

Quotations:

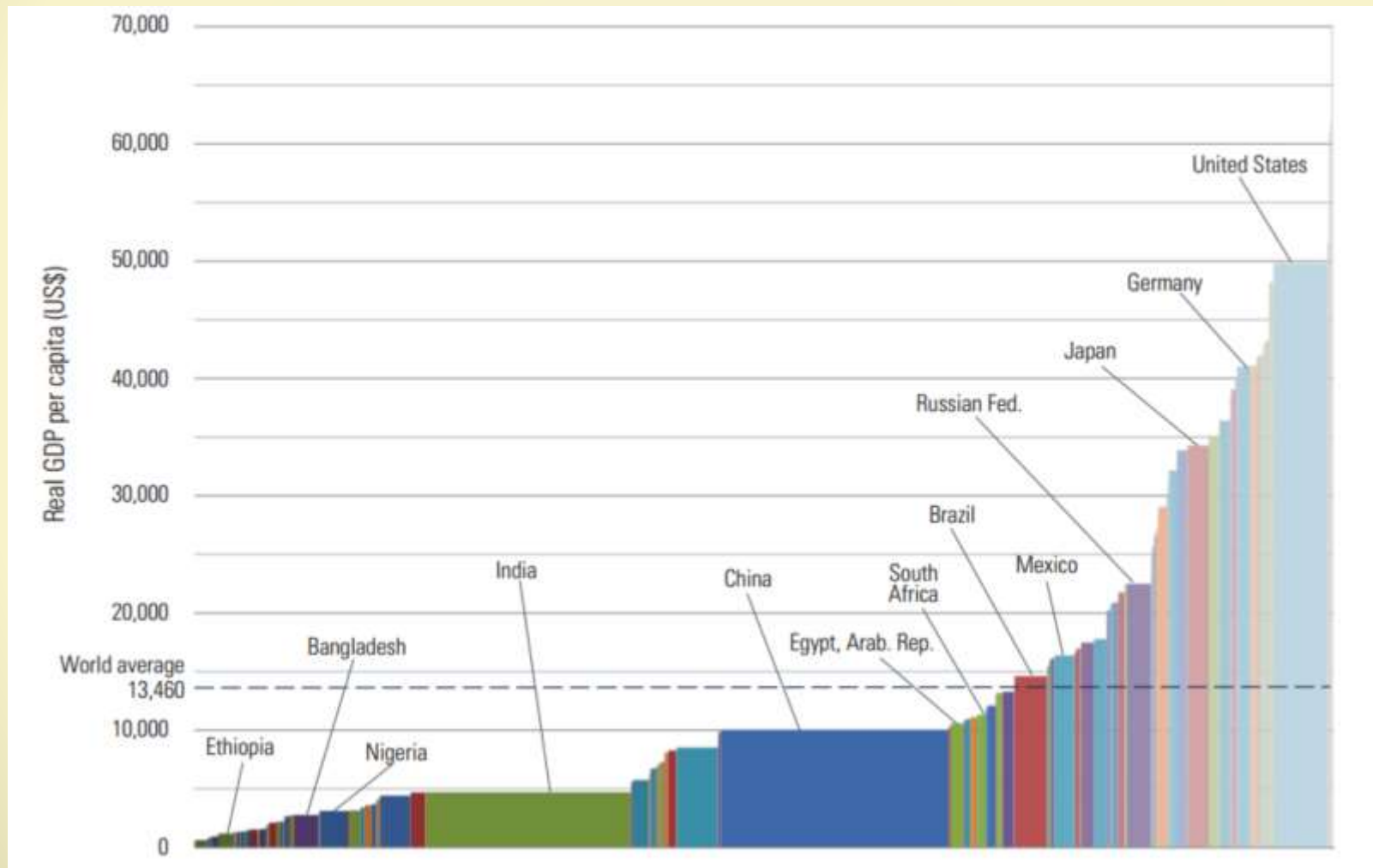
GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

- To the eyes of Christians the incarnation is the irruption of God into human history: an incarnation of littleness and service in the midst of the power and arrogance of the mighty of this world; an irruption that smells of the stable. GG
- This is the “messianic inversion” that is a central element of the gospel message. The inversion begins with the Lord himself who, when he became one of us, intended not to be served but to serve. GG
- A process that locates us at a point at which it is impossible to separate solidarity with the poor and prayer. This means that we are disciples of Christ, who is both God and a human being. GG

Matthew 4

- 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9 and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 10 Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
 - ‘Worship the Lord your God,
 - and serve only him.’ ”

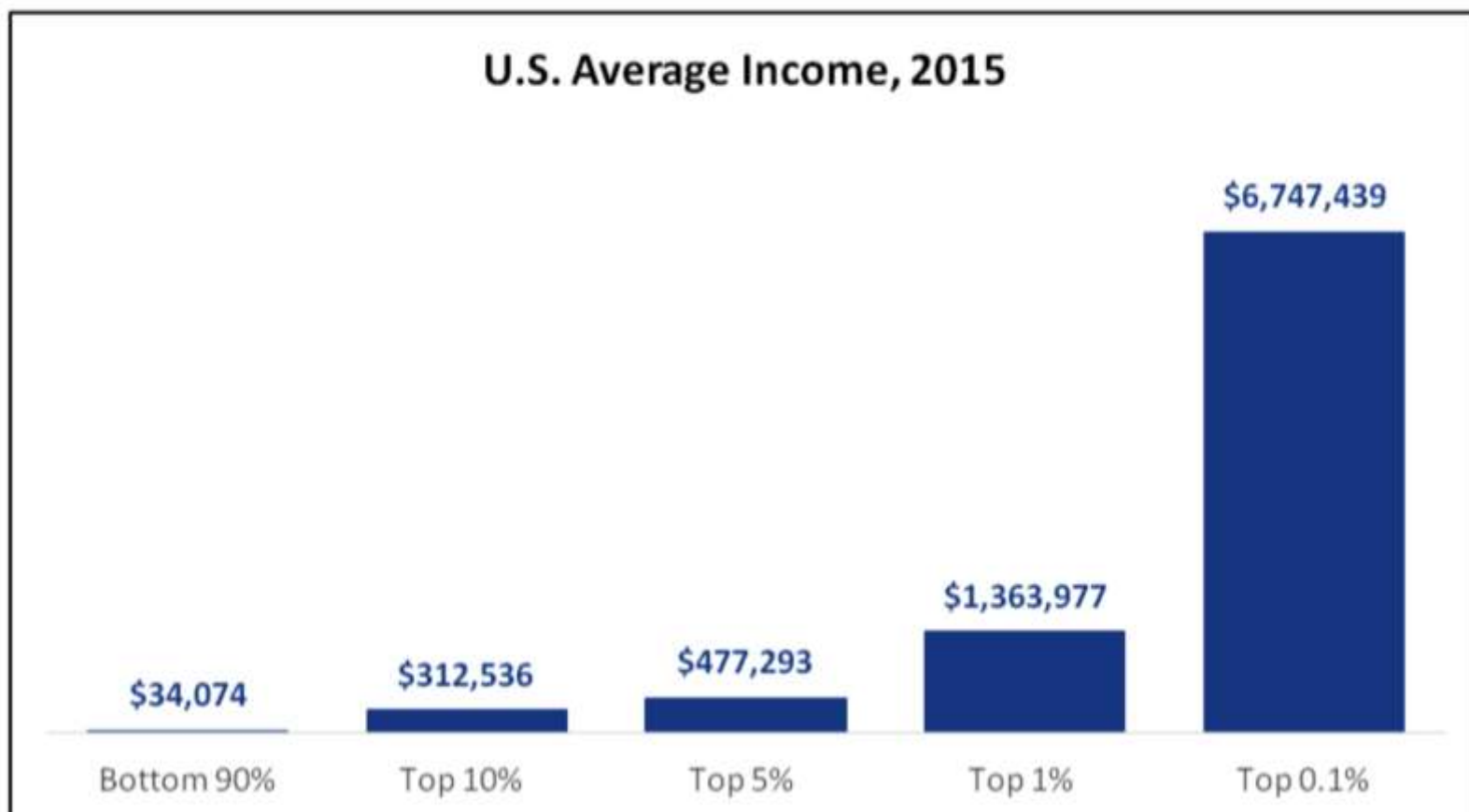
World GDP Inequality



U.S. Distribution of Income

Household Income

U.S. Average Income, 2015



Affordable-housing advocates plead with County –

Coastal Point 2/22/19

“Can you create a pathway in our zoning for the construction of affordable, tiny houses or micro-apartments for the working poor? For our working homeless?”

“Housing has become inaccessible to the working poor, to the unbanked – these are folks that don’t have banks or credit cards, and their credit ratings are poor.”

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

- If any child is hungry, rearrangement of the economy is called for. RMB
- Their own efforts at liberation cannot be indifferent to that proclaimed by growing minorities in rich nations. GG
- ...aware of the scope of misery and especially of the oppressive and alienating circumstances in which the great majority of humankind exists. This situation is offensive to mankind and therefore to God. Moreover, today people are more deeply aware both of the personal responsibility in this situation and the obstacles these conditions present to the complete fulfillment of all human beings, exploiters and exploited alike. GG

Machu Picchu



World Income Inequality

	Median household income	Median per-capita income
Norway	\$51,489	\$19,308
Sweden	\$50,514	\$18,632
Luxembourg	\$52,493	\$18,418
Denmark	\$44,360	\$18,262
Finland	\$34,615	\$15,725
United States	\$43,585	\$15,480
Canada	\$41,280	\$15,181
Australia	\$46,555	\$15,026
Netherlands	\$38,584	\$14,450
Germany	\$33,333	\$14,098
France	\$31,112	\$12,445
United Kingdom	\$31,617	\$12,399
Austria	\$34,911	\$12,284
New Zealand	\$35,562	\$12,147
South Korea	\$40,861	\$11,350
Japan	\$33,822	\$10,840
Belgium	\$26,703	\$10,189
Hong Kong	\$35,443	\$9,705
Slovenia	\$25,969	\$8,656
Ireland	\$25,085	\$8,048
Israel	\$20,364	\$7,847

World Income Inequality

Syria	\$8,193	\$1,431
Bolivia	\$6,399	\$1,403
Algeria	\$7,849	\$1,392
Moldova	\$4,158	\$1,329
Paraguay	\$6,179	\$1,292
South Africa	\$5,217	\$1,217
Nicaragua	\$6,488	\$1,173
Morocco	\$6,634	\$1,135
Vietnam	\$4,783	\$1,124
El Salvador	\$4,828	\$1,114
Peru	\$5,161	\$1,077
Libya	\$6,398	\$1,012
Armenia	\$3,865	\$926
Guatemala	\$4,516	\$838
Kyrgyzstan	\$4,034	\$828
Honduras	\$4,848	\$821
Mauritania	\$6,679	\$778
Botswana	\$3,603	\$740
Georgia	\$2,591	\$734
Angola	\$3,534	\$720
Sri Lanka	\$3,242	\$719
Tajikistan	\$5,137	\$713
Haiti	\$2,735	\$627
Egypt	\$3,111	\$623

Slums of Lima



History of Peru

- 20,000 BC – Humans cross land bridge to Americas.
- 11,000 BC tools found in Peru.
- 6000 – 3000 BC Communities switch from nomadic to farming using irrigation canals.
- 2000 BC – Large observatory/temples.
- 1438 AD Incan Empire unites many cultures/cities. Cusco is capital.
- 1450 Machu Picchu constructed.
- 1525 Smallpox sweeps in to Peru from Panama attacking a population of 10 million.
- 1620 Mainly due to infectious diseases as well as colonization, indigenous population reduced to 1 million.
- 1532 Francisco Pizarro arrives followed by a decade of forced colonization. 13,000 pounds of gold art sent to Spain, to be melted down. Over the next century 360,000 pounds of gold was sent to Spain, supporting that country. (\$6,870,000,000 at today's price of gold.)
- 1811-1824 Wars of independence.
- 1800's Wars of territorial disputes.
- 1930-1979 Alternating between democracy and military juntas.
- 1979–Today Democracy.
- Today Peru has the worlds 39th largest economy. Per capita GDP is \$12,000. Average yearly wage is \$6,000. (U.S. is \$40,700)

Gustavo Gutierrez – “father of Liberation Theology”

- Born June 8, 1928: A mestizo in the Monserrat barrio of Lima, Peru.
- Spent his teen years in bed and wheelchair with polio.
- Trained for medicine but changed to become a Roman Catholic priest.
- Church recognized his unusual theological talent and sent him for graduate work at Louvain(Belgium), Lyons(France) and the Gregorian (Italy).
- Ordained in 1959.
- Parish Priest in Rimac – a slum area in Lima.
- A Theology of Liberation is published in 1971.
- Supports “base communities” – small groups within church who combine bible study with involvement for change. Over 100,000 base communities in Latin America 70’s and 80’s.
- Professor at the Political Catholic University of Peru.
- Legion of Honor from France in 1993
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003.
- 90th birthday. Pope Francis thanks him for his contributions “to the church and humanity through your theological service and your preferential love for the poor and discarded of society”.
- Currently holds the John Cardinal O’Hara Professorship of Theology at the University of Notre Dame.

Assemble into Small Groups

Identify and understand a poor or disadvantaged person.
What Freedoms do they have? What pressing physical needs?
What does the world look like through their eyes?
What are their daily anxieties?

Matthew 4

- 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9 and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 10 Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
 - ‘Worship the Lord your God,
 - and serve only him.’ ”

Three core precepts of Gutierrez liberation theology

- Jesus is God and the Bible presents God's truth.
- God provides a preferential option for the poor.
- The poor and disadvantaged should interpret the Bible for themselves.

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown

- In the Bible, Christ is presented as the one who brings us liberation. Christ the Savior liberates from sin, which is the ultimate root of all disruption of friendship and of all injustice and oppression. GG
- (16)

Gutierrez called the Beatitudes the Magna Carta of Liberation Theology

- Matthew 5
- The Beatitudes
- 1 WHEN Jesus [30] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
 - 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 - 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
 - 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
 - 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
 - 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
 - 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
 - 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - 11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
- (17)

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

A theme that is central to liberation theology and has now been widely accepted in the universal church: the preferential option for the poor. GG

God has the freshest and keenest memory of the least and most forgotten.
Bartolome de Las Cases

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

God loves preferentially the poor and oppressed whose situation of premature and unjust death contradicts the divine will of history. GG

Liberation theology seeks to show that unless we make an ongoing commitment to the poor, who are the privileged members of the reign of God, we are far removed from the Christian message. GG

Critical reflection on praxis in light of the word of God is our best safeguard against the gospel being derailed again. And if, nonetheless, that happens, the same process of self-correction will finally prevail once again. RMB

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

As a persistent theme in the Hebrew Scriptures, and a central concern in Jesus' parables, the kingdom of God presents an alternative picture – God's vision of what the world could be – a world in which justice flourishes, compassion abounds, and concern for the poor is paramount. RMB

But for those who have seen Jesus through the new lens provided by liberation theology, a different picture begins to emerge. Jesus, in sharing our humanity, did not do so as a king, or a royal potentate or as part of the ruling class of society; he did so as one who was born into, and lived among, the poor himself. He identified with the outcast because he was one of them.....So radical and unsettling was his message that he lasted not more than 3 years on the public scene...those with power perceived him as such a threat that they did away with him through a phony trial and a judicial murder. RMB

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

Theology must think critically about its own foundations. GG

The heretofore “absent from history” are making the free gift of the Father’s love their own today, creating new social relationships of a community of brothers and sisters. This is the point of departure for what we call “theology from the underside of history”. GG

Assemble into the same Small Groups

How does your poor/disadvantaged person interpret the Bible?

(2. E.)

- The poor read the Bible and see themselves in it. We tend to use the Bible as a window to biblical times. The poor see the Bible as a mirror in which their lives are revealed. (RMB paraphrase.)

The Beatitudes

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

- The Widow's Offering

- “ 1 HE LOOKED up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; 2 he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. 3 He said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; 4 for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”

Mary's Song of Praise

- “6 And Mary [6] said,
 - “My soul magnifies the Lord,
 - 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
- 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
 - Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
 - 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 - and holy is his name.
 - 50 His mercy is for those who fear him
 - from generation to generation.
 - 51 He has shown strength with his arm;
 - he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
 - 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 - and lifted up the lowly;
 - 53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
 - and sent the rich away empty.
 - 54 He has helped his servant Israel,
 - in remembrance of his mercy,
 - 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 - to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Extra Slides

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

- To the eyes of Christians the incarnation is the irruption of God into human history: an incarnation of littleness and service in the midst of the power and arrogance of the mighty of this world; an irruption that smells of the stable. GG
- This is the “messianic inversion” that is a central element of the gospel message. The inversion begins with the Lord himself who, when he became one of us, intended not to be served but to serve. GG
- A process that locates us at a point at which it is impossible to separate solidarity with the poor and prayer. This means that we are disciples of Christ, who is both God and a human being. GG
- To speak about a theology of liberation is to seek an answer to the following question: what relation is there between salvation and the historical process of liberation? GG

Quotations:

GG – Gustavo Gutierrez. RMB – Robert McAfee Brown.

- If any child is hungry, rearrangement of the economy is called for. RMB
- Their own efforts at liberation cannot be indifferent to that proclaimed by growing minorities in rich nations. GG
- ...aware of the scope of misery and especially of the oppressive and alienating circumstances in which the great majority of humankind exists. This situation is offensive to mankind and therefore to God. Moreover, today people are more deeply aware both of the personal responsibility in this situation and the obstacles these conditions present to the complete fulfillment of all human beings, exploiters and exploited alike. GG