
What the Social Progress Index can reveal about your country

[listening comprehension questions]

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Check these words before listening:

Key vocabulary

1. U.S Congress
2. Simon Kuznets – National Income Report 1929 - 1932
3. The Great Depression
4. To find a way out of the slump
5. Well-being
6. To boast
7. To march to the drumbeat of something (phrase)
8. Arab Spring
9. A sustainable environment
10. Components
11. Chad (a country in Africa) / Senegal / Costa Rica
12. Empirical
13. Sanitation
14. To be lifted out of poverty
15. Stagnation
16. Deprived parts of a country
17. Municipality
18. Contribution

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What the Social Progress Index can reveal about your country

TED TALK: Michael Green [Oct 2014.14:56]

Explain what you understand

1. Who delivered the report on “Nation Income, 1929-1932?”
2. Why was GDP introduced in 1924 in the USA?
3. What was the warning about GDP?
4. Why is GDP flawed?
5. Why are we ready for a new measure revolution?
6. What is different about the Social Progress Index? (fill in 3 dimensions)



7. Important points on the graph:

New Zealand: _____

Canada: _____

BRICS: _____

Kuwait: _____

8. An analysis of the graph highlights that for each dollar spent on GDP is...

9. What should Brazil do next? And how?

10. Overall summary?

Critical thinking? *What do you think of this lecture? Do you agree? GDP works and has created prosperity, so why change it? If GDP grows, this money can be used for green technology & protecting the environment? Is SPI applying Western philosophy / principles on all countries a good idea? Can we ALL really pursue our goals and dreams? Does the SPI include religious belief and in it a tolerance to views? The world seems to see success and happiness as being rich and wealthy run, will this world view ever change? Can we really measure Social progress objectively? Anything else?*

What the Social Progress Index can reveal about your country

ANSWERS

1. Who delivered the report on “Nation Income, 1929-1932?”

Simon Kuznets

2. Why was GDP introduced in 1924 in the USA?

Kuznets' report was delivered at a moment of crisis. The U.S. economy plummeting into the **Great Depression** and policy makers were struggling to respond. They didn't have data and statistics. So what Kuznet's report gave them was **reliable data** on what the U.S. economy was producing, updated year by year. And armed with this information, policy makers were, eventually, able to find a way out of the slump.

3. What was the warning about GDP?

On page seven he says, "The welfare of a nation can, therefore, scarcely be inferred from a measurement of national income as defined above."

GDP is a tool to help us measure economic performance. It's **not** a measure of our **well-being**. And it shouldn't be a guide to **all** decision making.

4. Why is GDP flawed?

It ignores the **environment**. It counts bombs and prisons as progress. It can't count **happiness or community**. And it has nothing to say about fairness or **justice**

5. Why are we ready for a new measure revolution?

The financial crisis of 2008 / the Arab Spring, how countries like Tunisia were supposedly economic superstars, but they were societies with discontentment. We have the technology to gather and analyze data in ways that would have been unimaginable to Kuznets.

6. What is different about the Social Progress Index? (fill in 3 dimensions)

It's a measure of the well-being of society, completely separate from GDP. It's a whole new way of looking at the world. The Social Progress Index begins by defining what it means to be a good society based around three dimensions.



7. Important points on the graph:

New Zealand: highest social progress

Canada: highest ranked G7 country

BRICS: Brazil is highest BRIC beating Russia and China

Kuwait: highest GDP, relatively low Social progress

8. An analysis of the graph highlights that for each dollar spent on GDP is...

Buying less and less social progress

9. What should Brazil do next? And how?

Get ever **more efficient** at creating social progress from its GDP, so it becomes more like New Zealand. And what that means is that Brazil needs to **prioritize social progress** in its **development plan** and see that it's not just growth alone, it's growth with social progress

10. Overall summary?

GDP is outdated. In the 21st century, we face new challenges: aging, obesity, climate change, and so on. To face those challenges, we need new tools of measurement, new ways of valuing progress. You can create a Social Progress Index for any state, region, city or municipality. This is a tool for anyone to come and use.

Imagine if we could work together — government, business, civil society, me, you and make this century the century of social progress.