: World Bank and IMF use debt to maintain relationship

∴ Relationship between wealthy and poor nations maintains inequality by design

∴ Emergent from global colonial history

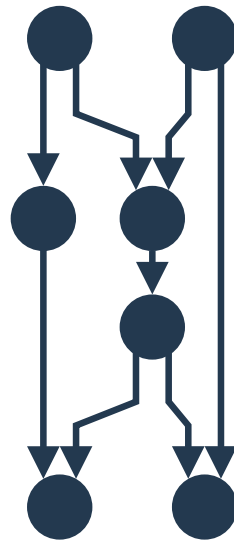


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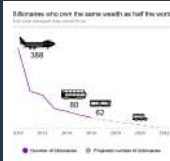


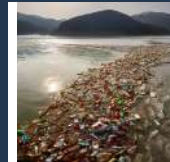
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