

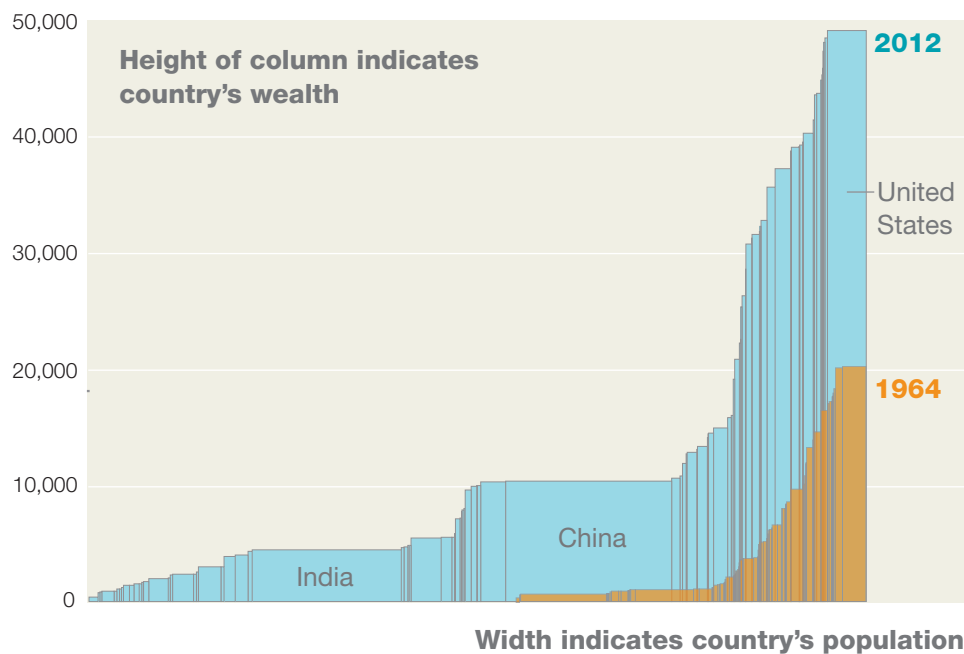
A richer world

Lindsay Pollak, Jaana Remes, and Anna Thomas

In the 50 years since *McKinsey Quarterly* began publication, a rising economic tide has lifted much of the world. Each block in the chart below represents a country, with the block’s height indicating GDP per person and its width population. Not only has progress been widespread, but the world’s widest, most populous blocks—China and India—have become dramatically richer, with per capita wealth in China moving to more than \$10,000, from roughly \$600. On the far right of this economic map, US per capita GDP has increased to nearly \$50,000, from roughly \$20,000.

The wealth of nations

GDP per capita,¹ \$



¹At 2012 purchasing-power parity, for 91 countries. Excludes the following countries because of lack of data: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Excludes countries with small populations relative to their wealth: Kuwait, Luxembourg, Qatar, Switzerland, and United Arab Emirates.

Source: The Conference Board; McKinsey Global Institute analysis

Lindsay Pollak is a consultant in McKinsey’s Silicon Valley office, **Jaana Remes** is a partner with the McKinsey Global Institute, and **Anna Thomas** is an alumna of the San Francisco office.



For more on the world’s past and future growth prospects, see “A productivity perspective on the future of growth,” on mckinsey.com.