

Standards of Living Pre-/Post-1600

STATE OF NATURE (WORLD POP. <1 M, MAYBE <100K)	PRE- REBE BC (WORLD POPULATION < 10 MILLION)	1 ST REVOLUTION: AGRICULTURE, DOMESTICATION OF ANIMALS; CITIES	5000 BC-1300 AD (WORLD POP. < 1 BILLION)	THE BIG MODERN REVOLUTIONS (1300-1903, LARGEST EFFECT 1600-1850)	WESTERN/CENTRAL EUROPE, US/CAN., SOME OTHERS (WORLD POP. 7 BILLION) AFTER ABOUT 1950.	CHANGE?	AFTERWARD (THE NEXT 100 YEARS)		
Earthly Paradise?	<p><i>EXPLANATION & KEY: green=prosperity (darker is more prosperous); tangerine = comfortable; brown = subsistence /stable survival; light red = sometimes endangered; red = very often endangered; dark red = disastrous. BUT NOTE: These classifications are RELATIVE: Today's very poor are very poor by today's standards; before 1600 the same standard of living would have been regarded as just poor (shading off into normal). But people compare themselves to their contemporaries, not to someone else in another place and time. Social justice requires improving the relative state of the poor as well as the absolute.</i></p>						secular utopia/ Kingdom of God on Earth?		
<p>“State of Nature” means before emergence of material culture and social structure beyond the small subsistence group. Probably somewhat or greatly worse than pre-5000 BC (otherwise why the change to next column?), but not totally awful. Not enough people close enough to form societies / tribes of more than 100 people. “Stable” (until disaster) “local” (very local) economies (=some division of labor and exchange of services/ pro.</p>	Probably some islands of relative prosperity even this early, though with big gap between very rich and everyone else. Later on islands of prosperity in China, Sumer, Babylon, Egypt, Rome (not Greece), Meso America, but NOT Europe and North America. Increasing mobility into top 2%, with notable exceptions (Russia, much of Germany until 19th C)	<p>The first Great Revolution. Farming, domestication & breeding of animals, mining, crafts, large-scale political organization & law, organized religion (or earlier), writing, foundations for later science (arithmetic, geometry, theories of space and matter). The word “town” originally meant “hedge”, “fence”, “garden” (reflects both agriculture and a level of defense - for some people!, but a very fragile one)</p>	Everyone vulnerable to pestilence, war, natural disaster, and even death from “minor” causes (appendicitis, childbirth, tetanus, measles). 1/3 of a population could be killed off in a short time (17th-C France experienced famine 1 year in 4). No safety net, no positive rights, except for the very very rich; rest of top 2% subject to arbitrary rule. Extremely slow travel / communication (<10 mi. /day). Europe definitely NOT First World, though top 1% has elegant food and toys (barbarian splendor), but no modern comforts, and no immunity from disease and war).	<p>geography, demography, science, finance, military, law, philosophy, theology; Second revolution in agriculture and animal husbandry (1700-1850); paper, printing, steam, railroad, chemistry, physics, mathematics, biology, steel, plastic, electricity, public health, telegraphy (and its minor extension, the internet), literacy, flight; emergence of mass safety net, widespread democracy, effective medicine / surgery, international law; end of intrasocial slavery (West only). Example of change in mobility: For the first time in human experience, someone's ears popped with a change in altitude (1783, Montgolfière hot-air balloon).</p>	top 2%	<p>If change, caused by what? economic force, ecological force, education, conscious decision, war, class conflict, improvement of moral sense, Divine Grace?</p>	Major progress brings high standard of living for many, eliminates true poverty, preserves environment. Pop. 5 or 15 billion.		
	bare survival for anyone; tiny crust of rich (by comparison); the top 2% is socially impenetrable, because of distinctions between nobility and masses.		top 2%		top 2%		middle 96% (gradual gradation into top 2%, possibly more definite boundary with the very bottom better off than all but the top 2% or at least 5% of any earlier time). A man's home is actually his castle, or at least McMansion. Residential space per person greatly exceeds that of pre-1600 or even pre-1900. Top 75% (at least) enjoy diet better than all but 2% any time before. 50% self-report as “happy”; increased income beyond the median has little effect on happiness. Positive rights and rule of law extend over middle 95%. Good-size safety net available to almost everyone, but fails to reach some in bottom 2.5%.	BIG GAP	pretty good (population 5 billion); some medium green at the top, very little light red at the bottom
	death often, with youngest and oldest at special risk “Necessity knows no law.”		bottom 30% (=1/3 of the “everybody else”) - more wretched than all but the worst off of our time); constantly miserable, often killed off very young (or whenever), by war, crime, starvation, natural disaster		bottom 2% or less		Except for war, major causes of death before the Revolution are now much reduced in all but the bottom 2%. No truly widespread catastrophes; WWII and aftermath kill fewer than 10% of directly affected societies. Extremely fast communication (speed of light) and travel (12,000 miles/ day)	BIG GAP	consistent survival (pop. 7 billion)
	bottom 10% (dies <age 10)		bottom 10% (dies <age 10)		(^some gradation into red at bottom of zone^)			BIG GAP	difficult survival (pop. 15 billion) - the whole world is the Third World at its near worst.
	Absolutely awful?		<p><<These two extremes, and the dark green ones at the top, represent off-the-spectrum states, not extremes of poverty, etc.>></p>						BIGGER GAP
<p>Extinction of human species?</p>									