Burkina Faso

Botswana was better (side note: so was Somalia): https://youtu.be/fRsFT11CxSk

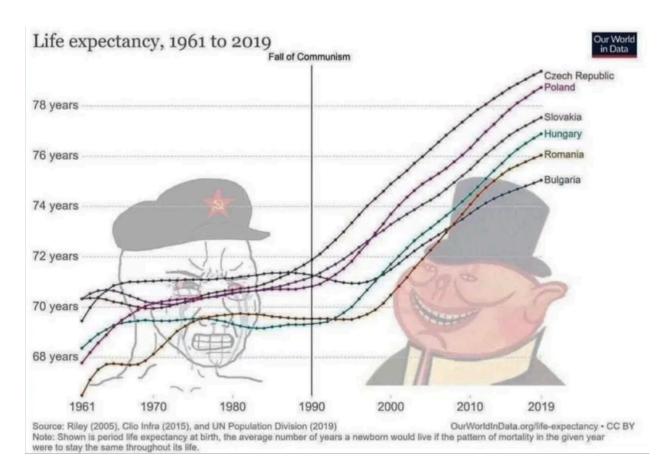
Burkina Faso literacy rates were not impressive, contrary to popular belief: https://www.ceicdata.com/en/burkina-faso/education-statistics/bf-literacy-rate-adult--of-people-aged-15-and-above

Burkina Faso GDP was unremarkable, despite all of Sankara's supposed projects: https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/NYGDPPCAPKDBFA

Despite those "vaccination campaigns" infant mortality rates decreased more slowly under Sankara: https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/SPDYNIMRTINBFA

Life expectancy stalled under Sankara (LMAO) (wasn't due to age): https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/burkina-faso/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN

Soviet Bloc



Yugoslavia

https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/shleifer/files/pervasive_shortages.pdf - Shortages are inevitable in a socialist economy due to corruption that arises from a bureaucratic form of government (something in which socialism is synonymous with). This is mainly a criticism of public ownership. As for co-operatives, it is clearly obvious that mismanagement would occur. In fact, the major reasons why (voluntarily-formed) co-ops fail in the US is due to mismanagement and lack of attention to consumer demands, something capitalist firms are easily adapted to. Now imagine what would arise from forced co-operative (democratization). This is historically evident in the case of Yugoslavia as they're overly dependent on foreign aid for mere development.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia#Economy covers failures of socialist reform

https://www.theodora.com/wfb1990/yugoslavia/yugoslavia economy.html - Tito's reform programs 20 years ago changed the Stalinist command economy to a decentralized semimarket system but a system that the rigid, ethnically divided political structure ultimately could not accommodate. A prominent feature of the reforms was the establishment of workers' self-management councils in all large plants, which were to select managers, stimulate production, and divide the proceeds. The general result of these reforms has been rampant wage-price inflation, substantial rundown of capital plant, consumer shortages, and a still larger income gap between the poorer southern regions and the relatively affluent northern provinces of Hrvatska and Slovenija. In 1988-89 the beleaguered central government has been reforming the reforms, trying to create an open market economy with still considerable state ownership of major industrial plants. These reforms have been moving forward with the advice and support of the International Monetary Fund through a series of tough negotiations. Self-management supposedly is to be replaced by the discipline of the market and by fiscal austerity, ultimately leading to a stable dinar. However, strikes in major plants, hyperinflation, and interregional political jousting have held back progress. According to US economic advisers, only a highly unlikely combination of genuine privatization, massive Western economic investment and aid, and political moderation can salvage this economy.



Having an economy of worker coops is not a good thing

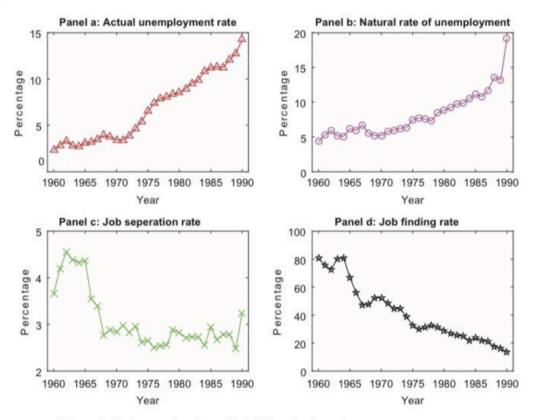


Figure 8. Labor market dynamics in Yugoslavia, 1960–1990.

Notes: The data on labor market dynamics prior to 1960 is unavailable. The natural rate of unemployment (U) is calculated as $U = \frac{s}{s+f}$, where the job separation rate (s) represents the fraction of employed workers who lost their job in a particular year, while the job finding rate (f) represents the fraction of unemployed people who were able to find a job within a particular year.

Sources: SGJ (Savezni Zavod za Statistiku 1952-1991).

Vietnam

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam#Reunification and reforms

- The reformers were led by 71-year-old Nguyễn Văn Linh, who became the party's new general secretary. [165] He and the reformers implemented a series of free-market reforms known as Đổi Mới ("Renovation") that carefully managed the transition from a planned economy to a "socialist-oriented market economy". [167][168] Though the authority of the state remained unchallenged under Đổi Mới, the government encouraged private ownership of farms and factories, economic deregulation, and foreign investment, while maintaining control over strategic industries. [168][169] The Vietnamese economy subsequently achieved strong growth in agricultural and industrial production, construction, exports, and foreign investment, although these reforms also caused a rise in income inequality and gender disparities. [170][177][172]
- The <u>collectivisation</u> of farms, factories, and capital goods was carried out as part of the establishment of central planning, with millions of people working for state enterprises. Under strict state control, Vietnam's economy continued to be plagued by inefficiency, <u>corruption in state-owned enterprises</u>, poor quality and underproduction. [274][275][276] With the decline in economic aid from its main trading partner, the Soviet Union, following the erosion of the <u>Eastern bloc</u> in the late 1980s, and the subsequent <u>collapse of the Soviet Union</u>, as well as the negative impacts of the post-war <u>trade embargo</u> imposed by the United States, [277][278] Vietnam began to liberalise its trade by <u>devaluing</u> its exchange rate to increase exports and embarked on a policy of economic development. [279]
- In 1986, the <u>Sixth National Congress</u> of the CPV introduced <u>socialist-oriented market</u> economic reforms as part of the <u>Đổi Mới</u> reform program. <u>Private ownership</u> began to be encouraged in industry, commerce and agriculture and state enterprises were <u>restructured</u> to operate under market constraints. [280][281] This led to the five-year economic plans being replaced by the socialist-oriented market mechanism. [282] As a result of these reforms, Vietnam achieved approximately 8% annual <u>gross domestic product</u> (GDP) growth between 1990 and 1997. [283][284] The United States ended its economic embargo against Vietnam in early 1994. [285] Despite the <u>1997 Asian financial crisis</u> affecting Vietnam by causing an economic slowdown to 4–5% growth per annum, its economy began to recover in 1999, [280] with growth at an annual rate of around 7% from 2000 to 2005 making it one of the world's fastest growing economies. [286][287] According to the <u>General Statistics Office of Vietnam</u> (GSO), growth remained strong even in the face of the <u>late-2000s global recession</u>, holding at 6.8% in 2010, although Vietnam's year-on-year inflation rate hit 11.8% in December 2010 with the country's currency, the Vietnamese đồng being devalued three times. [288][289]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy of Vietnam#1976%E2%80%931997

• The government's <u>Second Five-Year Plan</u> (1976–1981) aimed for extraordinarily high [clarification needed] [peacock term] annual growth rates in industrial and agricultural sectors and national income and sought to integrate the North and the South, but the goals were not attained. The economy remained dominated by small-scale production, low labor

- productivity, material and technological shortfalls, and insufficient food and consumer goods. The more modest goals of the Third Five-Year Plan (1981–85) were a compromise between ideological and pragmatic factions; they emphasized the development of agriculture and industry. Efforts were also made to decentralize planning and improve the managerial skills of government officials. [32]
- After reunification in 1975, the economy of Vietnam was plagued by enormous difficulties in production, imbalances in supply and demand, inefficiencies in distribution and circulation, soaring inflation rates, and rising debt problems. Vietnam is one of the few countries in modern history to experience a sharp economic deterioration in a postwar reconstruction period. Its peacetime economy was one of the poorest in the world and had shown a negative to very slow growth in total national output as well as in agricultural and industrial production. Vietnam's gross domestic product (GDP) in 1984 was valued at US\$18.1 billion with a per capita income estimated to be between US\$200 and US\$300 per year. Reasons for this mediocre economic performance have included severe climatic conditions that afflicted agricultural crops, bureaucratic mismanagement, elimination of private ownership, extinction of entrepreneurial classes in the South, and military occupation of Cambodia (which resulted in a cutoff of much-needed international aid for reconstruction).
- From the late 1970s until the early 1990s, Vietnam was a member of the <u>Comecon</u>, and therefore was heavily dependent on trade with the <u>Soviet Union</u> and its allies. Following the dissolution of the Comecon and the loss of its traditional trading partners, Vietnam was forced to liberalize trade, devalue its exchange rate to increase exports, and embark on a policy of economic development. Between 1975 and 1994, the United States imposed a trade embargo on Vietnam, forbidding any trade during the 19-year period.
- In 1986, Vietnam launched a political and economic renewal campaign (Đổi Mới) that introduced reforms to facilitate the transition from a centralized economy to a "socialist-oriented market economy". Đổi Mới combined government planning with free-market incentives and encouraged the establishment of private businesses and foreign investment, including foreign-owned enterprises. Furthermore, the Vietnam government stressed the necessity to lower birth rates when developing the economic and social rights of the population by implementing a policy that restricted the number of children per household to two, called the two-child policy. [36] By the late 1990s, the success of the business and agricultural reforms ushered in under Đổi Mới was evident. More than 30,000 private businesses had been created, the economy was growing at an annual rate of more than 7%, and poverty was nearly halved.
- Throughout the 1990s, exports increased by as much as 20% to 30% in some years. In 1999, exports accounted for 40% of GDP, an impressive performance in the midst of the economic crisis that hit other countries in Asia. Vietnam became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2007, which freed Vietnam from textile quotas enacted worldwide as part of the Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA) in 1974. [37] The MFA placed restrictions on the import by industrialized countries of textiles from developing countries. For China and other WTO members, however, textile quotas under the MFA expired at the end of 2004 as agreed in the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations in 1994. [35] A 2019 study found that Vietnam's WTO entry led to substantial gains in productivity for

private firms, but had no impact on state-owned enterprises. In the absence of state-owned enterprises, "the overall productivity gains would have been about 40% larger in a counterfactual Vietnamese economy." [38]

Vietnam's Communist/Capitalist Boom | Mises Wire

Afghanistan

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_Afghanistan#Economy (covers failures of socialist reforms)

- Taraki's Government initiated a <u>land reform</u> on 1 January 1979, which attempted to limit the amount of land a family could own. Those whose landholdings exceeded the limit saw their property requisitioned by the government without compensation. The Afghan leadership believed the reform would meet with popular approval among the rural population while weakening the power of the <u>bourgeoisie</u>. The reform was declared complete in mid-1979 and the government proclaimed that 665,000 hectares (approximately 1,632,500 acres) had been redistributed. The government also declared that only 40,000 families, or 4 percent of the population, had been negatively affected by the land reform.^[14]
- Contrary to government expectations the reform was neither popular nor productive. Agricultural harvests plummeted and the reform itself led to rising discontent amongst Afghans. [14] When Taraki realized the degree of popular dissatisfaction with the reform he quickly abandoned the policy. [15]

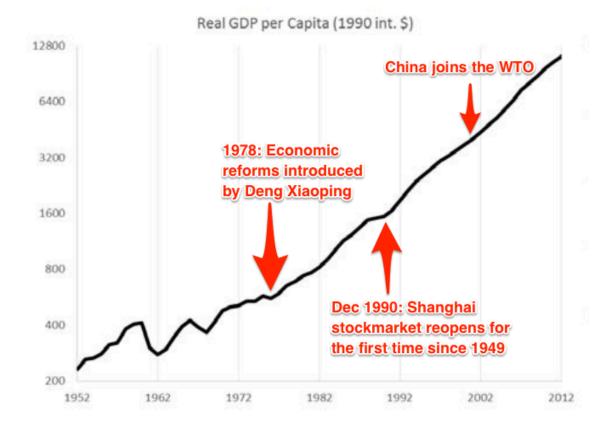
Bolivia

https://mises.org/library/whats-driving-bolivias-booming-economy

https://www.austriancenter.com/bolivia-not-socialist-success/ and https://fee.org/articles/why-bolivia-is-not-a-socialist-success-story/

https://latinaer.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40503-019-0069-1

China, and USSR Literacy Rates



The US had higher literacy than the USSR: https://nces.ed.gov/naal/lit_history.asp

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Likbez

 There is speculation that had the peasant tradition of self-education been able to continue, the peasantry may have reached the level of education that it did by the mid-1930s, independent of government efforts. [39]

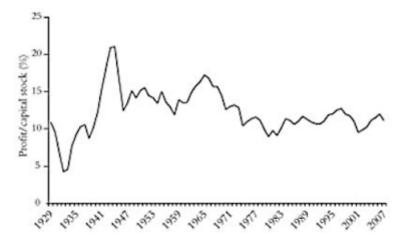
Marxism and more literacy rates

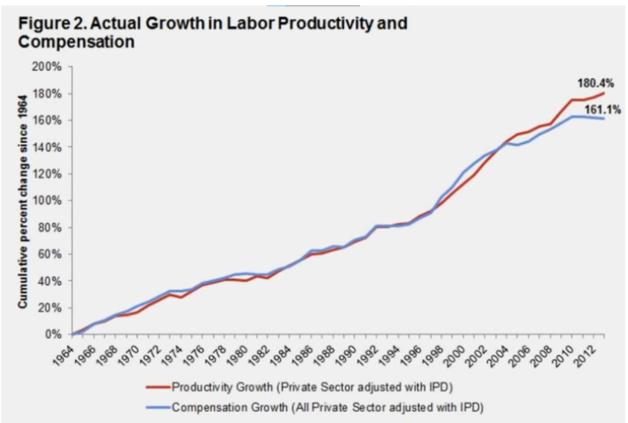
Debunking value theory:

https://qmro.qmul.ac.uk/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/28544/Veneziani%20VALUE%2C%2 <u>0PRICE%2C%20AND%20EXPLOITATION%3A%20THE%20LOGIC%20OF%20THE%20TRAN</u> <u>SFORMATION%20PROBLEM%202017%20Accepted.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=v</u>

Figure 3: Brenner's figures for the US non-financial profit rate

Source: Calculated from BEA data





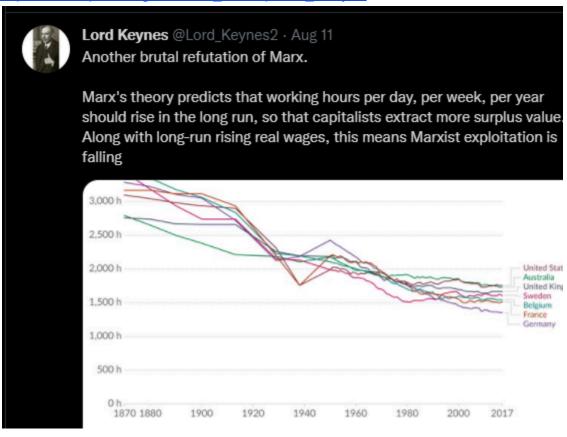
https://cdn.discordapp.com/attachments/747992381579591730/876631792013164584/unknown_png

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/249836868 The Incompatibility of Socialism and R apid Innovation - These paper analyzes the weaknesses the USSR and other Eastern European countries had in regards to innovative capacity and activity, and allocative potential

and actuality. It also touches on the actuality of the USSR using mostly west-made or west-designed technological devices during the "industrialization" period. The rate of innovation, as also empirically observed, is rather sluggish in socialist economies. Nonetheless, the paper came to a (obviously) swift conclusion that "rapid innovation is incompatible with idealised (Marxian) socialism; such innovation not only sustains high inequality and competition by constantly supplying many new products for a few, but it also requires high inequality and competition as incentives".

https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/shleifer/files/state_vs_private.pdf - This doesn't need much of an explanation. Let me just quote the paper itself. "Private ownership should generally be preferred to public ownership when the incentives to innovate and to contain costs must be strong[...] The great economists of the 1930s and 1940s failed to see the dangers of socialism in part because they focused on the role of prices under socialism and capitalism, and ignored the enormous importance of ownership as the source of capitalist incentives to innovate."

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/256353073 Productive efficiency under capitalism a nd state socialism - The authors calculated the productive efficiency of market economies as compared to planned economies. The results: Market economies had an average productive efficiency (1978-1980) of 0.992, for planned economies, the average was 0.550. Productive efficiency was calculated using a developed analytic format; the data envelopment analysis. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_envelopment_analysis



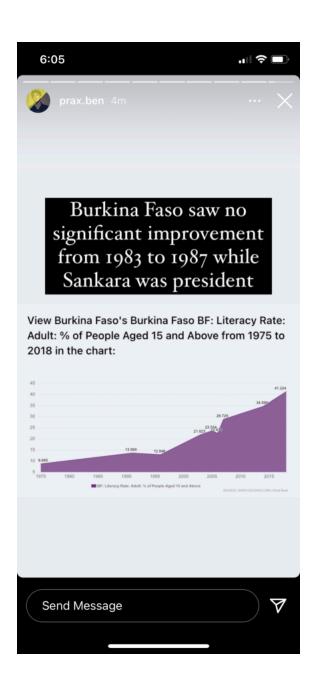






Table 2. Latin America: Literacy Rates^a (Percent)

	Latest avail.	1995	Pct. pt increase
	data for 1950-53		
Argentina	87b	96	10
Cuba	76	96	19
Chile	81	95	15
Costa Rica	79	95	16
Paraguay	68	92	24
Colombia	62	91	30
Panama	72	91	19
Ecuador	56	90	34
Brazil	49	83	35
Dominican Republic	43	82	39
El Salvador	42	72	29
Guatemala	30	56	26
Haiti	11	45	34

Source: UN 1957, pp. 600-602; UN 1997b, pp. 85-86.

a. Data for 1950-53 are age 10 and over. Data for 1995 are age 15 and over, reflecting a change in common usage over this period.

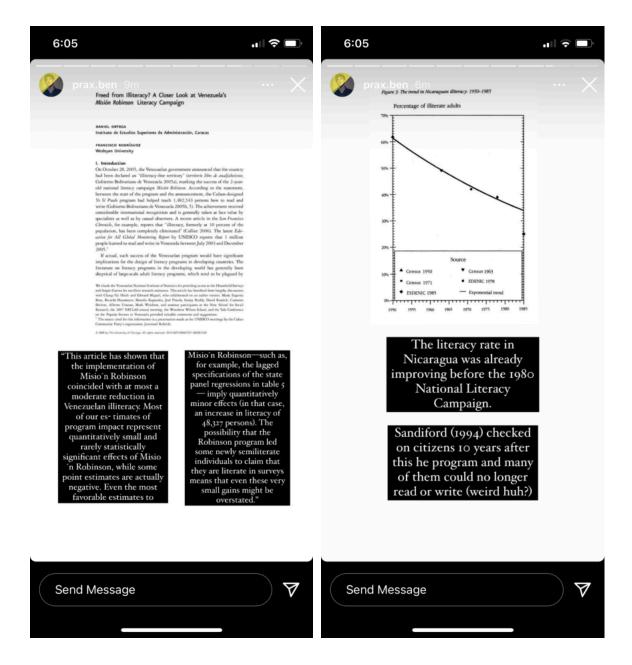
b. 1947 data, the latest available, are for age 14 and over

Cuba has had one of the most literate populations in Latin America since well before the Castro revolution, when its literacy rate ranked fourth in the region (UN 1957, pp. 600-602). Its relatively advanced educational system produced a highly skilled workforce. The World Bank's Report on Cuba stated in 1951,

"Cuba's people are intelligent, able and quick to ab- sorb modern knowledge; her business men are shrewd and capable, her doctors and surgeons among the best in the world, her architects bold and imagi- native. In other fields, many Cubans are already alert to modern methods and technology and there is no insurmountable obstacle to training as many more as may be required or, in the meanwhile, to obtaining technical advice from abroad." (p. 5)

Send Message





Laos

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy of Laos

- [I]n 1986[,] the government announced its "new economic mechanism" (NEM). Initially timid, the NEM was expanded to include a range of reforms designed to create conditions conducive to private sector activity. Prices set by market forces replaced government-determined prices. Farmers were permitted to own land and sell crops on the open market. State firms were granted increased decision-making authority and lost most of their subsidies and pricing advantages. The government set the exchange rate close to real market levels, lifted trade barriers, replaced import barriers with tariffs, and gave private sector firms direct access to imports and credit.

- With the growing unrest in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, in 1989, the PDR Lao government reached agreement with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on additional reforms. The government agreed to introduce fiscal and monetary reform, promote private enterprise and foreign investment, privatize or close state firms, and strengthen banking. It also agreed to maintain a market exchange rate, reduce tariffs, and eliminate unneeded trade regulations. A liberal foreign investment code was also enacted. Enforcement of intellectual property rights is governed by two Prime Minister's Decrees dating from 1995 and 2002.
- In an attempt to stimulate further international commerce, the PDR Lao government accepted <u>Australian</u> aid to build a bridge across the <u>Mekong</u> River to <u>Thailand</u>. The "<u>Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge</u>", between <u>Vientiane Prefecture</u> and <u>Nong Khai Province</u>, Thailand, was inaugurated in April 1994. Although the bridge has created additional commerce, the Lao government does not yet permit a completely free flow of traffic across the span.
- These reforms led to economic growth and an increased availability of goods.

Nicaragua

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy of Nicaragua

- Following the civil war, Nicaragua began <u>free market</u> reforms, <u>privatizing</u> more than 350 state companies and commencing a general trend of economic growth. Inflation has been reduced from 33,603% during the later years of the Sandinista period and 55,000% during the first year of the Chamorro government to more normal levels, averaging an annual rate of 9.5% over the 2000-2010 decade (based on World Bank figures).

Burma and Sri Lanka

Burmese Way to Socialism Drives Country into Poverty

Burmese Way to Socialism - Wikipedia

Sri Lanka - Wikipedia

Debunking Comrade Hakim's Claim That Socialism Provides a Better Quality Of Life
The Burmese ways to socialism: Third World Quarterly: Vol 13, No 1

Vuvuzula, Tanzia, and Cuba

The economic consequences of Hugo Chavez: A synthetic control analysis

The Cuban Experiment: Measuring the Role of the 1959 Revolution on Economic Performance
using Synthetic Control

https://www.britannica.com/place/Tanzania/Economy%EF%BF%BC

Capitalism is Better, Scientifically (Hakim Debunked)

Nooo the Holodomor it didn't happen

■ Holodomor Denial Debunked (response to Hakim)

https://web.archive.org/web/20180831211853/http://www.faminegenocide.com/resources/hdocuments.htm

Knowledge Problem

(PDF) Knowledge Problem | Lynne Kiesling

Mali

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy of Mali

- Before 1991, the former <u>Soviet Union</u> had been a major source of economic and military aid, including construction of a cement plant and the Kalana gold mine.
- Between 1992 and 1995, Mali implemented an economic adjustment program that resulted in economic growth and a reduction in financial imbalances. This was reflected in the increased GDP growth rates (9.6% in 2002) and decreased inflation. GDP in 2002 amounted to US\$3.2 billion, made up of agriculture 37.8%, industry 26.4% and services 35.9%.

Contra Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall

TRPF is basically "well assuming capital costs have to increase due to competitiveness, and wages do not fall, then it will uh probably outstrip gains in profits something something labor theory of value"

this is also fallacious as investment does not necessarily increase long run capital costs investment should raise the rate of profit (ie profit - loss), and due to wages not adjusting as immediately or extremely due to businesses not wanting to cut into their own profit margins, trpf fails

Okishio's Theorem is one of the stronger refutations existing to counter the Marxist tendency of the rate of profit to fall. Intuitively, it can be understood as saying that if one capitalist raises his profits by introducing a new technique that cuts his costs, the collective or general rate of profit in society goes up for all capitalists. In 1961, Okishio established this theorem under the assumption that the real wage remains constant. Thus, the theorem isolates the effect of pure innovation from any consequent changes in the wage. Despite Okishio seemingly going back on it circa 2002, his complaints were mostly empirical rather than theoretical and were rather weak. Ironically, his own refutation of the tendency was much stronger than his later rejection of the refutation, and as we can see, Okishio's Theorem is very much empirically relevant:

The Empirical Relevance of the Okishio Theorem: An Autoregressive Distributed Lag Approach

Evenly Rotating Economy

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2297900

Reisman

https://cdn.discordapp.com/attachments/464615602557026306/803997938321195058/The_Falling_Rate_of_Profit - The Inherent_Springs_To_Profitability_Reisman - Capitalism.pdf

Roemer

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/227388992_Analytical_Foundations_of_Marxian_Economic_Theory

Bortkiewicz

http://gesd.free.fr/bortk7b.pdf

Economic Freedom

Instead of using the "global poverty has declined, here's graph" argument, just tell people that capitalism needs economic freedom to actually do it's job, to thrive. The main reason why most of Africa for example still lives in poverty is as a result of very little economic freedom, high taxes, and oppressive regulations

(https://www.africanexponent.com/post/4545-the-21st-century-belongs-to-the-african-entreprene ur). There have been many studies proving the correlation between economic freedom and overall better standards of living:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/5021345_Poverty_and_Economic_Freedom_Evidence_from_Cross-Country_Data - Economic Freedom and Poverty Alleviation

https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Economic-Freedom-and-Innovation-Erkan/f17a0d7f0cdc 279a506b6da67eb025c73a74a721 - More economic freedom = more innovation

http://borisnikolaev.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Economic-Freedom-and-Quality-of-Life.pdf - More economic freedom = greater standards of living

https://uca.edu/cahss/files/2020/07/02-Cramer-CLA-2020.pdf - More economic freedom = lesser corruption

https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rsos.171411 - Study showing strong support for economic freedom

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/coep.12010 - Massive meta-analysis - The balance of evidence is overwhelming that economic freedom corresponds with a wide variety of positive outcomes with almost no negative tradeoffs.

<u>The Human Impact of Economic Freedom (tifwe.org)</u> - Very strong correlation between life expectancy and economic freedom, and negative between economic freedom and infant mortality rates

Science proves communism makes nations poorer and less healthy

<u>Economic Freedom and the Quality of Life: An Empirical Analysis - Constitutional Political Economy</u>

Economic Freedom, Democracy, and the Quality of Life

"The African Continental Free Trade Agreement: An Empirical Analysis" by Elizabeth Zhu