Why degrowth is harmful

Miklós Koren

A summary of the degrowth argument

A summary of the degrowth argument

1. An ever-growing economy leads to ever-growing consumption of resources and ever-growing pollution.
2. Hitting planetary boundaries will lead to catastrophic consequences.
3. Therefore, we need to stop/slow economic growth, focus on well-being instead.
4.

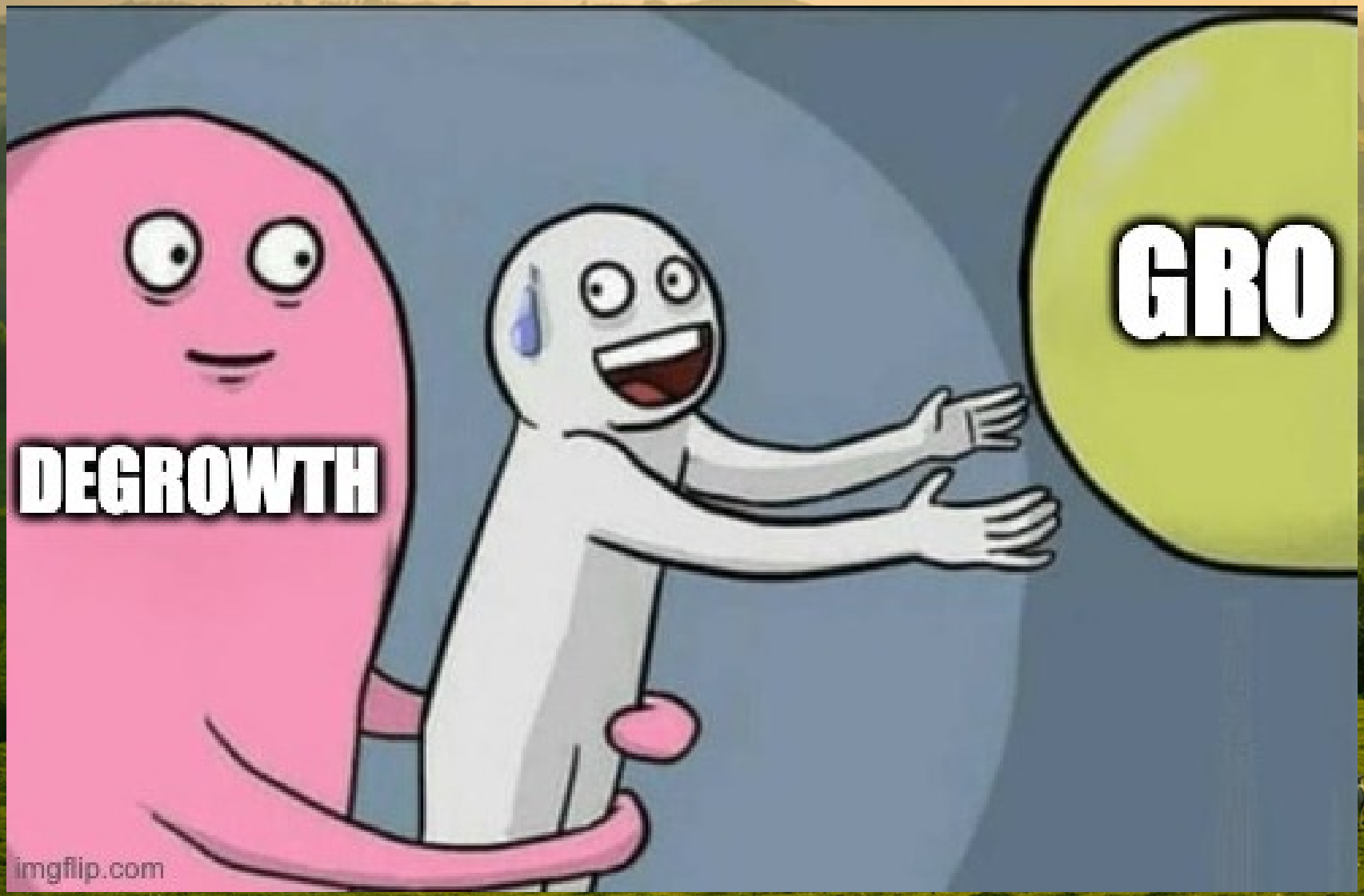
Points of agreement

Need for radical changes

And you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'
(The times they are a-changin', Bob Dylan)

Markets cannot solve everything

Decoupling is a tough problem


DEGROWTH
GRO
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HUMANITY
GROWTH
harm

HUMANITY
benefit
GROWTH
harm

Can we “decouple” economic growth from increasing harm?

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DRIVE-IN
Mel's
Fries
Soft Drinks

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WES CRAVEN'S NEW NIGHTMARE
FREDDY'S DEAD THE FINAL NIGHTMARE
A Nightmare on Elm Street 5:
STEPHEN KING'S MAXIMUM OVERDRIVE
FREDDY vs. JASON
JASON X
JASON GOES TO HELL The Final Friday
FRIDAY THE 13TH, PART VIII JASON TAKES MANHATTAN
FRIDAY THE 13TH PART VII — THE NEW BLOOD
FRIDAY THE 13TH PART VI JASON LIVES
HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
JAMIE LEE CURTIS H20 HALLOWEEN
HALLOWEEN THE CURSE OF MICHAEL MYERS
HALLOWEEN 5 THE REVENGE OF MICHAEL MYERS
HALLOWEEN 4 THE RETURN OF MICHAEL MYERS
HALLOWEEN III SEASON OF THE WITCH
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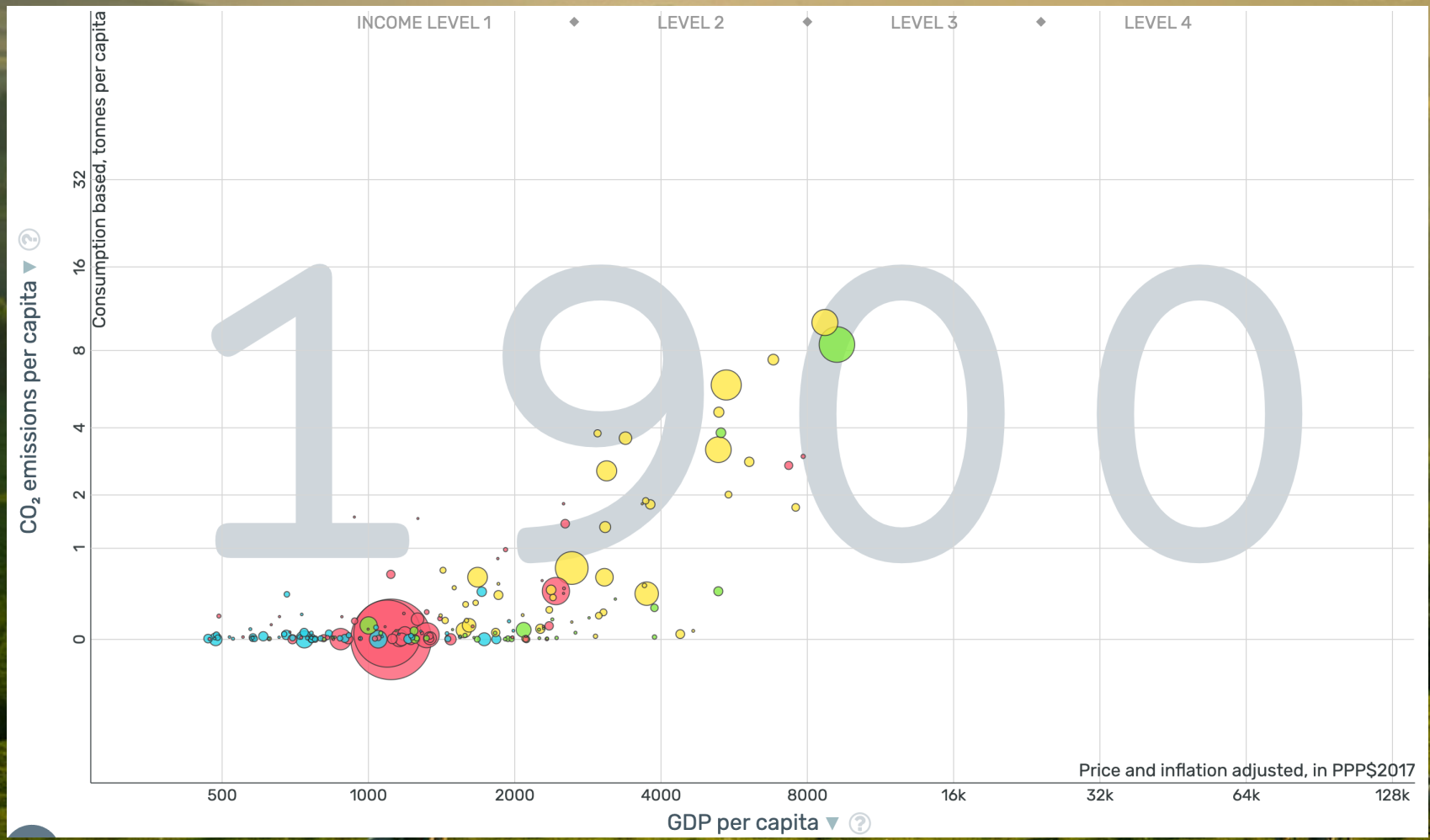
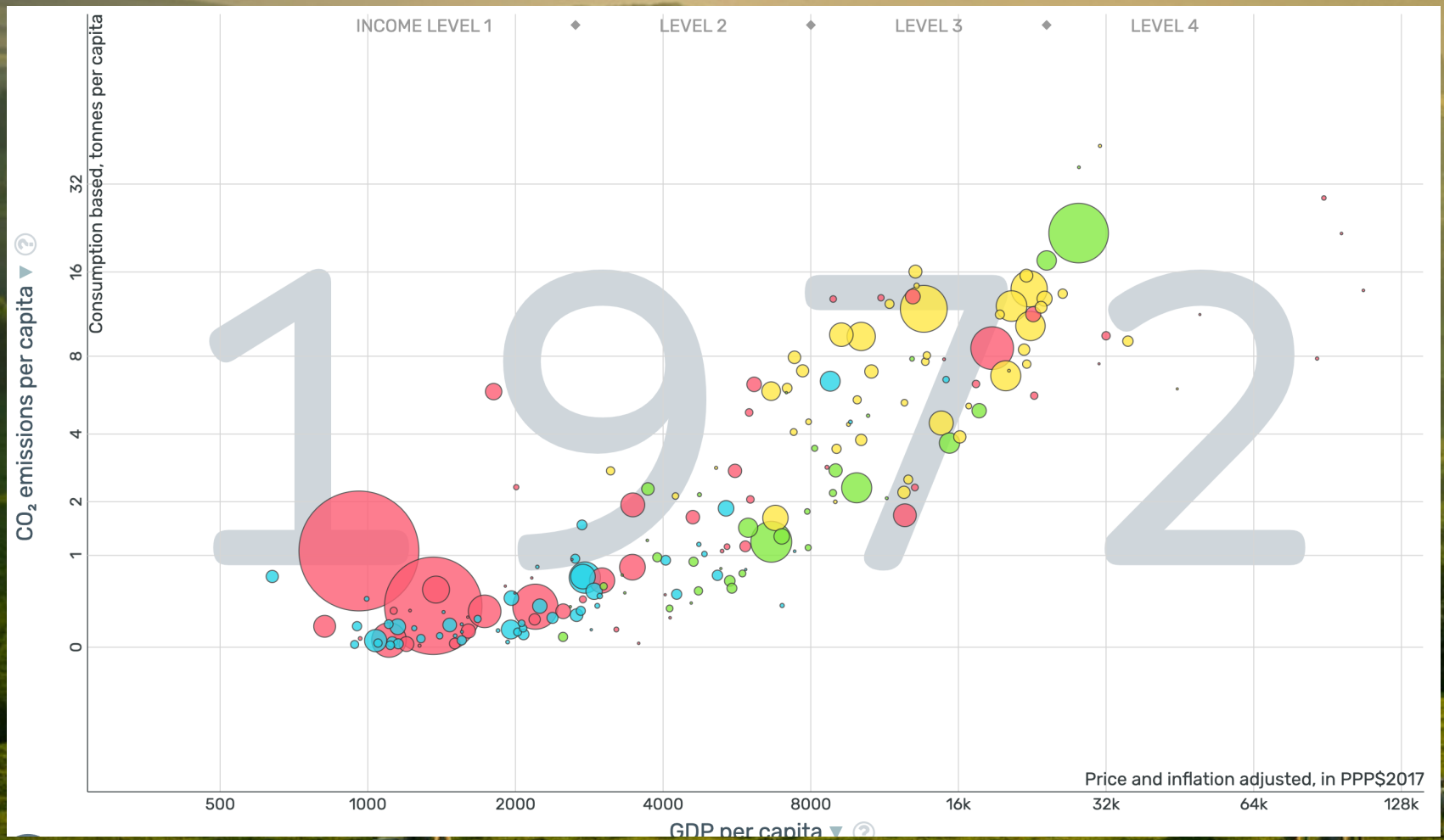
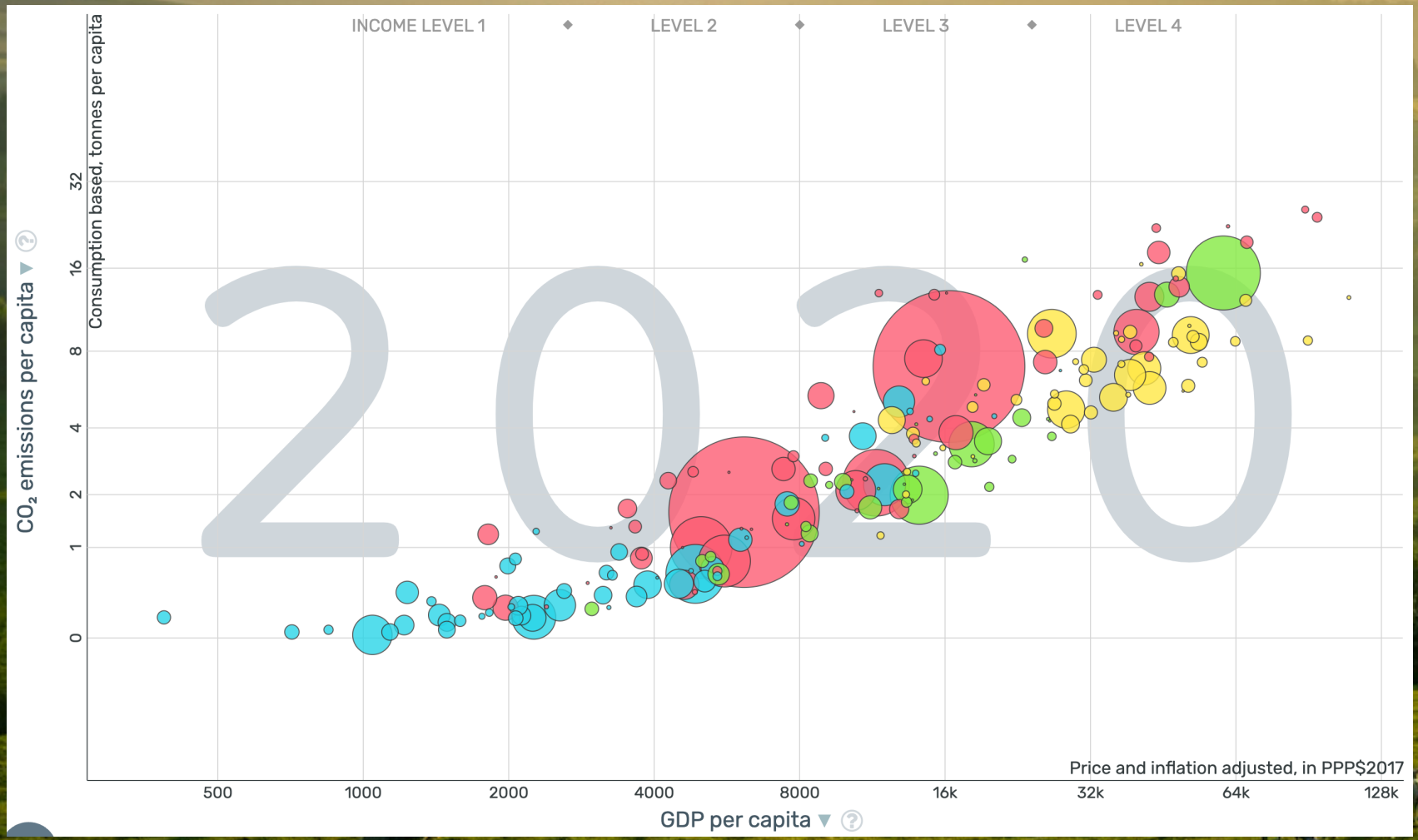
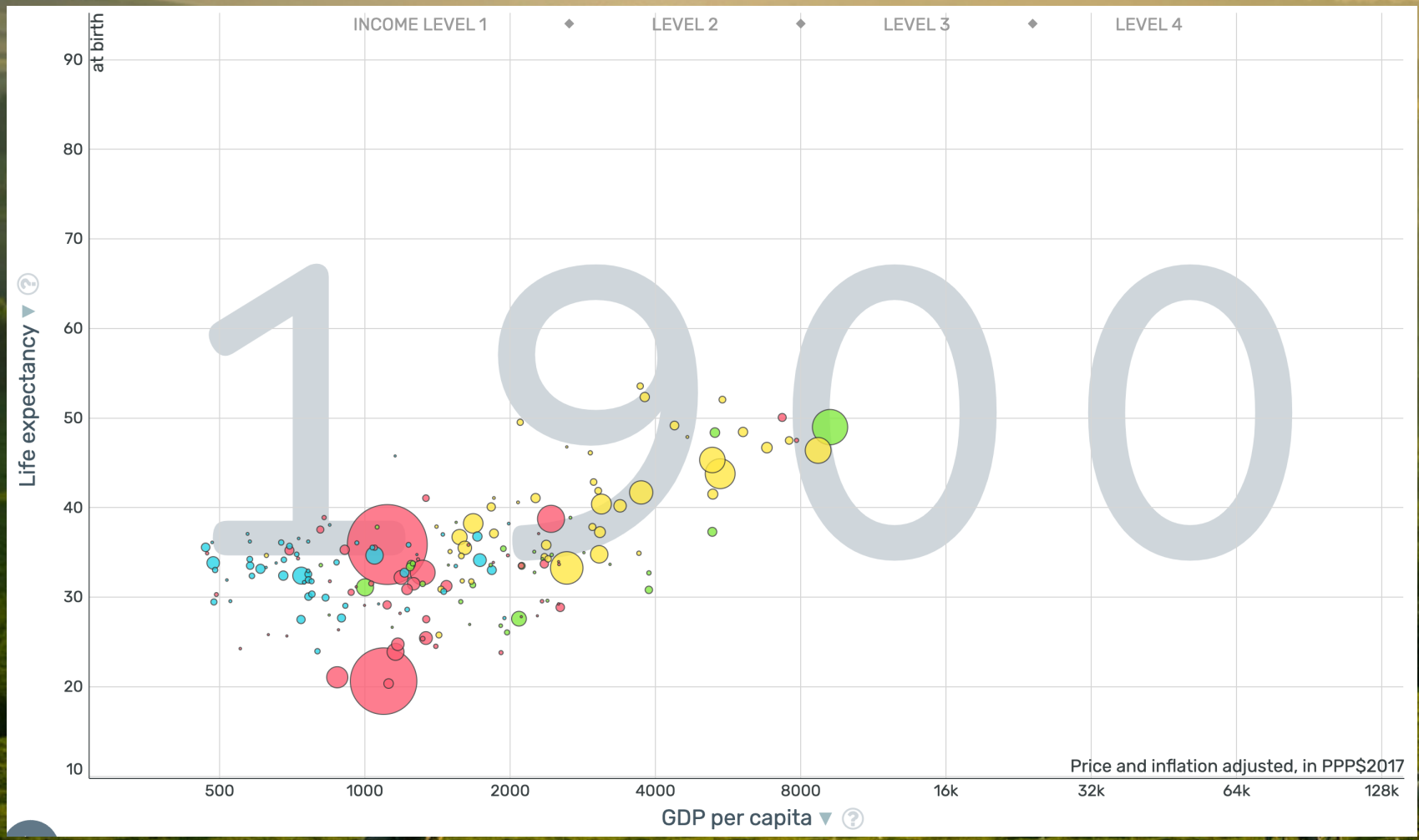
CO2 emissions have not decoupled from economic growth

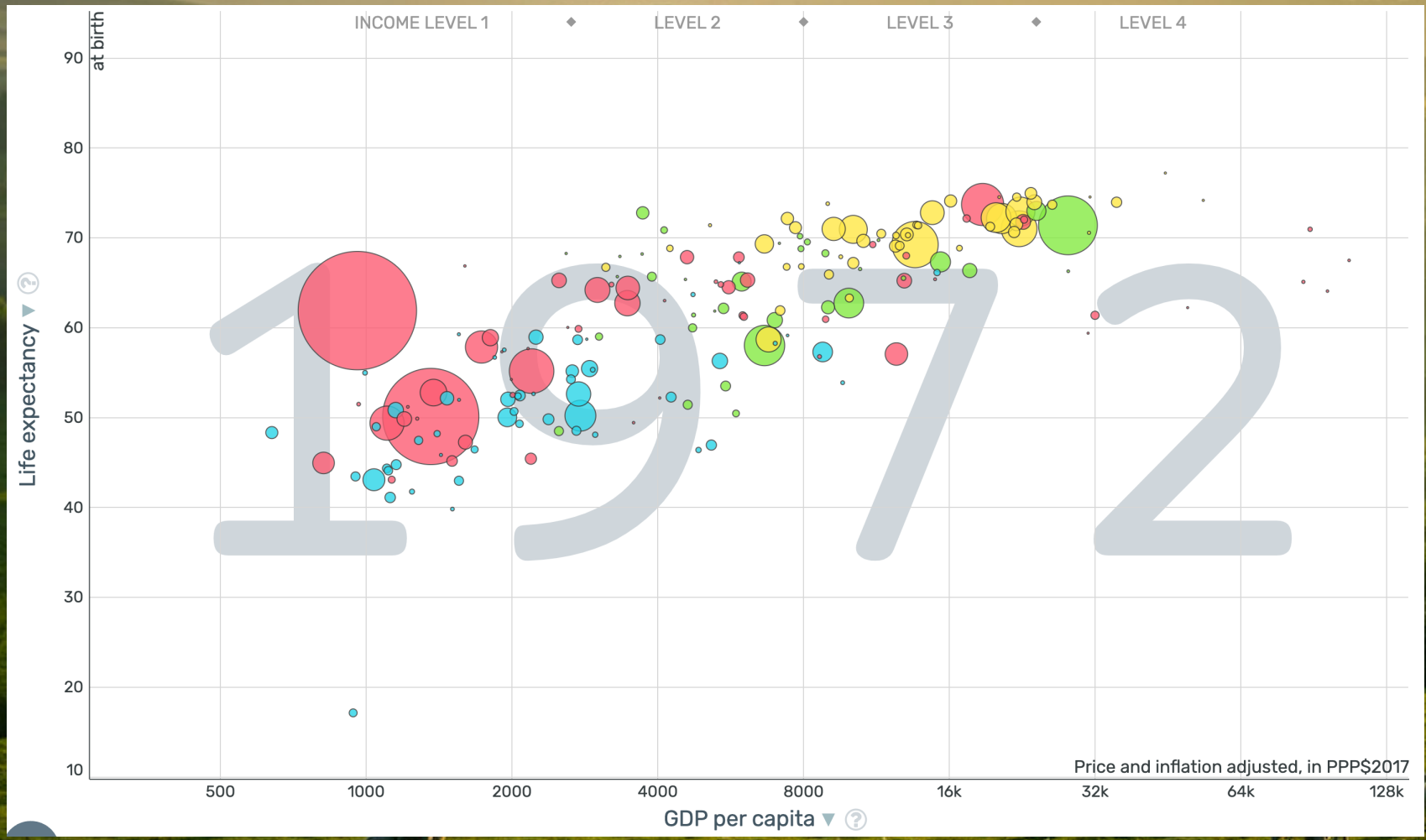

INCOME LEVEL 1
LEVEL 2
LEVEL 3
LEVEL 4
1900
CO_2 emissions per capita
Consumption based, tonnes per capita
0
1
2
4
8
16
32
500
1000
2000
4000
8000
16k
32k
64k
128k
Price and inflation adjusted, in PPP$2017
GDP per capita


INCOME LEVEL 1
LEVEL 2
LEVEL 3
LEVEL 4
Consumption based, tonnes per capita
CO_2 emissions per capita
0
1
2
4
8
16
32
1972
Price and inflation adjusted, in PPP$2017
500
1000
2000
4000
8000
16k
32k
64k
128k
GDP per capita


INCOME LEVEL 1
LEVEL 2
LEVEL 3
LEVEL 4
Consumption based, tonnes per capita
CO_2 emissions per capita
2020
0
1
2
4
8
16
32
500
1000
2000
4000
8000
16k
32k
64k
128k
Price and inflation adjusted, in PPP$2017
GDP per capita

No evidence of decoupling desirable outcomes, either


INCOME LEVEL 1
LEVEL 2
LEVEL 3
LEVEL 4
at birth
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
1900
Life expectancy
Price and inflation adjusted, in PPP$2017
500
1000
2000
4000
8000
16k
32k
64k
128k
GDP per capita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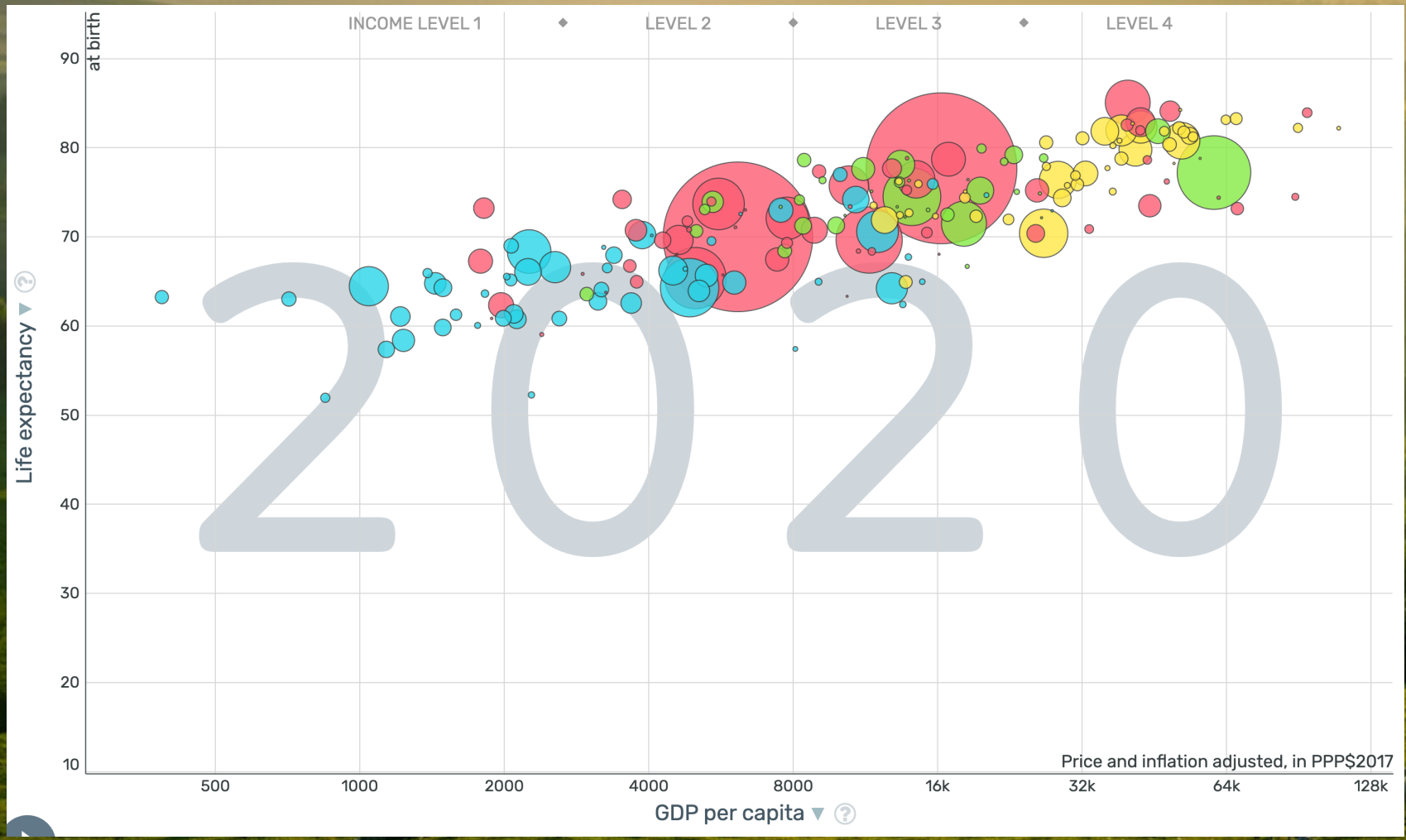
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LEVEL 4
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16k
32k
64k
128k
GDP per capita

A case of a global, catastrophic event

A case of a global, catastrophic event

Covid response: - stay at home - wear a mask - get vaccinated

Credits

Credits

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