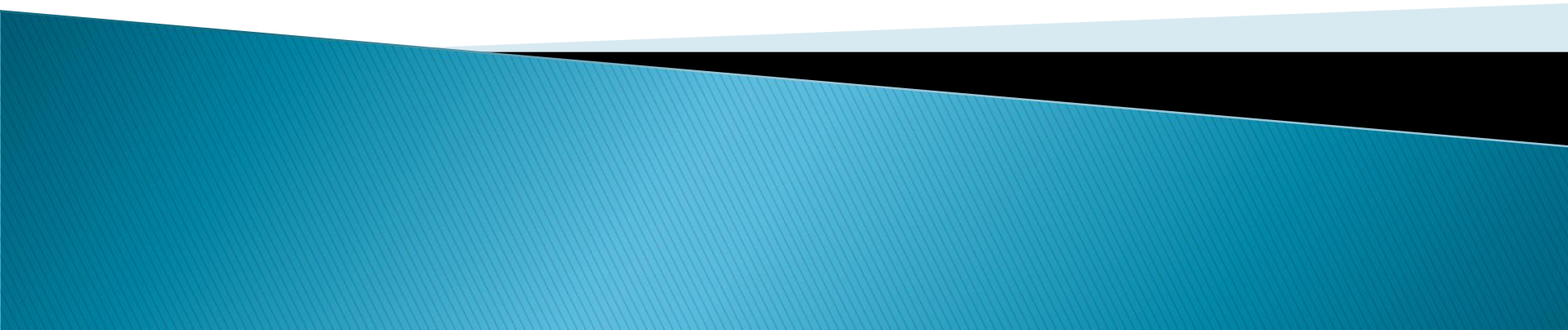


Wisdom of the Ancients

Exploring our universal culture



Cultural insights

- ▶ Culture that is contextual and specific
 - Defines and distinguishes a group from others
 - May encompass a defined period in time, historical
 - Often competitive worldview (us vs them)
 - Designed to promote local cohesiveness and adaptation/exploitation
- ▶ Culture that is universal
 - Often communicated by iconography / symbols that are accessible to cultures remote in time or space
 - Reinterpreted successively across cultures and time
 - Resonant, aspirational, and inspirational
 - Harmonic and collaborative adaptation that promotes global sustainability

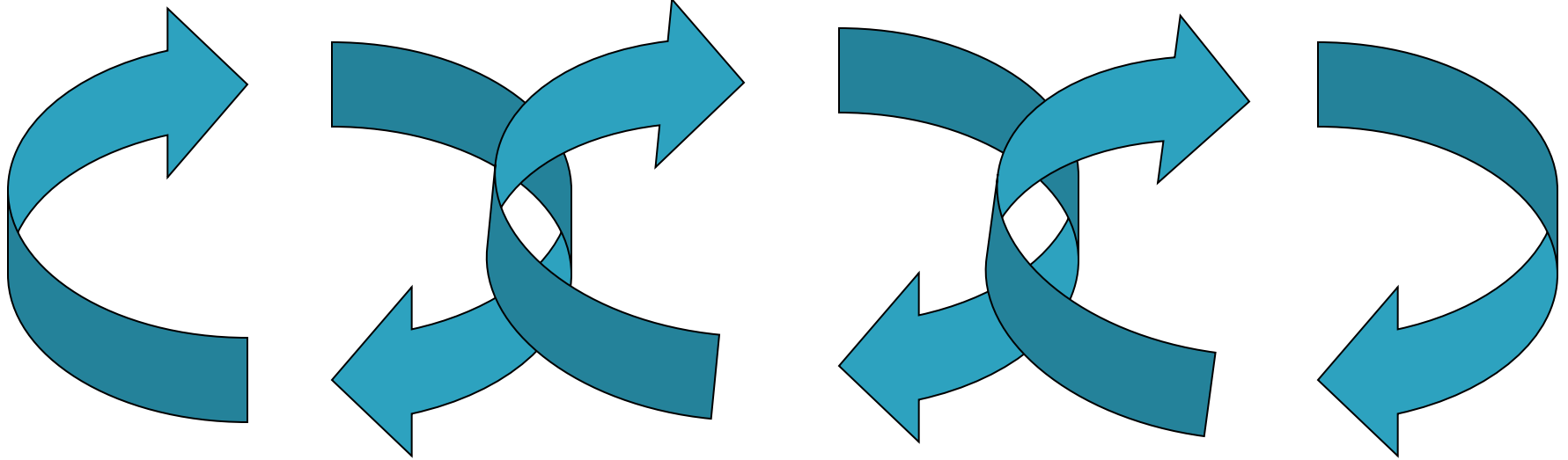
GROWTH / EVOLUTION



CHANGE

CHANGE

CHANGE

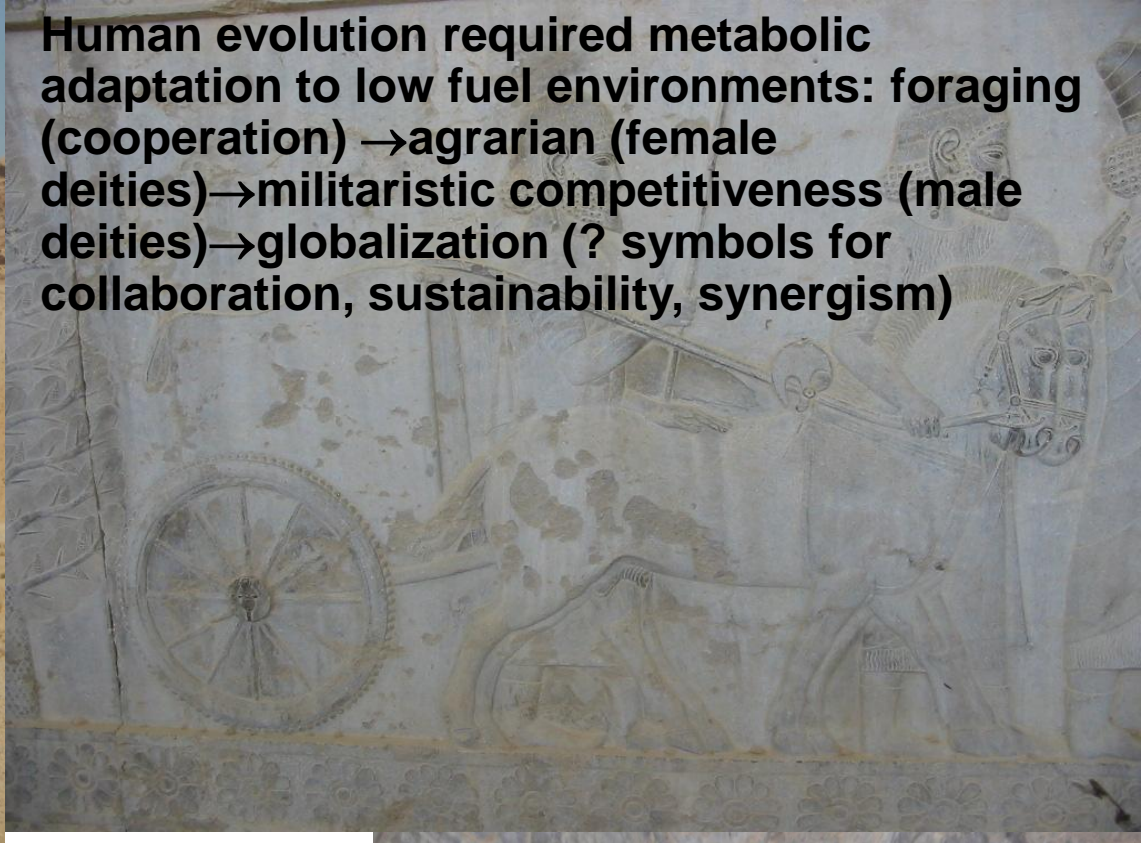


CONSOLIDATE CONSOLIDATE CONSOLIDATE

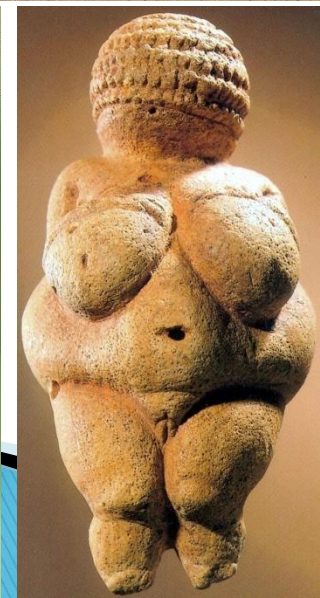
Perpetual, progressive cycles, ideally of improvement, via change, assessment, and consolidation



Wadi Rum, extension of The Great Rift Valley from Ethiopia into Jordan, home to some of the earliest humans

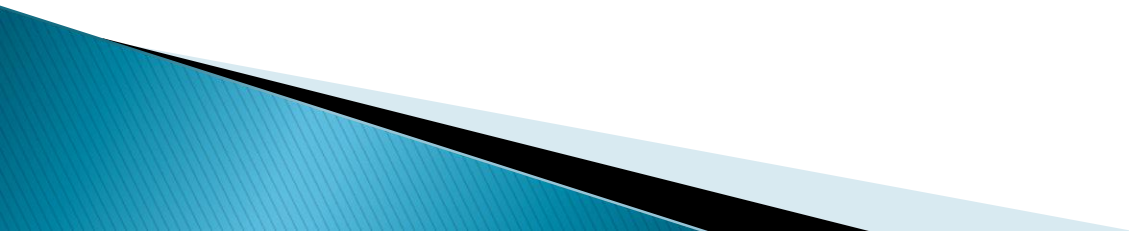


Human evolution required metabolic adaptation to low fuel environments: foraging (cooperation) → agrarian (female deities) → militaristic competitiveness (male deities) → globalization (? symbols for collaboration, sustainability, synergism)



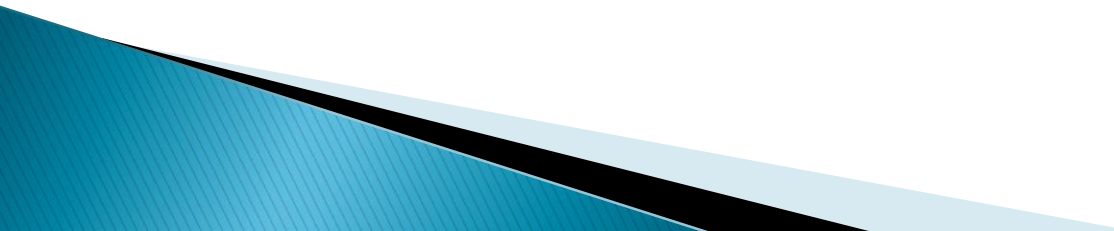
Nutrition transition: 2000 first time that overnutrition = undernutrition globally

Who is Eilythyia?





Who is Eilythyia?

- ▶ The Greek goddess of childbirth and pregnancy
 - ▶ Goddess of the “cycle of life”
 - ▶ Her name means “she who comes to aid or relieve”
 - ▶ When kindly disposed, she furthered birth
 - ▶ When angry, she protracted the labor and delayed birth
 - ▶ Frequent births were displeasing to her
- 

SPIRITUAL VS ACTUAL BIRTH

Ta'pu'at is the Hopi symbol of emergence and spiritual rebirth. It represents child within mother. The cross at the center is father sun. The straight line emerging from the entrance represents the umbilical cord and the path of emergence. With the maze, lines end at four points; these represent the cardinal or directional points embraced within this universal plan of life.



The 7 Circuit or Cretan Labyrinth

The earliest known use of the 7 circuit labyrinth symbol occurs on a clay tablet from the Mycenaean palace at Pylos in Greece from 1200 BC. When the palace burned to the ground, the tablet baked, thus preserving it. Throughout the centuries, in Greece and throughout the Mediterranean, the labyrinth became a common symbol.

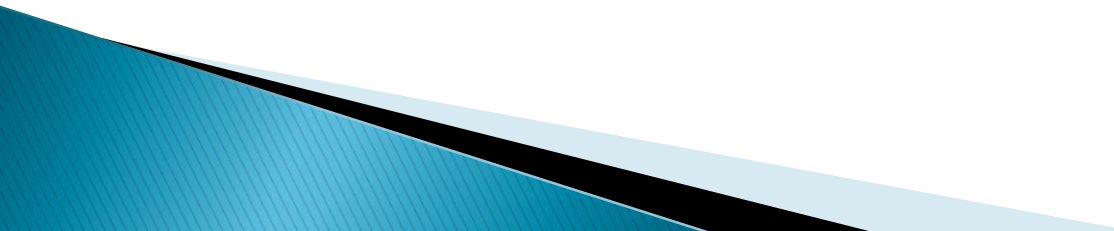
The origins are mysterious. **The shape of the 7 circuit labyrinth mirrors the motion of the planet Mercury in the sky over a long period of time.** Does this explain the use of the identical symbol in Native American culture or was theirs an independent observation of a universal theme?



Universality

- ▶ We need fusion symbols that integrate past and present and multiple cultures to:
 - ▶ Interpret our world and experience
 - ▶ Inspire and suggest individual direction
 - ▶ Model relationships in a global world and address the need to fairly distribute resources of all kinds
 - More than 1 billion (out of a total of 9 billion) people lack sufficient dietary energy availability
 - More than 2 billion suffer micronutrient deficiencies
 - ▶ Reinforce a sustainable mindset
 - “The goal is no longer simply to maximize productivity but to optimize across a far more complex landscape of production, environment, and social justice outcomes” [Science 327:12Feb2010]

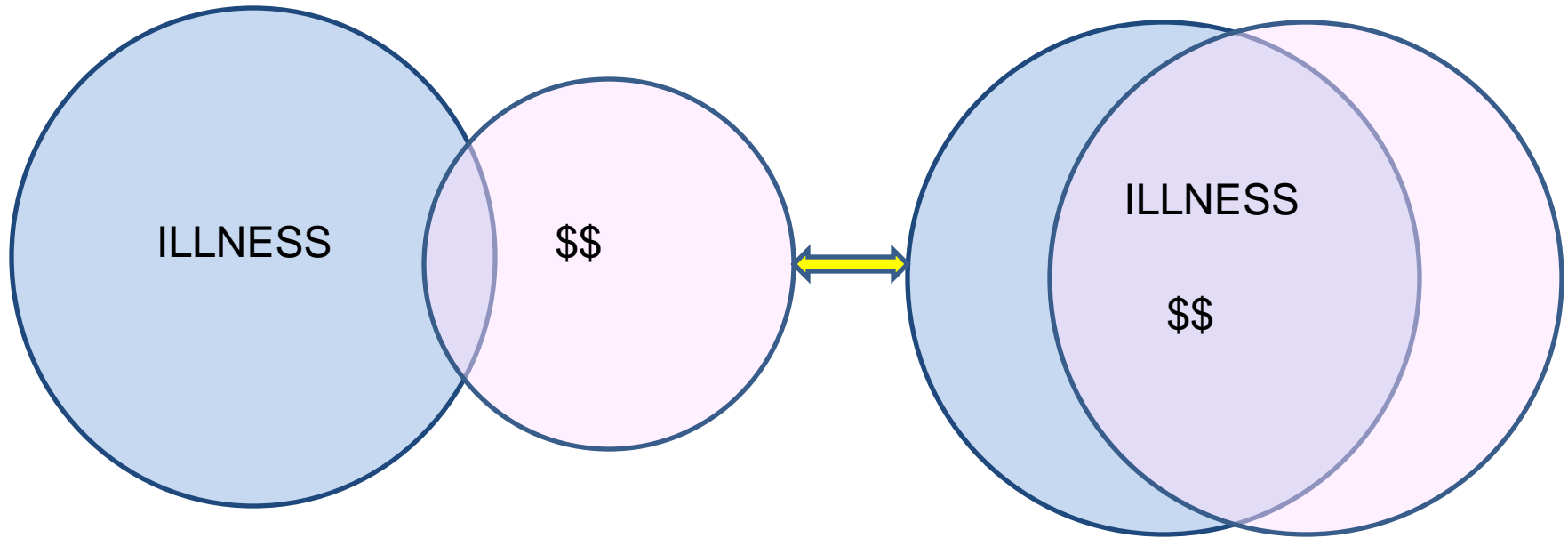
Universal Symbols Capture Universal Themes

- ▶ To understand things, we must have been once in them and then have come out of them; so that first there must be captivity and then deliverance, illusion followed by disillusion, enthusiasm by disappointment.
 - ▶ He who is under the spell and she who has never felt the spell are equally incompetent.
 - ▶ We only know well what we have first believed, then judged.
 - ▶ To understand, we must be free, yet not always have been free.
 - ▶ Sympathy is a first condition of criticism; reason and justice presuppose, at their origin, emotion.
- 

What is medical professionalism?

- An universal set of values, behaviors, and relationships that underpins the trust the public has in doctors
- Medicine is a vocation in which a doctor's knowledge, clinical skills, and judgment are put in the service of protecting and restoring human wellbeing
- This purpose is realized through a partnership between the patient and doctor, based on mutual respect, individual responsibility, and appropriate accountability

How do we distribute health care services?



Market-driven health care often leads to minimal overlap of illness and provision of health care services

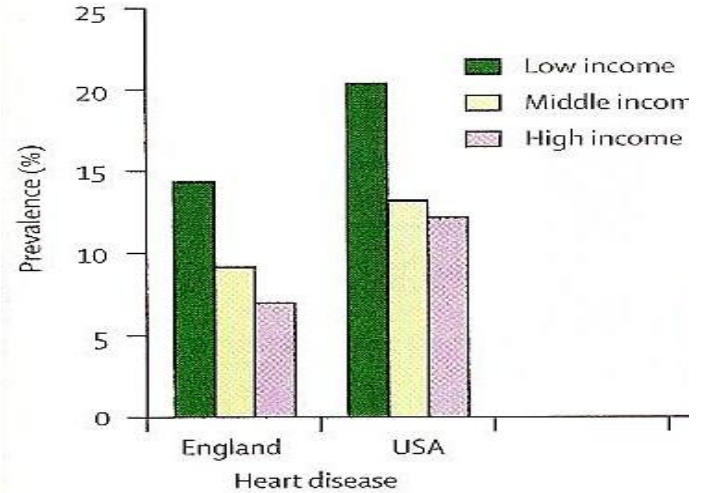
Profit center model

Health outcomes-driven health care seeks to align health care services and activities with health care needs (illness and prevention)

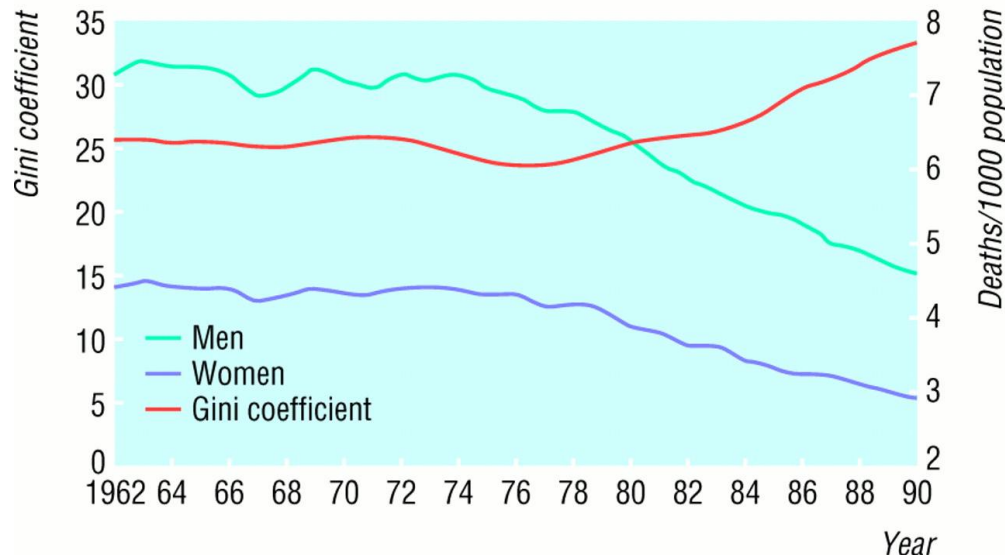
Cost center model

Health disparities reduce social capital and increase total mortality

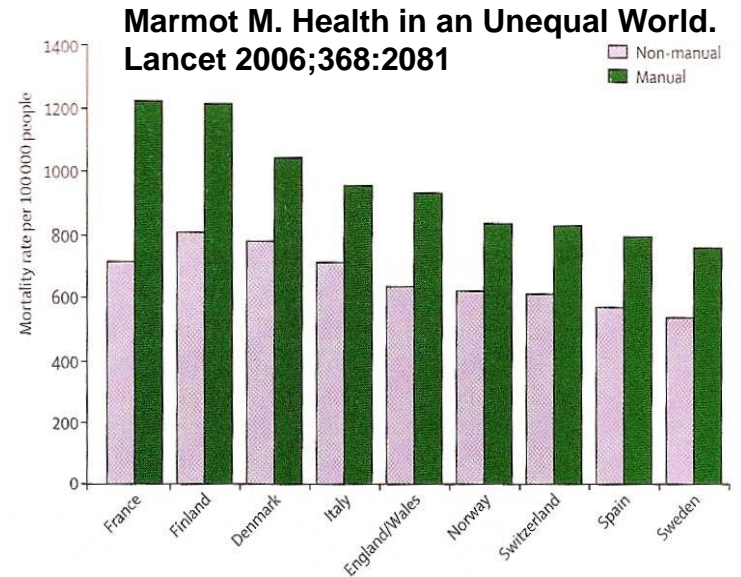
- Health disparities track with SES (socioeconomic status) disparity in all countries
- The greater the health disparities in a country, the lower the overall health of everyone
- Highest SES group in USA has health comparable to that of lowest SES in UK
- Sweden has lowest health disparity in world and the best overall health



Banks J et al. Disease and Disadvantage in the United States and England. *JAMA* 2006;295:2037

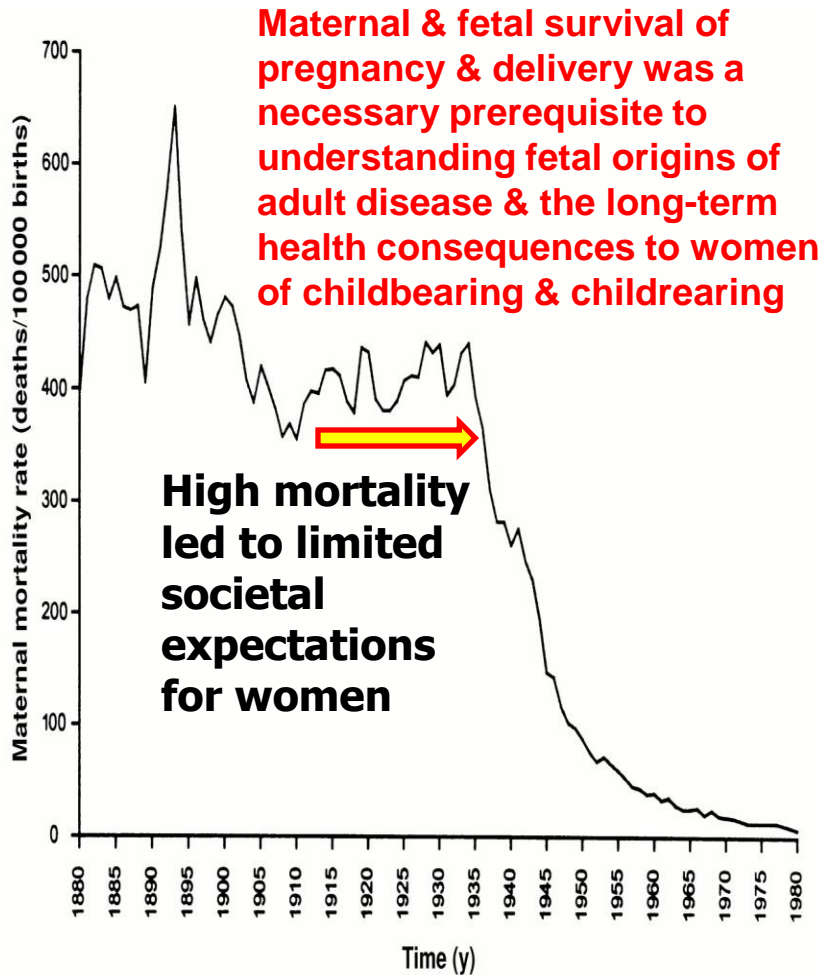


Income inequality (Gini coefficient) & mortality in men & women aged 45-54 in Britain, 1962-1990. *BMJ* 2000;320:1200



e 5: Mortality for non-manual and manual workers in nine European countries

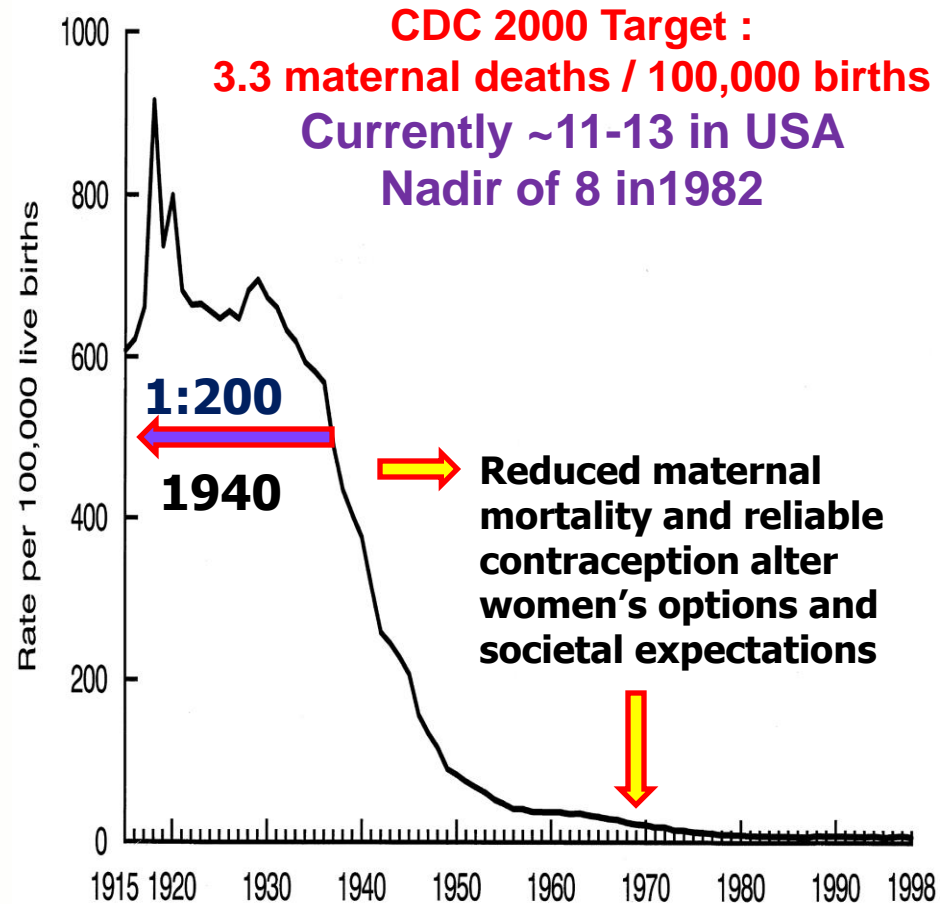
A century of progress in maternal mortality reversed



Annual maternal mortality rates in England and Wales, 1880-1980

Loudon, I. Am J Clin Nutr 2000;72:241S-246S

Copyright ©2000 The American Society for Nutrition

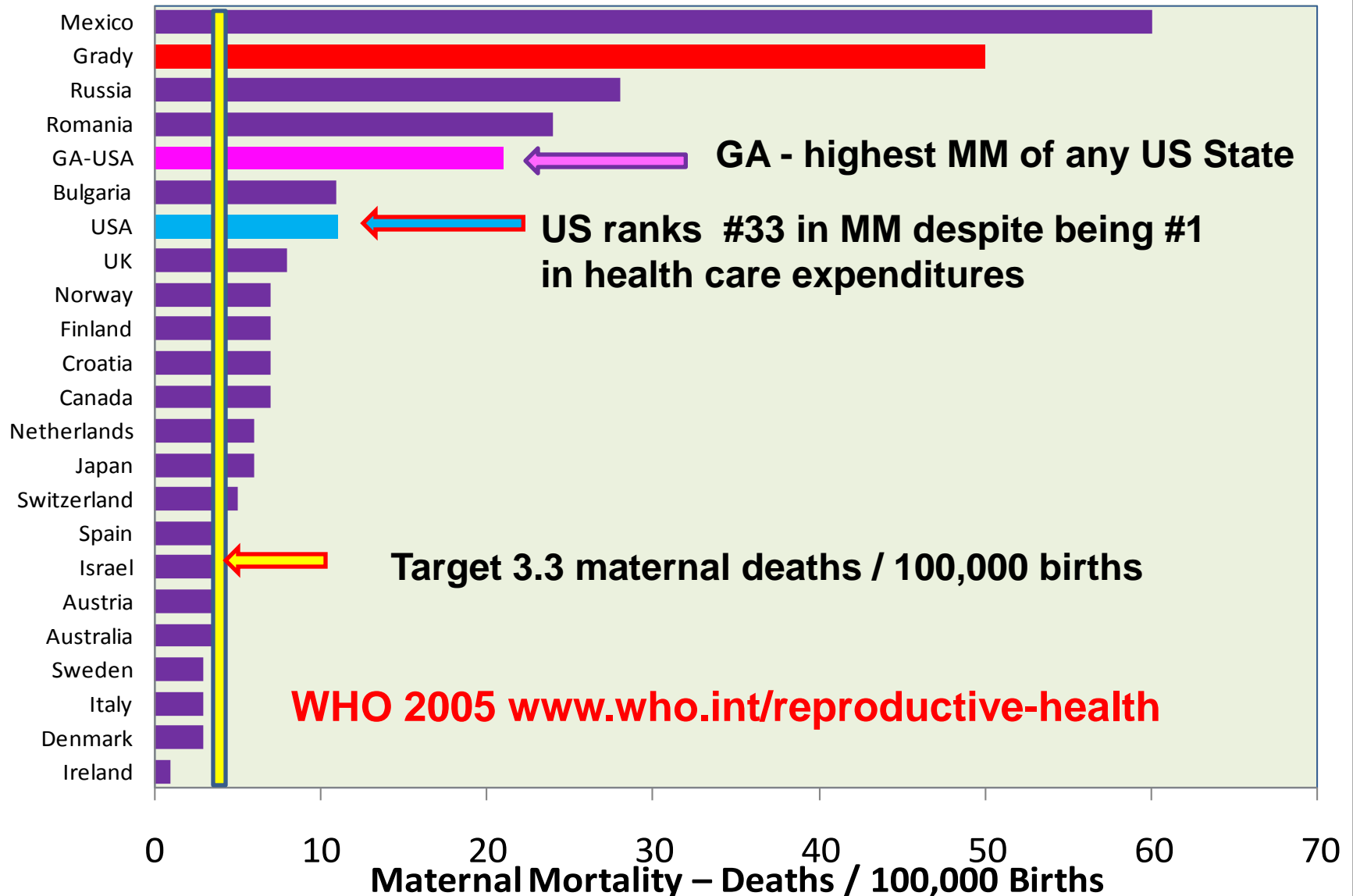


Maternal Mortality United States 1915-1998

Guyer, B. et al. Pediatrics 2000;106:1307-1317

Copyright ©2000 American Academy of Pediatrics

Maternal mortality varies widely around the world



The universe in a single atom – Dalai Lama

- ▶ Nature is an infinite sphere of which the center is everywhere and the circumference nowhere.
 - Blaise Pascal (1623–1662) – invented of “calculating machines”, proved the existence of vacuum, and came up with the theory of probability
 - ▶ How do we **embrace** the past and **brace** for the future?
 - ▶ Can universal symbols play a role in allaying anxiety and harnessing our collectivity in an all-too protean universe?
 - ▶ No one person can fix the whole world, but everyone has something to contribute to the solution
 - ▶ AND, when all else fails, just say no to negativity.....
- 