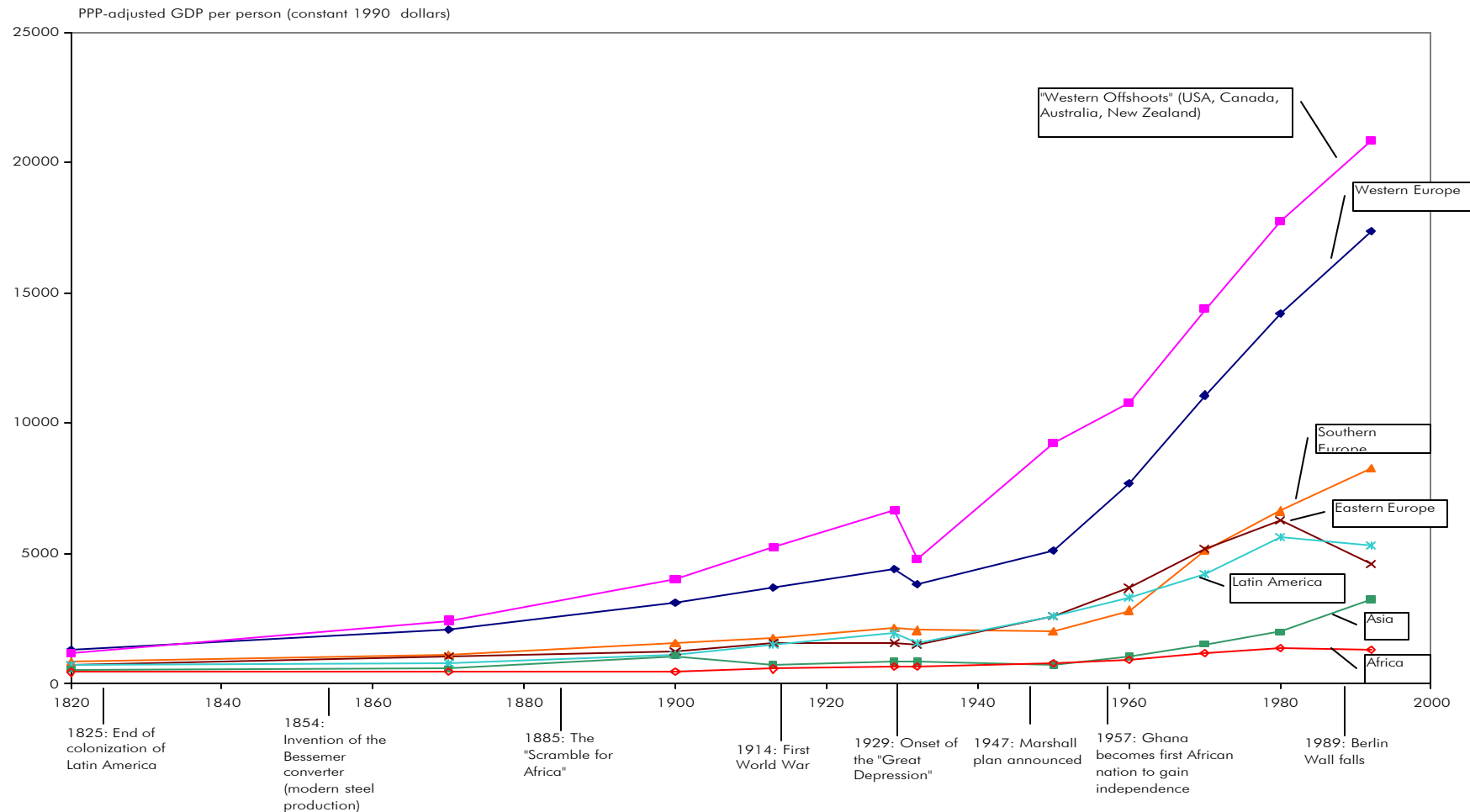


Average incomes in some regions have increased rapidly since 1820, but most of the world has remained relatively poor.



Note: This figure tracks the evolution of average incomes in seven regions of the world since 1820, as reported by Angus Maddison (*Monitoring the World Economy*, published by the OECD). The spread of the industrial revolution was just beginning around 1820; therefore, this figure highlights the fact that since the industrial revolution a defining feature of the world economy has been that some regions have grown while others have failed to grow. This suggests that economic inequality between regions today is not the result (or, at least, is not solely the result) of a redistribution of resources from one region to the other. The measure of average income in this figure is PPP-adjusted GDP per capita. To learn more about this measure and how it is calculated, see the "defining the statistics" section. Finally, note that along the x-axis, we highlight a few major events in history. This is done to provide context; we are not suggesting anything about possible causation or lack of causation between the events highlighted and the patterns of world income growth.