

Discussion Questions for “Almost Real”

- 1.) What all did Francesca forgo when she fell for Paolo?

- 2.) In the song, Francesca mentions that Paolo left her to join the Army. Why does GDP (Gross Domestic Product) increase when there is a war?

- 3.) While GDP increases, does that mean life is better for everybody? (Hint: is the output being purchased making people better off?)

- 4) Economist Paul Krugman won a Nobel prize for his work on international trade. Krugman once famously said that the economy would improve if there was a threat of an alien invasion. Explain why we would be far worse off, however, even if GDP increased.