

Thoughts on Coming Apart and the Coming Great Reset



**Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer**

Kit Webster

August 16, 2024

**The Presidential Campaign Is A Demonstration Of Our
Post-Truth Era**

Themes and Theses - Why I'm Contemplating Out Loud

(Initially formulated in the early 90s, following decades of reading history, philosophy, psychology and a lot of contemplation. In the end, this is a relatively straightforward story about human nature and history rhyming.)

The US will enter a period of crisis in the early 2000s. In the late 90s, I took up Strauss' and Howe's terminology of the Fourth Turning (without incorporating their generations paradigm) and agreed with Howe that the end stage of the crisis began with the Great Financial Crisis and would last into the early 2030s. We are not yet to the middle of the end stage of the crisis.

The crisis will be serious and could be existential.

Internal strife will increase, up to and including secession and civil war.

International conflicts will increase as the vacuum created by the weakening of the US is filled by other players.

There will be many threads to the crisis, but the primary thread will be debt, deficits and entitlements. Other factors include, eg, demographics, a loss of meaning and myth and a loss of self-discipline.

Politics will move leftward as citizens look for some refuge from the chaos. The US will become increasingly susceptible to a (man) on a white horse, who can come from either the left or the right.

Inflation, as the most likely way to address debt since austerity is not politically acceptable, will significantly lower standards of living, exacerbating the civil crises.

Once the old rot is cleared out, and assuming continuity, there will be the basis for the establishment of a new order. (Added around 2020) The loss of faith by our youth in our founding principles means that the new order will at least partially be based on new principles. As yet, I have no visibility as to what those principles might be.

(Added in the early 00s) While humans are contributing to global warming, policies implemented to address manmade global warming will create a significant energy crisis, probably toward the end of the Fourth Turning.

(Added in 2023) The lowering / elimination of standards in education, the judiciary, law enforcement, the military and other segments of our society will create a population unable to adequately comprehend, do or respond to the challenges of democracy and culture.

Quotes to Ponder

Everyone has the right to believe anything they want. And everyone else has the right to believe that those beliefs are fucking ridiculous. Cheers. - Ricky Gervais

There is no time in history where the people who were censoring speech were the good guys. - RFK, Jr.

Primary Ideas in This Week's Post

Kamala remains in the lead in the polls.

There really is misinformation, but, the fundamental issue is a high level of discontent and mistrust.

When whites get an identity, things will get very serious.

Social media is a cancer.

People in the UK are becoming increasingly concerned about immigration and Muslim separatism.

These are real problems.

Increasingly, the answer will be authoritarianism.

And there we are.

The immigration culture wars are intensifying in the US and in Europe.

No one in politics is addressing the real issues.

Still no resolution as to the near-term direction of the markets.

Conventional wisdom is having its day

No coup against Biden

Hunter was doing bad things

A rogue Ukrainian general blew up the Nord Stream pipeline

The UK Labour Party has gone full-authoritarian, including 2-tier policing favoring migrants, particularly Muslims

Get ready for some serious protests

Colleges are starting a new school year

The Democratic convention gets under way.

Mpox (monkey pox) is breaking out all over

Markets

Updated Charts

> No change in outlook. The stock markets have rallied strongly, but have not yet declared their hands.

> Luke Gromen is raising the possibility that the incredible financial mess could be addressed, not by inflation over time, but by a sudden revaluation of the value of the dollar and other financial assets over a weekend. Given the magnitude of the problem, the revaluation would be significant and the world would be irrevocably changed.

Very interesting.

> **The Presidential Campaign Is A Demonstration Of Our Post-Truth Era**

I have discussed at length in this space how values and visions really don't matter that much. If someone is on our team, they can transgress even our most sacred values:

Clinton and Monica

Trump and multiple adulteries

Kamala and, basically, socialism

The important things are our side and the evilness - the racism and fascism - of the other side, even though the other side has morality distributed across its members pretty much like our side does.

Values don't matter.

Facts don't matter.

The worldview of our side is undeniably right and true and righteous.

Gott Mit Uns. (God is with us in German, a Nazi slogan.)

We are so wealthy and have so many of our needs met that pronouns become existential.

Ben Hunt and Rusty Guinn of Epsilon Theory have written many brilliant pieces.

Their primary focus is the narrative - how we create narratives instead of, or to supplement, facts. They talk about common knowledge, which is what everyone thinks everyone else is thinking. I highly recommend a subscription.

A recent piece by Rusty is behind the paywall, but he talks about metametastasis:

Metametastasis is when it is the context of the thing – not the thing itself – that goes viral and transforms into new common knowledge.

Metametastasis is when no amount of fundamental truth is clear enough, no dose of reality strong enough to offset what we consider to be true at higher, more symbolic levels of abstraction.

Metametastasis is when it no longer matters whether a record of an event is authentic, at least to its virality or spread. The only thing that matters is how it fits the context, or how it can be slotted to some underlying truth we hold.

There is nothing to be done about it.

We will clash with the depth of Jerry Seinfeld on both sides.

We could talk about debt, deficits and entitlements - but we won't.

We could talk about Ukraine and Israel - but we won't - much.

We could talk about a rational immigration policy and protecting our borders - but we won't in any meaningful way.

So, we are putting our futures in the hands of one of two people who are unsuited for the job.

It's gonna get very ugly - but if you have been reading these pages, you knew that.

Short Takes

> Kamala things

Kamala remains in the lead in the polls

New Yorker magazine (behind a paywall) ran a piece saying the Harris campaign effectively plans to run content free, without policies. Beyond not having interviews or taking questions, there is no policy section on their website. The phrase they use is that she is running as a "generic candidate." The same ad pops up every night when we are watching the Olympics - respect for the people, an economy where everyone only needs to have one job, and "reproduction rights" guaranteed in all 50 states. Her stump speech is that on "day one" she will bring prices down, get the price gouging big corporations and bring drug prices down - definitely generic Democratic lines, and, of course, leaving herself open to questions about what she has been doing the last three years. Similarly with, "We know our immigration system is broken, and we know what it takes to fix it." On the one hand, this is just politicians being politicians. On the other, it will be interesting to see the degree to which the *New Yorker* is right. I'm trying to get a handle on Kamala's intelligence and awareness of the key issues. I wrote a while back that she was a prosecutor and did pass the bar (the second time she took it). She is no dummy, however, sometimes she plays one on TV. Is there some there, there? Not that it really matters in the election, but this will be another thread of my posts.

The campaign admits Walz "misspoke" about past military career. Maybe we get to move on from that one, but it clearly has legs. Misrepresenting military things in the US is right up there with abortion as an issue. Walz ran fast and loose on his retirement rank, serving in a war zone and with tales of his deployment. He also misspoke about a DWI.

She did say that she strongly supported Fed independence, thus disagreeing with Trump.

But they agreed with Trump about no taxes on tips.

Here we go - Harris to propose "federal ban on corporate price-gouging" on groceries and "impose stiff penalties in the food industry," campaign announces. (Kit) She is particularly vulnerable on immigration and inflation, so she has to address both.

Then, the Biden-Harris administration proposed providing \$25,000 in downpayment assistance for 400,000 first-generation home buyers -- or homebuyers whose parents don't own a home -- and a \$10,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers. Vote buying everywhere.

Rumor is, RFJ Jr wanted to meet with Harris to discuss a cabinet post in exchange for an endorsement. The meeting was not held. His public comments on Harris are far from flattering. Too long to go into here, and it really doesn't matter, but he basically says that JFK and RFK would be appalled.

> Trump things -

If the theme today is policies, Trump is the un-Harris. He has ten a day. This week, they include, "There will be no low income developments built in areas right next to your house," something he can't deliver, much like Kamala cannot deliver on the abortion thing. The problem is that I am looking / hoping for substance from Kamala, when I know I'm not going to get it from Trump.

He famously made up a story about a dangerous helicopter landing with Kamala's long-time boyfriend, Willie Brown.

To juxtapose himself with the press-conference-free Harris, Trump extemporaneously held forth for about an hour with thoughts that included several ... ummm ... misrepresentations.

Trump says he'll slash energy and electricity prices "by half at least." Both sides are into vote buying.

> A couple of weeks ago, I shared reporting by Seymore Hersch that basically described a palace coup against Biden. I said at the time I did not know whether to trust it.

Up pops reporting by the *New York Times*, which I also don't know whether to trust, that tells a story of aides and others telling him that things were getting worse for him on the election front and leading to his decision to quit.

The story is plausible, if not a little too pat. It would be the story Biden would like to tell.

So, I will continue to look for additional information.

> Biden lost yet another student loan battle in the courts as an appeals court blocked the SAVE plan.

> The immigration culture wars are intensifying in the US and in Europe

Denmark is implementing border controls with Sweden to stop the gangs from coming into their country.

> This is very big -

England has been experiencing riots between Muslims and working class whites. The government has responded by essentially making "disinformation" a crime. "You may be committing a crime if you repost, repeat or amplify a message which is false" said UK Director of Public Prosecutions Stephen Parkinson. This could be big. Remember that much of the official positions in the US during Covid was wrong and the disinformation was right. The UK police are being accused of "two-tier" policing, where Muslims riot without restriction and "right-wing" whites are disbursed and arrested.

There really is misinformation, but, the fundamental issue is a high level of discontent and mistrust.

When whites get an identity, things will get very serious.

Social media is a cancer.

People in the UK are becoming increasingly concerned about immigration and Muslim separatism.

These are real problems.

Increasingly, the answer, including by the Labour Party in the UK, will be authoritarianism.

And there we are.

The memes were fierce.

Scott Adams asks whether the US should put out a travel advisory to stay away from England.

Tony Heller reasonably asked, "if spreading misinformation is a crime, why aren't all mainstream media journalists incarcerated?"

The Bee weighs in –



In Latest Bond Film, 007 Tasked With Taking Down 83-Year-Old British Grandma Who Shared Inaccurate Meme

> You have been warned. The UK Met Police Chief has said that, even if you are outside of the UK online, "we will come after you."

> William Nelson Morgan, a 69-year-old retiree with no criminal history, is the oldest anti-mass migration English riot arrestee to be convicted so far. He was sentenced to

two years and eight months in prison for refusing to disperse and holding a stick at a library riot in Walton, West Yorkshire on Aug. 4.

> And on point in the US -

Richard Dawkins', famous evolutionary biologist, Facebook account was deleted after he expressed his opinion on X that genetically male boxers should not compete against women in the Olympics. The incident sparked a discussion on social media platforms, with many users criticizing Facebook for what they perceive as censorship. Dawkins clarified that he made the statement on X, not on Facebook, and expressed openness to civilized debate on the issue. The incident has raised concerns about the role of social media platforms in moderating content and the potential for censorship of dissenting opinions.

> In case you have something subversive around the house - the 5 most-banned books in public schools -

1. 1984 Banned for sexual content and being “pro-communism.”
2. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Banned for racial slurs and being “suitable only for the slums.”
3. Ulysses Banned for being obscene, lewd, and lascivious.
4. To Kill a Mockingbird Banned in schools for racial slurs and being “immoral.”
5. The Catcher in the Rye Banned for vulgar language, sexual scenes, and moral issues.

I would not ban *Ulysses* (or any of the five, for that matter), but I would not wish reading it on anyone.



Can you imagine passing illicit copies of *1984* among your friends in plain covers? In an inversion of the old excuse related to *Playboy* magazine, you could say you had it only for the pictures.

A couple of weeks ago, I discussed Olympic medals, saying that it was inevitable that the Chinese would one day pass the Americans. I also said the Americans would dominate this year's Summer Olympics.

So, the US did dominate, but since the Chinese could not dominate but could win a lot of gold, they have changed the narrative to, who wins the most gold. Bragging rights for both countries.

Here are the final standings. Tiny Australia punched far above its weight.

Medals

Teams		Athletes			
Team		①	②	③	🏅
1	 United States	40	44	42	126
2	 China	40	27	24	91
3	 Japan	20	12	13	45
4	 Australia	18	19	16	53
5	 France	16	26	22	64



Beth and I watched the replays of the Olympics every night. Much drama. However, the most touching moment for me was when Novak Djokovic, the best tennis player today, who has won every major tournament, broke down in sobs with his daughter when he won gold for his home country, Serbia.

Speaking of the Olympics. Australia had a competitor in breakdancing with a PhD in cultural movement. (She scored zero points for an "inclusive," kangaroo-themed routine, and yes, she is white.) (Separately, breakdancing will, henceforth, no longer be an Olympic sport.)

> CNN -

San Francisco police department will stop releasing most mug shots to combat racial bias.

> It seems that a Ukraine general went rogue resulting in the destruction of the Nord Stream pipeline. Another plausible story that could be too pat. (Damn, I'm tired of distrusting everything I read.) It also seems that Poland caught the guy who did it and released him to Ukraine, pissing off Germany.

> Would you take that deal?

San Francisco is offering a program of free rent for up to six months to try to bring businesses back to its downtown.

I try to keep up - I really do, but sometimes, it's just very difficult - from an interview on X

At the Kamala Harris rally in Las Vegas, a female attendee who identifies as a gay man says they've had an abortion and is fearful of being unable to have more abortions under a Trump presidency.

> It's over - our dirty little secret is out - the children of Chicago are saved!

Chicago Teachers Union president Stacy Davis Gates, responding to this radio host asking her about Chicago Public Schools spending a ton of money and still failing children, says testing is "junk science rooted in white supremacy" and "born out of eugenics."

> Colleges will soon start the school year and protests will resume. Given all of the contemplation and law suits over the summer, it will be interesting to see what tactics are employed by both sides.

> Mpox (the politically-correct term for monkey pox) is spreading in Africa. The WHO has declared a state of health emergency as first cases show up in Sweden and Pakistan. The Telegraph put together a good mpox explainer, which I have included at the bottom of this post. TLDR: symptoms are usually mild, but the current variant is killing more people, mostly children, than previous variants; travels by sex, breathing, skin contact; symptoms are fever, a rash, which can be "excruciatingly painful" and intense itching; it lasts 2-4 weeks; there are rare, but worse complications.

> The government budget shutdown is back - deadline is September 30.

Ok, now they've gone too far -

Two illegal aliens stole a \$1 million Patek Philippe wristwatch at gunpoint from a man who was sitting with his wife and daughter at the patio restaurant of the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

My answer would be, "Well, I haven't gotten my period in a while."

UK Health Workers Ordered To Ask Men If They're Pregnant Before X-Rays

> The American Society of Plastic Surgeons becomes the first major medical association to challenge the consensus of medical groups over “gender-affirming care” for minors.

> The DOJ has now produced evidence of two times when Hunter sought high-level meetings with US Ambassadors while his father was VP. I refuse to look at the timing of all of this cynically.

> Here are Trump's policies (today)-

- 1** SEAL THE BORDER AND STOP THE MIGRANT INVASION
- 2** CARRY OUT THE LARGEST DEPORTATION OPERATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY
- 3** END INFLATION, AND MAKE AMERICA AFFORDABLE AGAIN
- 4** MAKE AMERICA THE DOMINANT ENERGY PRODUCER IN THE WORLD, BY FAR!
- 5** STOP OUTSOURCING, AND TURN THE UNITED STATES INTO MANUFACTURING SUPERPOWER
- 6** LARGE TAX CUTS FOR WORKERS, AND NO TAX ON TIPS!
- 7** DEFEND OUR CONSTITUTION, OUR BILL OF RIGHTS, AND OUR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM OF RELIGION, AND THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS
- 8** PREVENT WORLD WAR THREE, RESTORE PEACE IN EUROPE AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND BUILD A GREAT IRON DOME MISSILE DEFENSE SHIELD OVER OUR ENTIRE COUNTRY -- ALL MADE IN AMERICA
- 9** END THE WEAPONIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
- 10** STOP THE MIGRANT CRIME EPIDEMIC, DEMOLISH THE FOREIGN DRUG CARTELS, CRUSH GANG VIOLENCE, AND LOCK UP VIOLENT OFFENDERS

11

REBUILD OUR CITIES, INCLUDING WASHINGTON DC, MAKING THEM SAFE, CLEAN, AND BEAUTIFUL AGAIN.

12

STRENGTHEN AND MODERNIZE OUR MILITARY, MAKING IT, WITHOUT QUESTION, THE STRONGEST AND MOST POWERFUL IN THE WORLD

13

KEEP THE U.S. DOLLAR AS THE WORLD'S RESERVE CURRENCY

14

FIGHT FOR AND PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE WITH NO CUTS, INCLUDING NO CHANGES TO THE RETIREMENT AGE

15

CANCEL THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE MANDATE AND CUT COSTLY AND BURDENSOME REGULATIONS

16

CUT FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ANY SCHOOL PUSHING CRITICAL RACE THEORY, RADICAL GENDER IDEOLOGY, AND OTHER INAPPROPRIATE RACIAL, SEXUAL, OR POLITICAL CONTENT ON OUR CHILDREN

17

KEEP MEN OUT OF WOMEN'S SPORTS

18

DEPORT PRO-HAMAS RADICALS AND MAKE OUR COLLEGE CAMPUSES SAFE AND PATRIOTIC AGAIN

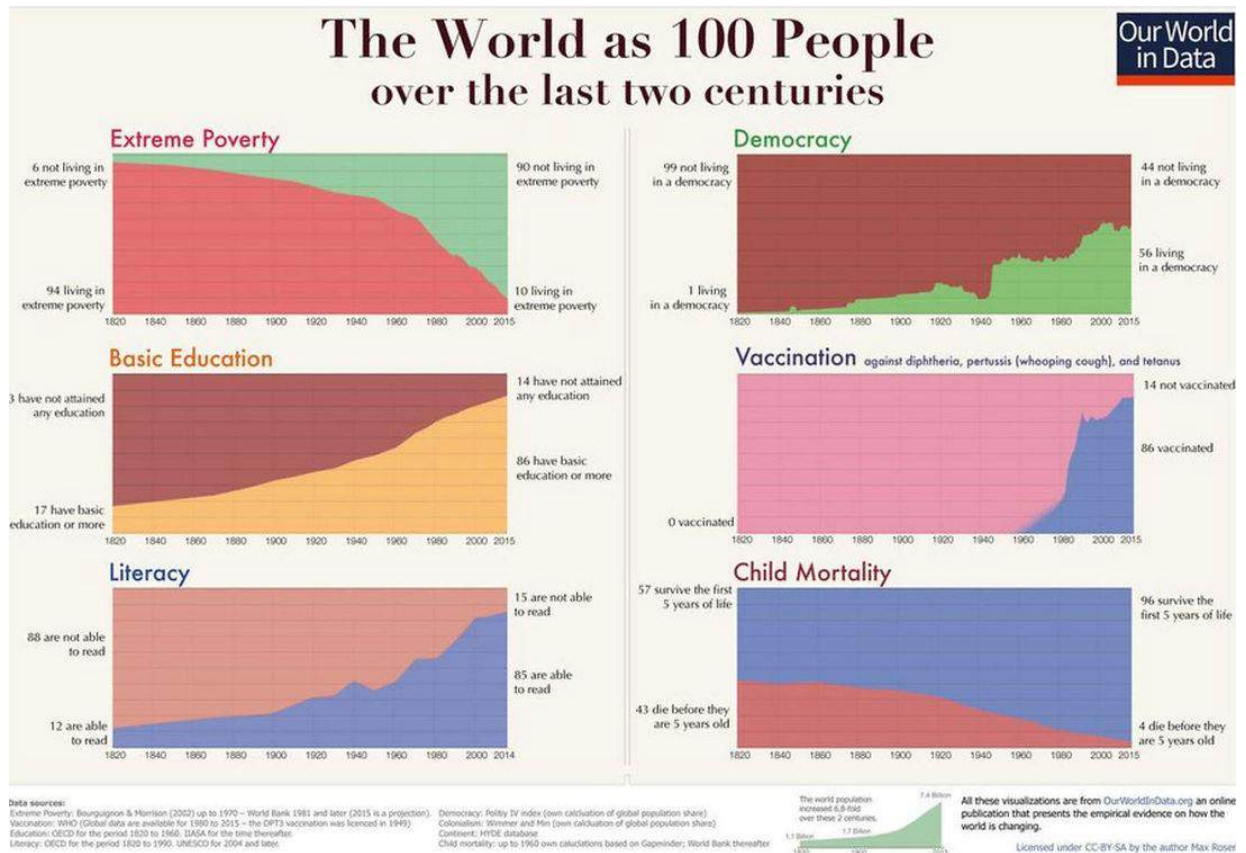
19

SECURE OUR ELECTIONS, INCLUDING SAME DAY VOTING, VOTER IDENTIFICATION, PAPER BALLOTS, AND PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

20

UNITE OUR COUNTRY BY BRINGING IT TO NEW AND RECORD LEVELS OF SUCCESS

> A reminder of how fortunate we are to live when we do –



Fact check - true - and really, really stupid - grocery store margins are in the 1.5 - 2% range. As the Atlantic put it - Harris's Plan Is Economically Dumb but Politically Smart

The vice president's campaign promises make no sense to people acquainted with supply and demand—but they might win elections.

OPINIONS

Columns

Editorials

Guest opinions

Opinion | When your opponent calls you ‘communist,’ maybe don’t propose price controls?

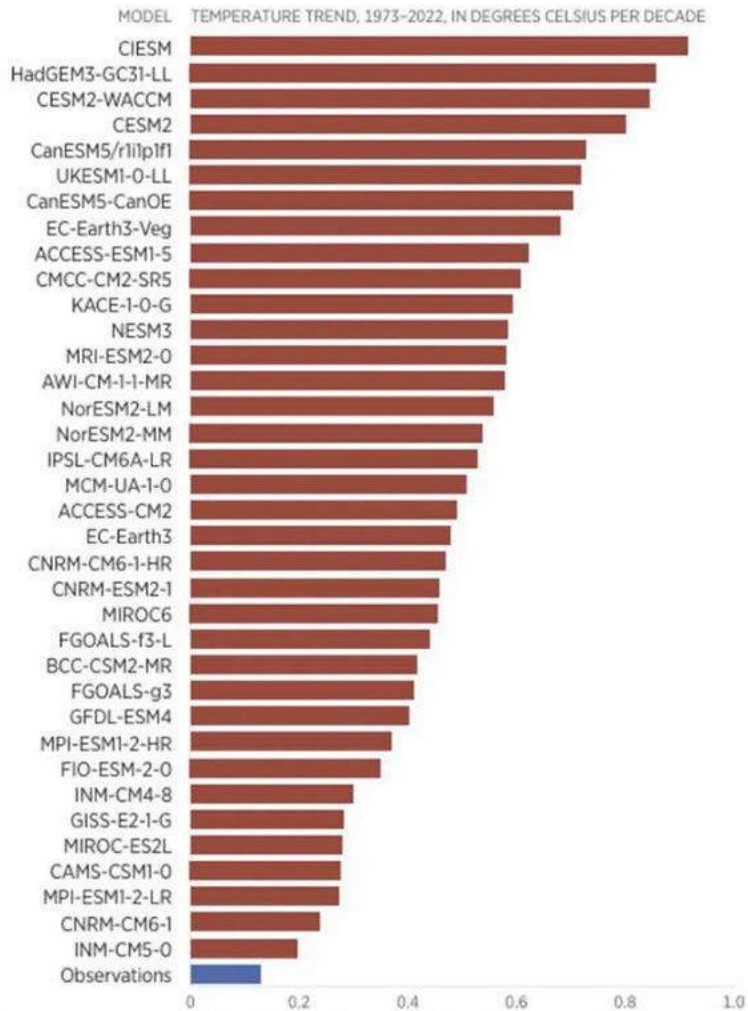
It’s hard to exaggerate how bad Kamala Harris’s price-gouging proposal is.

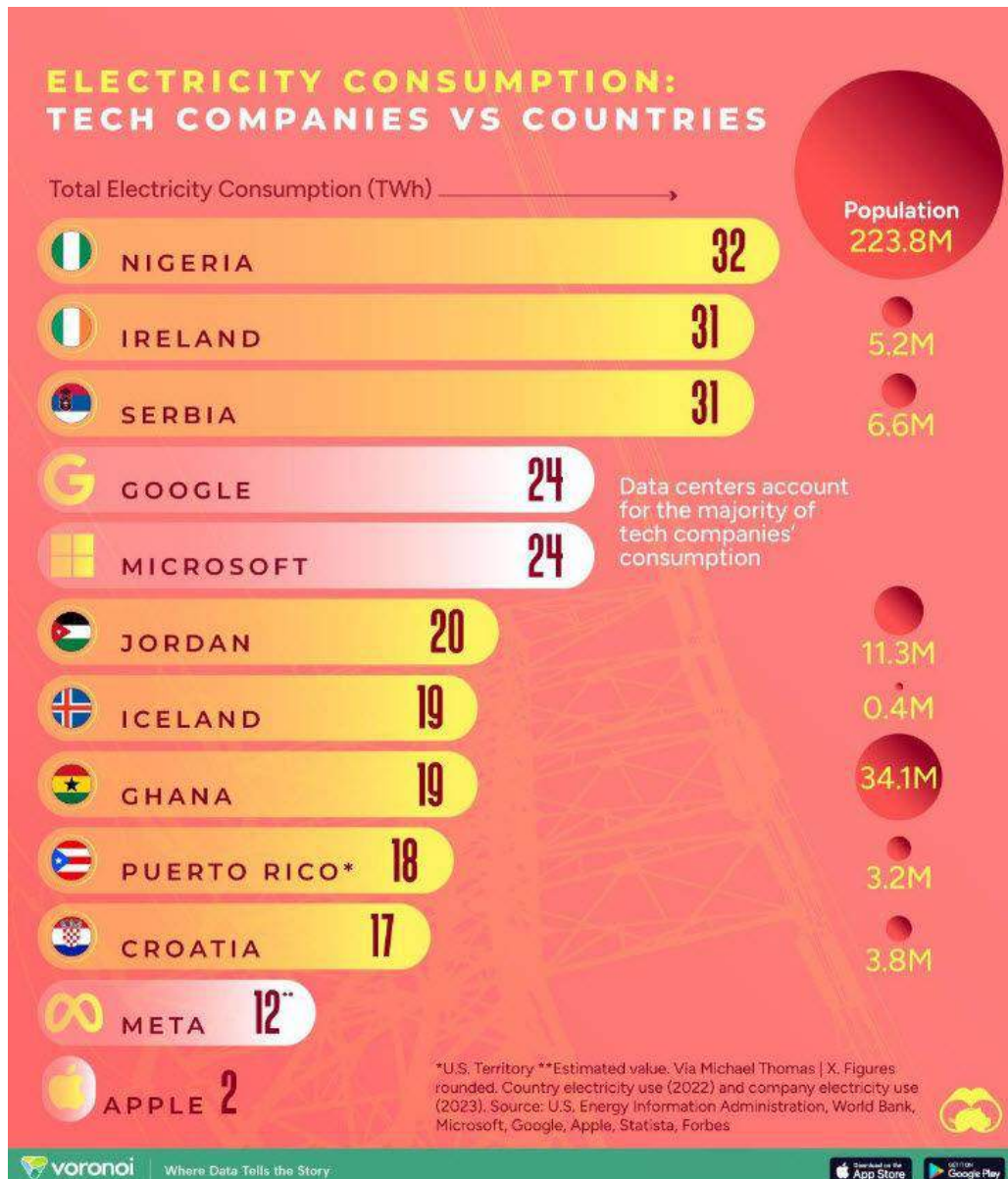
It Ain't Easy Being Green

- > It takes more than cash - it takes infrastructure, supply chains and people -
About 40 percent of "the biggest U.S. manufacturing investments" announced in the first year of U.S. President Joe Biden's acts to strengthen its cleantech and semiconductor supply chain have been delayed or paused, the *Financial Times* has reported.
- > Reiterating, yet again. Climate models are magnificent creations that cannot reliably predict a non-linear, multivariable complex system -

Climate Models Vastly Overstated Warming

The observed 12-state U.S. Corn Belt summer temperature trend for 1973–2022 is considerably less than that produced by all 36 climate models used to promote changes in U.S. energy policy.





Miscellany

Jewish dad picks his kid up after first day at Trinity Day School. Kid says to dad "I learned today that God is in three parts--the father, son, and holy ghost." Dad bends down to look child in the eye and says "Darling. There is only One God. And we don't believe in him."

What is mpox?

Everything you need to know about the virus behind the latest public health emergency

[Lilia Sebouai](#) and [Sarah Newey](#), Global Health Security Correspondent, in Bangkok

The World Health Organisation (WHO) [has declared a global health emergency](#) over a new strain of mpox that is spreading rapidly in Africa.

Thousands of cases of the disease – formerly known as monkeypox – and hundreds of deaths [have already been reported in the Democratic Republic of Congo \(DRC\) this year](#). In recent weeks, [infections have begun to spread to other neighbouring countries](#) across East and Central Africa.

Scientists are [particularly concerned by how fast the new variant of the disease is spreading](#), and by its high fatality rate.

Here's everything you need to know about the virus that has set alarm bells ringing.

What is mpox?

[Mpox](#) is a viral infection that spreads through close contact. It was first identified at the Statens Serum Institut in Copenhagen in 1958, when scientists noticed outbreaks of a “pox-like” disease in monkeys being kept for research.

The first human case was not confirmed until 1970, when a nine-year-old boy living in the DRC developed a nasty rash that reminded doctors of smallpox.

Scientists have identified two major strains – or clades – of mpox in Africa.

The strain driving the current outbreak is known as clade 1b, which has a higher mortality rate than the strain which prompted the first emergency in 2022 – thought to be as high as five per cent in adults and 10 per cent in children.

Clade 1b emerged in September last year, with the first cases found in sex workers in the DRC mining town of Kamitug, around 170 miles from the border with Rwanda.

The WHO renamed monkeypox in 2022 to restrain what it called “racist and stigmatising language” surrounding the infection.

Skin lesions on the arms and torso of a person infected with mpox Credit: CDC/BRIAN W.J. MAHY/REUTERS

What are the mpox symptoms?

In the 2022 global outbreak, the first symptoms of mpox included a high temperature or fever, headaches, muscle aches, swollen glands and exhaustion.

Between one to five days after the first symptoms, a rash usually appears on the face before spreading to other parts of the body including the genitals and anus. The rash begins as raised spots, which grow into lesions filled with fluid.

The lesions can be excruciatingly painful, until the healing phase, when they begin to crust and cause intense itching.

The infection typically lasts two to four weeks, according to the WHO, and patients remain infectious until the symptoms start to heal.

Some people with mpox have experienced blood in their stools and pain in the rectum.

In severe cases, a person can die after developing pneumonia or a bacterial infection of the lesions, leading to sepsis.

The severity of disease is often determined by the variant. [Mortality is higher among children](#) and young adults and people with weak immune systems are especially vulnerable to severe disease.

Infection during pregnancy puts the mother at severe risk, along with the threat of congenital infection and pregnancy loss.

Rare complications include inflammation of the heart muscle and brain, as well as seizures. Lesions can cause blindness if they develop on the eyelids.

Mpox transmission

Children and adolescents have been most affected in the outbreak that’s now spreading in Africa, where more than 60 per cent of known fatal cases are under the age of 5.

The current variant, clade 1, is also reported to be spreading rapidly through sexual contact, similar to the milder strain known as clade 2b that blew over in 2022. It was reported in June that 29 per cent of confirmed cases of the new strain were among sex workers.

However, mpox isn’t considered a sexually transmitted disease, because it also spreads via other forms of close contact, such as skin-to-skin contact or sharing towels, clothing or bedding with someone who has the virus. This can put healthcare workers in particular at risk.

The pathogen enters the body through broken skin, the respiratory tract or the mucous membranes in the eyes, nose, mouth, rectum and anus.

The main animal source of the disease hasn't been identified, but infected rodents are suspected of playing a key part in transmission across parts of Africa.

During the first major outbreak in 2022, the virus mostly spread among communities of gay men.

The new variant appears to be more transmissible, and is reportedly infecting many people without sexual contact. The emergence of a new mutant strain, or clade, is concerning as it indicates the virus is adapting and getting better at spreading from person to person.

What is a global health emergency and why was one declared?

A “public health emergency of international concern” or PHEIC is the WHO’s highest form of alert.

They are declared when diseases are spreading in new or unusual ways, and are aimed at galvanising international co-operation and funding to tackle an outbreak.

The WHO’s declaration follows a similar label from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention earlier this week.

Speaking after the emergency was declared, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the potential for further spread within Africa and beyond “is very worrying”.

“A coordinated international response is essential to stop this outbreak and save lives,” he said.

When was the last global mpox outbreak?

Mpox was last declared a PHEIC in May 2022, when it triggered outbreaks in more than 100 countries across the world that had never reported mpox before.

It marked a significant departure from the disease’s typical pattern of spread in central and western Africa, where people are mainly infected by wild rodents and primates and outbreaks have not spilled across borders.

Around 100,000 cases of the virus were recorded by August this year, with over 200 deaths.

Can it be treated?

Most cases of mpox usually mean only mild illness and many people recover within a few weeks.

Treatments are mainly aimed at relieving symptoms.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says smallpox vaccine, antivirals and vaccinia immune globulin can be used to treat mpox as well as control it.

Is there an mpox vaccine yet?

There are three vaccines which protect against mpox – MVA-BN (made by Bavarian Nordic), LC16 (made by KM Biologics) and OrthopoxVac (which is licensed in Russia).

All of these shots originated as vaccines protecting against smallpox. The two viruses are very closely linked, and some experts have hypothesised that mpox has flourished because of falling immunity to smallpox - which was wiped out in 1980, following a global vaccination campaign.

The two most commonly used shots currently are MVA-BN and LC16; during the global outbreak of clade 2 mpox, it was the former that was deployed in Britain, under the brand name Imvanex.

The DRC, where the more dangerous strain dubbed clade 1 is spreading, it was only in May that MVA-BN and LC16 were finally approved for general use. Only LC16 has been approved in children, who have been badly hit by the current outbreak.

When will the DRC get more vaccines?

It's not clear. Supplies in the vast country remain extremely limited; currently, they are only available to those taking part in clinical trials.

The African Union has approved \$10.4 million of emergency funding for the African Centre for Disease Control's efforts to curb mpox, which said it aimed to secure three million doses of vaccine this year.

Yet sources involved in planning the country's rollout told Reuters that just 65,000 doses were likely to be available in the short term, with vaccination campaigns unlikely to begin until at least October.

Other elements need to be hashed out too: who will get the vaccine? How will it be distributed? Can it be used as a prophylaxis – meaning it could be given in a targeted way to the contacts of mpox patients.

Do the vaccines work against all clades?

Yes – tentatively. According to the European Centre for Disease Control, data on clade-specific vaccine effectiveness is currently limited – much of the evidence links to clade two after it lapped the globe.

But public health experts say that, because the two strains are 90 per cent similar, they expect the vaccine to work against clade one.

And in a recent podcast for the Infectious Disease Society of America Dr Agam Rao, an mpox expert at the CDC said one small study from the agency suggested that the

shots do produce a good immune response and appeared to protect health care workers in an area highly endemic for clade one.