

THE
NOBEL
PRIZE

ECONOMIC SCIENCES PRIZE 2024

Rich and poor countries



Nobel Prize lessons



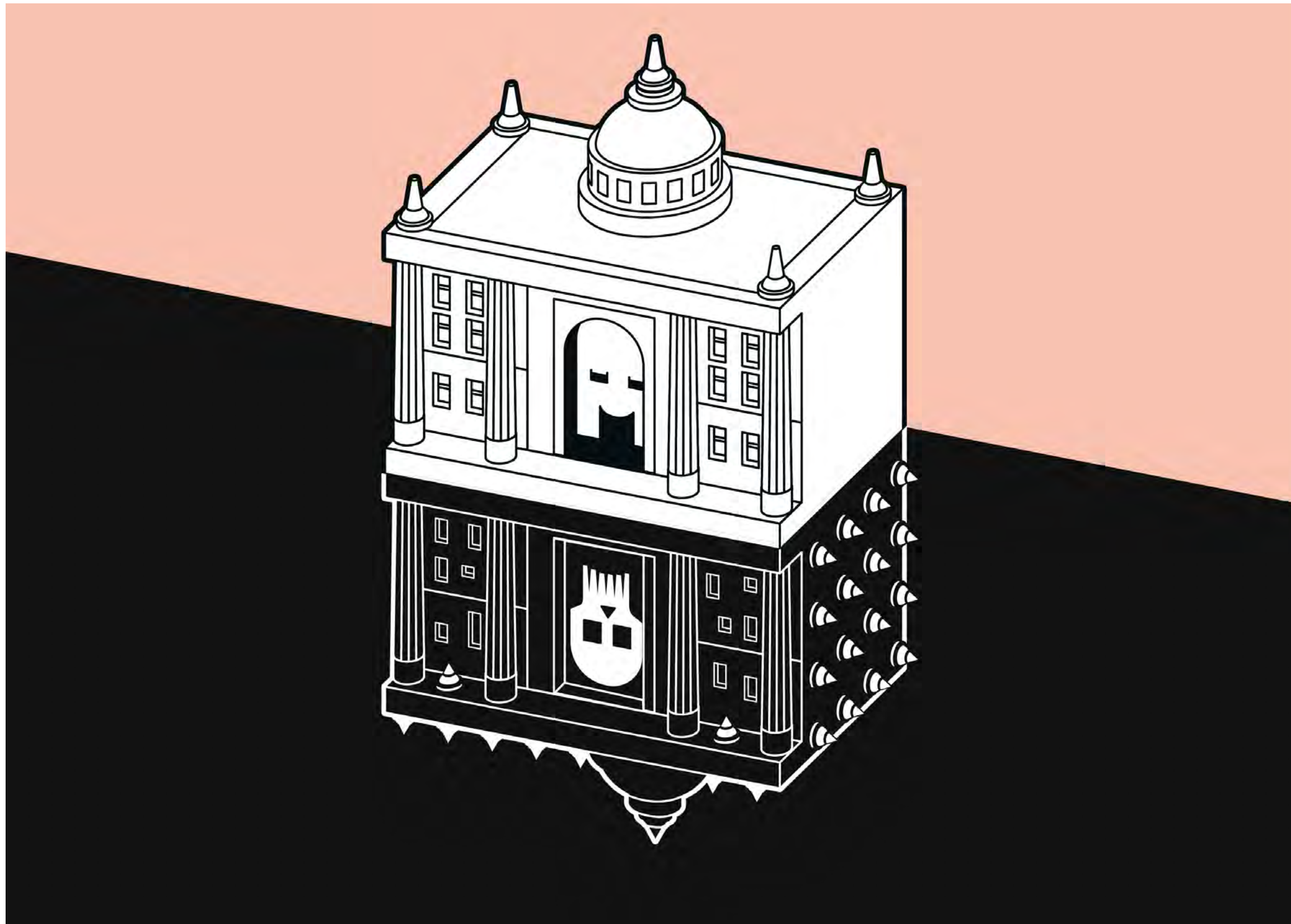
Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel

The prize in economic sciences was established by Sveriges Riksbank, Sweden's central bank.





The economic sciences prize 2024



This year's economic sciences prize is about why certain countries are rich and others are poor. The laureates have shown that it largely depends on countries' social institutions, such as governance and laws, and how they have been created.

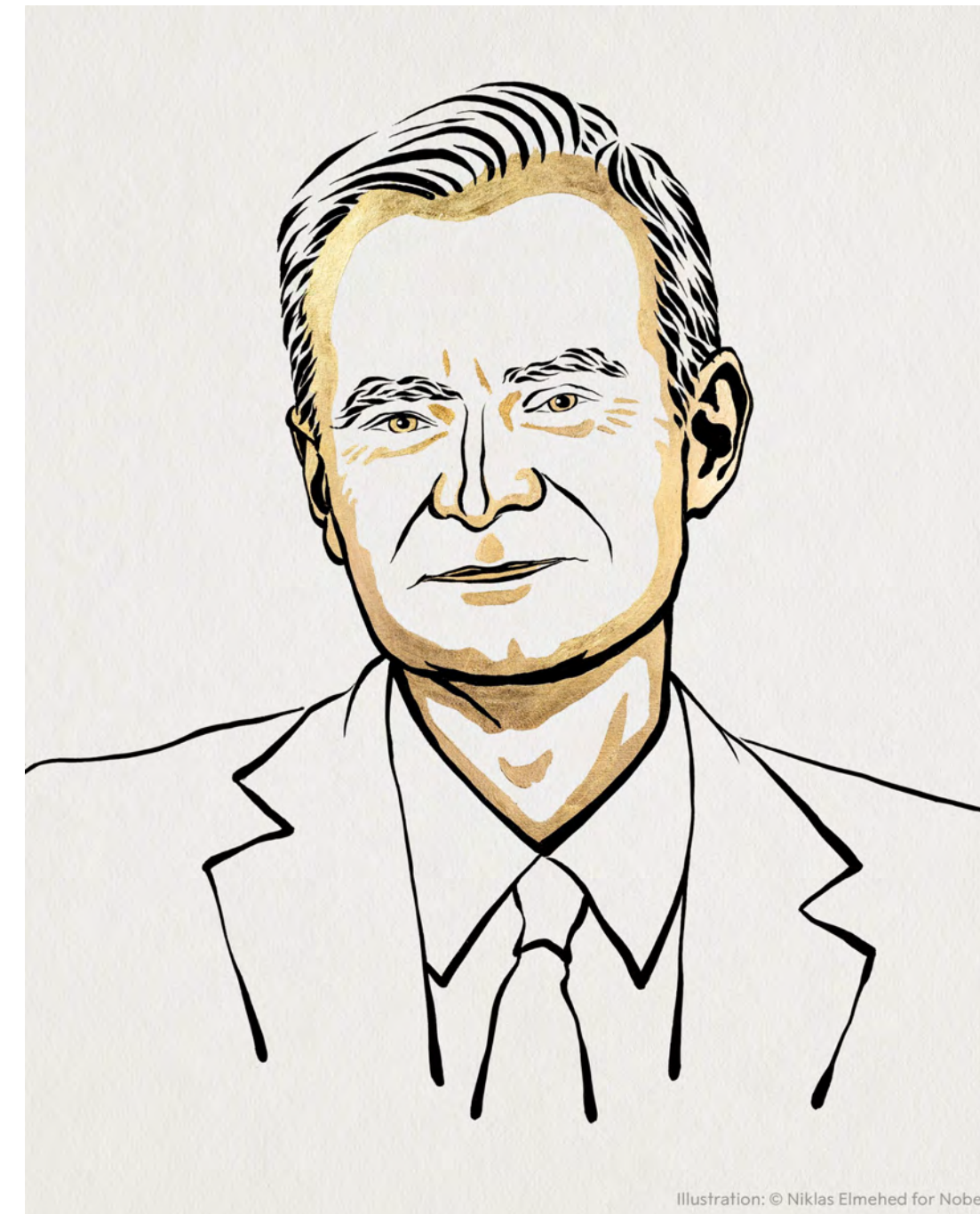


The 2024 economic sciences laureates

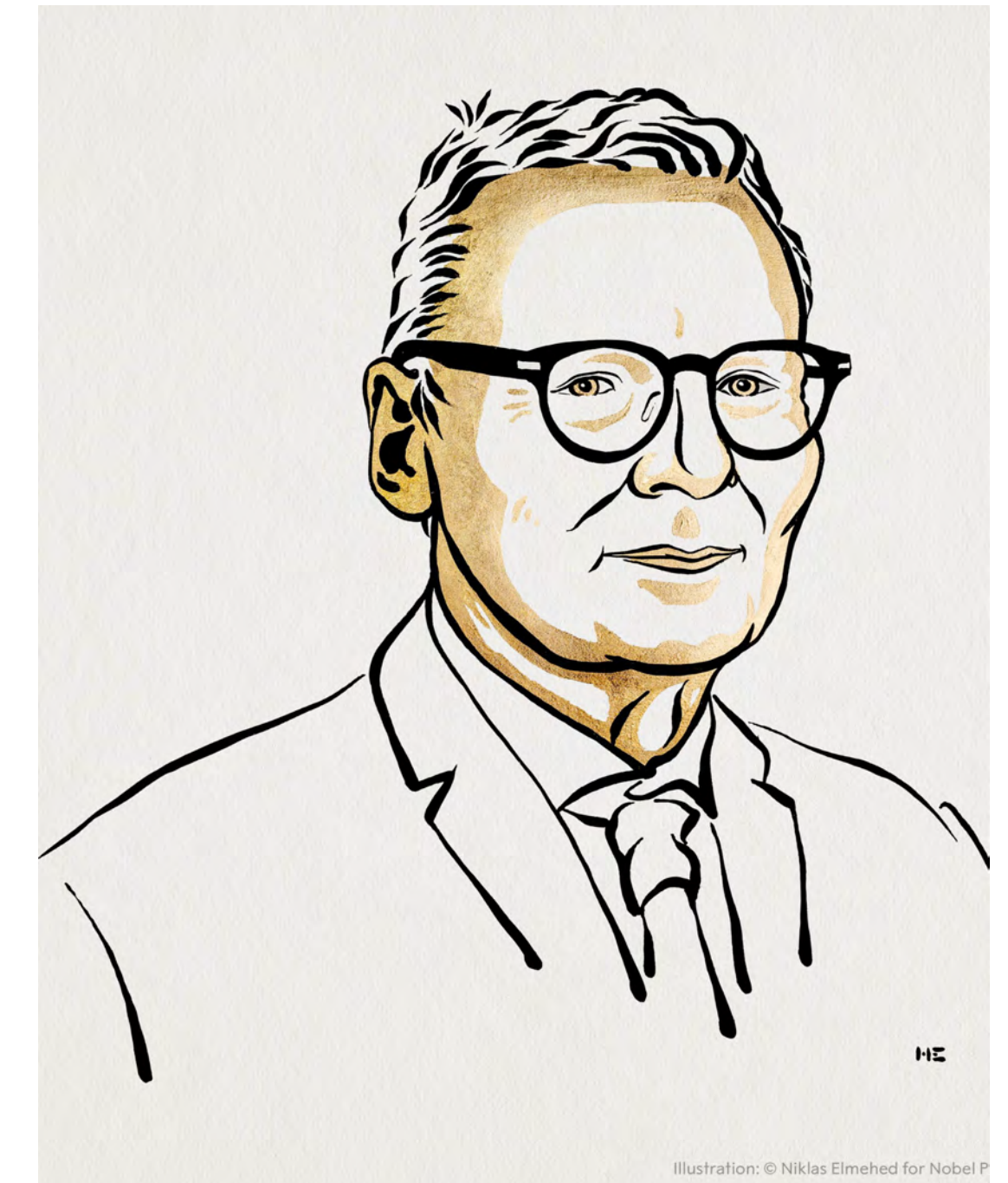
“for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity”



Daron Acemoglu
Born: 1967, Turkey



Simon Johnson
Born: 1963, United Kingdom

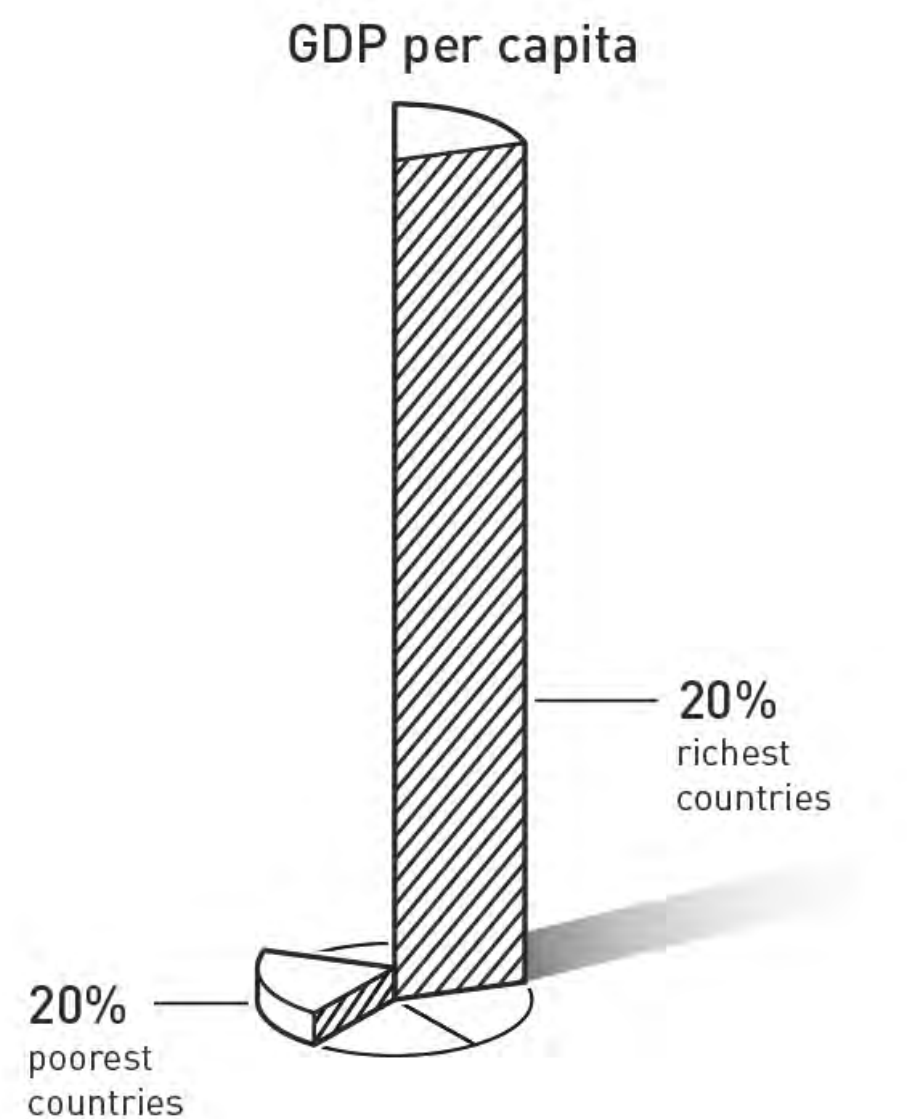


James Robinson
Born: 1960, United Kingdom



The income gap

The richest 20 per cent of the world's countries are about 30 times richer than the poorest 20 per cent today.





The role of colonisation

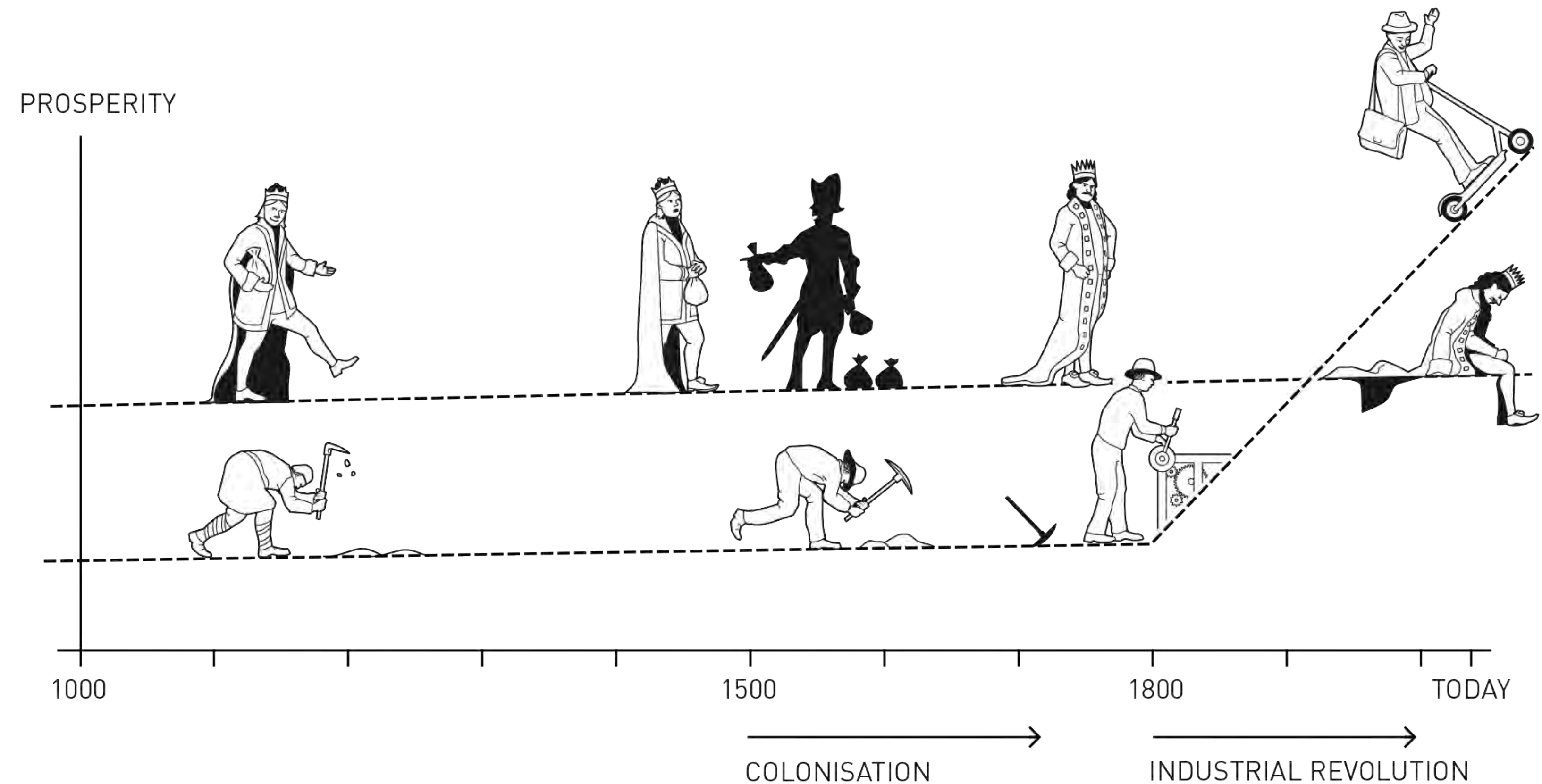


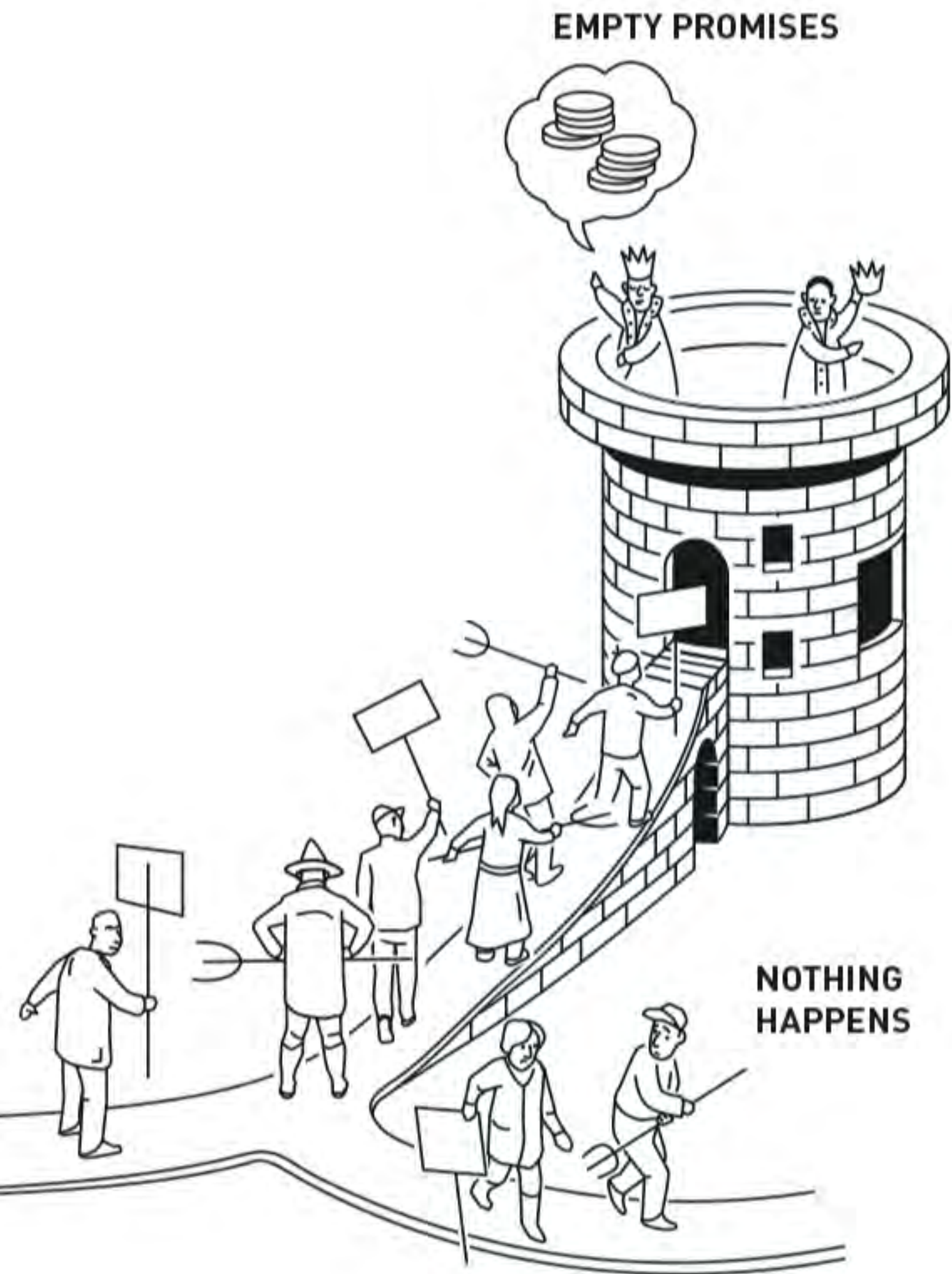
PHOTO: PUBLIC DOMAIN

The laureates have examined the colonisation of large parts of the world by Europeans from the sixteenth century onwards. They have demonstrated that the colonisers introduced different societal institutions into the colonised areas depending on how rich or poor those areas were when the settlers arrived.

Reversal of fortune

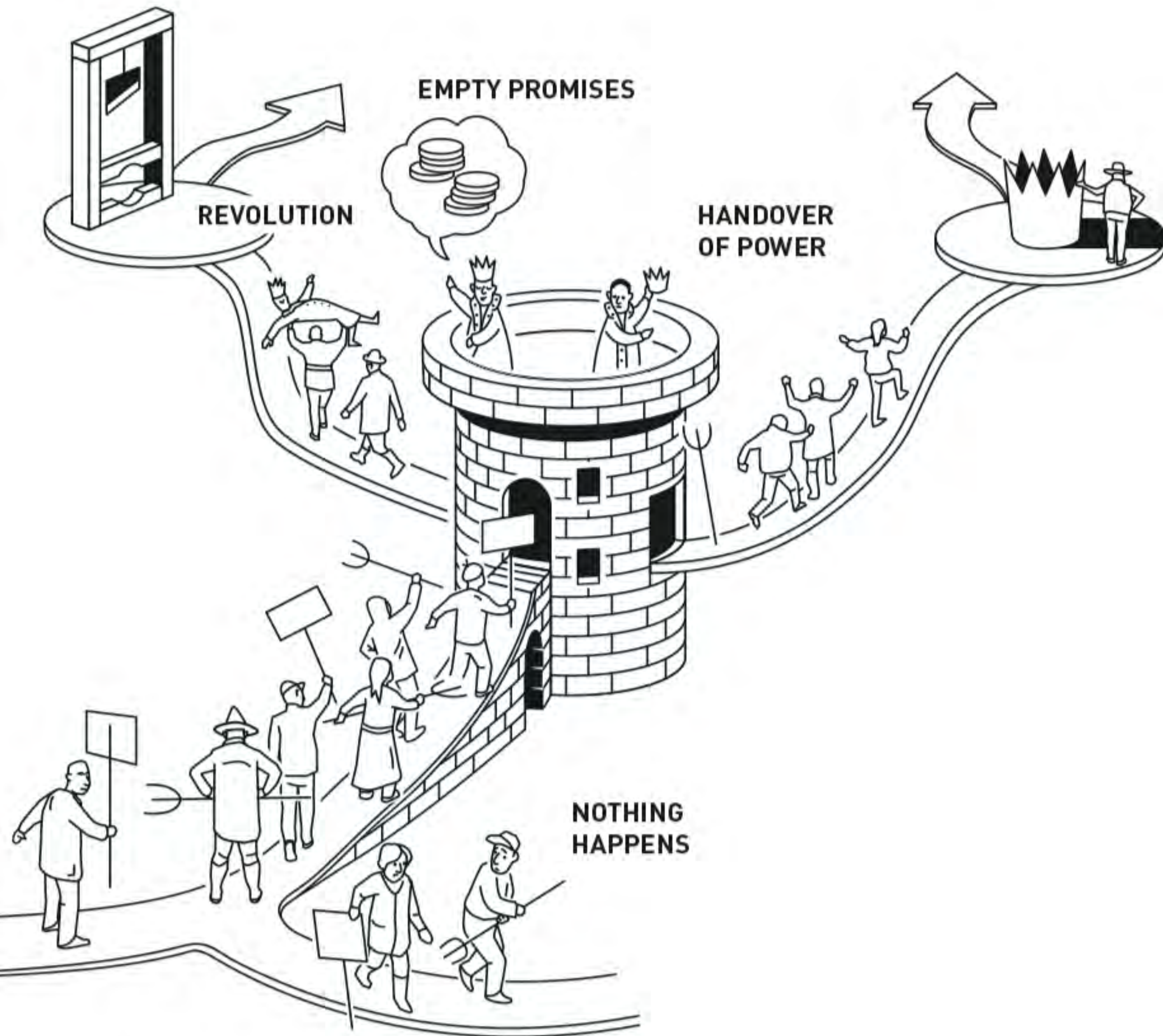
The countries that were richest at the time of colonisation are today among the poorest. In the countries that were initially poorest, on the other hand, institutions were introduced that contributed to their long-term prosperity.





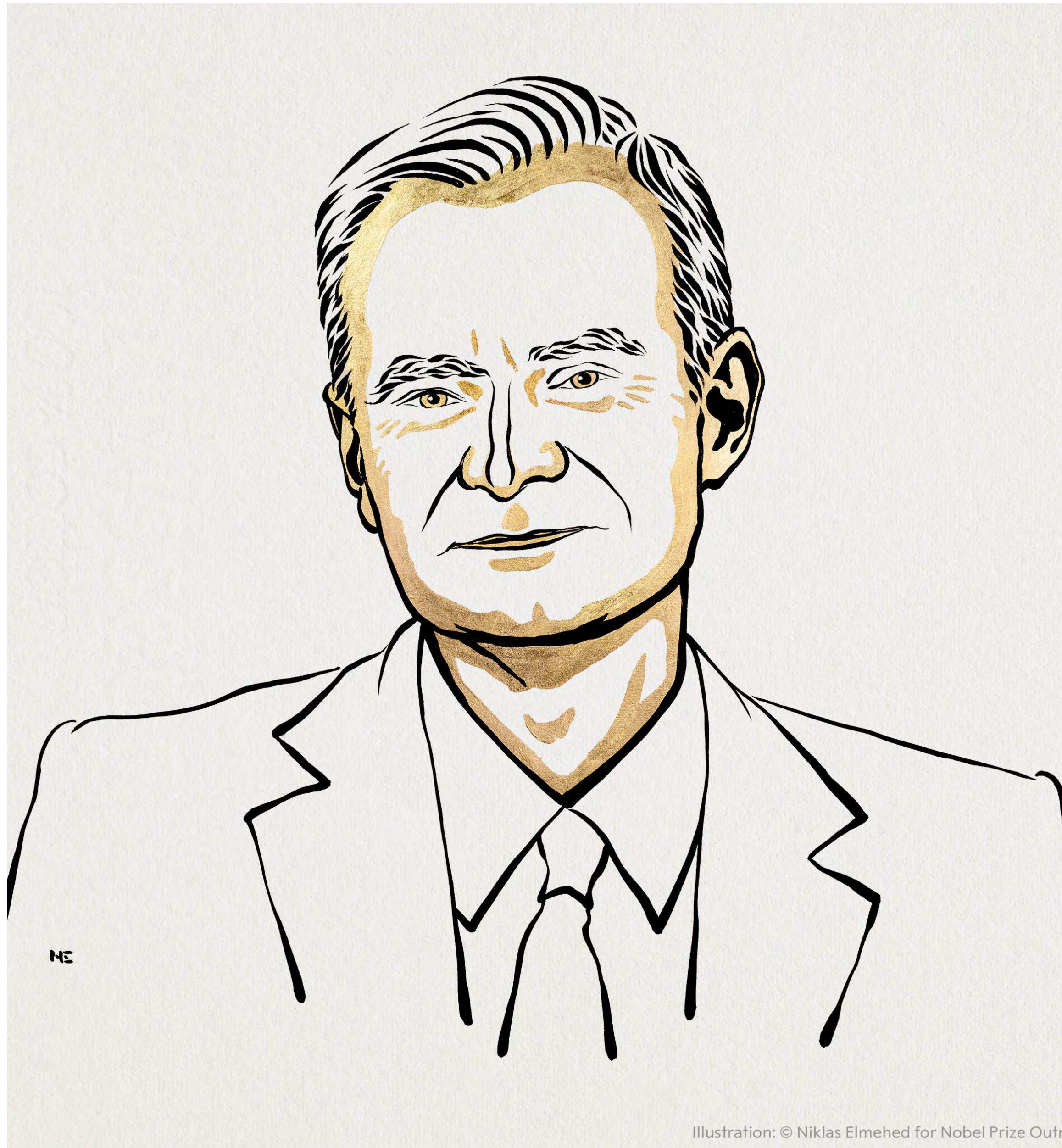
The problem of credibility

In countries with a dominant elite, there is a problem of credibility between the ruling elite and the masses. The lack of trust makes it difficult to change the economic and political system.



Change is possible

The laureates' research shows that countries can change if the citizens gets organised to threaten the ruling elites with a revolt.



“True, genuine,
inclusive
democracy matters,
very clearly.”

Simon Johnson, Economic sciences prize 2024

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FOR THE GREATEST
BENEFIT TO
HUMANKIND

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