



Progress: Ten Reasons to Look Forward to the Future

By Johan Norberg

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Progress: Ten Reasons to Look Forward to the Future By Johan Norberg

It's on the televisions, in the papers and in our minds. Every day we're bludgeoned by news of how bad everything is – financial collapse, unemployment, growing poverty, environmental disasters, disease, hunger, war. But the rarely acknowledged reality is that our progress over the past few decades has been unprecedented. By almost any index you care to identify, things are markedly better now than they have ever been for almost everyone alive.

Examining official data from the United Nations, the World Bank and the World Health Organization, political commentator Johan Norberg traces just how far we have come in tackling the issues that define our species. While it's true that not every problem has been solved, we do now have a good idea of the solutions and we know what it will take to see this progress continue. Dramatic, uplifting and counter-intuitive, Progress is a call for optimism in our pessimistic, doom-laden world.

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Editorial Review

Review

Named one of the best books of the year by *The Economist*

"Persuasive."

The Wall Street Journal

"In this brightly written, upbeat book, Johan Norberg blends facts, anecdotes, and official statistics to describe 'humanity's triumph' in achieving the present unparalleled level of global living standards. By virtually every measure—food, sanitation, life expectancy, poverty, violence, the environment, literacy, freedom, equality, the conditions of childhood—life has improved for most people, writes the author. While acknowledging the mayhem, hunger, and poverty still facing much of the world, Norberg remains optimistic that human ingenuity will prevail in shaping the future. **A refreshingly rosy assessment of how far many of us have come from the days when life was uniformly nasty, brutish, and short.**"

Kirkus Reviews

"His unfailing optimism and well-argued points generate powerful good-news vibes."

—*Esquire*(UK)

"Norberg has a strong case and he makes it with energy and charm. A pertinent book for grumpy times."

—*Sunday Times* (UK)

"Johan Norberg chronicles the still largely unknown fact that humanity is now healthier, happier, cleaner, cleverer, freer and more peaceful than ever before. He also explains why in this superb book."

—**Matt Ridley, author of *The Evolution of Everything***

"At a time of profound pessimism, Johan Norberg is refreshingly, but not glibly, optimistic. His excellent book documents the dramatic improvements in people's lives and reminds us of the huge potential for further progress – provided we are open to it."

—**Philippe Legrain, author of *European Spring***

"An exhilarating book. With the combination of arresting stories and striking data, Progress will change your understanding about where we've come from and where we may be heading."

—**Steven Pinker, author of *The Better Angels of Our Nature***

About the Author

Johan Norberg is a lecturer, documentary filmmaker and internationally acclaimed author of fifteen books. He is also a senior fellow at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., and the European Centre for International Political Economy in Brussels. A frequent commentator in Swedish and international media, he has a weekly column in Sweden's biggest daily, *Metro*. He lives in Malmö.

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