

Regulation: what changes are needed?

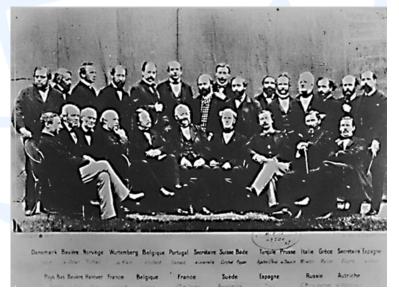
Robert Shaw ITU Strategy and Policy Unit International Telecommunication Union Geneva, Switzerland

The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ITU or its Membership.



A Thread Across the Ocean

 1866: The Great Eastern lays the first operational transatlantic cable

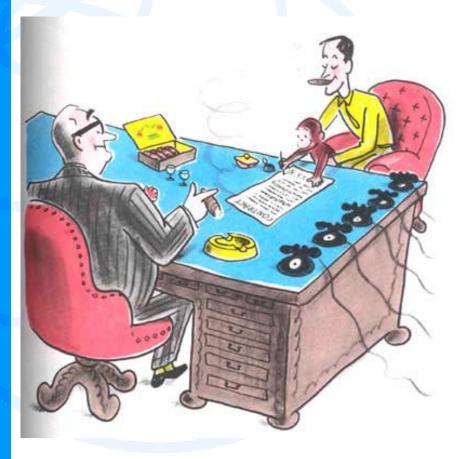




 1865: Founders of the International Telegraph Union



Communication technologies takes time to mature



You probably don't remember when people use to have multiple phones on their desk?



The Great Telecoms Crisis

- Industry's titans are toppling
- Everyday brings more bad news



• "An infectious greed seemed to grip much of our business community"

Alan Greenspan, Chairman US Federal Reserve Board Testifying before the Senate Banking Committee



Build it and they will come

 Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build bridges even when there are no rivers.



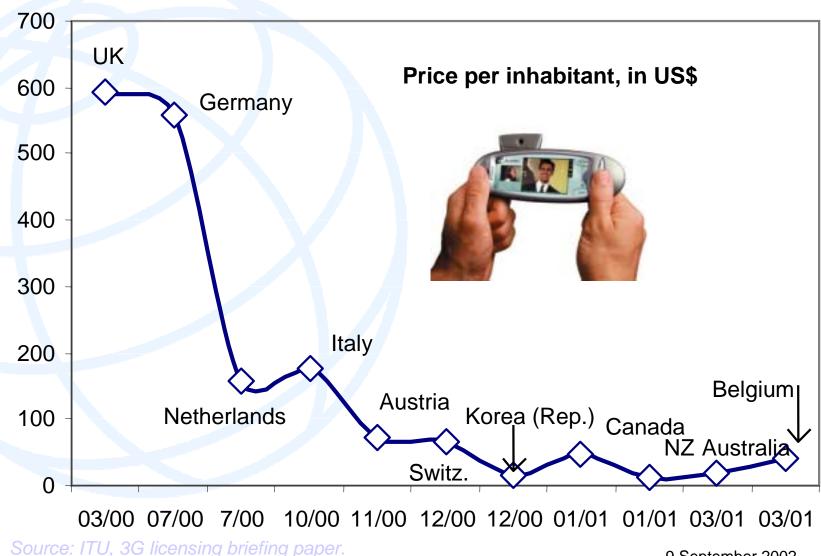
Nikita Khrushchev (1894 - 1971)



 Major false assumption was super-exponential growth of data traffic



The 3G auctions Rollercoaster

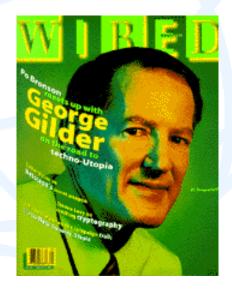


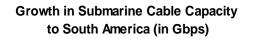
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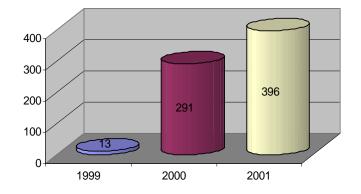


Today's Situation

 Massive overbuilding of capacity compared to need







 Cocktail of statistics, overbuilding and hype



Largest US Bankruptcies 1980 - Present

| Company | Bankruptcy Date | Total Assets Pre-Bankruptcy |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Worldcom, Inc. | 07/21/02 | \$103,914,000,000 |
| Enron Corp. | 12/2/01 | \$63,392,000,000 |
| Texaco, Inc. | 4/12/1987 | \$35,892,000,000 |
| Financial Corp. of America | 9/9/1988 | \$33,864,000,000 |
| Global Crossing Ltd. | 1/28/2002 | \$25,511,000,000 |
| Adelphia Communications | 6/25/2002 | \$24,409,662,000 |
| Pacific Gas and Electric Co. | 4/6/2001 | \$21,470,000,000 |
| MCorp | 3/31/1989 | \$20,228,000,000 |
| Kmart Corp. | 1/22/2002 | \$17,007,000,000 |
| NTL, Inc. | 5/8/2002 | \$16,834,200,000 |
| First Executive Corp. | 5/13/1991 | \$15,193,000,000 |
| Gibraltar Financial Corp. | 2/8/1990 | \$15,011,000,000 |
| FINOVA Group, Inc., (The) | 3/7/2001 | \$14,050,000,000 |
| HomeFed Corp. | 10/22/1992 | \$13,885,000,000 |
| Southeast Banking Corporation | 9/20/1991 | \$13,390,000,000 |
| Reliance Group Holdings, Inc. | 6/12/2001 | \$12,598,000,000 |
| Imperial Corp. of America | 2/28/1990 | \$12,263,000,000 |
| Federal-Mogul Corp. | 10/1/2001 | \$10,150,000,000 |
| First City Bancorp.of Texas | 10/31/1992 | \$9,943,000,000 |
| First Capital Holdings | 5/30/1991 | \$9,675,000,000 |
| Baldwin-United | 9/26/1983 | \$9,383,000,000 |

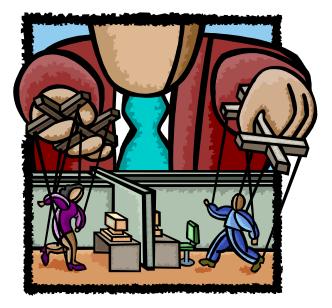
Source: New Generation Research, Inc.

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Fault of deregulation?

- Some argue that deregulation has failed to live up to its promise
- Some argue era of natural telecom monopolies are reemerging





20-year reform retrospective

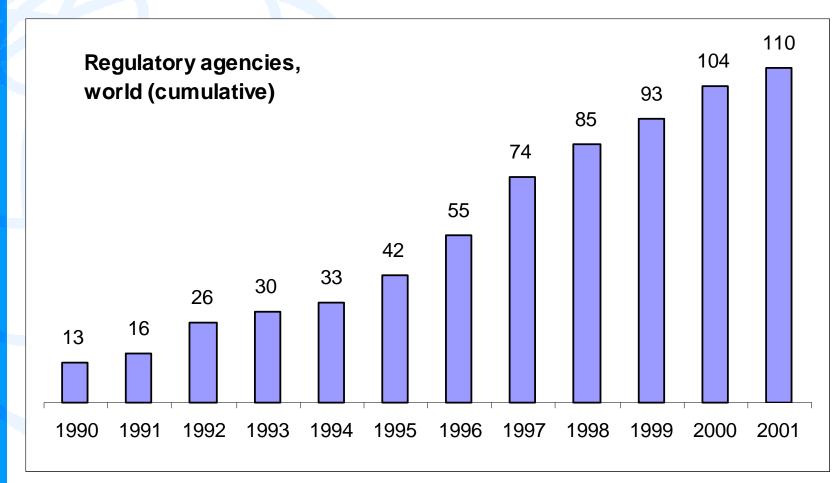
 20 years ago, AT&T formally agreed to the break-up of the Bell System (8/1/82)



- 10 years ago, around 10 countries had some measure of fixed-line competition
- 5 years ago, in concluding the WTO basic telecoms agreement, some 70 countries committed to telecoms market liberalisation
- Now, countries with privatized operators and some degree of competition are in majority among ITU Member States



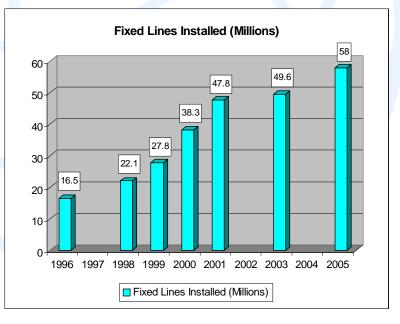
Creation of Independent Regulators

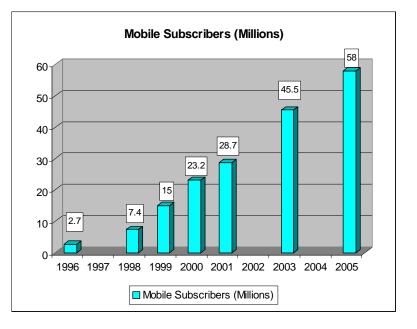




Role of Regulation

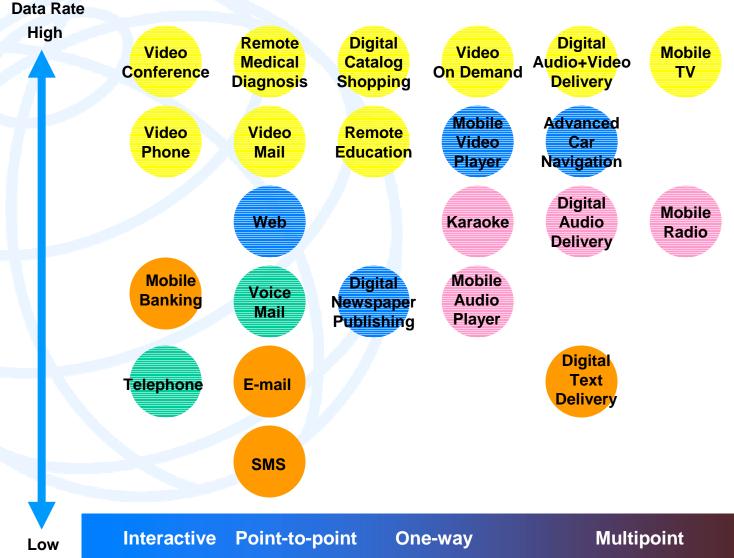
 Brazil telecommunication sector legislation and regulation widely regarded as very progressive





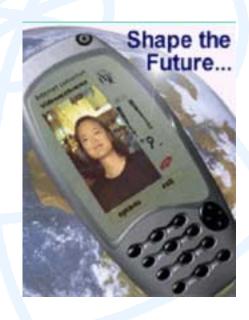


Fresh look at Regulation?



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Fresh look at Regulation?



- Legislative foundations built around fixed line services & incumbents no longer relevant?
- Asymmetric regulation?
- Licensed/unlicensed spectrum?
- Mobile & Wi-Fi?



Fresh look at Regulation?

- National telecommunication infrastructures are platform for deployment of advanced national infocommunications networks
- Build out of networked economies and national information societies have raised public policy stakes





Regulatory Reform

- New European Regulatory Framework (March 2002)
- Removing technologyspecific definitions in legislation
- FCC's Office of Plans and Policy has released comparative analysis at www.fcc.gov/opp/





Regulatory Reform

- Debates on appropriate framework for infrastructure industry regulation
- "World Dialogue on Regulation of Network Economies"

- www.regulateonline.org



How are Infrastructure Industries Different?

- Without broad access, all other economic activity is difficult, costly or impossible
- Potential for market failure, public interest
- With recent telecoms crisis, have we come full circle?





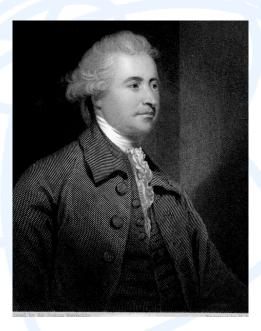
More debate is needed

- By policy makers, regulators and scholars
- One size will not fit all
- New regulators have distinct advantages
- Difficult to find common dialogue but current telecoms crisis is helping





Role of regulation



- "All government, indeed every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue, and every prudent act, is founded on compromise and barter we give and take; we remit some rights, that we may enjoy others."
 - Edmund Burke, English Statesman, 1775