



INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION TODAY AND TOMORROW

BRITISH COUNCIL TNE
CONFERENCE, MANCHESTER
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INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION TODAY AND TOMORROW

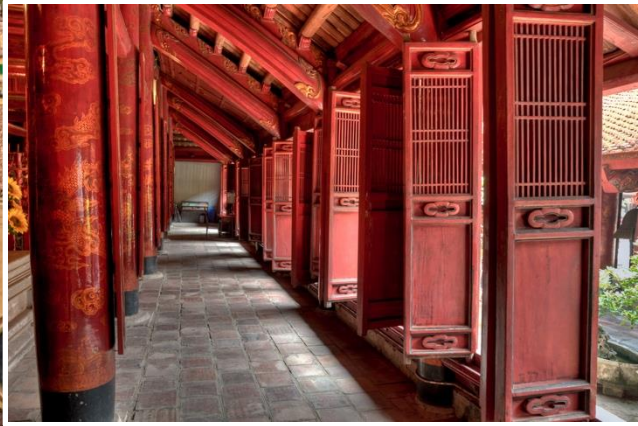
1. We are always international
2. Global multipolarity
3. Deglobalisation in the West
4. Stronger nation-states
5. Destablised student mobility
6. Geopolitics in research
7. Issues in a challenging time

An aerial photograph of Bologna, Italy, showing a dense urban landscape with terracotta roofs. In the center, the Piazza Maggiore is visible, surrounded by historic buildings, including the Palazzo del Comune and the Palazzo Re Enzo. The University of Bologna is also visible in the background. The text "I. WE ARE ALWAYS INTERNATIONAL" is overlaid in a black box at the top.

I. WE ARE ALWAYS INTERNATIONAL

University of Bologna, Italy, founded in 1088 CE

I. WE ARE ALWAYS INTERNATIONAL



Temple of Confucius, Hanoi 1070 CE



University of Al-Qarawiyyin, Fez 857 CE



University of Cambridge, 1209 CE

University of Bologna, Italy, founded in 1088 CE

LOCAL/NATIONAL AND GLOBAL

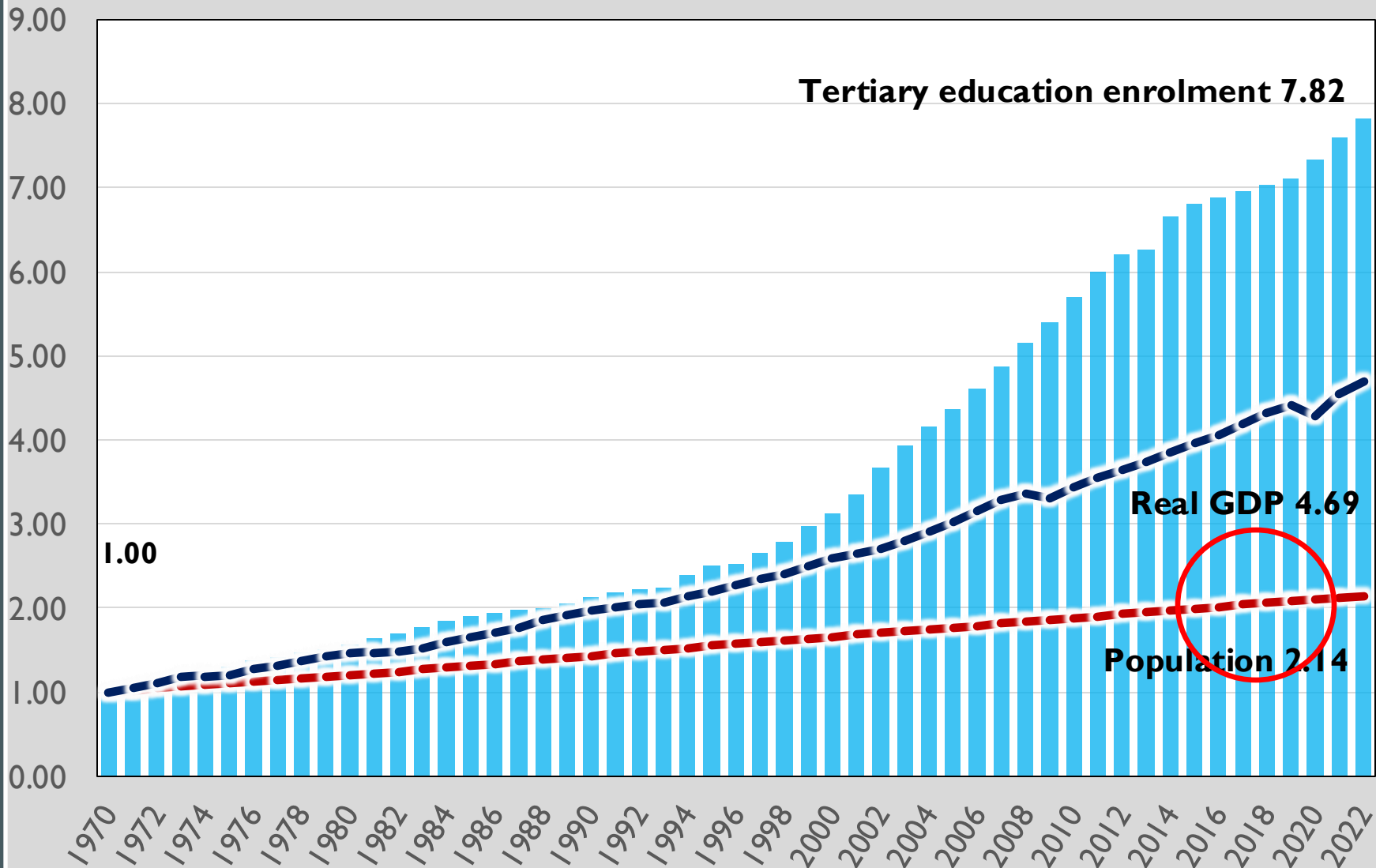
local &
national



global

University of Bologna, Italy, founded in 1088 CE

Growth of worldwide tertiary student population compared to growth in world population and world GDP constant prices 1970 = 1.00

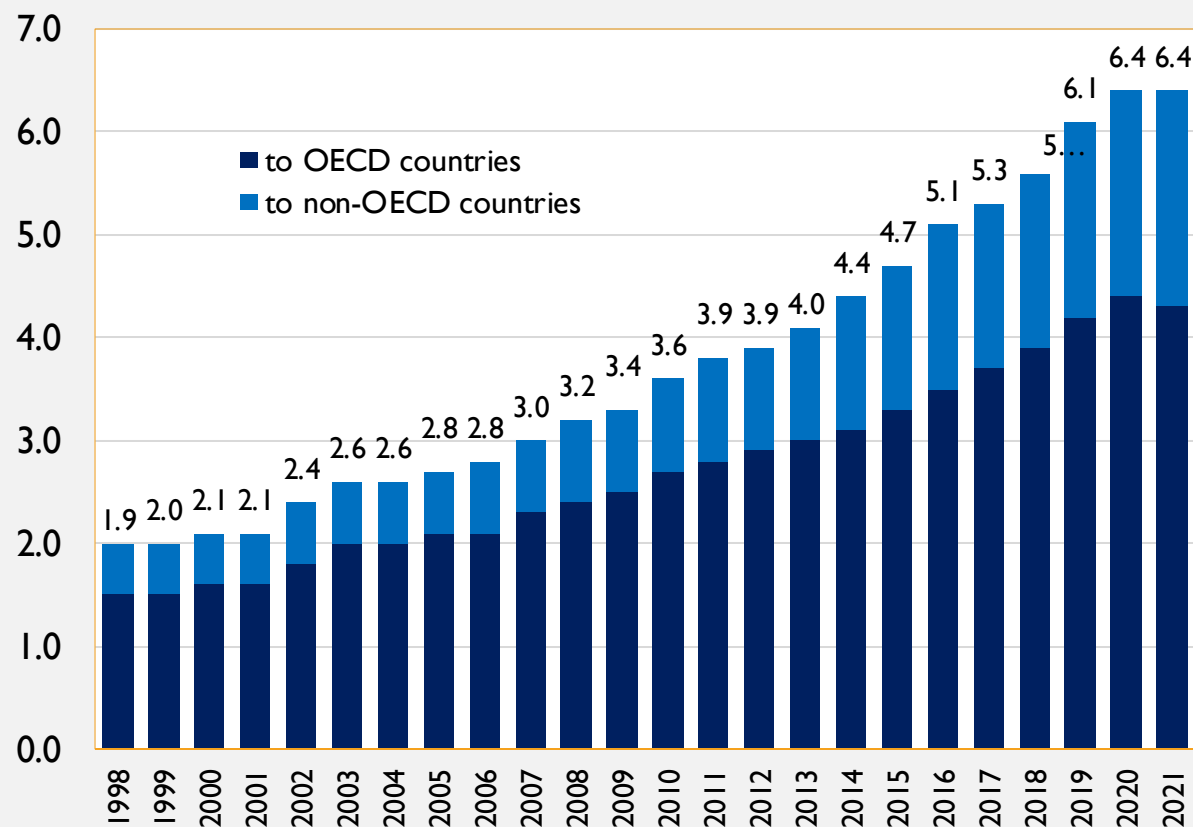


WORLD GROWTH OF TERTIARY ENROLMENT: 1970-2022

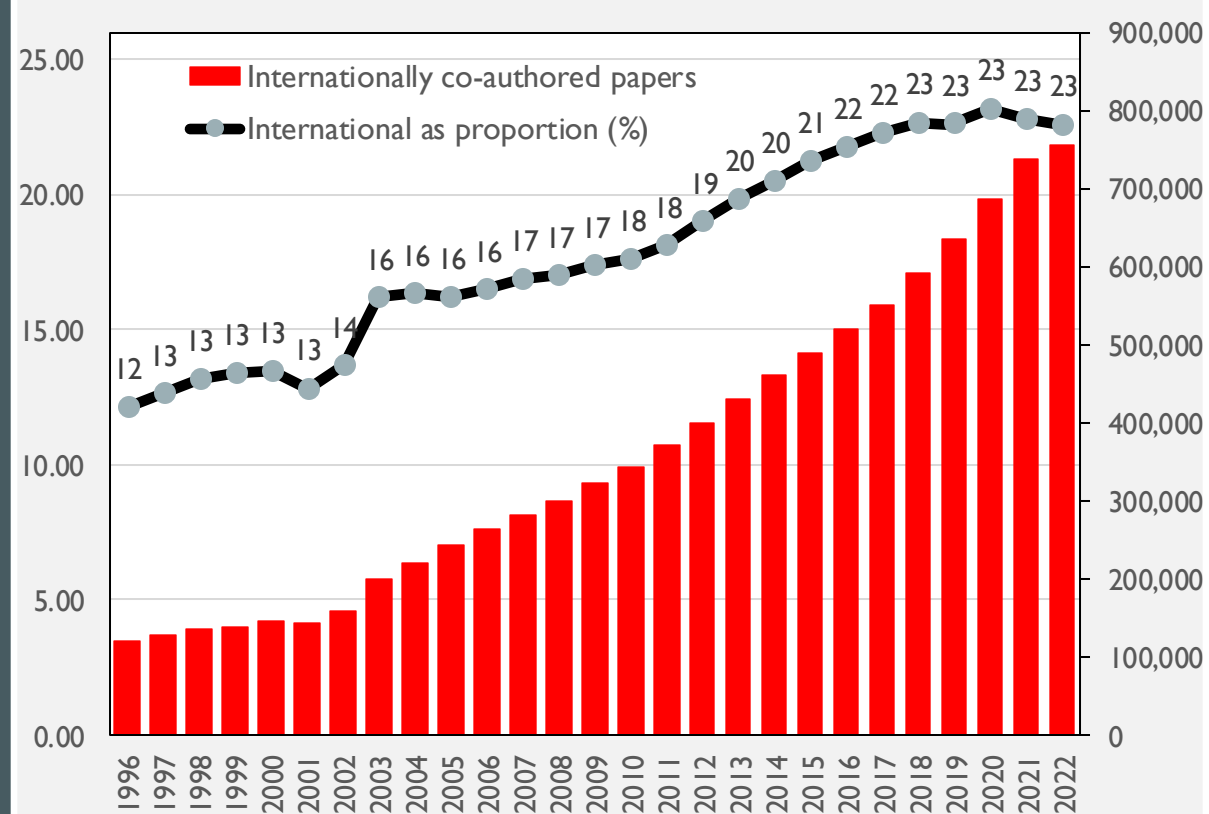
The world Gross Tertiary Enrolment ratio reached 42% in 2022

84% North America, 77% EU nations, 59% East Asia and Pacific, 41% Middle East and North Africa, 27% South Asia, 9% Sub-Saharan Africa

TOTAL CROSS-BORDER/FOREIGN TERTIARY STUDENTS (MILLIONS) WORLD: 1998-2021 (UNESCO)



NUMBER AND PROPORTION (%) OF CROSS-BORDER PAPERS WORLD: 1996-2022 (SCOPUS)

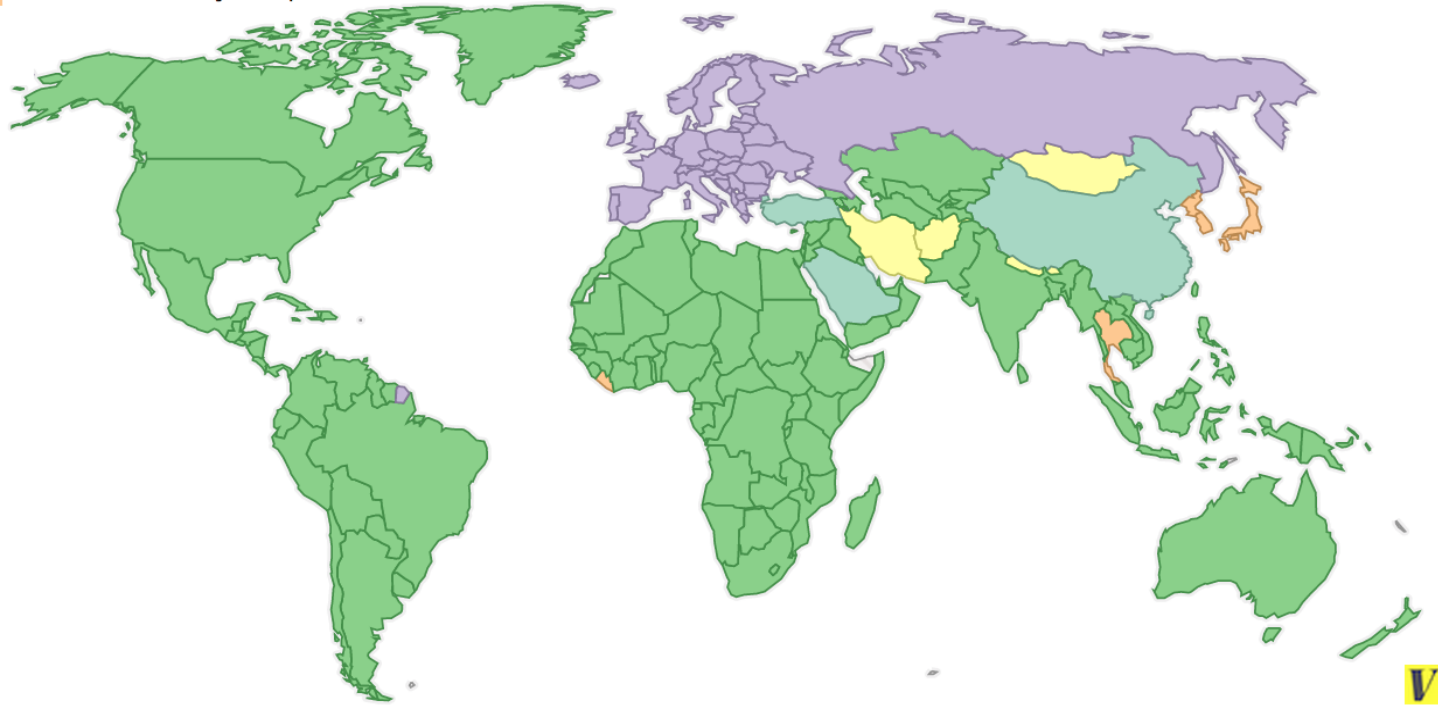




2. GLOBAL MULTIPOLARITY

Countries that have been under European control

Europe Colonized or controlled by Europe Partial European control or influence European sphere of influence
Never colonized by Europe

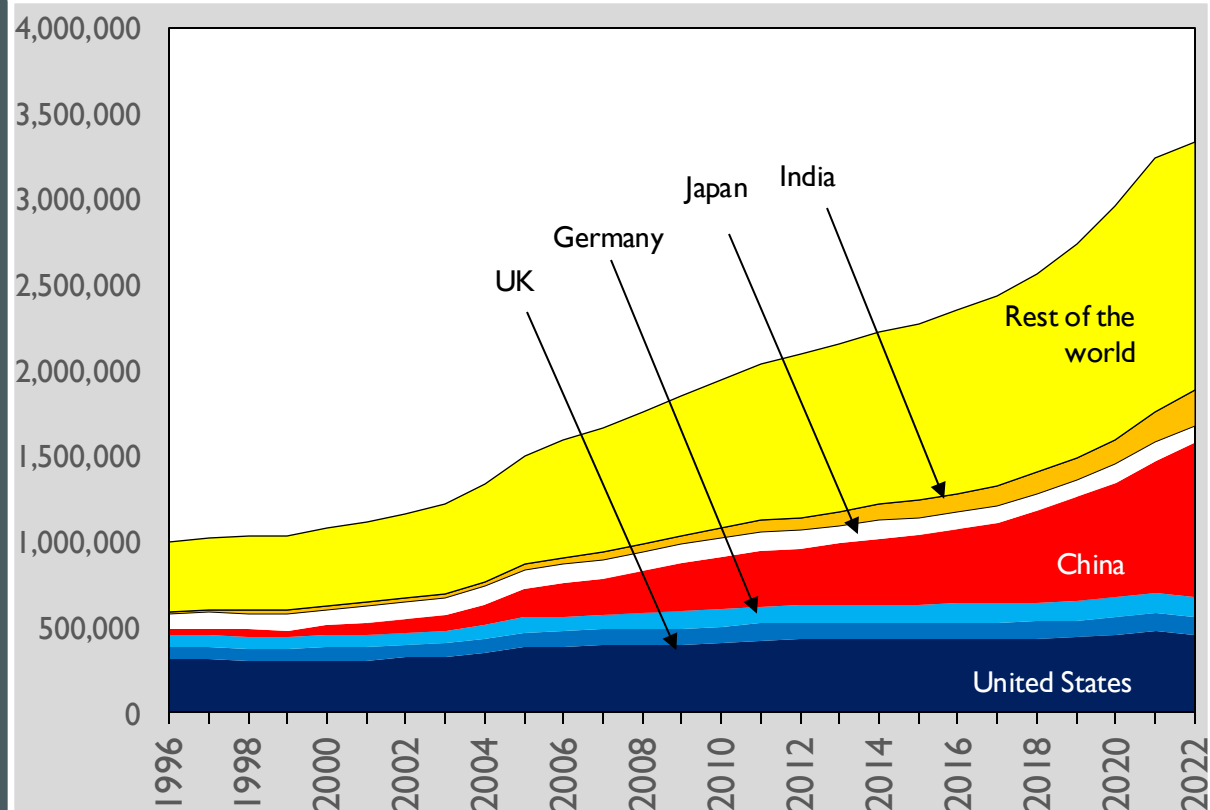


THE WORLDWIDE COLONISATION

Only countries not controlled in whole or part by European powers were Liberia in Africa, Thailand, Korea and Japan. Korea was colonised by Japan, and Japan was later occupied by the United States

THE MULTI-POLAR HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD: THE NON-WEST IS RISING

Science papers by country/region: 1996-2022

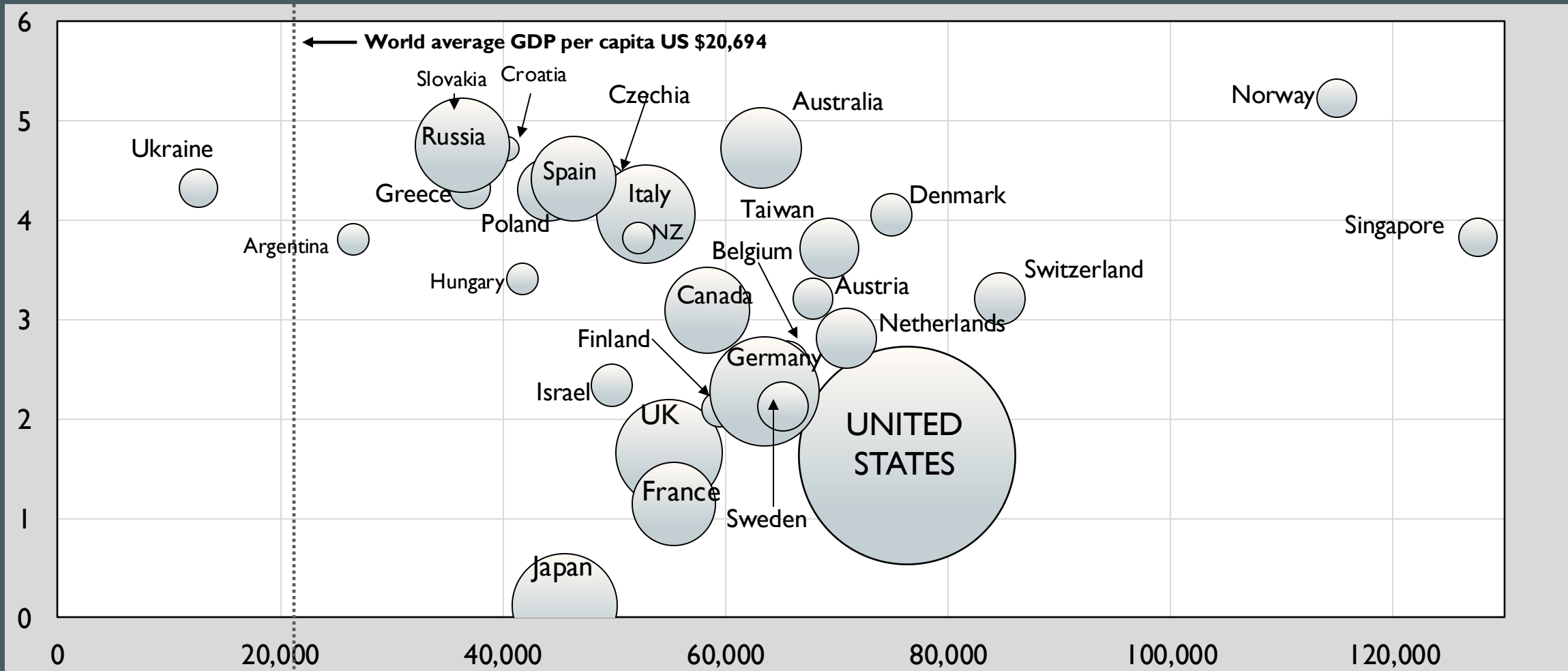


Country	Scopus papers 2003	Scopus papers 2022
China	88,585	898,949
India	26,638	207,390
South Korea	23,880	76,936
Brazil	17,731	67,001
Iran	3,907	60,940
Indonesia	387	31,947
United States	336,491	457,335
Germany	74,320	113,976
United Kingdom	77,151	105,584
Australia	25,877	62,305

NATIONAL SCIENCE SYSTEMS WHERE *GLOBAL SCIENCE OUTPUT GREW SLOWER THAN WORLD AVERAGE RATE OF 5.38% PER YEAR, 2003-2022* COMPARED TO WORLD AVERAGE GDP PER CAPITA PPP \$US 20,694 IN 2022

Science systems with 5,000 papers or more in 2020. Scopus data., fractional counting (NSB 2024). Current price GDP, PPP = purchasing power parity (World Bank 2024) World Data Atlas for Taiwan. NZ = New Zealand.

Growth p.a.(%) science papers

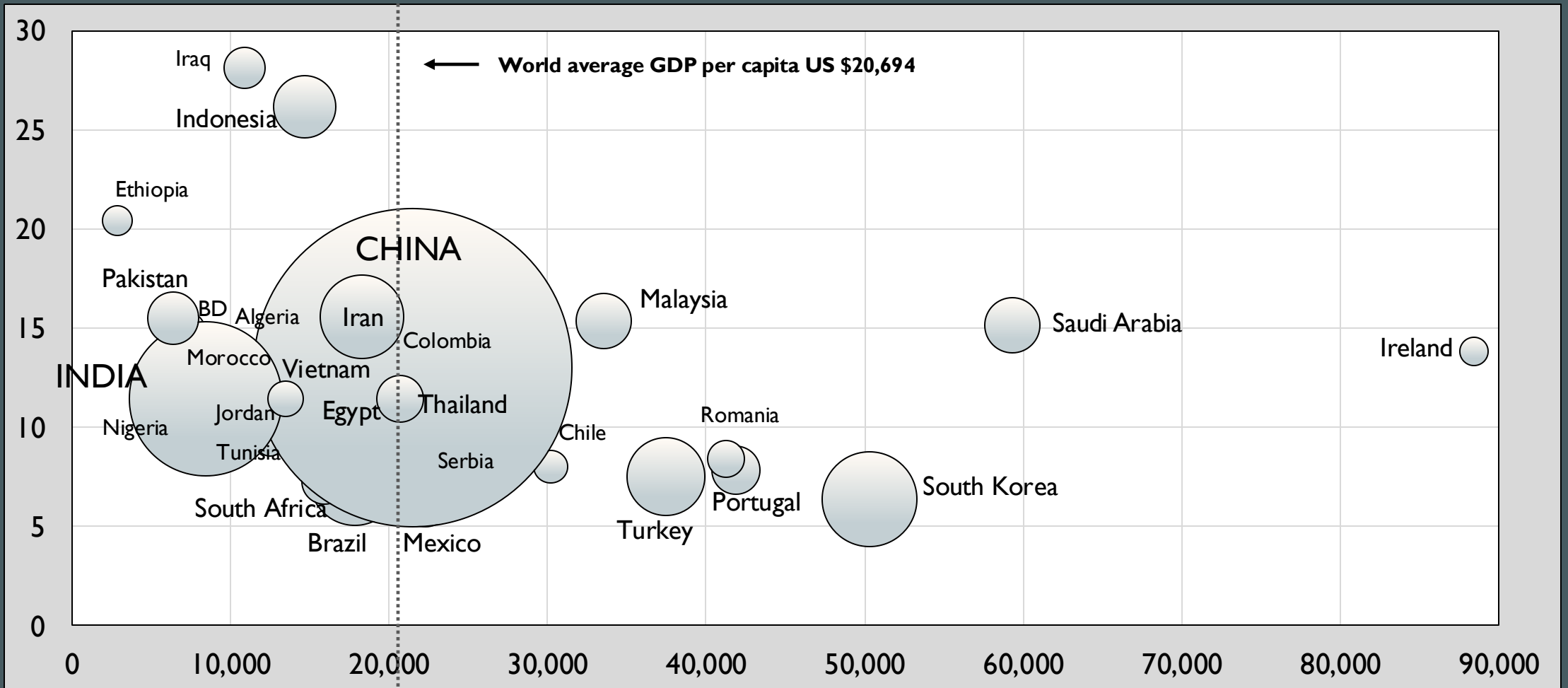


GDP per capita PPP in \$US current prices, 2022

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Science systems with 5,000 papers or more in 2020. Scopus data., fractional counting (NSB 2024). Current price GDP, PPP = purchasing power parity (World Bank 2024) BD = Bangladesh

Growth
p.a.(%)
science
papers



GDP per capita PPP in US dollars 2022

CHINA'S UNIVERSITIES NOW LEAD IN STEM RESEARCH

University	System	Top 5% cited papers in all disciplines 2019-2022 (Leiden/WoS)
Harvard U	USA	4,223
Zhejiang U	CHINA	2,331
Tsinghua U	CHINA	2,068
Shanghai JT U	CHINA	2,045
Stanford U	USA	2,030
Huazhong U S&T	CHINA	1,801
U Toronto	CANADA	1,760
U Oxford	UK	1,739
Central Southern U	CHINA	1,549
Peking U	CHINA	1,545
Sichuan U	CHINA	1,488
U College London	UK	1,476
U Chinese Ac Science	CHINA	1,462
U Michigan	USA	1,459

University	System	Top 5% cited papers in physical sciences and engineering 2019-2022
Tsinghua U	CHINA	1,160
Zhejiang U	CHINA	871
Shanghai JT U	CHINA	865
Harbin IT	CHINA	792
U Science & Technol	CHINA	772
Huazhong U S&T	CHINA	761
Tianjin U	CHINA	752
Xi'an Jiaotong U	CHINA	750
U Chinese Acad Scien	CHINA	703
Central Southern U	CHINA	649
Chongqing	CHINA	604
Hunan U	CHINA	591
Northwestern Pol U	CHINA	576
MIT	USA	560



**3, DEGLOBALISATION
IN THE WEST**



DEGLOBALISATION MOVES

- Growth of trade, offshoring levels off
- Brexit in Europe 2016
- Trump I in 2017-2021 sets off economic protectionism
- Strong opposition to open trade in Western industrial districts
- Migration resistance in most Western countries. Tough reforms in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland. Trump 2 deportation agenda

4. STRONGER NATION-STATES



An aerial, high-angle photograph of a massive crowd of people. The individuals are densely packed and appear to be moving in a circular or spiral pattern, creating a strong sense of motion and instability. The image is heavily blurred, particularly towards the edges, which emphasizes the chaotic and uncontrolled nature of the gathering. The colors of the clothing are varied, creating a vibrant but disorienting visual field. In the upper right corner, there is a black rectangular box with a white border containing white text.

5. DESTABLISED STUDENT MOBILITY



NATIVISM REDUCES STUDENT MOBILITY INTO THE WEST

- Brexit 2016 trigger's U.K. exit from Erasmus +. Turing supports outward mobility only, both UK governments reject European student entry
- UK bars graduate students from bringing dependents with them, numbers drop
- Full international fees in Norway and Finland
- 30% reduction in student visas in Canada and a similar scale cut happening in Australia
- Reductions in students in English language programmes in Denmark and Netherlands

6. GEOPOLITICS IN RESEARCH



The image features a vertical split background. The left side shows the American flag (stars and stripes) and the right side shows the Chinese flag (red field with yellow stars).

'NEW COLD WAR' DECOUPLING IN SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION

- China/US cooperation was strong in all domains 1980-2015 including S&T and universities. This failed to Westernise China's political system as the US hoped, and became seen as helping 'the enemy' to become stronger
- Decoupling moves: anti-Huawei, 2018 China Initiative in U.S. and persecution of scientists, reduced China to U.S. visas and border harassment of returning Chinese students, less university diplomacy and U.S./China agreements, closing of 90% of Confucius Institutes and refusal of CSC funding
- China/US papers down from 62,904 (2020) to 58,546 (2022)
- Decoupling spreads through the West but not elsewhere

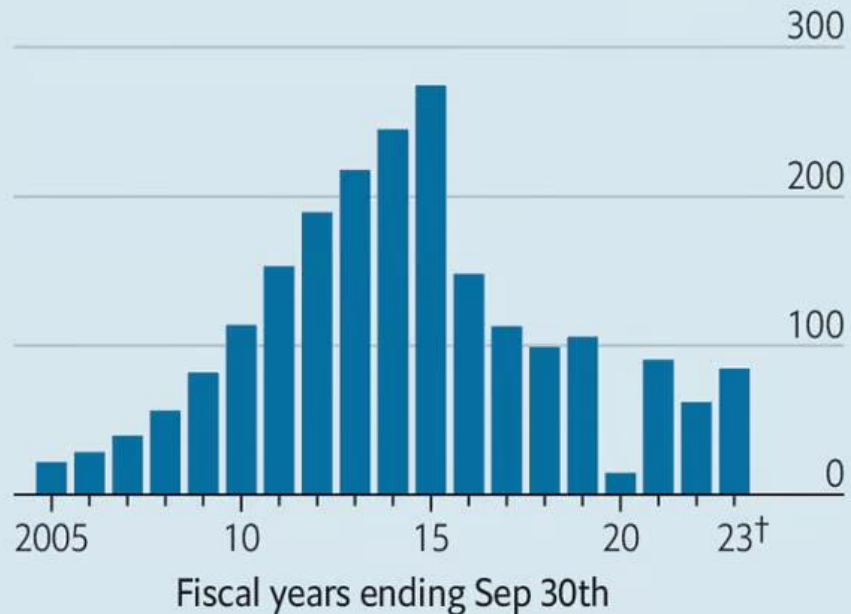
PROBLEMS OF A ZERO-SUM APPROACH IN RESEARCH

- ‘The axiom of openness is challenged ... While researchers generally seek to collaborate with the best suitable partners due to complementarity in knowledge, resources and access to data, this is now becoming more difficult ... The process of aligning science with national strategic goals threatens to impede global scientific excellence and the capacity to mitigate global challenges.’

Tommy Shih et al. *University World News*, 10 June 2023

Student politics

US, number of student visas* issued to mainland Chinese nationals, '000



Source: US Department of State *F-1 visas †To August 31st

The Economist, 11 October 2023



7. ISSUES IN A
CHALLENGING
TIME

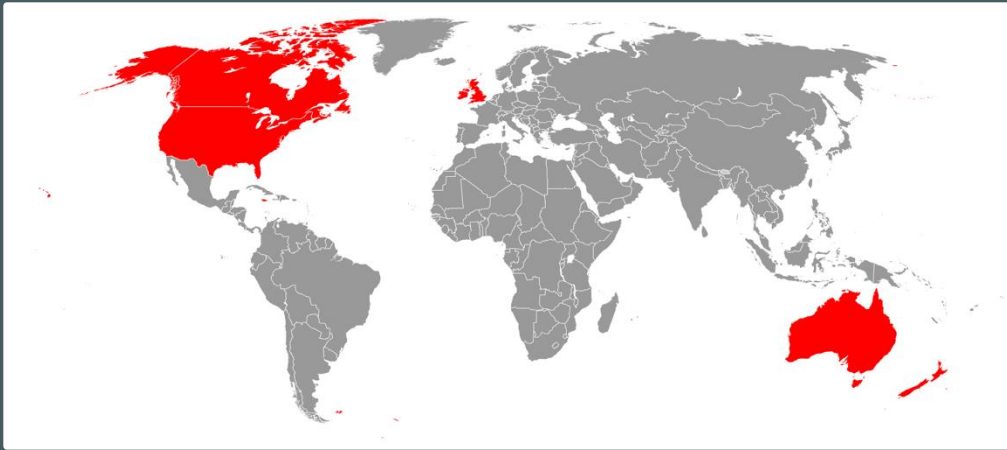
MARCH FOR JUSTICE



**SECURE RIGHTS-BASED
PEOPLE MOBILITY IN
HIGHER EDUCATION**

EPISTEMIC JUSTICE

MARCH FOR JUSTICE



Countries where English is the L1 of more than half the population

English is first language (L1) of 373 million (4.7%) of global population, second language of 13.5%. Other L1 with over 100 million speakers are Putonghua Chinese 11.6%, Spanish 5.9%, Hindi 4.3%, Bengali 2.9%, Portuguese 2.9%, Russian 1.9%, Japanese 1.6%

The 98% of papers in Web of Science and 96% in Scopus in English are treated as the sole 'universal' knowledge

EPISTEMIC JUSTICE: OPENING UP KNOWLEDGE

At present 'global science' excludes:

- All national and local papers outside the recognised global journals.
- Most social science, humanities
- Knowledge in languages other than English, including minority and traditional knowledge

We now have the software to publish all journals in multiple languages



Dickonsia Antarctica, Otways, Australia. Photo: SM

Thank you for listening