

LONG-TERM VIEWS IN LONDON, BEIJING, SÃO PAULO

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3º SIMPÓSIO SÃO PAULO - LONDRES - BEIJING
ReVISIONS PROJECT - Sustainable City Regions

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1 London, Beijing, São Paulo a comparison

NOT of their intrinsic characteristics
size
income
climate...

BUT their place/ role in
world capitalism
world development

Position towards long-term
perspectives of planet Earth

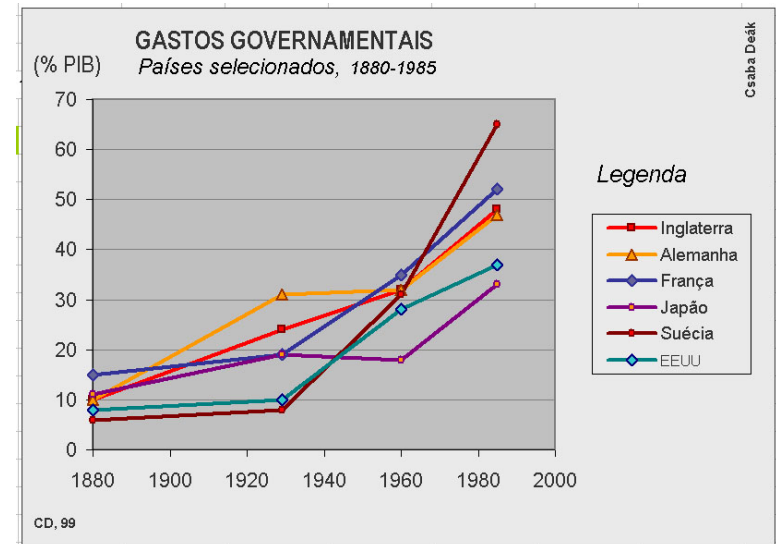
Will form their own view on
long-term prospects

2 Long term prospects of capitalism

Development stages of capitalism

driven by the generalization of the commodity form

Stage	Ideology
Extensive stage Ext wage labour/ commodity prodn High growth rates / urbanization	liberalism
Intensive stage Lower growth rate / Productivity of labour Higher subsistence levels/ Welfare State Increase State intervention	social democracy
Contemporary crisis Recommodification? (privatization–cum–subsidies etc.) Privatization etc.: >> income concentration Ball <i>et alii</i> 1989 Desqualifying the State (and collective interest)	neoliberalism



1880-1985 Selected countries

Share of the State in the GNP

World Bank *World Development Report 1991*, Washington

1970	1998
19%	30%

1970-1998 OECD countries
Share of Gvt spending in the GNP
http://www.worldbank.org/data/wdi2000/pdfs/tab1_5.pdf

3 Limits of growth on planet Earth

-4000 Bible

Grow and multiply, and populate the Earth

Expanded reproduction

1798 Thomas Malthus

Geometric vs arithmetic growth

1972 The Rome club

Finite support capacity: limits of Growth

1992 Rio

Sustainable development?

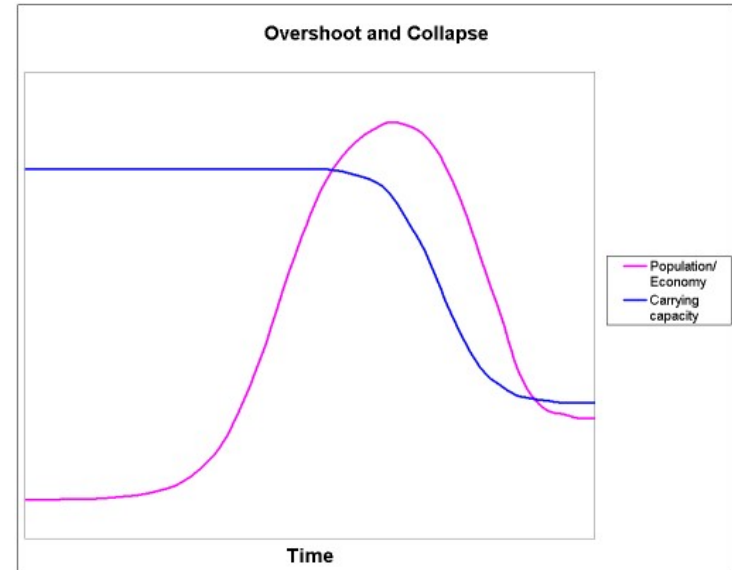
Stiglitz says possible → Nobel

Tokyo protocol

US never signs

2012 Rio +20

(now on)



1972 Meadows, Meadows, Randers

Population vs carrying capacity

Report to the Club of Rome

The only computer scenarios which indicated human welfare could be sustained were ones in which growth was reduced. -- pop reduced!

The sustainable scale project

4 Thus to the crisis of capitalism a new crisis is added: of expanded reproduction

Sustainable growth: squaring the circle

capitalism: $\pi = 0$ (and falling)

planet Earth: finite & crowded

Neoliberal answers:

sustainable growth square circle

new techs to prevent Amb decay

green economy ecoprotectionism

‘responsible’ use of resources

steady state ‘catch up’ growth

growth only for poorer

‘Radical’

de-growth *décroissance*

Roegen, Serge Latouche

back to support capacity

Thermodynamics 2nd law:

Closed system → entropy (equilibrium)

Georgescu-Roegen

Earth is not closed: energy from Sun

energy intake (‘renewable’):

hydroelectric

wind – eolic

solar

5 The last twenty years

Growth of consumption

	1992		2010
Population	5.5	27%	7.0
Raw mats		40%	
CO ₂		36%	
Inc/capita	world	poor	rich
	0%	40%	-7%

The state of the world 2010

	In/cap	ftprint
G Britain	36	5.5
China	8	2.4
Brazil	12	3.1
US	48	9.6
World	12	2.7

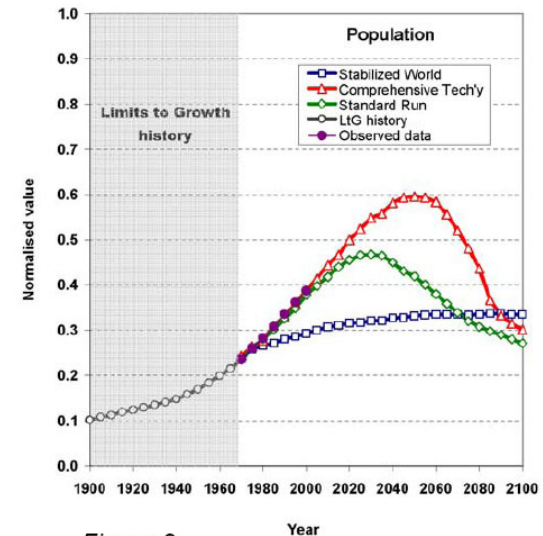


Figure 2.

A comparison of the *Limits to growth* with thirty years of reality

Graham Turner

New scientific evidence points to the gravity of the threats we face. New and emerging challenges include the further intensification of earlier problems calling for more urgent responses.

Rio+20 Zero draft:11

6 Parameters of Earth's capacity

Level of consumption (as)	Supported (bn)
Africa	9.5
Europe	3.0
US	2.7
China, Brazil	5.5
World	4.5

The main policies simulated

De-growth (green)	immediate limitation and then stoppage of growth
'Standard run' (yellow)	overshoot and depletion
Comprehensive techn (red)	severe overshoot and depletion

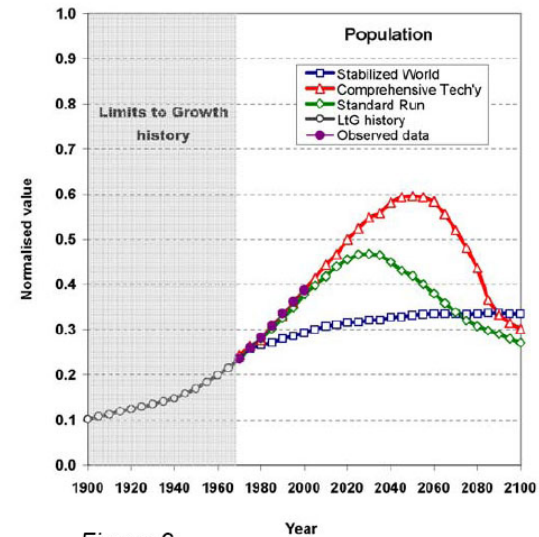


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MRM, 30 yr update

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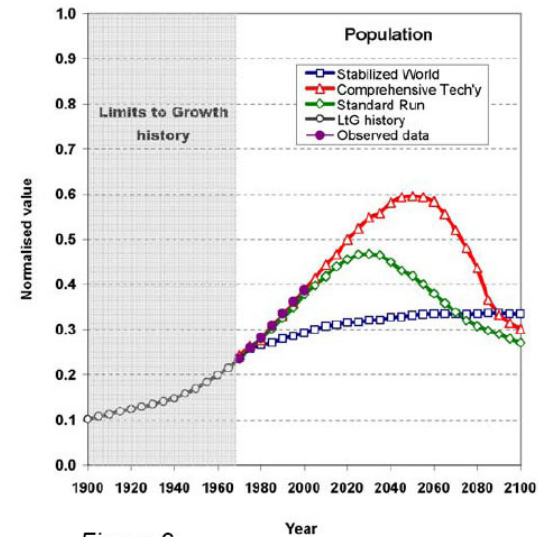
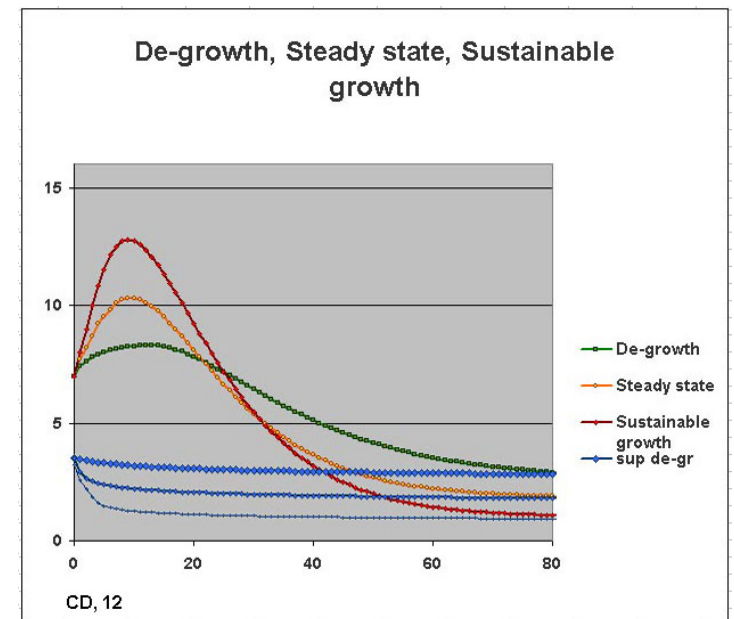


Figure 2.



CD, 12

7 Where do we go from here: Utopia

It is clear that the present path of world development is not sustainable in the longer term, even if we recognise the enormous potentials of the market and of technological innovation.

Lip service, but clear statement
Club of R, 2012

The whole versus the parts:

long-term vs short term

At local level, short term interests prevail

Conflicts of local interests →→→→→

wars
or
world regulation

(London, Beijing, São Paulo:)

Great Britain: For the status quo

China: For catching up

Brazil: Idem, except... Rio +20:

Undaunted colossus ...

... *Laying forever in splendid cradle* ...

? get rid of aversion of full developmt built in colony t

Huxley *The brave new world*

Sovereignty of the nations of the past can not solve the problems of the present any more... The Community [European, of Steel and coal] is but a stage towards a new world of the future

Jean Monnet

9. We recognize the need to reinforce sustainable development globally through our collective and national efforts, in accordance with the principle of **common but differentiated responsibilities** and the principle of the sovereign right of states over their natural resources.

Rio + 20, 0 draft "Renewing political commitment "

8 Against ideology

The Rome Club itself: reservation but lip service towards *market* and *progress*

It is clear that the present path of world development is not sustainable in the longer term, even if we recognise the enormous potentials of the market and of technological innovation.

Other example of weak talk (on de-growth:)

World population to the hectare already 50% above what a hectare can bear → shows that population **can not grow indefinitely**

the obvious implication: population must be **reduced** is weakened twice over

9 FOR LONG TERM PLANNING

This is not to say that new more efficient techs are useless, it is just that
--are not enough to avoid collapse.

On the other hand,

In the face of a sustainable world order
local conflicts arise
which stem from short term interests.

Any conflict can only be solved at a higher level:
local interests at supra-local or social level;
short term interests in the perspective
(context) of long-term interests –again, of
society as a whole which today by and large
means –or should mean– world society.

In the long run, we are all
dead.

J M Keynes

Prof. Wu Liangyong, Tsinghua University
2009 Symposium, Beijing:

(in China nowadays) there is
Konfucius, but there are other thinkers
equally worthy and in fact there are
many lines of thought and all should
be taken into account. Provided –and
this must be the overriding concern
and ultimate guideline of planning: not
to let short term individual interests
prevail in face of the long term
interests of society as a whole.

The best way to bring to a common denominator the three differing
points of view of the three countries of ReVisions is to keep long term
view always and firmly in focus.

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Abstract

