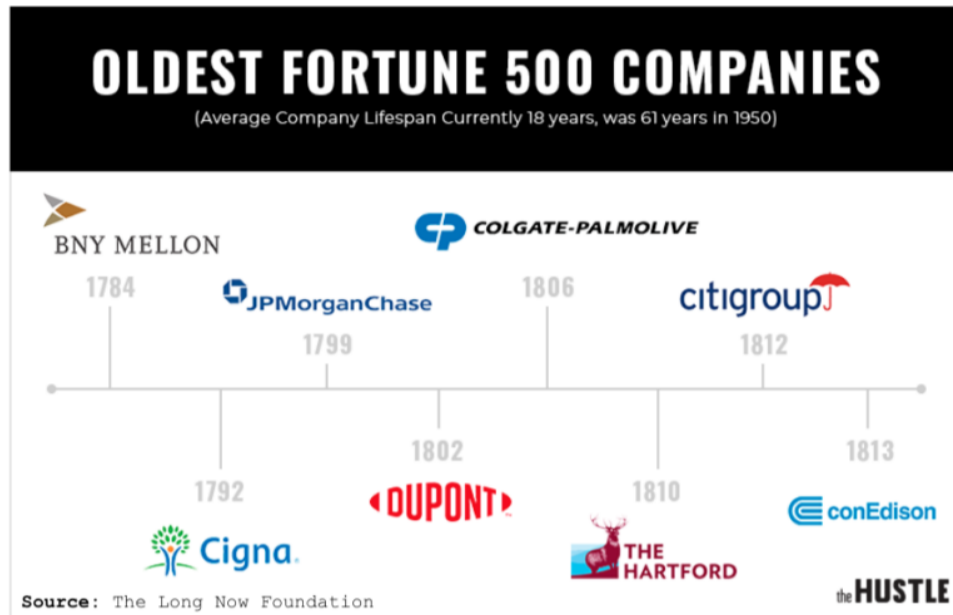


What can we learn from extremely old institutions?

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Society has a fascination with people who are 100+ years old.

Whenever we hear of a centenarian, we inevitably try to figure out how they did it, dissecting their diet, daily routine, and priorities.

But that same curiosity seems to be lacking for long-lived institutions.

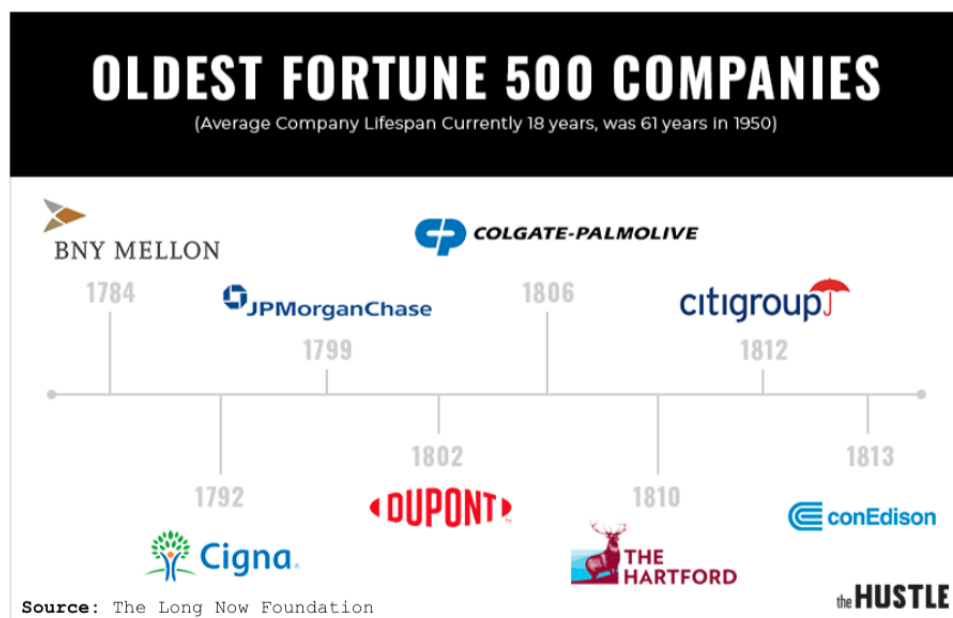
Thankfully, we have The Long Now Foundation

Established in 1996, the San Francisco-based non-profit seeks to promote long-term thinking. It recently released some data on long-lived institutions.

Among the [highlights](#):

- **2 countries rule:** Of the 5.5k+ companies that are >200 years old, **56%** are Japanese and **15%** are German.
- **Most are small:** Of these, **90%** have fewer than 300 employees
- **Long-lasting industries:** Looking at 1k companies >300 years old, the most-represented industries are alcohol (**23%**), hotels (**12%**) and restaurants (**9%**).
- **Company life is getting shorter in America:** In 1950, the average Fortune 500 company was 61 years old; now, it's only 18.

Here's a look at the current longest-living Fortune 500 companies:



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