

# Regulation: what changes are needed?

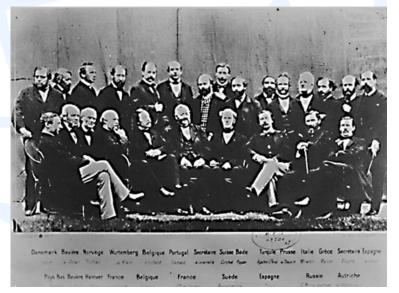
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The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ITU or its Membership.



## A Thread Across the Ocean

 1866: The Great Eastern lays the first operational transatlantic cable

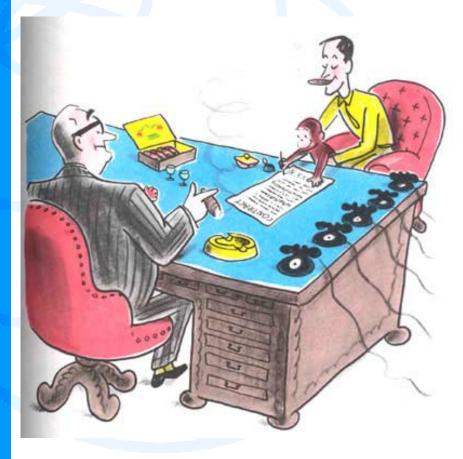




 1865: Founders of the International Telegraph Union



# 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.



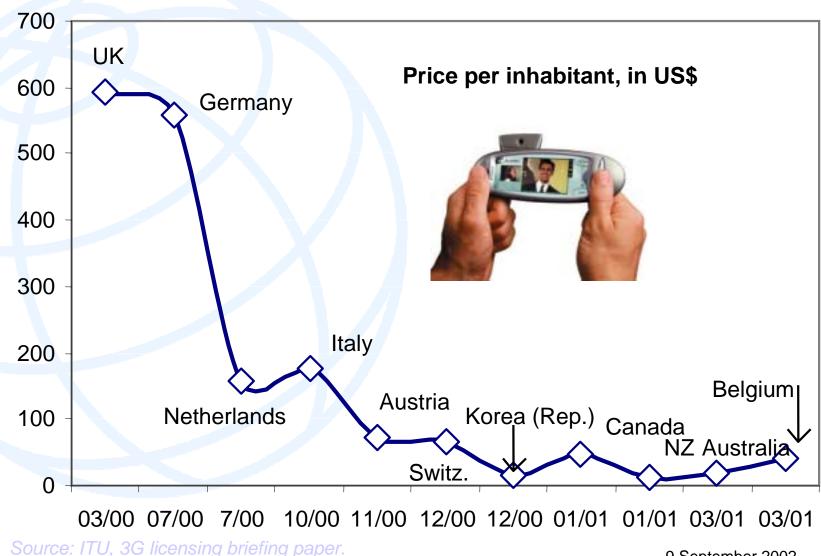
Nikita Khrushchev (1894 - 1971)



 Major false assumption was super-exponential growth of data traffic



#### The 3G auctions Rollercoaster



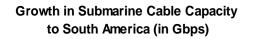
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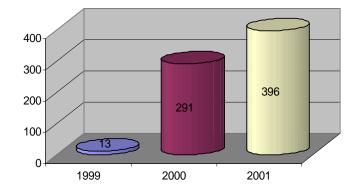


# **Today's Situation**

 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

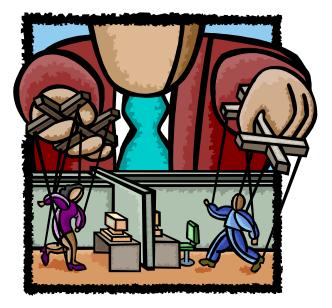
Source: New Generation Research, Inc.

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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

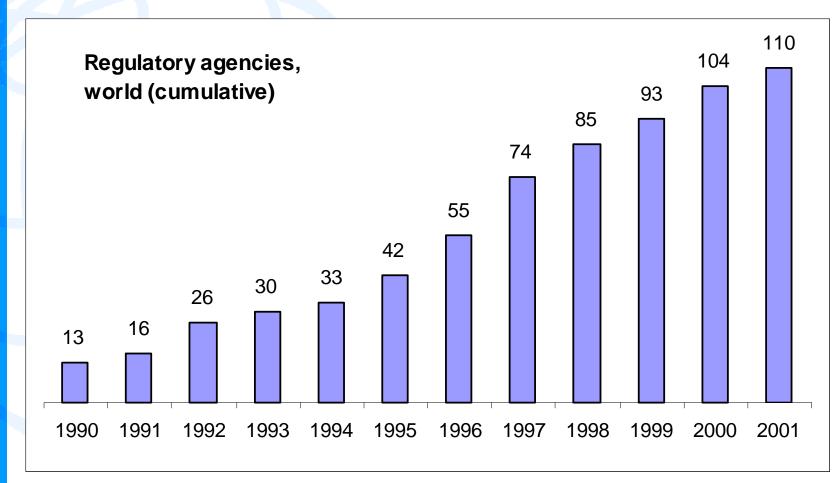
 20 years ago, AT&T formally agreed to the break-up of the Bell System (8/1/82)



- 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



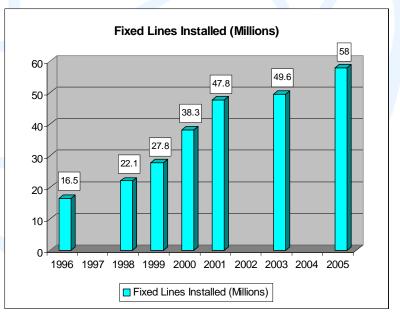
#### **Creation of Independent Regulators**

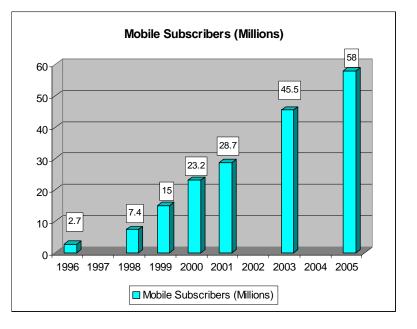




#### **Role of Regulation**

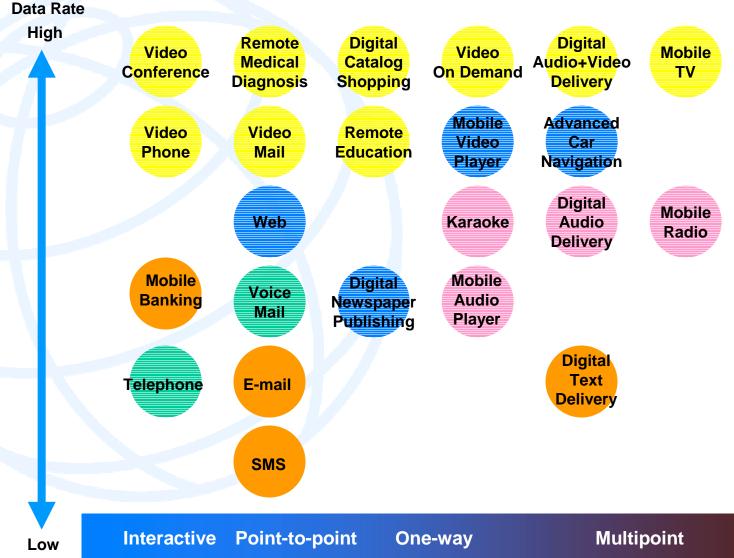
 Brazil telecommunication sector legislation and regulation widely regarded as very progressive





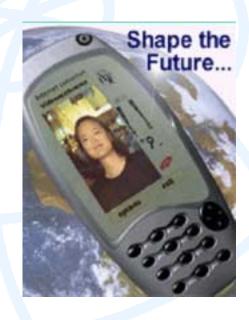


#### Fresh look at Regulation?



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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?





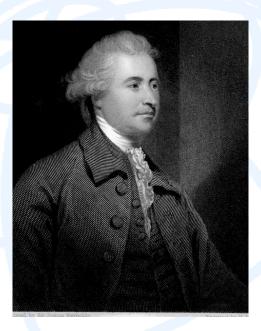
# More debate is needed

- 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