



**Atlantic Council**

# **Global Trends 2030**

*Individual Empowerment and  
the Role of Disruptive Technologies*

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Mathew J. Burrows, Director, Strategic  
Foresight Initiative

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# Tectonic Shifts

- Growth of the Global Middle Class
- Wider Access to Lethal and Disruptive Technologies
- Definitive Shift of Economic Power to the East and South
- Unprecedented and Widespread Aging
- Urbanization
- Food and Water Pressures
- US Energy Independence

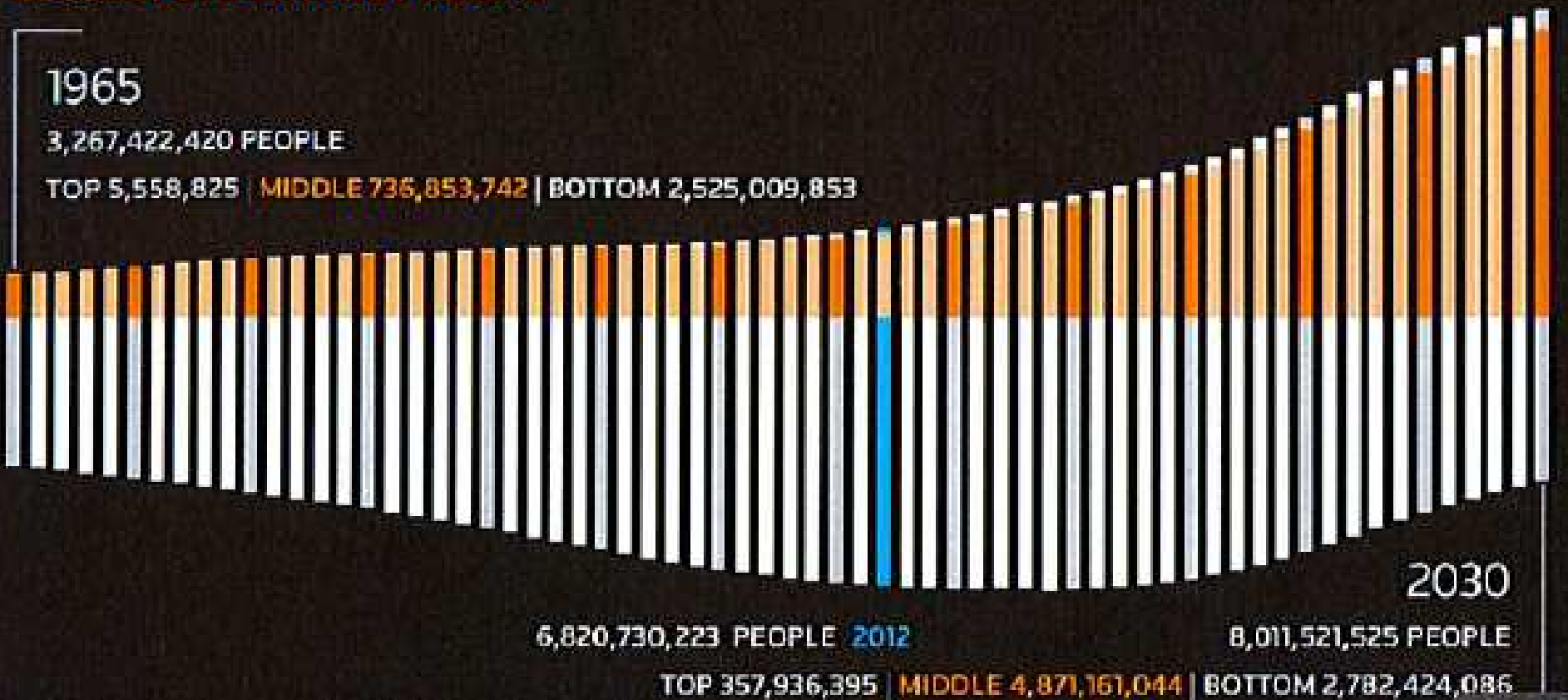
# Biggest Megatrend: Individual Empowerment

- Root of the other big changes—expanding global economy, rapid growth of developing countries and widespread exploitation of new enabling technologies.
- Explosion of Middle Class in Developing World with Drop in Poverty Rate.
- Convergence in Values and Demand for sociopolitical change rise as individuals move up into the middle class.
- **Sense of Insecurity Will Persist—Particularly in the West Now, But Developing World Too**

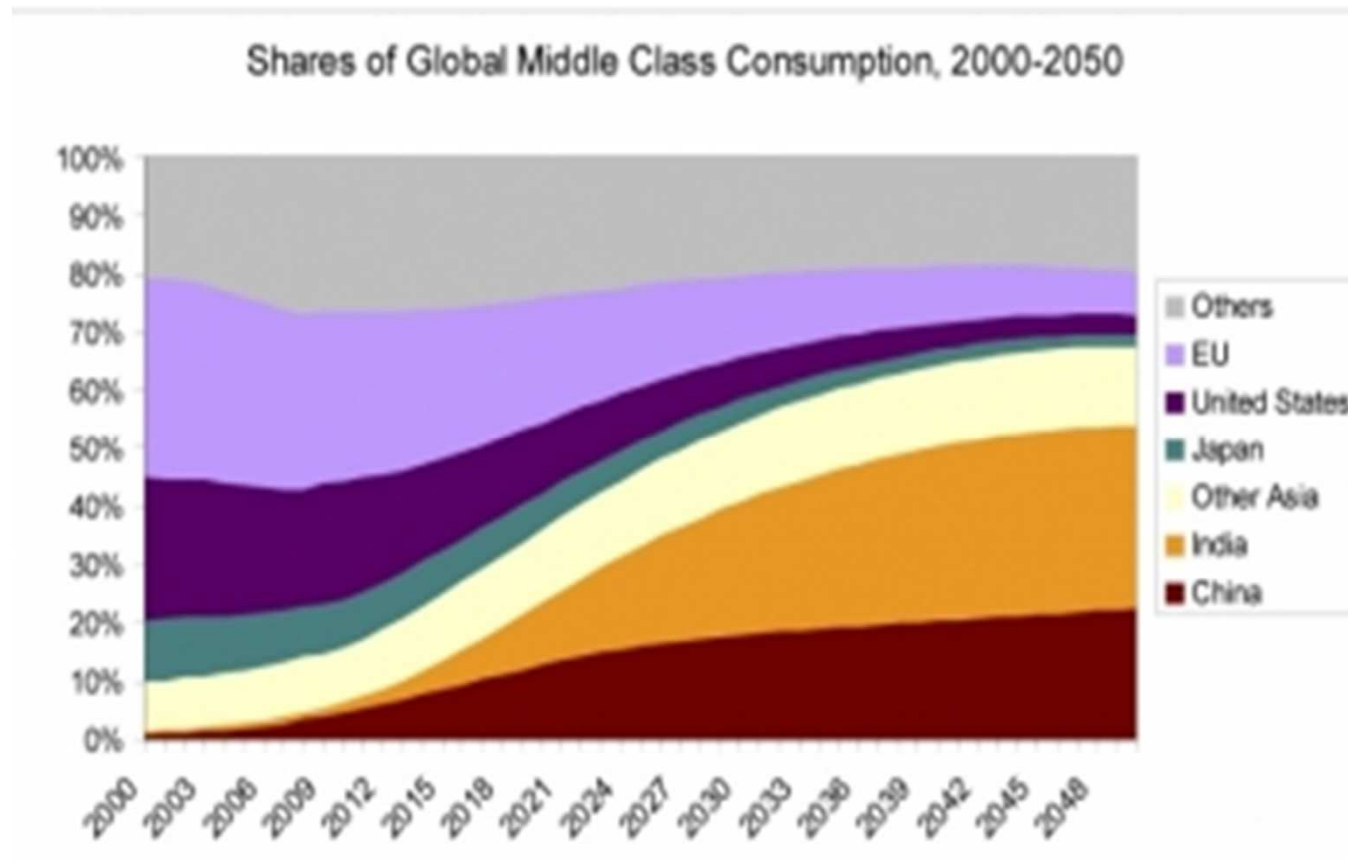
# Growth of the Global Middle Class

## The Middle Class Is Growing...

### GLOBAL POPULATION BY INCOME



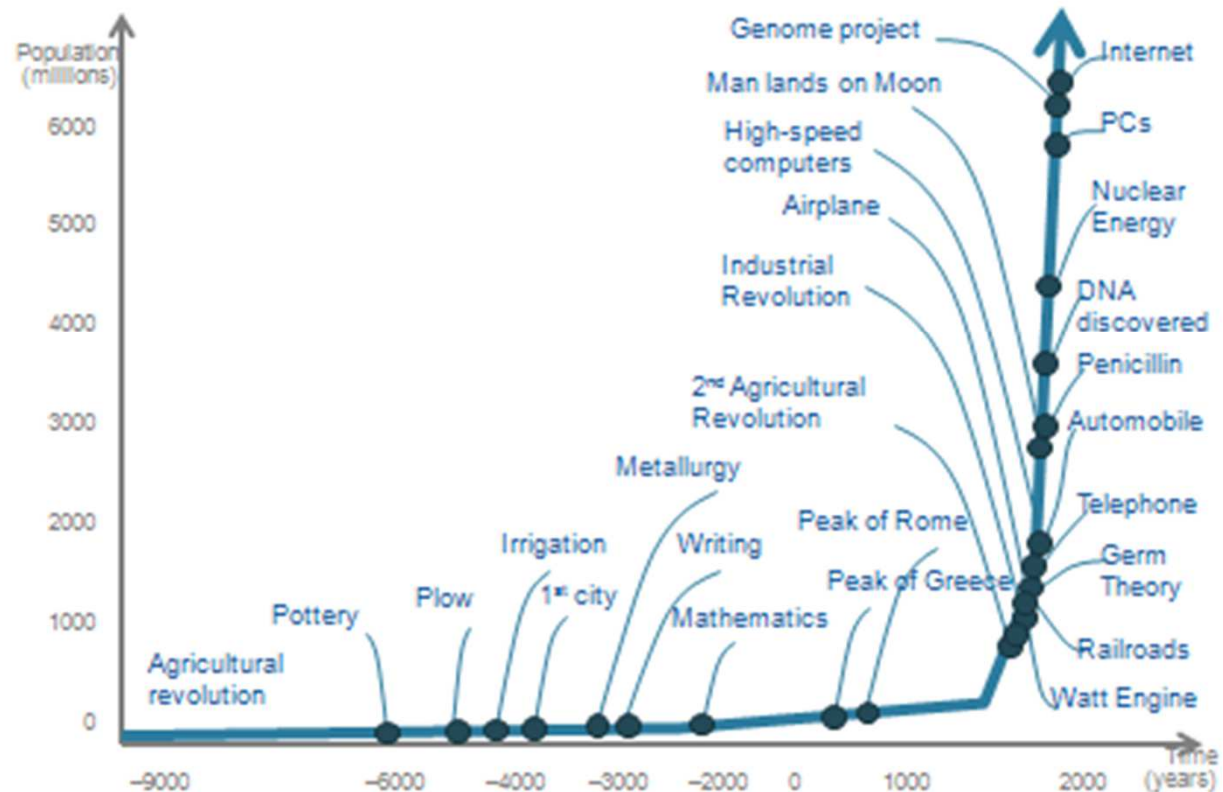
# ...and Moving Eastward



# Disruptive Technologies

- Rapid growth in computing innovation leads to subsequent new revolutions
- Moore's Law is now applicable to more than computing, which means several technologies are evolving exponentially at the same time

## The History of Technology





# Disruptive Technologies

Disruptive convergence of breakthroughs will revolutionize individuals' abilities to create societal change

