

SEASON OF CREATION 2023

Let Justice and Peace Flow



PLENTY! COURSE ECONOMIC JUSTICE

1. The stage is set - Plenty! yet inequality
2. Just can't get enough – consumerism and advertising
3. Growing pains – growth and debt
4. God is in business – economic justice
5. Running out of planet – climate emergency
6. Joy in Enough – sustainability and wellbeing



WHY THE PLENTY! COURSE?

- Connects with Hub vision pillar: **Transforming Society**
- Matthew 22:37-40 Love your neighbour
- The Good Samaritan
- Bigger vision?
- Establishing heaven on earth...

JUSTICE

Economic Justice



AMOS 5:21-24

The Message

I can't stand your religious meetings.

I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions.

I want nothing to do with your religion projects,
your pretentious slogans and goals.

I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes,
your public relations and image making.

I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music.

When was the last time you sang to *me*?

Do you know what I want?

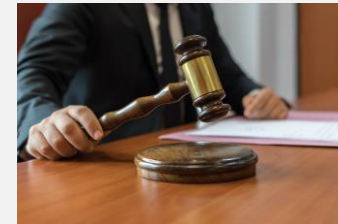
I want justice—oceans of it.

I want fairness—rivers of it.

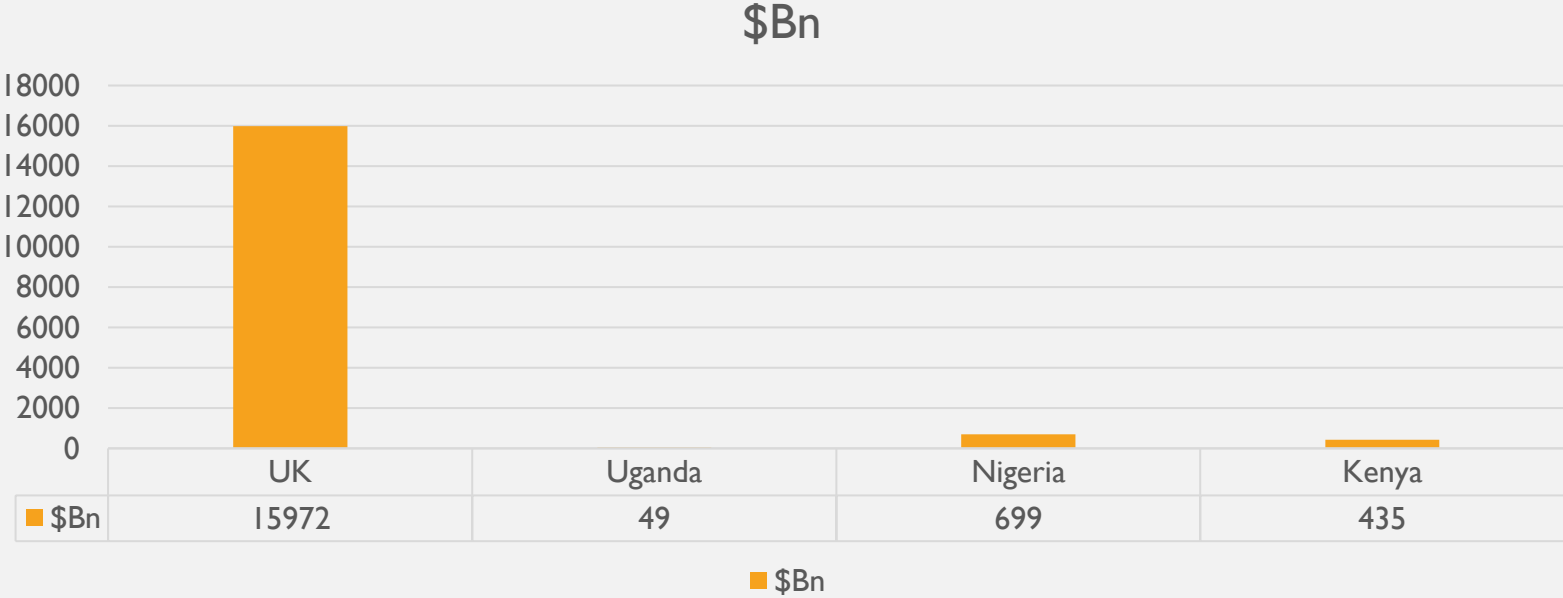
That's what I want. That's *all* I want.

WE ARE BLESSED IN THE UK

Economic benefits

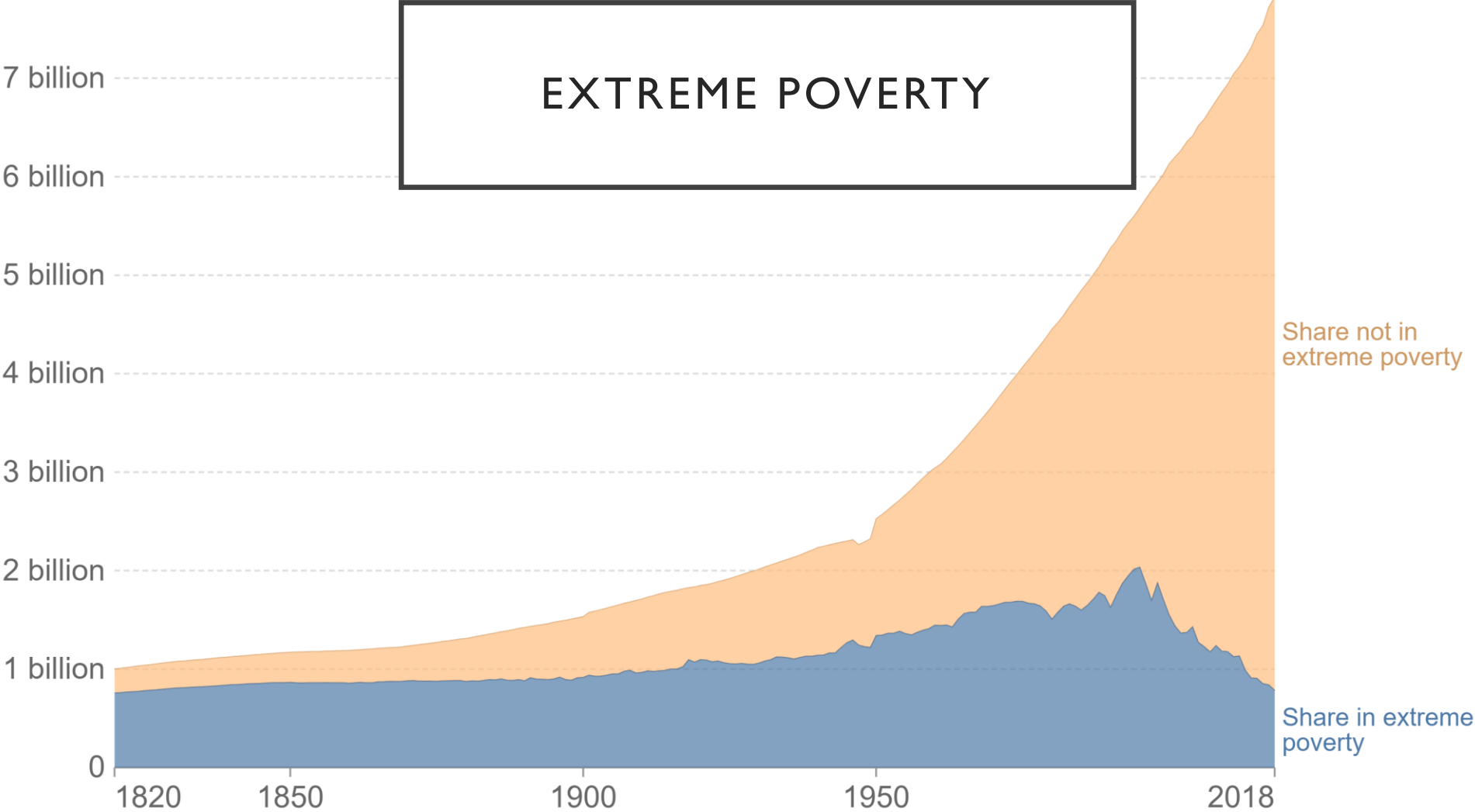


COMPARATIVE WEALTH



Share of population living in extreme poverty, World, 1820 to 2018

This data is calculated based on a 'cost of basic needs' approach. It represents the share of the population unable to meet basic needs (including minimal nutrition and adequately heated shelter) according to prices of locally-available goods and services at the time.



WHY THE DISPARITY IN WEALTH?

UK Economic History

- 14th & 15th Century:
 - Black Death
 - Agricultural Depression

Total economic output in England since 1270, England

Output is adjusted for inflation and measured in British Pounds in 2013 prices



16th & 17th Century:

- Wool
- Cloth Exports

18th Century:

- Run of Good Harvests
- Trade
- *Mercantilism
- *Slave Trade
- *Coal & Steam

19th Century

- Railways
- *Expansion of the Empire

20th Century

- *Oil & Gas
- *Plastic

- *Waste!

Source: GDP in England (Using Base 2013)

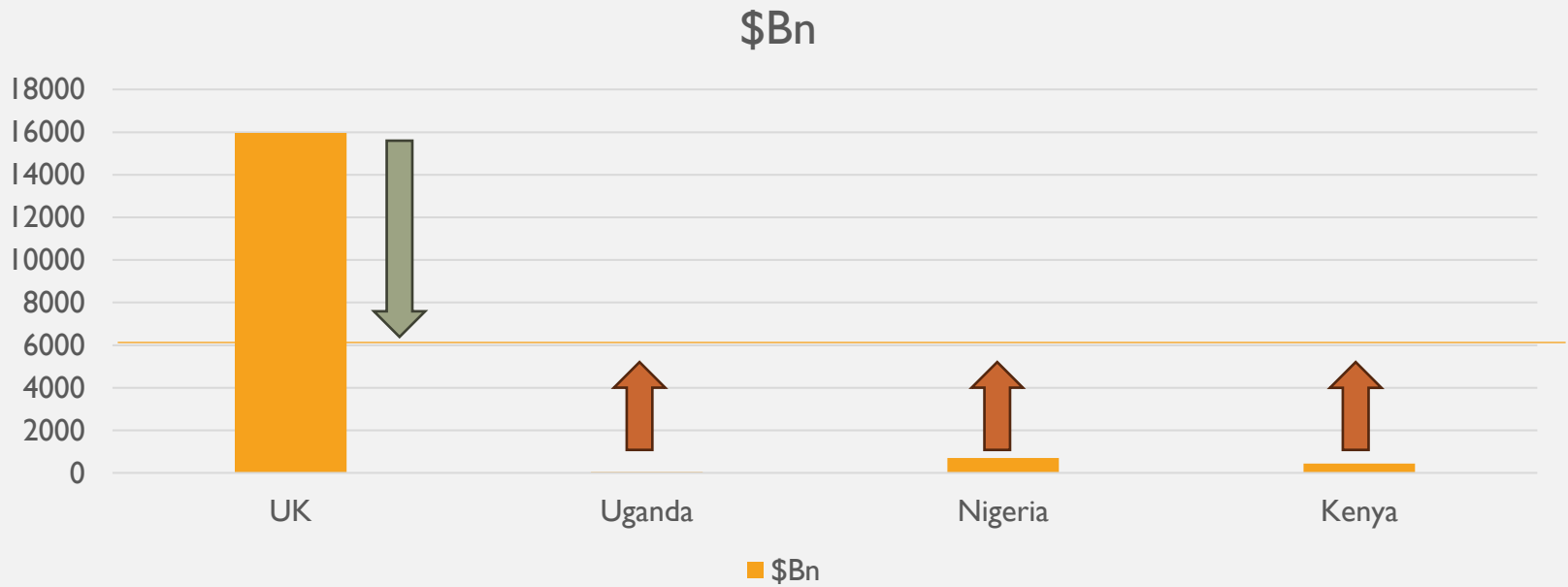
Note: Data refers to England until 1707 and the UK from then onwards.

GROWTH

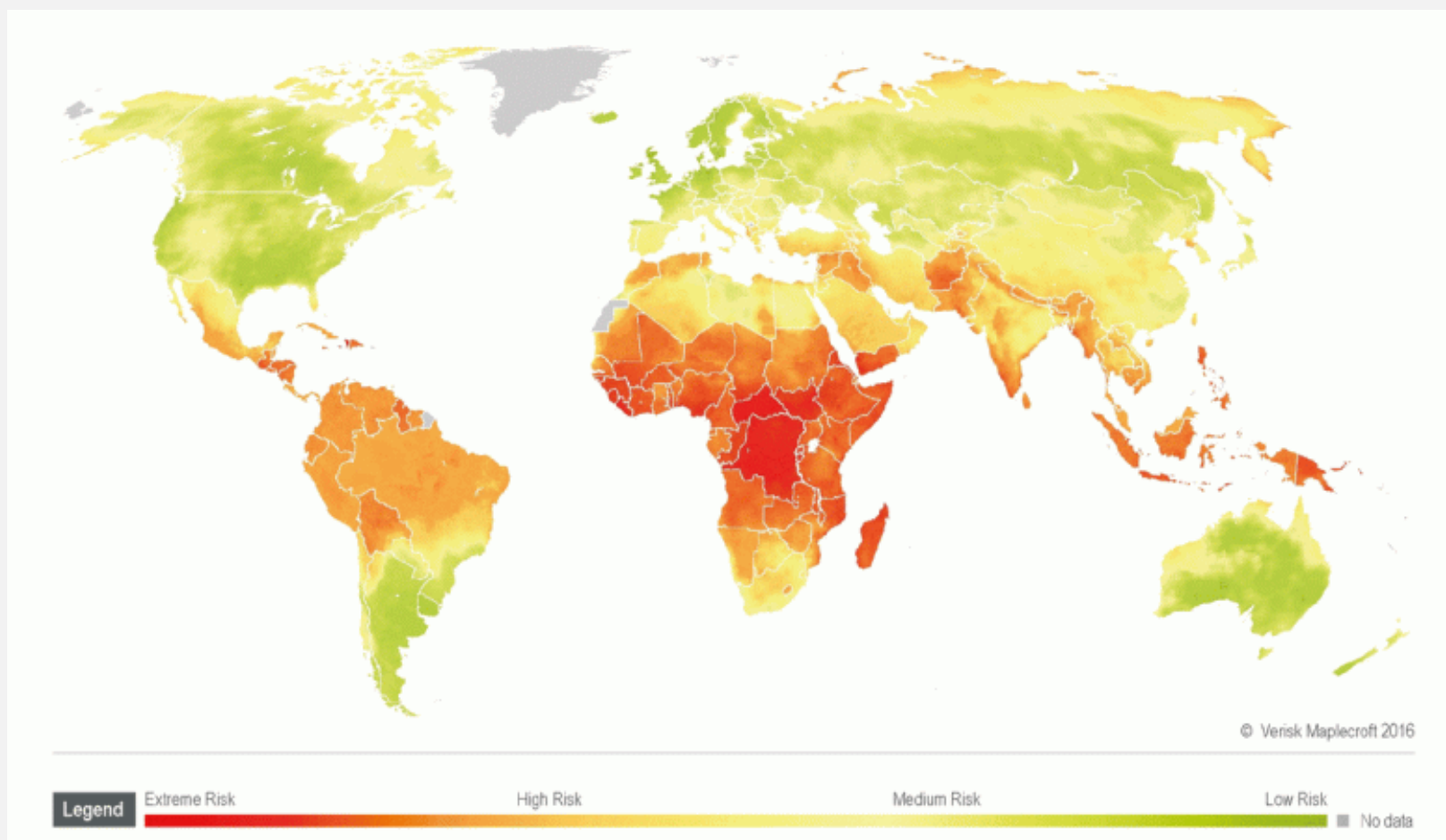
at whose expense?

- Unfair Trade
- Exploitation
- Slavery
- Pollution

COMPARISON OF WEALTH



CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT



JUSTICE?

In summary, our current wealth has been in some measure at the **expense** of our 'neighbours' so it's not just a case that we *happen* to be better off so we should help the poor, but is there a sense in which some of what we have actually belongs to others who are now poor?

We are not accountable for the actions of our predecessors; we are responsible, though, for the choices we make that impact those in poverty.

“Live Simply So Others May Simply Live,” Gandhi

HOW CAN WE DO 'JUSTICE'?

Global Justice

- Micro-finance – lend relatively small amounts to those who would benefit greatly – e.g. kiva.org
- Christian Aid Campaign - #MakePollutersPay
- Tearfund Rubbish Campaign
- Buy Fairtrade products
- Check for exploitation in the products we purchase
- ...
- Want to know more? We hope to run another Plenty! Course in Jan 2024

RESPONSE

<https://creationcare.org.uk/>

<https://www.climatestewards.org/>

<https://www.arocha.org/en/>

Prayers