

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**HANS ROSLING:** You have already seen the life expectancy and income levels of all countries today. And hopefully you have downloaded and printed your own copy of this very important graph. You can put it on the wall and keep it there during the six weeks of this course.

This is the professor version of the graph. To me, the academic subject global health is to understand this. To understand the huge variations in health in the world. Down in this corner people live in extreme poverty, with little money but lots of diseases. The focus of global health is to know how to move all people out of and away from this miserable corner towards a healthy, wealthy, and sustainable life.

Many countries have already come very far. Most countries have come halfway, and they now make up this big middle. Now how did this happen? Let me show you my favorite video.

So here we go. First an axis for health. Life expectancy, from 25 years to 75 years. And down here, an axis for wealth. Income per person, \$400, \$4000, and \$40,000. So down here is poor and sick, and up here is rich and healthy.

Now I'm going to show you the world 200 years ago, in 1810. Here come all the countries. Europe brown, Asia red, Middle East green, Africa south of Sahara blue, and the Americas yellow. And the size of the country bubble show the size of the population.

And in 1810, it was pretty crowded down there, wasn't it? All countries were sick and poor. Life expectancy were below 40 in all countries. And only UK and the Netherlands were slightly better off, but not much.

And now I start the world. The Industrial Revolution makes countries in Europe and elsewhere move away from the rest. But the colonized countries in Asia and Africa, they are stuck down there. And eventually, the Western countries get healthier and healthier. And now we slow down to show the impact of the first World War and the Spanish flu epidemic. What a catastrophe.

And now I speed up through the 1920s and the 1930s. And in spite of the Great Depression, Western countries forge on towards greater wealth and health. Japan and some others try to follow, but most countries stay down here.

After the tragedies of the Second World War, we stop a bit to look at the world in 1948. 1948 was a great year. The war was over, Sweden topped the medal table at the Winter Olympics, and I was born. But the differences between the countries of the world was wider than ever.

United States was in the front, Japan was catching up, Brazil was way behind, Iran was getting a little richer from oil, but still had short lives. And the Asian giants, China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia, they were still poor and sick down here. But look what is about to happen here we go again.

In my lifetime, former colonies gained independence and then finally, they started to get healthier, and healthier, and healthier. And in the 1970s, then countries in Asia and Latin America started to catch up with the Western countries. They became the emerging economies. Some in Africa follows. Some Africans were stuck in civil war and others hit by HIV. And now we can see the world today in the most up-to-date statistics.

Most people today live in the middle. But there are huge difference at the same time between the best of countries and the worst of countries. And there are also huge inequalities within countries. These bubbles show country averages, but I can split them.

Take China, I can split it into provinces. There goes Shanghai. It has the same wealth and health as Italy today. And there is the poor inland province Guizhou, it is like Pakistan. And if I split it further, the rural parts are like Ghana in Africa.

And yet, despite the enormous disparities today, we have seen 200 years of remarkable progress. That huge historical gap between the West and the rest is now closing. We have become an entirely new converging world. And I see a clear trend into the future with aid, trade, green technology and peace. It's fully possible that everyone can make it to the healthy, wealthy corner.

Now it's your turn to go to Gapminder World on the web. In the next learning activity, you will explore country trends by interacting with the bubbles in the Gapminder World.