

of interchange & exchange of ideas

Wow

World GDP per capita vs. Population 1500-2010

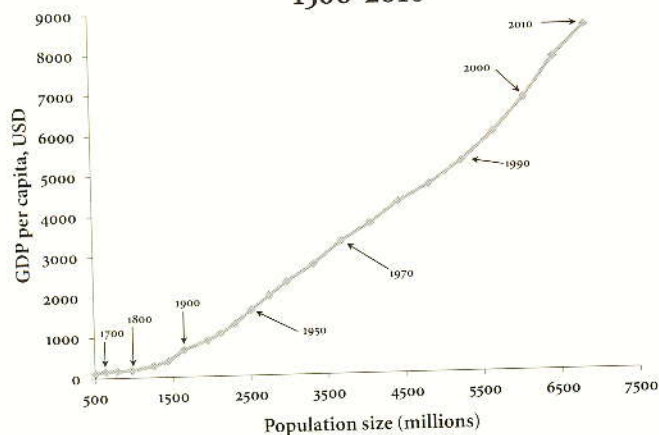


FIGURE 1.3: How per capita GDP has changed as population has grown, 1500 to 2010.

working or trading together, can produce far more than ten times as much as one person with one skill. A larger population also provides a larger market, which makes possible mass production and economies of scale. And because they represent a larger market, larger populations drive investment in new plant and equipment much more forcefully than smaller populations. If the market for an item is small, no one is going to build a new factory to produce it or spend much money on research to find ways to improve it. But if the sales opportunity is big, the necessary investment will quickly be made as a matter of course.

And there are other benefits to larger population as well. A larger population can better justify and afford transportation infrastructure projects, such as roads, bridges, canals, railroads, seaports, and airports, all of which serve to make the economy far more efficient and productive. Bigger populations have an easier time affording other kinds of infrastructure, too, like electrification and irrigation systems. And they can better afford the infrastructure of public health, including hospitals, clean water, and sanitation systems, and can act far more effectively in suppressing disease-spreading pests. It takes a large-scale

∴ env'tl benefits. as well as human
the higher the living std, the better Wow

effort to dra
beyond the c
still persist
ground" are
ponds and p
and other di
tend to be a
marshal its r
of course, a
population,
chooses to r
cation), sin
cation, and

That sai
dards is no
developme
sented by p
which relie
indicator, v
developme

So ther
does not c
of human
terms of p
(as repres
expended
in the nex
necessity
1.4 show
of the Ro
is a lot o
breaks de
1800, an
From