

Are we on the verge of collapse?



INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY FINAL PRESENTATION

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Convergence

Rodrik's Globalization Paradox

The return of great powers

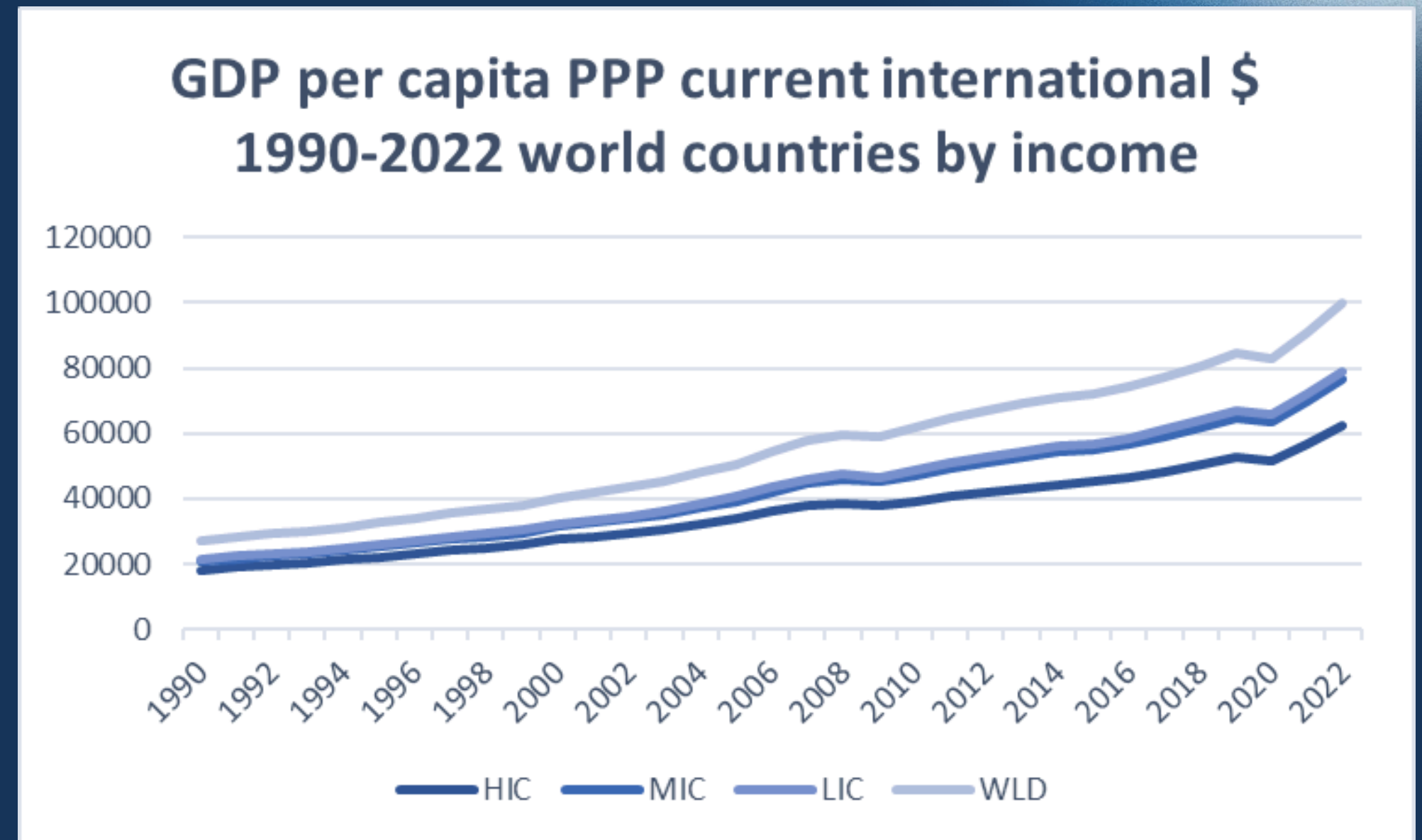
Orlov's 5 stages of collapse

China's environmental collapse

Q&A

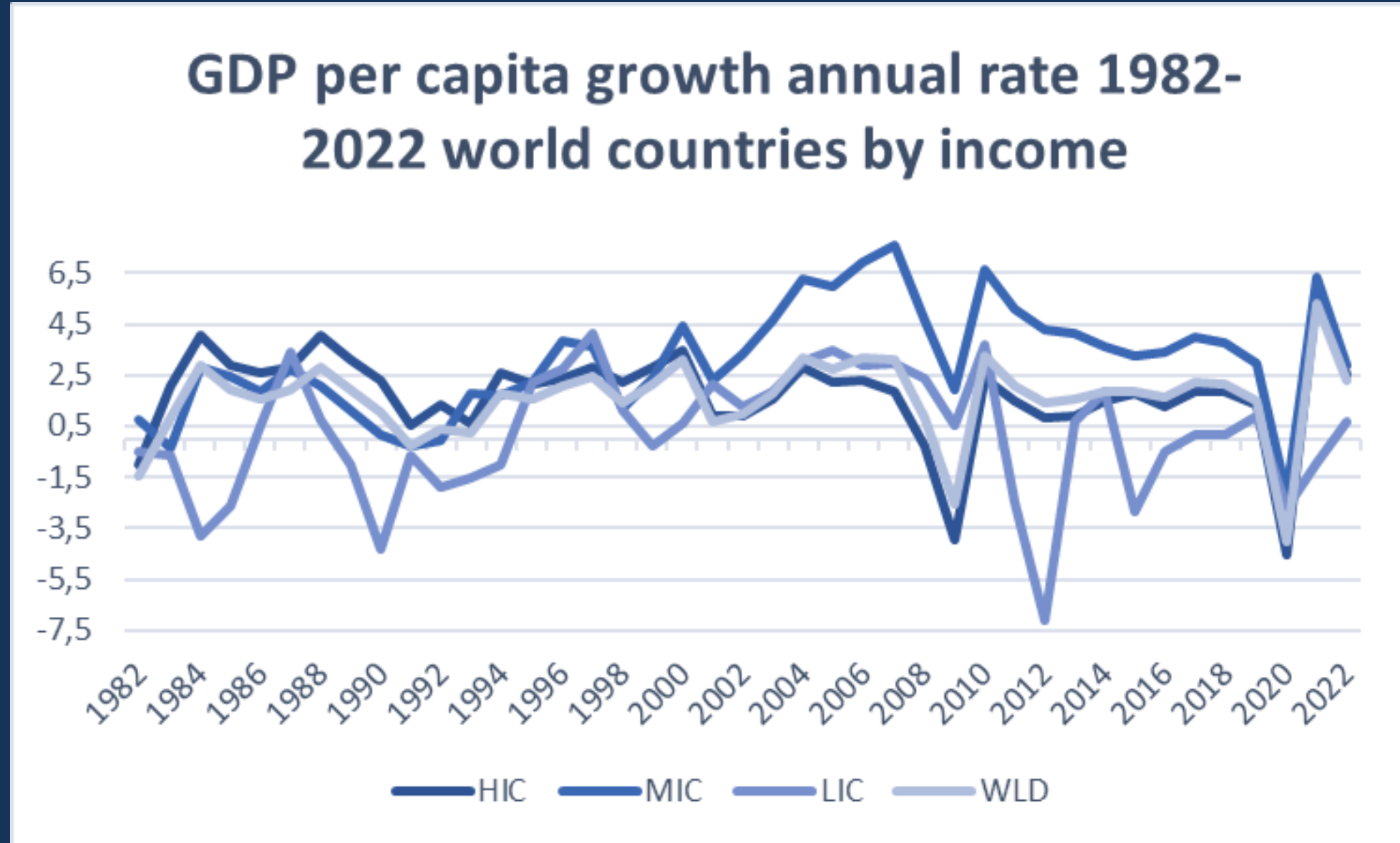
Convergence

- Also known as “**Catch-up**” effect.
- Growth at a faster rate of the per-capita income of developing economies compared to developed ones.
- Has brought significant **wealth** globally.



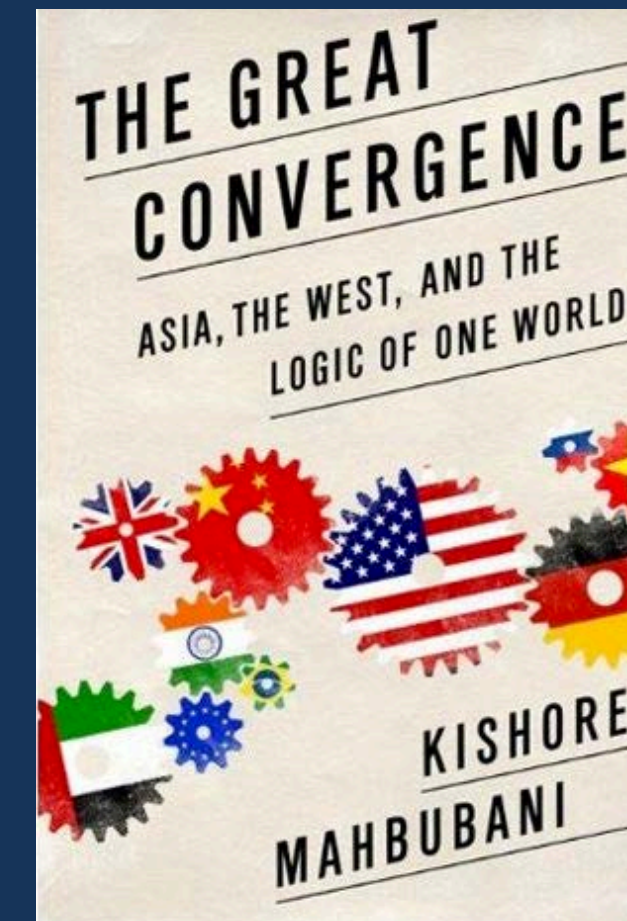
own elaboration using World Bank data

Convergence



own elaboration using World Bank data

Mahbubani, 2013



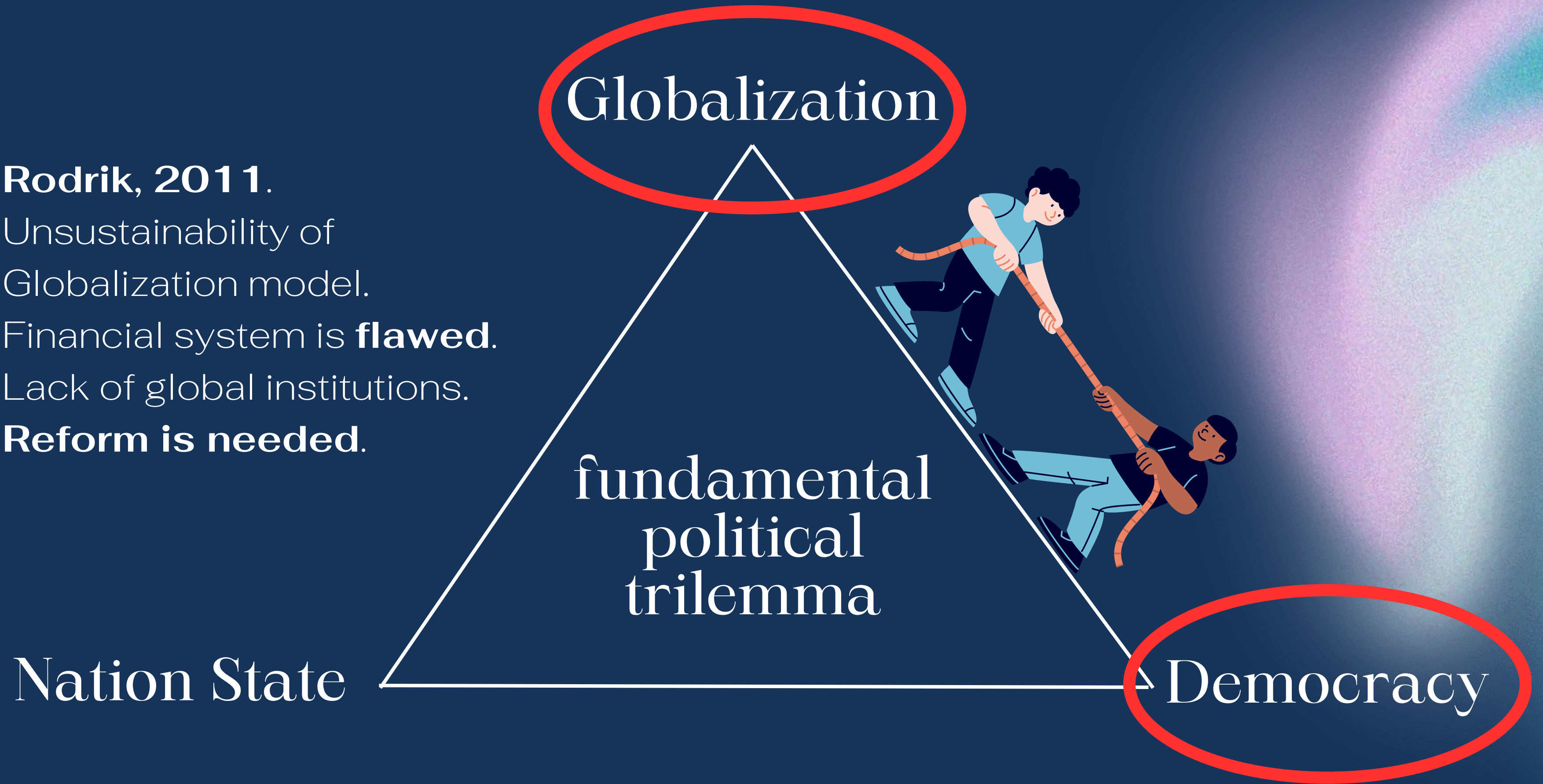
- Stresses the “**Fusion of civilization**”.
- Interdependence brings opportunities.
- Strengthen and reform the “**Rules-based order**”.

“Fortune is slow,
but ruin is rapid”

– Lucius Anneaus Seneca

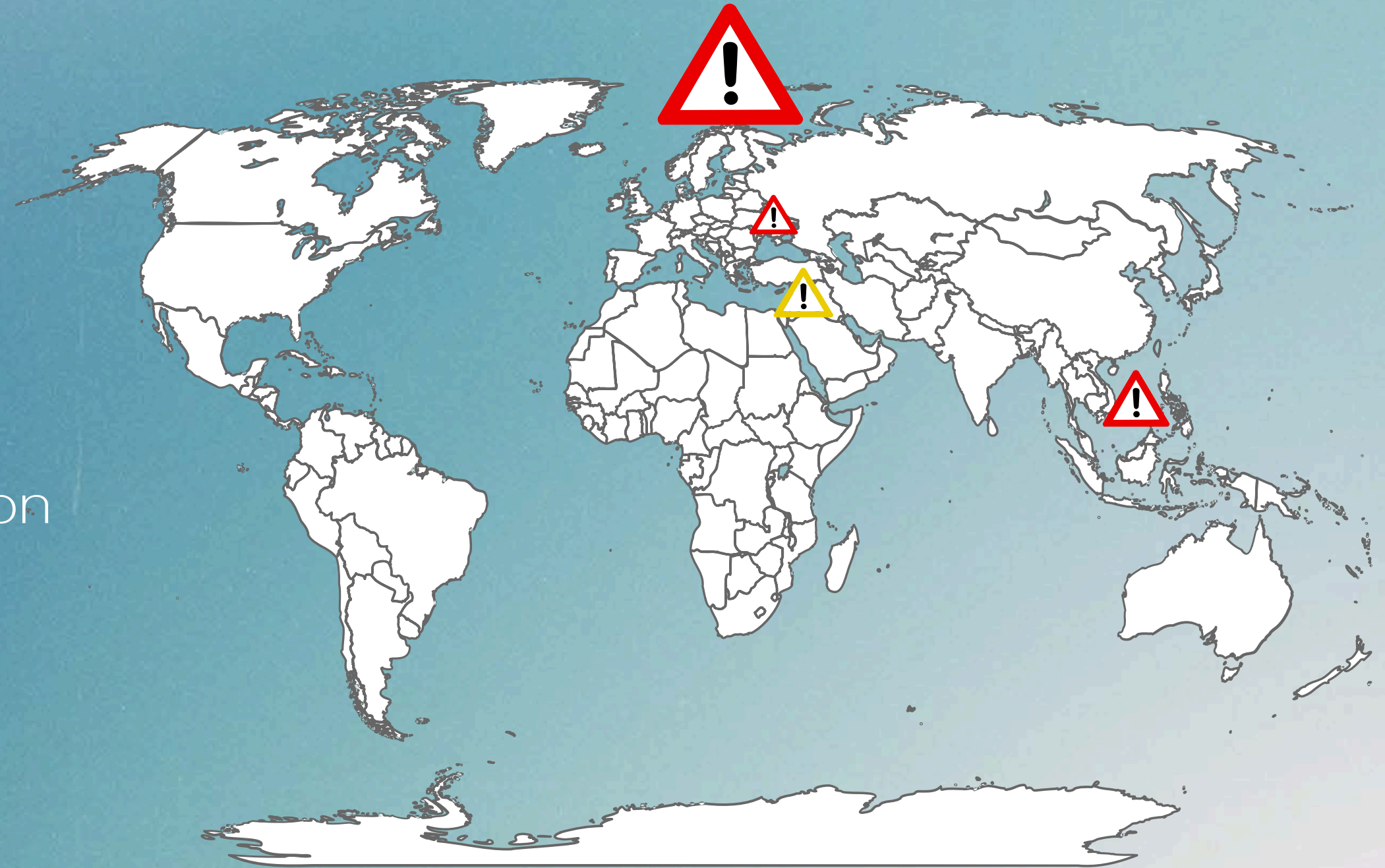
The Globalization Paradox

- **Rodrik, 2011.**
- Unsustainability of Globalization model.
- Financial system is **flawed**.
- Lack of global institutions.
- **Reform is needed.**



The return of great powers

- **Sciutto, 2024.**
- Ultimate goal: challenge Western power.
- Flashpoints: Ukraine, South China Sea, Arctic.
- High but underestimated escalation risk.
- Need to manage tensions and prevent conflicts.

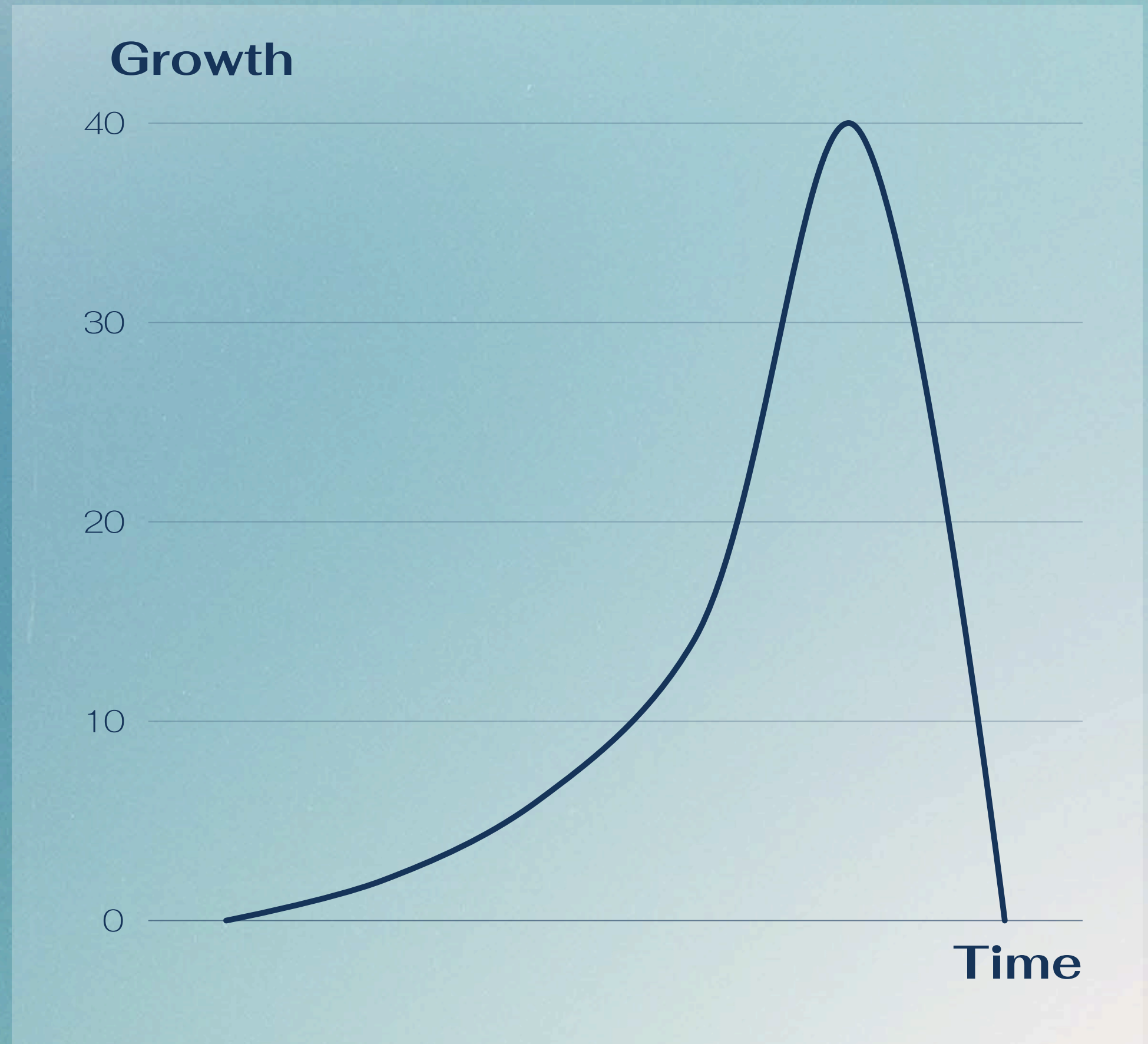


The Seneca Effect

Bardi, 2017

The Seneca effect

- Bardi explores the **asymmetrical path** of growth and decline in complex systems.
- Stresses the roles of **tipping points** and **attractors**.
- Various types of collapse are considered.
- **Societal response** to uncertain periods **may not be sufficient**.



The 5 stages of collapse

FINANCIAL
COLLAPSE

POLITICAL
COLLAPSE

CULTURAL
COLLAPSE

COMMERCIAL
COLLAPSE

SOCIAL
COLLAPSE



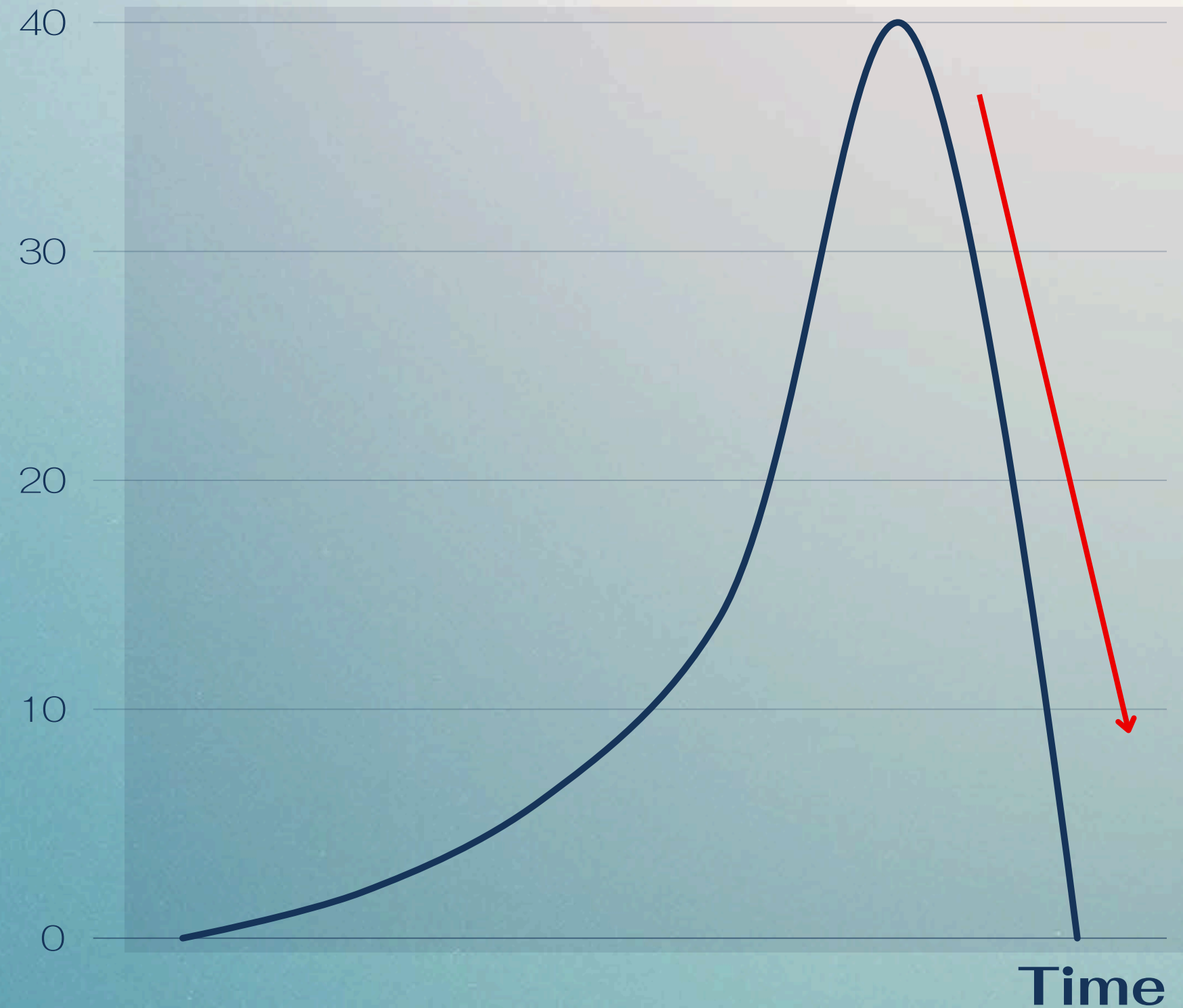
The 5 stages of collapse

- **Orlov, 2013.**
- Imminent collapse of civilization.
- Seneca cliff model used.

How to survive it

- **Resilience.**
- **Self-sufficiency.**
- **Alternative modes of living.**
- **learn from experience.**
- **Adapt to change.**
- **Prioritize sustainability and well-being.**

Industrial civilization



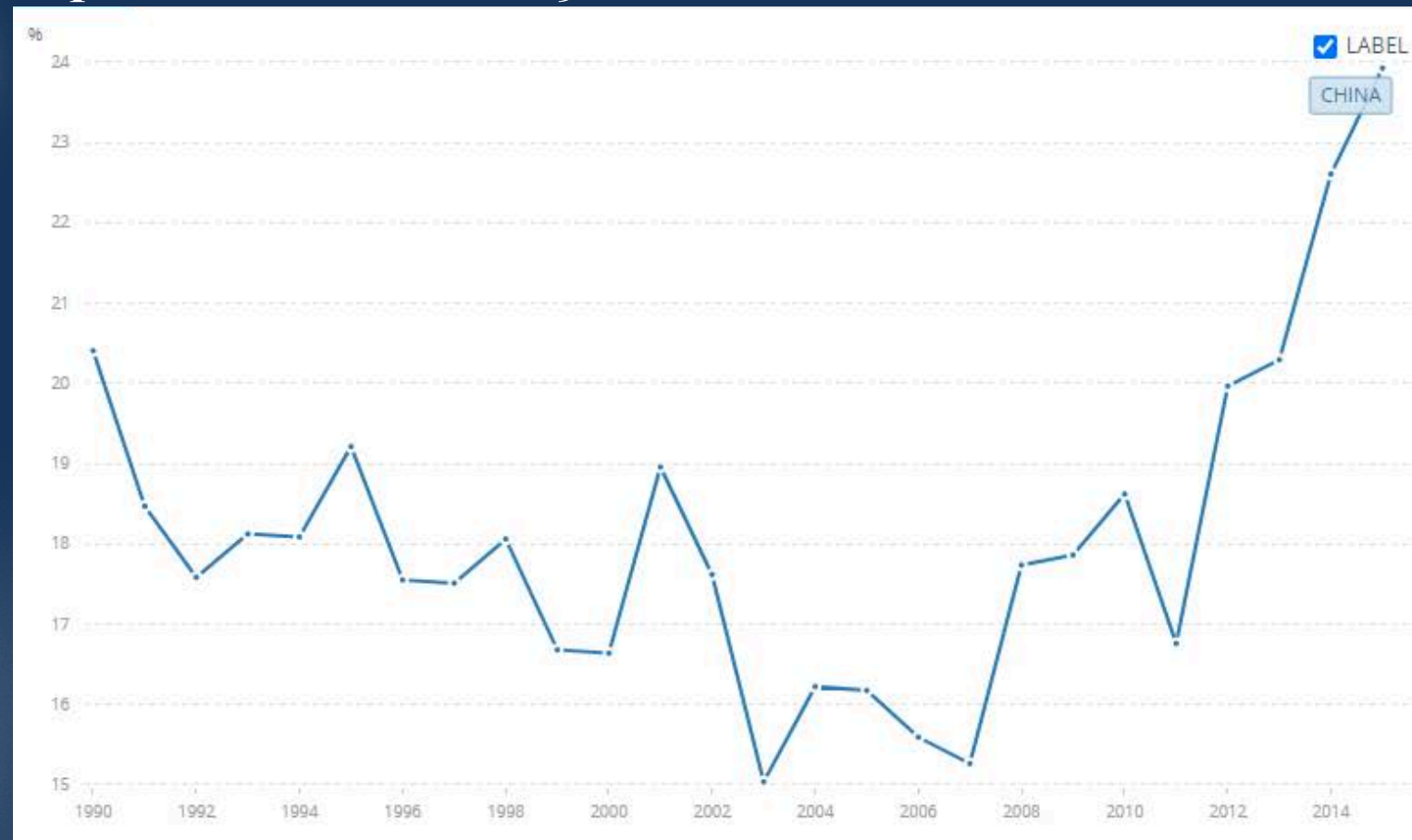
China's engine of environmental collapse

- **Smith, 2020.**
- China's plagued with **profund issues** regarding **consumption** and **production**.
- Its governance **struggles** with challenges such as corruption.
- The latter, has led to **major inefficiencies** and **severe environmental crisis**.
- Despite heavily investing in renewables, the country is **heavily reliant on fossils**.
- China's problem are also **our own**.

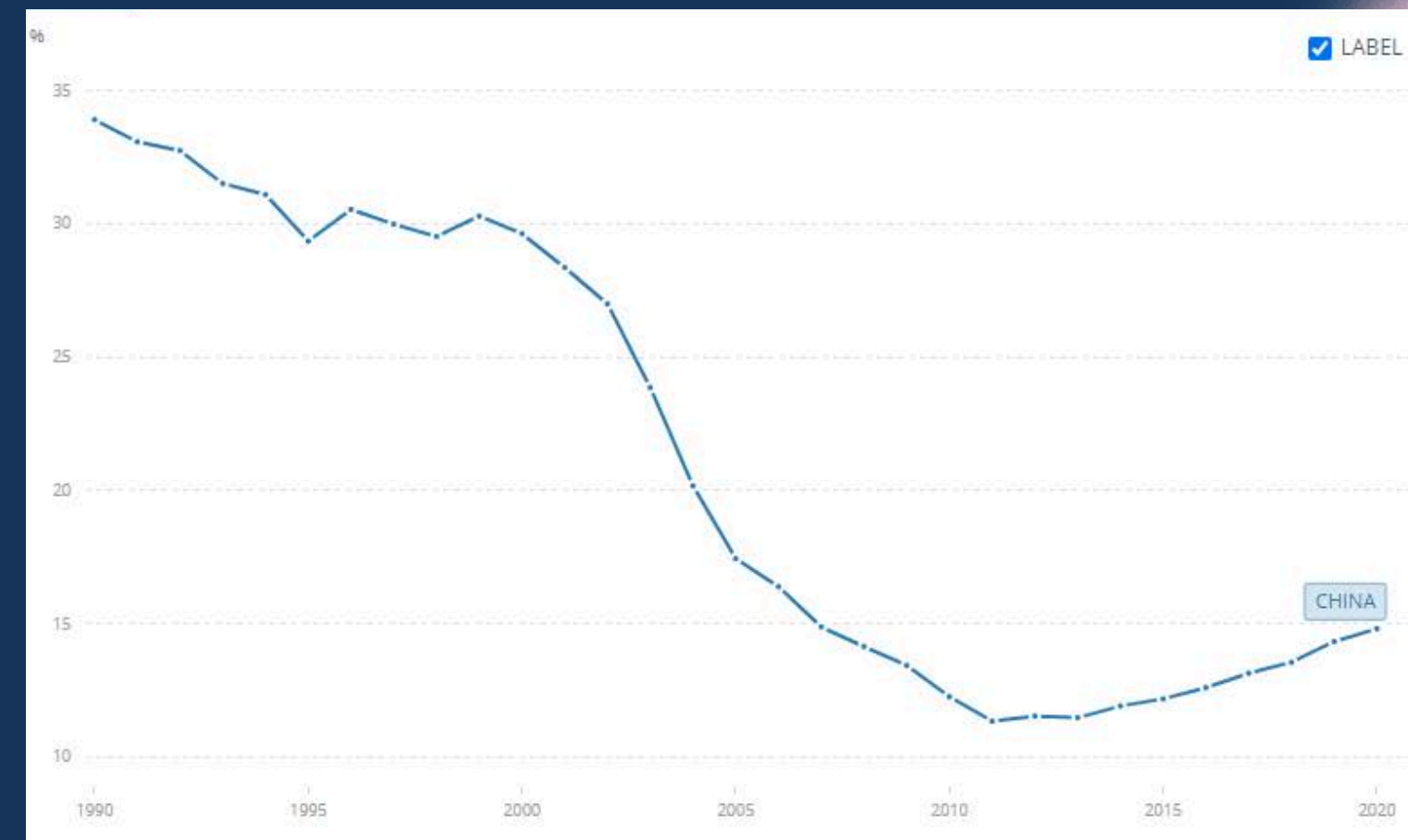


Some insights

Total greenhouse gas emissions (kt of CO₂ equivalent - China), via World Bank data

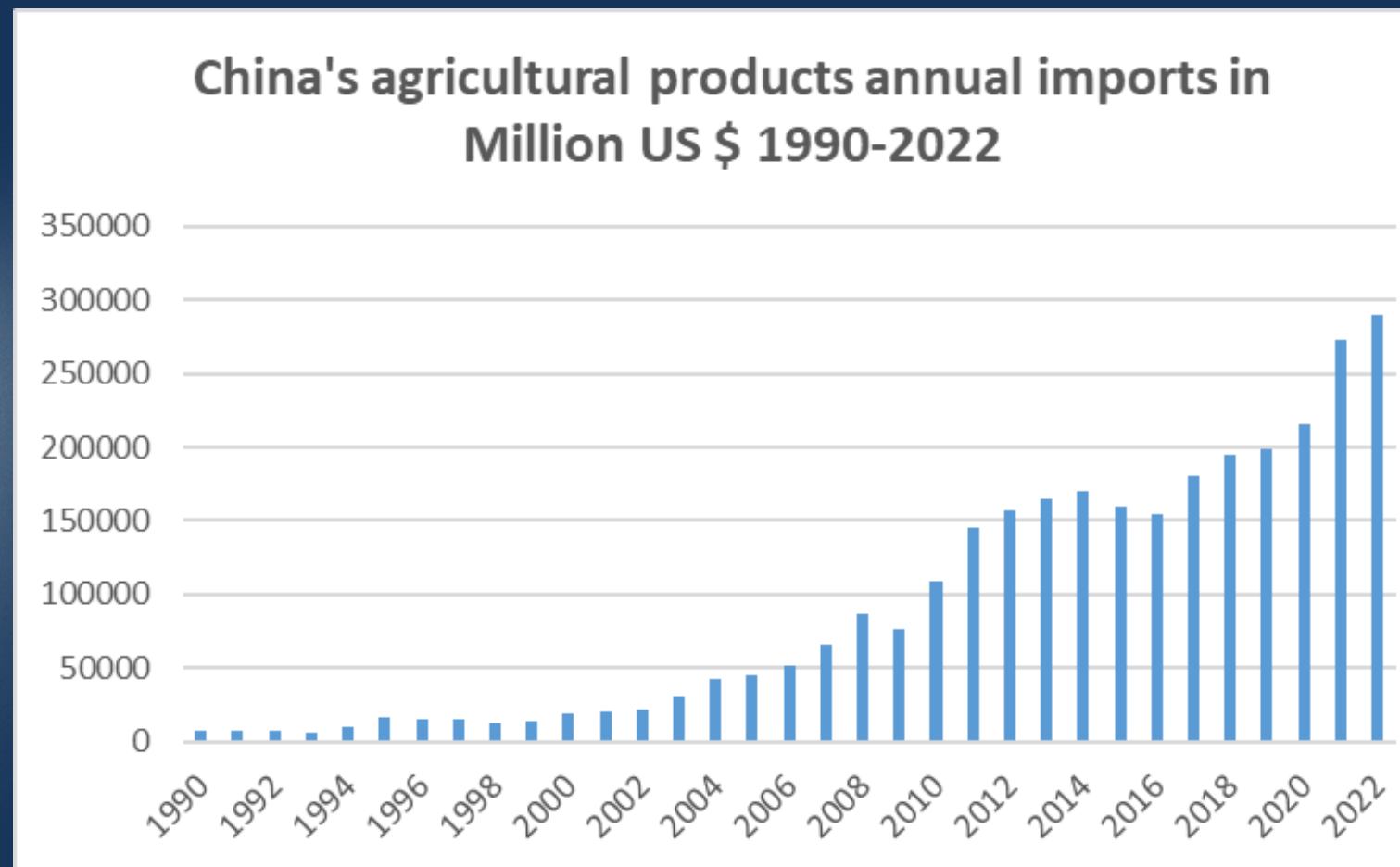


Renewable energy consumption (% of total energy consumption) - China, via World Bank Data

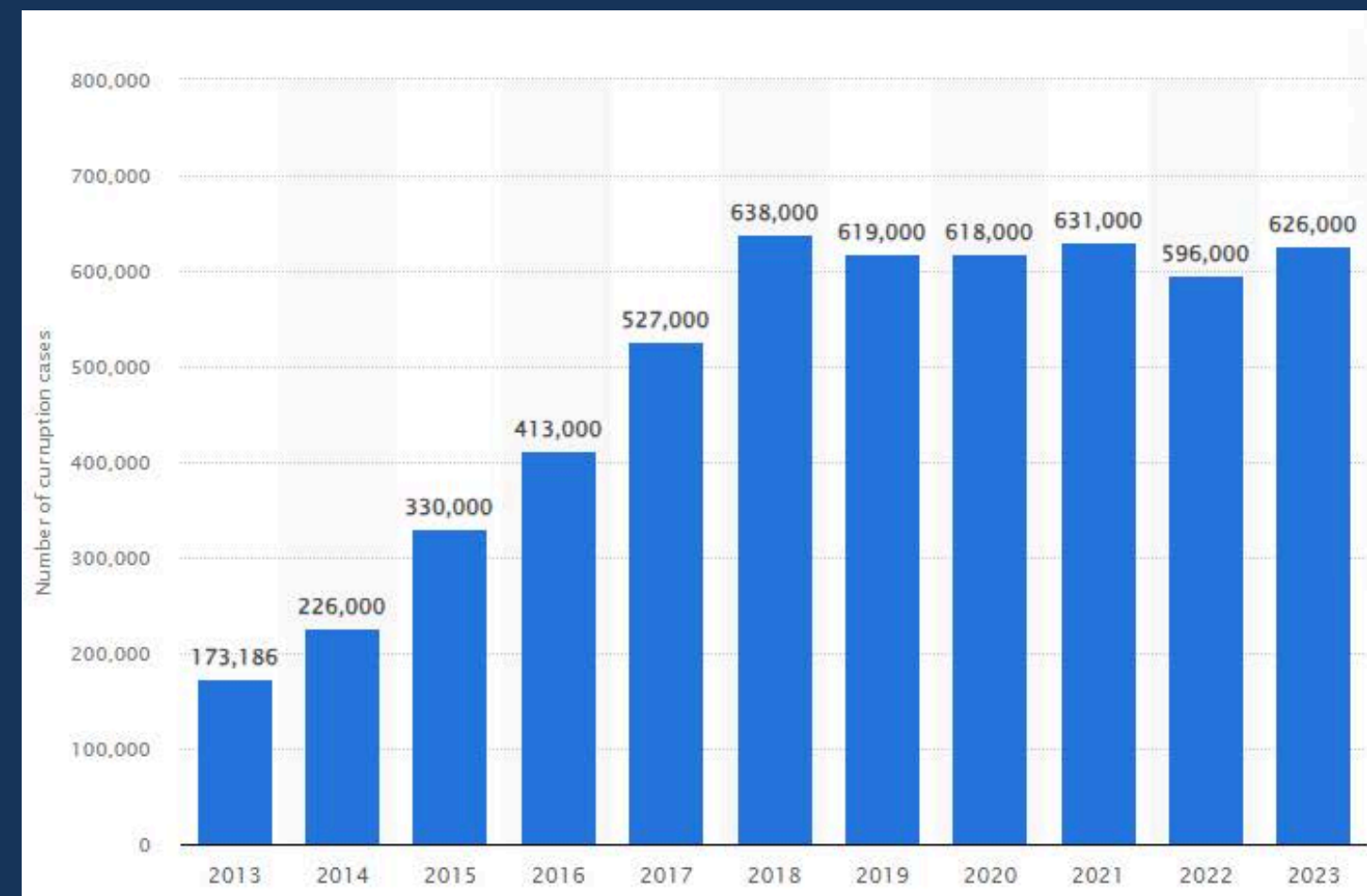


Some more insights

Number of registered corruption cases involving Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials in China from 2013 to 2023, via Statista



own elaboration using WTO stats data



Q&A



Thank you for
your attention

References

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Topic 2: **Rise of the Rest**

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Topic 3: **Geopolitics**

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Topic 5: **Collapse, decline and poverty**

1. Bardi, Ugo (2017): The Seneca effect. Why growth is slow but collapse is rapid, Springer.
2. Orlov, Dmitry (2013): The five stages of collapse, New Society Publishers.
3. Smith, Richard (2020): China's engine of environmental collapse, Pluto Press.

Topic 8: **Globalization**

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Sitography:

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2. **The Seneca effect. The punctuated collapse of the Roman Empire:** <https://www.senecaeffect.com/2015/10/the-punctuated-collapse-of-roman-empire.html>
3. **5 Environmental Issues in China:** <https://earth.org/environmental-issues-in-china/>
4. **WTO Stats:** <https://stats.wto.org/>
5. **China: party official corruption cases cases involving Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials from 2013 to 2023:** <https://www.statista.com/statistics/250147/number-of-corrupcion-cases-of-chinese-communist-party-ccp-officials-in-china/>